

Loomis Chaffee Log

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Christmas Wishlist from the Log Staff

Unleashing the inner Santa-believing child in all of us!

FEATURES | PAGE 5

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Newtown Revisited

Reflection upon Sandy Hook community and the aftermath

BY SAM COX '16
Staff Writer

Returning home for Christmas break should have been the happy ending to a stressful, test-filled week before the holiday season. But for the few Loomis students who hail from Newtown, Connecticut, December 14 of last year was anything but a relief. Everybody used the same analogy. The tweets, the Facebook posts, the calls, the texts, they all reflected the same sentiment: "This feels like a terrible dream." Looking back on it today, it's still hard to shake that feeling. Our town has had no choice but to overcome that delusion, because the massacre of 20 innocent children and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School was indeed a horrific reality.

In the days following 12/14, a group of friends, neighbors, and fellow townspeople gathered in the basement of the Main Street Library, a stone's throw away from the funeral home that would soon be packed with families and friends of the first victims being laid to rest. We came together in order to try to understand what happened. We hugged and we cried. But most importantly, we talked. The elephant in the room for many was our nation's current gun laws, but we also found ourselves discussing some equally

important societal issues, like parenting, a violent media culture and mental health.

When my family tried to pack for a vacation we had planned for winter break, none of us could bring ourselves to leave our community or our friends. My father canceled the trip and we hunkered down to try to help. As the media invaded our small town and caught word of the meetings that my dad and his friends were leading, they joined us in our discussions.

After the first meeting, I was given the responsibility of creating a Facebook and Twitter account for the organization, then called Newtown United, and later Sandy Hook Promise. It was incredibly satisfying to see thousands of 'likes' and followers showing up on my computer. Within days, tens of thousands of people were sending messages, well wishes, suggestions and questions asking where they could donate money, prayer shawls and stuffed animals.

Emails from media giants such as CNN, NBC, BBC, NPR poured in, all asking to sit in on a gathering and meet with members of the community. All of this was landing on the computer of a Loomis freshman who had no idea what he was doing. Soon we were

NEWTOWN, PAGE 2



BOYS VARSITY ICE HOCKEY: THE ICE COLD WARRIORS

SHANNON DEVENEY '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

PERSPECTIVE

Defending LC's School Spirit

JOHN FURLONG '14

Back In November, the Log ran a notably controversial article which questioned the Loomis community's apparent lack of "pelican pride". It opened like this:

"If you picture a typical high school football game, you may think of wild cheering, a marching band, a cheerleading squad, and the roar of the crowd right after the last-minute touchdown is made. If you visit any typical public high school, that is the scene you will find. But at Loomis, we're a bit different."

The article then continues:

"Despite our big focus on pelican pride and peer support, we are unusually quiet at sports games. Most sports other than football or hockey do not even attract a crowd at all. Even at games where there is a big emphasis on cheering, many people don't stay for the whole duration, instead staying for a bit then leaving at halftime."

While the author does make a few very valid points (many students do leave at halftime of games and that does reflect poorly on our school spirit), I can't help but (respectfully) disagree with the majority of the writer's argument. While some sports (water polo, for example) don't draw as large of a crowd as others, I have yet to see an instance where absolutely zero fans attend any athletic contest. While a large group of students may not attend, say, a JV Hockey home game at noon on a Saturday week two, the people that do attend--parents and relatives of the players and coaches--attend because they have a vested interest in the outcome. While it would be awesome to have a rambunctious student cheering section at every varsity, JV and thirds home game, it's an extremely unrealistic request to make considering how starved for time Loomis students are already.

If there's anything that hasn't changed over the course of my four years here on the Island, it's the constant complaint of Loomis Chaffee's lack of "school spirit". Here's the thing: ask any athlete, Varsity, JV, or even thirds, whether they care how many fans show up to their game. Unless you're asking a Hockey player, (they

PELICAN PRIDE, PAGE 7

PERSPECTIVE

Black Friday for the Land of Opportunity

HANNAH MCCARTHY POTTER '16

The mouthwatering smell of turkeys roasting in the oven, mashed potatoes with melted butter, and the welcoming voices of beloved family and friends waft throughout the house. What day of the year is it? It's the day before "Black Friday", the day when the plans of what stores to hit

are finalized, the day when the coupons must be clipped and placed in alphabetical order, and most importantly of all, the day when the Black Friday mindset must be obtained. Camping outside of stores the night before "Black Friday" may be the only way to cash in on the sweetest deals since Borders went out of business. Some people think this day hinders the holiday spirit of being thankful and spending quality time with family and friends. In

THE BRIGHTEST, PAGE 7

LC's Winter Musical Production

Urinetown - yes, that is the title!

BY AURELIE LIU '16
Staff Writer

Imagine a world of oppression, one where society is dominated by tyranny, and where the very nature of mankind is buried beneath the spoils of enslavement. Imagine a world where your most basic rights are exploited, and everyone is forced into the shackles of obedience. This world will be courageously brought to life in the Norris Ely Orchard's winter musical, Urinetown. The play is set in a town plagued by a twenty-year

URINETOWN, PAGE 5

Movie Review: *Catching Fire*

BY NATASIA NABILA '16
Staff Writer

Many Hunger Games trilogy fans were disappointed by the first adaptation of Suzanne Collin's young adult novel, but they were undeniably fascinated with the new, intriguing sequel: *Catching Fire*. After Gary Ross replaced Francis Lawrence as the director of the film, many said confidently that this film is on par with the novel's engrossing details--it really is that good. However, the new film had to omit certain scenes from the novel; its one hundred and forty-six minutes duration would not be able to fully capture the explicit details from a four hundred-page novel. It is thus inevitable that some scenes were removed and certain details were lost. Specifically, characters such as Bonnie, Twill and Darius were absent from the film.

Similarly, details in the book were altered to increase dramatization. For example,

in the book, Gale was whipped because he was caught holding a Turkey during a time of starvation and poverty; but in the film, he was whipped because of his open-defiance towards Thread by saving a Hobber. In addition, Peeta did not end up having a prosthetic leg in the movie. He can swim! Otherwise, it would have caused even more of a dramatized effect to see how the games marred the tributes both physically and emotionally. The second film also allowed the audience to linger in the awe of the embellished costumes. Adorned with vibrant embroidery, Katniss and Peeta's costumes were simply breathtaking. When Katniss's wedding gown dissolved in fire, her costume changed into a fascinating black dress with feathery wings. The audiences, both in the movie and in real life, craned their necks and inched to the edge of their seat, eager to take a closer look at Cinna's intricate design.

President Snow's grand-
THE HUNGER GAMES, PAGE 5



LAURA PADDOCK '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

Alex Attanasio '14, Mollie Richter '15 and Madden Aleia '16

Editor's Picks

Winter Sports Preview Extravaganza!

With in-depth previews on Boys Hockey, Girls Squash and Boys Basketball, read all about three of the Varsity squads that will compete this winter.

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An Inside Look at the Thailand Protests

Winda Wanikpun '16 gives an inside look at the history and current political scheme in Thailand.

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Cutest Roommates: Volume 4

Isabella Epstein '16 had a chance to meet with Nana Minder '14 and Julia Crerend '14, this issue's "cutest roommates"

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Newtown a Year Later: A Student's Reflection

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
scheduling meetings with reporters, holding larger meetings with hundreds in attendance, and beginning to reach out to families of the victims. As I returned to school, my duties were filled by other anxious volunteers, but my commitment to helping my town did not fade.

The return to school was strange. As empathetic and supportive as the people at Loomis are, it was hard to keep the swells of emotion and love that I had experienced at home under wraps as I tried to transition back to my routine of classes and sports. I remember the first lockdown drill after being back at school. As the siren on Founders wailed eerily, I thought about the kids who had run back to the Sandy Hook firehouse that day. How will they handle a drill in their middle and high school years? What terrible memories will it conjure?

Over March break I went to a birthday celebration for Dylan Hockley. He would have turned seven that day. I met, for the first time, the parents of

one of the Sandy Hook victims, Nicole and Ian Hockley. They offered me a cupcake with pur-

ple frosting – Dylan's favorite color. Weeks later I sat in awe at the University of Hartford as Nicole introduced President

Obama. He spoke passionately, like a parent, on the issue of gun violence, and came over

Sandy Hook Promise, I had the opportunity to meet many of the families that have dedicat-

town community in any way that I could. I also got lucky and found myself meeting the New York City. My dad and his friend had put together a meet-and-greet with the band for some of the families who were fans, and he asked me to join. It heartened me to see these parents, who had lost so much, come together and enjoy themselves, despite the hurricane-like conditions of the evening.

What happened in Newtown has raised so many questions, ones we may never answer. But I have witnessed my town and its people demonstrate unprecedented courage, love, and strength in the face of adversity. When I feel down or stressed out at Loomis, I just think of the Sandy Hook families I have had the pleasure of knowing and what they do every day to move forward and make the country safer. I have been inspired by these families every day, and although it has been a year since that dreaded event, the passion emanating from my town keeps me motivated and confident that it will all turn out just fine. Everything will be just fine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

ple frosting – Dylan's favorite color. Weeks later I sat in awe at the University of Hartford as Nicole introduced President

to our group of Newtowners and shook our hands. During break, while doing miscellaneous work volunteering at

ed their lives to honoring their lost children.

After the school year, I continued assisting the New-

Kings of Leon backstage, cowering underneath a tent during a downpour at the Governor's Ball Music Festival in

Christian Fellowship Holds Annual Giving Tree Event

BY JEAN LEE '15
Staff Writer

Tis the time of the year to get in a jolly mood, enjoy the break and great food with loved ones, exchange gifts and appreciate all in life. To spread the happiness and the holiday spirit around, the Christian Fellowship community is encouraging people to support those in need. Making cold winter holidays even better, the CF warms helping hands by raising awareness of and donating to Loomis' Giving Tree.

Everybody on campus is encouraged to donate items, which can be either purchased or made. This year, the cause is to support those struggling financially, most of whom are homeless. After putting the donated presents under the giving tree, participants will then write the names of the items they contribute on paper ornaments and hang those ornaments up

on the tree. All the gifts will be given by Mr. Neary on the last day of school before winter vacation.

All kinds of gifts are welcome.

Said suggested items include warm clothes, toys, toiletries such as soap or shampoo, postage stamps, pragmatic appliances like toasters, mixers or even gift cards to Geisslers, CVS, Walmart, Sears, and so on. Present possibilities include but are not limited to the items listed; all contributions are welcome so long as they are within good taste.

"There was no way I could turn away and let this tradition die," said Adrina Thompson '14, a member of the Christian Fellowship community. "The Giving Tree unites believers and non-believers (of Christianity) alike under one common goal: to give to someone else in need."

It is strongly encouraged that all students donate something to the Giving Tree before the closing of the inter-holiday period, December 20th.

NATHA SINGHASANEH '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

JSU Celebrates Hanukkah

BY EMILIE SZEMRAJ '16
Staff Writer

On Tuesday December 2nd and Wednesday December 3rd, the Jewish Student Union hosted their annual Hanukkah celebration in the Parton Room. Both Jewish and non-Jewish members of the Loomis Chaffee community came to the event in order to reflect on and celebrate the Jewish holiday.

The Jewish Student Union has become a more dominant presence on the Island in the past year, and plans to help foster the Jewish Community on the Island. Leah Rubin '14, president of the club, explained, "We run Jewish events to make people feel at home and give them access to what they would normally have."

For this year's celebration, a large amount of the Loomis community turned up to play games, eat Jewish food, and learn about the traditions of Hanukkah. This year, Hanukkah fell on Thanksgiving, a "1 in every 70,000 years" event. The two evenings of celebration included the traditional dreidel game, and a Rubin-created activity, "Jew or Non-Jew," in which students learned about the inaccuracies of Jewish stereotypes.

The food at the celebration had many traditional Hebrew foods, including latkes (potato pancakes), sufganiyot (jelly donuts), and gelt (chocolate). At the end of the celebration, the JSU student officers lit a candle, one for each night, on the Menorah, and said a Hebrew prayer.

The Jewish Student Union's main goal this year is to try to teach the Non-Jewish Loomis Community about Jewish traditions, heritage, and culture. The organization plans to host more activities throughout the year, and welcomes all Loomis students and faculty to participate.

On the behalf of the entire Jewish Student Union, Ruben would like to thank Mrs. Parada for helping to organize the event and the Dining Hall Staff for providing traditional Jewish food at the celebration. Ruben has put a lot of work into the Club this year and comments that Alex Rosenthal '15, who will be taking Rubin's position next year "has some big shoes to fill".

Jazz Concert Makes Waves

BY MICHELLE CHOI '16
Staff Writer

The twenty-two members of the jazz and jazz improvisation ensembles are a tight-knit group of students, bonded by hours of arduous but fulfilling practice. Their hard work paid off on the chilly evening of Sunday, December 8th. Despite the loss of the graduated class of 2013 and the shortage of new members, the two groups performed phenomenally as Hubbard hall was filled with the smooth sound of jazz.

Mr. Fischer, cleverly circumventing the issue of an abundance of saxophones and a shortage of other instruments, chose "music to accompany our strange collection of instruments." This choice has created "a much different sound than that of last year's group," according to Pat Cody '16.

Key members voluntarily stepped into roles that had to be filled to make the concert a success. Lauren Dube '14 switched from flute to trumpet because there were no trumpets in the band. "It was nerve wracking because I still couldn't hit a bunch of notes only minutes before show time, but everything worked out," says Lauren. The amount of extra time Lauren had spent learning an entirely different instrument was admirable. "I used to play flute in the jazz band and French horn in the concert band, so because of my experience in brass, Mr. Fischer had me switch. I had to practice quite a bit more to get the full range I needed for the pieces, but I've found that my work helped in all my other musical endeavors."

In his interview, Drew Vogel '15 was quick to praise the efforts of his improvisation band mates. "Ethan Twombly '16, our bassist, and his walking lines over the piece "The Preacher" significantly bolstered the energy of the tune and also raised my expectations for the new sophomore. Caleb, another member of the group, has also impressed me

throughout these past weeks. He has rocksteady time and while he struggled at first, he finally mastered the switch from brushes to sticks, back to brushes on the tune "All Blues." Evan is also new to jazz improv this year and brings a lot to the table as a jazz pianist, taking on the important role of enhancing and giving the group a distinctive



JULIA SONG '15 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

and flavor rather than just with technical ability. To put it shortly, the jazz ensembles would be in shambles without his able leadership."

Evan Hsia '15 adds his own praise, saying, "Mr. Fischer's just that old guy who still knows a lot about what he teaches. Every time I try poorly to play the piano, he just comes over and shows me up and I just want to go do my homework in the corner."

New sophomore Xana Pierone '16 spoke about her first concert experience at Loomis Chaffee, saying, "The first concert wasn't too nerve wracking because the practices really prepared us and made it feel like any regular day. Mr. Fischer is extremely chill and jokes around a lot. It makes playing fun knowing that someone isn't breathing down our backs."

Not only is Mr. Fischer a director of the jazz band, but is apparently the patron of the "clave" speech, explained by senior Doug Eisman: "Fisch-daddy hands over the clave in an annual ceremony in which the entire band plays and holds a concert F-minor. The recipient of the clave is now endowed with one of the most important roles in the band. While I certainly cannot reveal what exactly is said (doing so would result in bad karma, perhaps eternal punishment), but I can tell you that the speech is said to be absolutely life-altering and changes the way you look at not only music, but also the world as a whole."

Whether it was learning a new whole new instrument for the show, putting hours of extra practice, spending study halls in Hubbard, or hailing the "clave" speech, all members of the two bands worked individually for the group's collective success. As saxophone soloist Drew says, "This year's improvisational group is the best group I've played with at Loomis so far in terms of integrity and genuine appreciation for music."

Students Attend Model Congress in Budapest

BY MICHAEL CARTER '15
Writer's Melange Editor

The 2013 Model UN trip to Budapest, Hungary, was nothing if not an excursion into the depths of cultural diversity. While travel to and from the small, oft-overlooked nation was unpredictably rough, the stay in the heart of the city was as good as it could get for the small group of traveling students. The Corinthia, a five-star hotel and the setting of the upcoming film "Grand Budapest Hotel," hosted the conference and served as the students' place of residence for the week. The hotel's central location provided a launching pad into the heart of the city. From the outset, the students and teachers participating were plunged into Hungarian tradition; taught by a native Hungarian professor over the course of the first three days, they practiced the language, customs, and arts of the small yet unique European country. The food, they found, was a tasteful mix of Austrian, German, and Russian fare coupled with distinctively Hungarian ingredients like paprika

and sour cream. The students not only enjoyed eating the food, but also participated in a cooking class that taught them

the culture-rich haven of poets, playwrights, artists, and conquerors revealed to the group that the city is both a histori-

all of Europe—and its treasure trove of Art-Nouveau and Neo-Classical architecture, traveling from one destination to an-

monuments as they could with only a map written entirely in Hungarian.

With the beginning of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL ENGELKE

the recipes to several classic dishes.

The physical city of Budapest was just as intriguing as its culture. Many tours through

cal piece of art and a modern, advanced metropolitan center. With its excellent transportation systems—some of them the oldest and best-designed in

other was easy and entertaining. And the city is just as safe as it is welcoming: at one point, students were sent off alone in groups of three to find as many

integrated Europe-wide crises. As delegates worked to solve problems within their individual nations—the Belgian cabinet, for example, worked out a

solutions for ongoing domestic cultural tensions—many of the cabinets were called together to deal with a rapidly spreading pandemic across the continent. Naturally, in the spirit of unpredictable crisis committees, the epidemic was revealed to be the work of bioterrorists, one of the many twists and turns that students had to navigate around as they competed to formulate the best solution and to out-negotiate their fellow delegates.

Throughout the entire trip, the students learned an incredible amount about the Hungarian nation, from its origin as the base of legendary warrior marauders one thousand years ago to its still-active, borderline obsessive fascination with the number ninety-six. The adventure provided an amazing opportunity for all to take part in, energetically discovering and experiencing a foreign culture first from the perspective of tourists, and then from the perspective of those actively involved in protecting the culture's best interest. The experience was enlightening, educational, and overwhelmingly enjoyable as a whole.

Thailand Protests: A March of Millions

BY WINDA WANIKPUN '16
Contributor

Before it is possible to explain the political turmoil that eventually brought five million people out onto the streets of Bangkok, there is a vital piece of information which needs to be acknowledged if one is to understand the issue in all of its complexity: Thailand is a country relatively new to the concept of a democracy. It was adopted by the Thai government in 1932, exactly 81 years from Monday, December 12th, 2013. Prior to that day, the country was controlled by a handful of soldiers who claimed to work for the king – resulting in a form of government that more or less was a dictatorship. This had long lasting effects, for the country continued to operate via military leadership, a regime which held onto power until 1989, when the ideals of democracy were finally embraced after a college-student-led rally. To use a metaphor, modern-day Thailand is the equivalent of a 30-year-old soul trapped in the body of an man in his 80's: overdeveloped and immature.

Now we can refocus on the topic at hand. When the Thai army took over Bangkok in an alarming, nation-rattling military coup, the prime minister at the time, Thaksin Shinawatra, was abruptly called to court. As it turns out, the now ex-prime minister was embezzling government funds and using them to his own advantages, shocking millions of Thai citizens who, prior to the incident, sincerely believed that Shinawatra deserved the title of "The Greatest Man on Planet Earth".

But, there was an issue: since

the Prime Minister was in the United States at the time, he was not able to appear in court on the day of his trial and he was never formally charged. Thus, the Thai people naturally grew suspicious of Thaksin's behaviors prior to his leaving the country. When he was called to court, the people had been on the streets for a short while and believed he no longer deserved his position. Then the military showed up to publically announce a coup d'etat at the request of protesters, all while Thaksin was out of the country attending a conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York. With the coup launched, the military instantly gained the power to rewrite the previous constitution in such a way that unmistakably favored the military and shunned the privileges of Thaksin Shinawatra and his regime. Thaksin has never stepped foot onto Thai soil since.

So let's fast forward to 2011 when Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister, was elected as the first female prime minister of Thailand. Since her victory, the new PM has been accused by the opposition party of electoral fraud, abuse of power, and corruption. Due to her populist policies and reasonably strong fan base amongst the poorer districts of Thailand (which happens to include the majority of the country), she was able to smoothly carry on her position for the first two years of her term.

However, in the late third quarter of PM Yingluck's reign, the amnesty bill incident occurred and everyone was able to smell the unmistakable stench of corruption hidden in the Shinawatra regime.

In early October this year, PM

Yingluck and her party drafted a seemingly kindhearted amnesty bill with the hopes of freeing the so-called "political prisoners" who had been jailed since the 2006 coup. Then things began to heat up after the 2nd reading of the bill in parliament where certain additions were made, those of which not only included the pardon all corrupted politicians, but also the refund of the money they embezzled. Once the pieces were inevitably put together, the nation came to a realization that if the bill were to pass, not only would Thaksin Shinawatra be able to freely graze Thai soil, but he would do so as a contemptuous billionaire. And so the locals, angered and frustrated at the possibility of Thaksin returning to Thailand, began protesting.

Increasing in numbers as days went by, up to several million people are now on the streets of Bangkok, all with high hopes and the exact same ultimatum. Simply put, the protesters are not happy.

Their demands include: PM Yingluck's immediate resignation, the Shinawatra/Thaksin regime abolished, and the much needed political reform. With the current government attempting to find ways of survival, the country itself faces instead faces gridlock, all because of the manner in which the previous constitution was written.

I think of the protest as a learning curve for Thailand, who is getting one gigantic step closer to finally acting its own age. With the parliament dissolved and the cabinet expected to step down in the near future, a long overdue government reform will be the final ingredient to Thailand's recipe of peace.

Write for the Log!

....because you'll probably be watching Netflix all weekend otherwise.

Contact any of the editors, or email log@loomis.org

PSO Hosts "Holiday Help"

BY STEPHANIE YIU '14
Staff Writer

As the year comes to an end, people start drinking their hot chocolate and reflecting on what they have done the past year. With Hanukkah already started, and Christmas coming soon, people are thinking about gifts and what they should buy for that special someone. PSO

Ms. Lombardo says, "There are many lonely single adults that spend the holidays alone without any family or friends and are forgotten. We thought finding sponsors for them would be a way to brighten up their lives during this season." The Windsor Department of Social Services sends Loomis a basic list that includes not only their wishes, but also other ideas that might aid in making

December 18th, and the Social Workers will pick them up and deliver them to the adults since most of them do not have transportation. When asked why she loves Holiday Help, PSO co-president Eliana Zhou '14 says, "I think Holiday Help is a really heartwarming program. Not everyone is well off and it is nice to know that there are so many people who are willing to help the unfortunate. It moves



PHOTO COURTESY OF KNITTING IS KNOTTY

is taking an extra step and thinking about total strangers by holding a Holiday Help event to spread even more holiday cheer. Loomis Chaffee has been planning Holiday Help for approximately 20 years now and our school teams up with the Windsor Department of Social Services. The Holiday Help event includes the wish lists of either families or single people, and PSO is hoping that many people, students, staff, and faculty will be willing to group up and work together to fulfill all of their needs. Because most organizations "adopt" families and/or offer gifts for children, Loomis has decided to adopt single adults.

their lives a little bit easier.

This year, 22 adults, ranging from 30 to 98 years old, need our help, and all they request are simple necessities such as winter coats, gloves, socks, scarves, and hats, just to name a few. It is the winter season, and they will need warm clothes such as flannel shirts, and some may even need sheets, towels, or personal care items. Due to their limited income, they are unable to buy these materials, things that we have plenty of in our own houses. Since PSO will be putting the gifts together, no wrapping is needed. The fact that you have spent your time finding the items means a lot. The baskets will be put together

me to see people buying presents for strangers to make this festive season more enjoyable. Palmer will be adopting a person from the Holiday Help list; we believe in helping every way we can."

Palmer is already taking an active part in this event, and there are many other opportunities for you to help out the less fortunate such as the Christian Fellowship's Giving Tree. The more people you team up with, the more gifts you can buy together, and ultimately, you will all feel better knowing that you have significantly improved somebody's life.

How will you give back this holiday season?

NEWS IN BRIEF

Time Person of the Year:

Pope Francis has named Time Magazine's person of the year. From his comments on gays to his penchant for Twitter, Pope Francis' every move has garnered strong reactions from the world media.

Winter Orchestra Concert

On December 15 at 2pm, the Loomis Chaffee Orchestra held its winter concert, complete with Concert Choir, faculty members, and concert band musicians taking part in the show.

Beyonce's New Album

Iconic singer-songwriter Beyonce's new self-titled album immediately went viral, reaching the No.1 spot in 90 countries on iTunes charts, even though the album received no major advertisement.

LC'S ARCTIC EXPEDITION

BY ELIANA ZHOU '14
Features Editor

I love polar bears. Most of us will never go to the Arctic and see the exotic tundra animals, but this spring break a group of pelicans will be able to experience the snowy delights of the arctic. Polar bears, snowy owls, arctic hares, and red foxes are a few examples of the arctic animals that we are familiar with. With the impending trip, I can't help but wonder if our students will be fortunate enough to see such animals in their wintery terrain.

Driven by curiosity, I searched up a few more arctic animals. The "Unicorn of the Sea" is by far my favorite exotic animal. Also known as a Narwhal, the "Unicorn of the Sea" is a pale colored porpoise with a long tusk. Unicorns/Narwhals exist! Baffled by that realization, I immediately google imaged it. They turned out looking a lot scarier than I expected.

According to World Wildlife Fund (WWF), they look like a cross between a whale and a unicorn. Unfortunately, Narwhals are becoming endangered due to global warming and over hunting. Their long tusks and skin are an important source of Vitamin C in the traditional Arctic diet.

While I love animals, these "unicorns" are not the main focus of this trip. For 11 days, our students will travel to the Arctic Circle to further study and explore our changing climate. With a team of research scientists from Earthwatch, our pelicans will have the first hand experience of working together with the team and collecting samples. More specifically, Earthwatch is an international non-profit organization dedicated to promoting a sustainable environment and engaging people in scientific field research. With more than a week of field and lab research, our students will be able to see the beauty of the Arctic

and the tragedy of global warming. Ms Conger, the faculty member going on the Arctic trip, expresses her views on this unique trip, "I've been interested in Climate Change for a long time, so I am just so excited to have the opportunity to participate in Climate Change research. In addition, it will be really great to work alongside LC students, doing real scientific research and learning new things together." Earthwatch institute describes the details involved, "Regardless of the conditions, we do our work and put up with the good, the bad, and the ugly weather, knowing that the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (in Canada) will offer comfort, food, and shelter at the end of the day. Between the long days of data collection and lab work, we make time for team members to take in some of the local attractions." The main research goal for this trip is to establish an environmental

cal culture. Are the people there known as Eskimos? Eskimos is a term for indigenous people who have traditionally inhabited the circumpolar region. These people are the most diverse group in the world and they still lead a partly aboriginal way of life. However, the term Eskimos is widely considered to be pejorative. In Canada, the only type of Eskimos is the Inuit. Several groups of indigenous people live in the Arctic. For example, there are three main groups of Alaskan Natives, the Inuit, Aleut, and Indian.

How about food culture in the Arctic? A research project from Brandon University says most fish are still consumed raw by the Inuit. I'm thinking it's not the typical Japanese sashimi we're used to. But maybe it tastes the same. When our pelicans return from their trip, they can enlighten us. As I continue reading the article, it becomes highly disturbing with many gory details about hunting animals and eating them raw.

From seeing Narwhals to experiencing the Inuit culture, our loomis students and faculty going on the trip will have the unique opportunity of exploring the wonders of the Arctic Circle. The students going on the trip look forward to bearing the cold and collecting precious samples for scientific research. This journey actively engages our school theme as students discover the full extend of climate change. Ms Conger says, "I'm hoping that the students will have an amazing experience and will share what they've learned with the community upon our return". As we bid them bon voyage and a safe return to their warm nests, we should also think about the consequences of climate change and personal ways to avert the course of an environmentally detrimental future.

monitoring program to collect baseline quantitative data on climate related changes in northern ecosystems. This project focuses on two of the global warming related changes: permafrost thawing and the shift of the treeline to the north. Earthwatch has established 11 long-term environmental monitoring sites along a line extending from the boreal forest into the Arctic tundra to measure a set of key ecosystem components. these include components of the environment like snow conditions, ground temperature, depth of thawing, soil carbon as well the biological components of the ecosystem like trees, shrubs and small mammals.

As we know, the Arctic has low biological activity and a small biomass. Thinking about the Arctic trip, I wonder about their lo-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINEBIO

Cutest Roommates: Julia Crerend '14 & Nana Minder '14

BY ISABELLA EPSTEIN '16
Staff Writer

Two girls, one room, twenty-four hours a day. Julia Crerend '14 and Nana Minder '14, Mason seniors who roomed together as underclassmen, are back as roommates once again, spending their last year on the Island together. To me, the idea of having a roommate seems impossible, but somehow they make it work. It was the summer before freshman year, and two nervous, nail-biting fourteen-year-

planning out their room set up, matching color schemes, and deciding wall decorations, all before fall term had even began, the last thing they had to do was meet face to face. And

ences that bring them together. Even with their differing hobbies, they do share a lot common ground. For example, both girls love Justin Timberlake, boys, Someone Like



SHANNON DEVENY '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

You, singing, parties, giving advice, baking, and their own senses of humor.

Living with someone brings people closer than one can imagine, allowing a relationship, and friendship, on a completely different level. "She gives really good advice on life, she is great at comforting people, she is

once again, Julia left it to herself to make the first move. During registration, Julia, a then timid but now bold girl, walked over to Nana and said "Hey, I think I am your roommate."

To say they got off to an amazing start would be a bit of an overstatement. In fact, for the first few months, they strongly disliked each other and had difficulties growing accustomed to living together, but, after a while, the two learned how similar they were. And once they did, it is safe to say the rest was history. For three out of their four years at Loomis, with the exception of junior year since both were prefects in Harman, Nana and Julia have been roommates. "We are best friends and we balance each other out," said Julia as she reflected on their past. While the two have a wide variety of interests, ranging from dance, track, and music to field hockey, sports, and animals, sometimes it is their differ-

good at playing matchmaker, and I feel like I can be myself around her, especially since she dismisses it when I go crazy," chuckled Julia. Nana chimed in, saying that "Julia is the only one I feel comfortable crying around because she knows how to handle it. She is not afraid to tell me the truth. She is not boring—and I could not live with someone who is. She is always there for me."

Though the two cringed when I mentioned the thought of next year, they said with confidence that they "do not know what [they] will do without each other, but [they] are best friends so [they] have nothing to worry about." And, in the words of "their song," Adele's Someone Like You, but with their own tweak, "I will never find someone like you."

For three out of their four years at Loomis, with the exception of junior year since both were prefects in Harman, Nana and Julia have been roommates. "We are best friends and we balance each other out," said Julia as she reflected on their past. While the two have a wide variety of interests, ranging from dance, track, and music to field hockey, sports, and animals, sometimes it is their differ-

The Ballers of Club A

BY JACK BRADLEY '14
& DENNIS JOYCE '14
Columnists

Few people have the tenacity, calf strength, and sheer willpower to step foot out on the Varsity Basketball Court. Those who don't possess the emotional toughness to step onto the V-ball court can limp/skip on over to Club A Basketball. Club A Ball is all about one thing and one thing alone: Fundamentals. From learning how to run good to hitting 4 out of 10 layups (Guaranteed!). Club ball is no joke. Using the joke analogy, Club A is similar to a website devoted solely to "Squeaky clean puns. Puns so clean, you can tell them to your grandma!" It is full of bad puns and the longer you play the sadder you get.

The coaching staff is comprised of a dedicated core of faculty who totally want to be there everyday. They mainly take attendance and avoid eye-contact with the "athletes". We recently sat down with a member of the coaching staff to discuss strategy, attendance, and morale, all of which were pretty low.

GNO: So how is your team looking this year coach?

Coach: Yeah.

GNO: I see that you recently picked up some freshmen talent. A bold move. How do you think this will affect your team's dynamic?

Coach: For sure.

GNO: And why do you think he will make a good power forward?

Coach: Uh-huh.

GNO: So you're saying he is superior to most of the talent on the team?

Coach: Sure.

GNO: Any closing comments coach?

Coach: I plan to bring the same enthusiasm I have for duty nights to the Club A court.

GNO: Thanks you for your time Coach!

The typical Club A player, an overall confused sophomore day-student with skinny calves, sweaty armpits, Nike socks, and generic mid calves, is an all-out workhorse. He's always willing to improve in all facets of Club-A basketball except Club A-Basketball and also probably school. He has a deep aversion to girls and competition and prefers to spend his time googling funny animal videos and eating a whole thing of tuna

fresh out of the can. He is, however, a total clutch to have on your Minecraft server. (Can you say enchanted pickaxes?)

However, not every Club A player is this cool. Some of them are committed, athletic, and tenacious, but Matt Rollings '14 is



LAURA PADDOCK '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

sometimes sick. There are also some Varsity athletes who just didn't have what it takes for AP weights. (See: our AP Weights Article, Subsection: Lacrosse) We recently sat down with a player on a high-scoring Club A team to discuss athletics, perseverance, and Minecraft.

GNO: How's the season looking so far?

Player: It's going real good. The team's almost got passes and shoots. Looks like it'll be just around the corner.

GNO: Right on! How's the coaching staff?

Player: They seem really enthusiastic and excited to be there. It seems they are having as much fun as they do on duty-nights.

GNO: Sweet! Who is the most valuable player on your team?

Player: Paul Aklilu. He's the emotional and physical glue of the whole program. Without Paul, we would all suffer a loss. He is a combination of Larry Bird's quick playing style, Jordan's finesse, and Magic Johnson's sheer love for the game. If not Paul, then who?

GNO: Excellent. Thanks for your time player!

If any of you were wonder-

ing, "If not Paul, then who?" we have an answer. Lawson Kelly, that's who. There's nothing special about him besides absolutely everything. Every single sorry excuse for a basketball player that has ever tried to D him up has ended up with shattered ankles and a remarkably low self esteem. Lawson has been known to play dirty. By "playing dirty" we mean he throws anywhere between 18-46 bows a game not counting time-outs and bathroom breaks. Lawson Kelly is to basketball as Chef Gordon Ramsey is to the fine art of Souffle. Lawson is to the sky hook as Corey Simone from "Cory in the House" is to the American geopolitical structure. Yup, that important.

So that pretty much does it for Club A Basketball. Join us next time when we feel compelled to write yet another sad excuse of an article on some sports program here at LC.

Editor's Note: The "interview" with the coach was made up for comedic purposes. No offense was intended.

Dear: Santa From: The Log

Log Staff Report

Here at Loomis Chaffee, we all have a lot of things to be grateful for: relaxing weekends, spacious dorm rooms, manageable workloads, edible forms of chicken—wait, just kidding! One can only dream! Here at the Log, we are grateful for Christmas, a time when being grateful is put on the backburner and replaced by presents. To preserve the holiday spirit of wanting stuff, the Log staff has decided to present a condensed sneak peek of what our favorite editors are asking Santa for this December (including socks, rom-coms, and, almost unanimously, boyfriends!). Merry Christmas!



Harriet Cho, Managing Editor:
 —Free ticket to Istanbul
 —Ability to master a language in an hour
 —Survival manual for Mr. Scanlon's AP Literature Class
 —A boyfriend (conforming to the LOG norm)

Claire Kim, Opinions Editor:
 —A clone of myself that can do all the work for me while I hide in my room watching unrealistic romantic comedies with a family-sized bag of veggie chips.
 —A magic lamp that can generate LOG articles ALL THE TIME.
 —I guess a boyfriend would be nice, too. I guess.

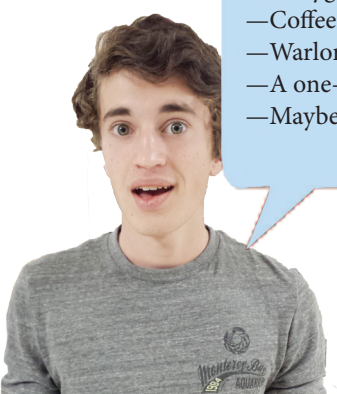


John Furlong, Editor-in-Chief:
 —Speakers for the Log Room, so I can blast Rebecca Black's "Friday" at full volume for the entirety of layout weekend.
 —A better singing voice, so my fellow editors don't give me death threats every time I try to sing along.



John Kim, News Editor:
 —Fuzzy socks
 —A charging phone case
 —A competent news co-editor
 —Fred Mun's dashing good looks. Whenever I look at him, I can't help but blush. The blood rushes to my face and...oh

Michael Carter, Melangé Editor:
 —Bodyguards to keep the paparazzi away
 —Coffee
 —Warlordship over a small nation
 —A one-way ticket to a very very far away place
 —Maybe some socks



Juwon Jun, Editor-in-Chief:
 —A lover that will cuddle with me.
 —Stolen oversized sweaters from men all around the around.
 —Socks. All the socks—polka dot socks, striped socks, animal socks, fluffy socks, etc
 —A bangin' bod.



Quinn Schoen, Features Editor:
 —A boyfriend pillow. Or a boyfriend, so my mom will stop asking me why I'm still single.
 —To rid New York of the horrible subway breakdancers who almost kick me every time I'm just doing my thang and trying to get home. Just stop. Please. Let me ride in peace.
 —My own Bravo reality show, mostly because I want one of those sassy intros where my family is smiling behind me as I spin around and say something like: "I make my own path, and I'm not afraid to leave everyone in my dust"—you know, just because.
 —To be Beyonce.
 —I'm just going to put boyfriend again. For emphasis (and desperation?)



Julia Song, Photo Editor:
 —A life(time supply of SAT study guides)
 —To one day found an elite SAT camp.
 —Joseph Gordon-Levitt
 —Sleep



Madison Peterson-Porta, Sports Editor:
 —The new Lululemon headband in all assorted colors
 —A driver's license (not for driving- for seeming older)
 —A room on the first floor so that my quads don't hurt after brutal debate practice.



Fred Mun, News Editor:
 —assorted neon colored speedos (the small kind)
 —John Kim's singing voice.
 —A Beyonce-style surprise album but by the Spice Girls



Eliana Zhou, Features Editor:
 —A 6ft tall teddy bear with pink fur and purple eyes!!
 —Green Tea Frappuccino :3
 —Unlimited \$\$ gift card to Dubai's six star hotel and a ONE-WAY air ticket.



Karen Cha, Managing Editor:
 —Michael Carter's requited love because sweet Jesus that boy is perfect.
 —A fleece lined onesie
 —A puppy and/or kitty and/or bunny
 —All the patterned socks because patterned socks



Bobby Turner, Opinions Editor:
 —Free Ben and Jerry's ice cream in the SNUG.
 —The complete Boz Scaggs collection
 —Korean male model boyfriend (obvi)



Alexandra Smith, Sports Editor:
 —How-To-Be-Beyonce workshop tutorial
 —To one day after years of mere hopes and dreams, to suddenly awake to a new dawn upon the magical realization: I am Beyonce.
 —Ray Ban Glasses (Mackey Dubay/Beyonce style)
 —Jay-Z tickets (to observe and analyze the beings of Beyonce)
 —Beyonce

THE HUNGER GAMES RETURNS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
 daughter was introduced in the film to emphasize Katniss's role as a trendsetter instead of a follower. This new character exemplified Katniss's uncontainable charisma; she views Katniss as a role model and an impressive heroine for volunteering as a tribute to replace her younger sister. I think Snow's granddaughter also signified the larger truth that no one likes the capitol. As the districts started to rise in opposition, everyone was swept in a hungry desire to rebel against the ludicrous regime and inhumane administrations. Instead of just depicting Katniss Everdeen's point-of-view, the film shows multifaceted perspectives of other characters. Specifically, the movie depicted people's varied emotions during over-



whelming circumstances. Effie's teary goodbye to her tributes, from her quivering voice to her furrowed brows portrayed a more empathetic side of herself compared to the one in the novel. Despite being from the Capitol, Effie formed a special attachment towards Katniss and Peeta and was deeply affected by their plight.

Although the film did have a riveting effect on the audience, it was atypical that Katniss's 'pregnancy' seemed to be easily forgotten after Peeta announced it during his broadcasted interview. The film neglected the fact that she should be careful with the new life in her. Instead, they only invited the audience to be content with the brutality of the games. Nevertheless, the film, just like the novel, was compelling, engaging, and thought provoking. As of December 6, 2013, The Hunger Games: Catching Fire has earned \$317 Million in North America alone and \$276 Million internationally, for a worldwide total of \$593 Million. Now, we just have to wait for the third installment in the trilogy, *Mockingjay* to be released.

Urinetown: Satire, Comedy, and Pee?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
 drought, suffering the effects of water-shortage and monopolistic corruption. Private toilets are deemed unimaginable and people must pay fees to use public restrooms. Business tycoon and antagonist, Cladwell B. Cladwell, managed to monopolise all the restrooms in the town through the Urine Good Company. If anyone dares to venture out of the harsh laws that encumber them, they will be sent away forever to a penal colony named Urinetown. Yet a spark of color is introduced in their gloomy lives; Bobby Strong, a naïve young man, decides to fight for freedom. Teaming up with Hope Cladwell, Mr. Cladwell's daughter, they begin a revolution that questions many aspects of their society and political responsibilities. Other characters such as Penelope Pennywise, who maintains order in the restrooms, and Little Sally, a shrewd street urchin, enrich the story's plot. Narrated by Officer Lockstock, a policeman, the true nature of many other characters will be revealed throughout the play. Despite it's solemn setting, Urinetown is a hilarious musical that satirizes many different aspects of our society. "Beyond the plot, it's a comedic satire criticizing capitalism, the nature that our society is based around, and the idea of revolution," explains Junior John Kim, who will be the lead character, Bobby Strong. The show

even parodies other musicals such as *Les Misérables*, *West Side Story*, *Chicago*, and *The Cradle Will Rock*. Through its humour and touching honesty, Urinetown presents multiple thought-provoking messages. Denying obedience to authority (a "screw the man" ideal, as John eloquently puts it), and questioning revolutions, Urinetown condemns many aspects of civilization. "You really have to think about tomorrow when you're in a revolution," explains Sophomore Kirsten Mossberg, cast as Hope Cladwell. This play is also very relevant to our school theme, global warming, as the people live a life destitute of natural resources. Sophomore Madden Aleia, cast as Penelope Pennywise, elaborates, "It's about conservation, and being careful with what we have." Nonetheless, the most important aspect of this play is its ceaselessly enthusiastic and motivated cast and crew. "We're all one big family, we love each other," Kirsten laughs. With a particularly big cast this term, the NEO is constantly filled with liveliness during their daily rehearsals. "We have acting rehearsals, singing rehearsals, and dancing rehearsals, so if it's singing we'll literally be singing for hours straight," senior Alex Attanasio reveals. This musical will also have a lot more dance routines, which calls for a strict

exercise regime. From crunches to pushups to jumping jacks, the NEO is far from a place to simply memorizing lines. As the boys regard the dance routines with slight disdain, they admit that many of them had not been dancing for long. Regardless of their unfamiliarity with these new routines, these students will be working hard all throughout the winter to deliver the best show possible. To everyone who thought the email introducing the winter play as Urinetown was a typo or a joke, think again. This brilliantly crafted play will definitely amaze you with its clever humour and profound truths. John Kim divulges, "I think you'll be challenged and it'll make you think, but the cool thing about this musical is that you'll be laughing the whole time." Exaggerated and overblown at moments but painfully honest at others, Urinetown is the perfect mix for provocative entertainment. Even if you feel as though you really have too much homework that week, or you're too lazy to walk to the NEO, watching Urinetown is an absolute must for you to experience such a unique show and support your peers in their relentless efforts in creating this masterpiece.

Loomis Chaffee Log

FOUNDED 1915

ABOUT

The Loomis Chaffee Log is Loomis Chaffee's official student newspaper. We can be found online at www.loomischaffee.org/log and we can be contacted via email at log@loomis.org. Letters to the editor and op-ed piece submissions are welcomed via email. The Log reserves the right to edit all letters and pieces for brevity and content. The views expressed in the Log do not necessarily reflect those of The Loomis Chaffee School. Unsigned editorials represent the collective views of the Editorial Board.

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CONTRIBUTORS *Allison Yeh '15, Winda Wanikpun '16*

OP-ED

LAUREN RUBINO '14

"Love Has Evolved Without Eyes"

A Senior's nostalgic reflection upon a lost summer charm

There was a time when a quarter pressed into the palm of my hand meant the world. Before I could see its scars, its dulled and grimy imperfections caused by aimlessly migrating through back pockets and cash registers and unwashed hands, or that one regrettable sojourn at the bottom of a parking meter, I saw that it glittered. Back during the muddled days of summer, every moment felt like a vintage photograph with its hazy, amber hue, and I would clasp both hands around my coin, as if enclosing a butterfly, and carefully bring it to that old, red skyscraper of a vending machine, pressing my face against the glass as a precious five-pack of gum uncurled. I would waddle back to my beach towel and sit cross-legged, watching my brother build sandcastles, slowly unwrapping each strip before crumpling all five pieces into my mouth in one ceremonial swoop. I would taste summer: the chalky residue of Juicy Fruit mixed with the burn of salt water at the back of my throat and the sweet sting of sun screen.

As a child I often walked with my hand up and head down, guided by the grasp of my mother, searching the streets for forgotten gold: a little penny shining near the edge of a sewer drain or a dime hiding amidst cracks in the sidewalk. My father began collecting coins at age twelve, receiving a sleek silver dollar every week for his paper route, and by the time I was

four years old, I would spend most nights following my father's trail down the steps to our basement, where, in a little room out of sight to the untrained eye, I would sit and watch him, hunched over with a magnifying glass, as he inspected the coins in his vast collection, and occasionally give him a nod of approval as he presented me with the newest addition to the col-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

"MY DAD EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS A 1914 WHEAT PENNY, AND THAT EVEN WITH ABRASIONS, IT WAS MORE VALUABLE THAN ANY OF THE SPARKLING COINS THAT LINED THE WALLS"

lection. Once, peering over my father's shoulder as he cleaned the most recent newcomer, I asked him to identify his favorite coin. With a smile, he turned to a box shelved out of sight in the corner of the room, and carefully pulled out a small browning penny in a plastic capsule. Inspecting it in my hands, I frowned at my father's choice. It did not shine with the brilliance of the Gold American Eagle coin or con-

tain the same intricate designs of the British India Queen Victoria rupee. Tracing my fingers over the smooth, dulled face of the old penny, I noticed that Lincoln was faded, his distinct features no longer distinguishable, appearing solely as a outlined form. My dad explained that this was a 1914 D Wheat Penny, and that even with abrasions, its wear from decades of circulation, it was more valuable than any of the sparkling coins that lined the walls of the small room. I looked up in shock; they were brilliant coins that lined the walls, the shiniest coins, brand new, never circulated and never touched. They were commemorative coins: celebrating the giant panda or Apollo 11 or the Beatles. But they were coins without stories. Molded to perfection and shined to unnatural extents, they bore no scar of adventure, having never journeyed beyond the confines of their plastic casing. They were created to be seen, admired in windows, and could be reproduced with the click of a button.

But that discolored little penny, like a wayward traveler, has wandered through decades and milestones and tragedies, gaining scars with every adventure. It was not made for admiration, but has gained a value throughout its lifetime that only those who have evolved without eyes can see.

Editor's Note: This editorial was originally submitted for an assignment in Mrs. Archibald's AP Literature class.

MADISON PETERSON-PORTA '15

A Waste of Time or a Spark of Genius?

A refreshing commentary on the nature of Hubbard Talks

In the past few months here at Loomis, every grade has come in contact at least once with something called Hubbard Talks. These Hubbard Talks are speeches written by students for their fellow classmates on issues and controversies that resonate deeply with the public. Held during class meetings, these Hubbard Talks were created not only to provide class meetings with interesting dialogues, but also to share student's interests with the speakers' respective classes.

When first introduced to class meetings, Hubbard Talks were considered by many as essentially a waste of time. Class meetings were

already jam-packed with announcements from class officers, student council, and the deans. Also, if you were one of the lucky upperclassmen, you had the good fortune of having college office announcements thrown in the mix as well! No one knew if there would really be time for these Talks or if they were even worth making the time for. Already, with all of these necessary announcements and updates, not to mention the pounds of homework sitting in the backpack waiting to be done, who would want to sacrifice more time from a precious free period, to listen to speeches on things that didn't seem to pertain directly to their lives?

It seemed to me at first that there wouldn't and couldn't be time for these Talks. In the time that I would be listening to these speeches, I could be doing some homework that would allow me a little more sleep at night, I could be getting a snack because I missed breakfast, or I could be studying for a test that I would be taking within the next few periods after class meetings. After all, the point of class meetings is to update students on weekly agendas that are relevant to our daily lives, not for students to hear speeches that don't seem to apply to them personally. I just couldn't understand what could be gained from having another

compulsory obligation to adhere to at class meetings. Then, I heard my first 'Hubbard Talk'. I remember it distinctly; a hush fell over the room as the first speaker went up to speak on gun control. I could practically hear the audience hanging on every word that was spoken and could almost feel the tension that built up in the room as the speaker crawled closer towards his eventual goal of showing us both sides of the gun control argument. When at last he was finished with speaking to the audience, it exploded into energetic applause and the first speaker of the Hubbard Talks walked off the stage a hero. Ok, well, this didn't *actually*

happen, but the first Hubbard Talks were greeted with silent respect and everyone in the audience paid close attention to what was being said. As this was our first experience of Hubbard Talks, I think the first speaker did a fantastic job and stated his case clearly, encouraging very much afterthought in every one of us. Yes, I was very hesitant about the usefulness of Hubbard Talks, but after hearing some of these speeches, I've decided that not only are they not so bad, but I would even go so far as to say that they are a welcome interruption from class meetings. Listening to my peers speak about something that they are pas-

sionate about not only makes for good listening, but actually educates me on issues at hand, helping me gain different insights. Now, it might be awhile before I would go so far as saying that I love Hubbard Talks and they are an absolute necessity in class meetings, let alone one day will I be brave enough to be the one to speak in front of the whole class, but I will say that I now understand that these speeches are a way for students to communicate with others about what interests them and what they have a passion for. For whatever else Hubbard Talks may be, they are definitely here to stay.

OP-ED

HANNAH MCCARTHY POTTER '16

The Brightest of the Bright Sides of America

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

my opinion, that is just pure fallacy, folks. Black Friday is the reason we take the time to gorge ourselves around people that annoy the heck out of us. Who doesn't love the excitement of waiting in a three and a half hour line to stampede into Walmart and snatch a twenty eight cents towel out of the prying hands of another shopper trained for war? Black Friday is not just a day full of sales, but a way of life, a culmination to a year's worth of meticulous research and preparation. It separates the average shopper from the elite shopper. It unmasks, rather bluntly at most junctions, who will stop at nothing to purchase an overpriced flat screen TV that in reality has not dropped less in price. A successful customer on

Black Friday is clearly a successful person and shopping on this magical day teaches core skills and values that cannot be taught anywhere else. Only the most excellent shoppers have perfected their agility from sneakily and cheekily grabbing their prized item out of the hands of the unlucky victims, the weaker ones. The mentally tough are those who can and will force themselves to push through stressful and overwhelming situations involving a massive amount of people. It is this part of Black Friday that truly tests one's character and brings out the absolute best in many citizens.

All over the country shoppers were so fueled with energy for Black Friday that deadly fights broke out in almost every state, demon-

strating the true American spirit of consumerism and patriotism, and the generosity in taking what you want out of the hands of others. We all know that with every great adventure comes severe risks, evidenced by the death of four shoppers and the injuries of 47. Pelicans: do not miss the next Black Friday opportunity. You will learn amazing things about yourself during this magical time of the year. And I emphasize magical, where you really do acquire traits you thought you never had. Like I said before, this one day of the year deeply reveals one's character, and more importantly, the resilience of America: the land of opportunity and crazy-good savings.



Shoppers barge into the store at the beginning of a "Black Friday" sale

PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

JOHN FURLONG '14

In Defense of Our Pelican Pride

Is it Really a School-Wide Problem?



Four "LC superfans" watch Loomis take on St. Paul's

MERCIE VILLAREAL '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sure do love the attention) the majority of athletes will say "no." The honest truth is: students play sports for the love of the game, not for how many people are in the stands. Never once have I heard a Loomis athlete--at any level--complain about a lack of attendance at their games.

However, on the few occasions that there are a large amount of students attending a game, it can really make a difference. The one (and only) example I need is the LC community's response to the Varsity Volleyball team and their incredible run to the New England finals. For their quarter-final match where they hosted Hotchkiss, roughly 100 fans--at least half of them fellow students--packed Olcott Gym to see LC

take down the bearcats 3-2.

When StuActs offered a "fanbus" to see Volleyball take on St. Paul's in the New England Semi-finals held at Taft, I was doubtful on how many students (if any)

cheers, the forty of us, along with the twenty-or-so faculty members and parents who also came, bonded together to support this incredibly talented team. LCVB defeated St. Paul's, 3-1, to advance to LC's first New England

Volleyball

Championship. While we may never know for sure how much effect we "superfans" actually had on

FOR THEIR QUARTERFINAL MATCH AGAINST HOTCHKISS, ROUGHLY 100 FANS---AT LEAST HALF OF THEM FELLOW STUDENTS---PACKED OLCOTT GYM TO SEE LC TAKE DOWN THE BEARCATS 3-2.

would sacrifice their precious Saturday afternoons to travel an hour just to watch a volleyball game. I, along with fellow LCVB "superfans" Dennis Joyce '14, Jeremy Bogle '14 and Tripp Miller '14, was pleasantly surprised to see a group of forty fellow students joining us on the journey. With Dennis (a.k.a "The Wizard") leading the

the game, Coach Dyreson and his team certainly rallied behind our infectious cheering and certainly gave the team an invaluable home-court advantage. If that isn't enough of a case for "pelican pride", then I'm not sure what is.

ALLISON YEH '15

H&M: Haughty or Momentous?

A student comments on H&M's newly-concocted business plan

H&M, the world's second largest clothing retailer, has planned to provide a living wage for garment workers in Bangladesh. Offering roughly \$66 per year, Bangladeshi garment workers currently earn very low wages that can barely be considered livable. Noticing the dangerous living conditions after the collapse of the Rana Plaza, a garment factory in Bangladesh, H&M signed a legally binding agreement to aid the lives of the people working in garment factories. Although the seriousness of H&M's magnanimous promise has been put in question by some in the public, the store's goal to fund a fair living wage for 850,000 textile workers by 2018 will hopefully prove plausible. One of H&M's first steps is to support the factory owners by a Fair Wage Method, which will be implemented in 2014. In adhering to the Fair Wage Method, H&M states how they will evaluate three factories (two in Bangladesh and one in Cambodia) by next summer, in the

hopes of further increasing the wage. Since H&M also promised to source 100% of their products from Bangladesh in the next five years, it will ensure the garment factories more income, and therefore more money for the workers. Beyond the store, H&M also wishes to see more government involvement. The store proposes that there should be a legal minimum wage, which would be reviewed annually. Lastly,

for the factory employees, H&M plans to start running vocational

training this year to ensure that each future employee will earn a wage that accurately re-

flexes his skill level and so that he or she will know his or her own rights and responsibilities. This detailed plan of H&M truly exhibits the company's level of

seriousness towards the issue, they tackle all aspects of the problem, the factory owners: the government, the employees, and the store itself, with a realistic goal to achieve in the next three years.

In terms of the store's commitment, *Women's Wear Daily* highlights how H&M has recently agreed to no longer use angora wool due to complaints by animal rights activists. This smaller act shows how committed H&M is to finding moral grounds. Even though some could interpret that the retail store is simply searching for publicity, the company is still trying, nonetheless,

to make a difference. H&M is even willing to increase their retail prices if it means increasing the wages of the garment laborers. The clothing giant's plan of action is beneficial for consumers, as they will now know that their money is going someplace useful. Lydia DePhillips from the Washington Post argues that H&M doesn't designate a set amount of money that they will give the factory owners, and that the store's plan discusses the wage on a scale of their Fair Wage Method, but does not inform us of the specific amount of money they are willing to offer. Although a true statement, H&M's detailed strategy, and most importantly their set date of 2018, shows that the store is intent on making a difference in the garment industry. With each small step, hopefully an international company like H&M can make a significant impact on the clothing industry, and improve the lives of the thousands upon thousands of destitute workers living every day in utter poverty.



MERCIE VILLAREAL '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

Winter Sports Preview Extravaganza!!

BOYS BASKETBALL

MADISON PETERSON-PORTA '15
Sports Editor

Opening the 2013-2014 season with a defeat of Deerfield Academy, the Loomis Chaffee Boys Varsity Basketball team has shown that they are a force to be reckoned with. Although the team is made up of mostly newcomers with only two returning seniors, the cohesiveness of the players acting as one unit allows for high expectations to be set and met during the rest of the season.

This year, there are five post graduates: Austin Cave, Jacob

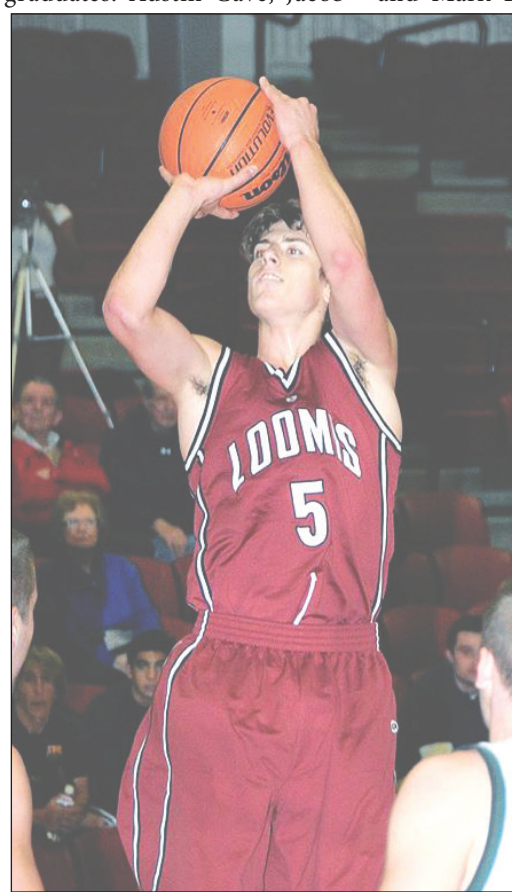


PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT DICKERT
Varsity Basketball Captain Pat Dickert

Magnusson, Liam Farley, Malachi Hoskins, and Austin James, two seniors: Isaac Simons and Captain Pat Dickert, three juniors: Michael Kim, Chris Torres, and William Hanson, one sophomore: Mark Byrne, and one freshman: Chris Eun. Offensively, the team has practiced long and hard together to know each other's strengths and weaknesses.

In the last game against Deerfield, four players scored double-digit points and three

others players contributed seven points total, ultimately leading to the win against Deerfield.

One of the key strengths of this team is relying heavily on rotation when in the zone defense. This rotation requires constant movement but allows for help to be given consistently whenever needed. Though the team isn't perfect yet, Captain Pat Dickert "expects that we'll be dangerous on the defensive end."

Leading the team offensively is Liam Farley. He is the highest scorer on the team, making him almost invaluable on the court.

Defensively, Pat Dickert and Mark Byrne are the primary perimeter defenders, Pat recording five steals during the last game with Deerfield and sophomore Mark Byrne having three steals off the bench against Belmont Hill, with Austin Cave standing as a solid presence in the middle earning nine rebounds and five blocks. This triumvirate represents one of the tightest defending units that Loomis Chaffee could ask for this season. Not only can they block shots and steal passes, but they can also make

baskets as well.

Although winter has just begun, LC Boys Varsity Basketball has practiced long and hard in order to make this a winning season. Alex Smith '14 comments, "I can't wait to watch some games!! It's going to be so exciting!"

Go get 'em boys!

BOYS HOCKEY

KELSEY DUFFY '15
Staff Writer

As colder weather moves in, the chill of the fall air has been replaced by brisk winter winds. The football field and meadows lie under a bed of snow, and the baseball and lacrosse fields wait for spring to reveal their green grass again. However, one athletic facility is more bustling than ever: the rink.

Home to four teams throughout the winter season, it seems as if the hockey rink is always hosting a practice or a game. But one hockey team is perhaps the most dedicated to making the upcoming season their best one yet. Boy's Varsity Ice Hockey approaches the 2013-2014 season with high energy and passion for the game.

Made up of 23 players total, the team has welcomed five new faces this year. Eric Benshadle '15 says "Even though I'm new this year I feel like I've been on the team as long as anyone else; there's already a great team environment."

Many of the players participated in AP weights this fall, a program designed and supervised by Head Coach JR Zavisa in order for the team to get in shape for the winter season. "It really helped with getting to know the team, and starting the camaraderie up early," says Eric.

The hockey team may just be the closest team on campus. On gamedays, you might notice a table jam-packed with guys wear-



SHANNON DEVENNEY '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

ing coat and tie- it's the team, preparing for that afternoon's match. "We do everything together," says Ben Sharf '15. "We eat all our meals together... It's like a brotherhood."

Following the successful 2012-2013 campaign last year, the team hopes to improve their record this season.

Captain Thomas Chateauvert '14 says, "We came really close to obtain a spot in the playoffs last year, but unfortunately, we lost our last game so I believe that this year, all the returners still have this frustrating memory in mind and aspire to make the playoffs."

At the end of Thanksgiving break, the team participated in a Jamboree at St. Paul's, putting the season in full swing for the weeks ahead. Then, after an extremely close loss in overtime at the season home opener on Saturday, December 7, the team says they appreciate Loomis's support and all the Superfans. Ben and Eric both agree that the hockey fans are the best supporters on campus, but they could always use more people on the bleachers.

"We want you guys to stick with us, we really appreciate all of your support," they both say.

Determined to surpass last year's impressive 13-11 record (a complete turn around from the previous year's of 2-23), LC hockey is gearing up for an intense and exciting season.

"As long as we work hard, we can grow into a great hockey team," Zach Giuttari '15. Hockey fans all over the island can look forward to seeing the successes of this year's impressive group of dedicated athletes.

GIRLS SQUASH

MADDIE BROWN '15
Staff Writer

The girls of Loomis Chaffee varsity squash are back. Having tried out before Thanksgiving Break, the team is now ready to crush their competition this season. This year, the team consists of



MERCE VILLAREAL '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

nine girls: four seniors, two juniors and three sophomores. The returners from last year include senior Alex Moreno and junior Gaby Foti will lead the group as team captains. Claudia Lamprecht, a new sophomore, earned her spot on varsity this year. Formerly playing on JV, Seniors Zoe Miller, Mackey Dubay, Elizabeth Weathers and Shirley Francois all climbed up the ladder to earn a spot on Varsity for this winter season. Esme Mejia is returning from Varsity, and Dania is joining the Varsity squad once again after serving as team manager due to an injury last year.

"I love our team!" said captain Gaby Foti. Having nine players on varsity this year, the competition to play has definitely increased. Challenge matches, in which two players close to each other on the ladder compete, help decipher who will play come the next match, but Gaby describes all these matches as "healthy competition, everyone shows good sportsmanship". With smaller gaps between the abilities of players on the team, the girls on the varsity squash team are strengthening and learning from one another.

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So far the squash team has had one scrimmage against Westminster, Suffield Academy and Kingswood Oxford on Wednesday December 4, and a match the following Saturday against Westminster.

With Dania Haughton, Gaby Foti and Claudia Lamprecht all unable to play on December 4, Esme Mejia stepped up to the plate and played second for the team. Not used to playing this position, Esme "went in and tried her best. She truly fought for ev-

ery point".

For their first official match, Loomis challenged Westminster on Saturday December 7. Despite the Pelicans' 0-7 loss, their team grew and showed their strengths throughout this match. Senior Mackey Dubay rallied for five games against her Westminster opponent, showcasing her impressive resilience and stamina. Missing two varsity players on Saturday, the girls fought on, and showed true promise for the season ahead.

Coming in as a new sophomore last year, Gaby Foti describes how the team gave her a place to belong. "When I was new they welcomed me, and made me feel part of the team, like I had a place."

According to Gaby, all the girls on the team really support each other on and off the court, through grueling game days and late night practices. "I don't know how I would do it without these girls by my side. We all push and support one another."

So the next time you hear that squash is not a team sport, think again. The girls of Loomis Chaffee varsity squash only grow stronger from one another's presence.

LC Volleyball Makes Historic Run To NE Final

Log Staff Report

To say the LC Girls Varsity Volleyball team had a "successful" year would be a massive understatement. When speaking about the team at the Fall Varsity Awards Tea, Coach Jeff Dyreson put it bluntly: "this was the most successful Volleyball team Loomis Chaffee has ever seen".

After graduating only four seniors from a 2012 squad that finished the season ranked #7 in New England, there were certainly high hopes for the 2013 campaign. Led by Senior: Maxine Offaeli, Kayla Schreiberstein, and Sarah Regan, the 2013 squad proved to New England that they were a force to be reckoned with by beating Phillips Andover, 3-2, for LC's first victory over the Big Blue in Coach Dyreson's 13 year tenure.

After taking down Choate by a resounding score of 3-0, an undefeated LC squad ascended to the #1 ranking in New England for the first time in school history. Despite a 3-2 loss to Phillips Exeter only three days later, the girls would hold on to the #1 ranking until their rematch with Choate in mid-October.

Despite losing that match, and subsequently the #1 ranking, by a

score of 3-1, the Pelicans won their final eight regular season games to finish the season ranked #2 in New England.

Matched up against perennial powerhouse Hotchkiss in the NE Quarterfinals, a resilient LC squad fought back from a 1-0 deficit to



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX CALLE
LC Superfans Storm the Court

defeat the Bearcats in five sets. In the Semifinals, the team travelled to Taft to play St. Paul's, the very school that eliminated LC from the playoffs last year. With a star studded team that included Alie Rusher, the reigning New England MVP, defeating the pelicans (yes St. Paul's has the same mascot as us) was a daunting task, partially due to the fact that the semifinal match would be the teams' first meeting of the season.

After Loomis took set one, St. Paul's handed LC its worst set loss

of the season by a score of 25-9. These girls easily could have folded after such a drubbing, but that just wasn't what this team was about. The resilient LC squad, backed by a crowd of over fifty "LC superfans" that made the trek down to Taft for the match, won the next two sets to advance to the NE Final against a familiar foe- Choate.

The teams had split the two meetings this season, and all in attendance in the Taft gymnasium that Sunday afternoon anticipated the "rubber match" would be just as intense. They weren't disappointed. With an even larger crowd of superfans cheering them on, a spirited Loomis squad took the first

set from the reigning New England Champs; but after Choate took the second set to make it 1-1, the title was up for grabs.

After an unlucky bounce cost LC the third set, Choate came out firing in the fourth set and never looked back, taking the match--- and their second straight championship--- 3-1.

"That loss doesn't take anything away from this season", coach Dyreson noted about the championship game loss to Choate. "[It] just leaves one last first for future teams to strive towards."

Shabazz Napier for the Win!

BY ALEXANDRA SMITH '14
Sports Editor

The state of Connecticut has been buzzing for the past week after the

UConn Men's Basketball team beat number No. 15 Florida on Monday, December 2nd. The most highly anticipated game of the regular season packed Gampel Pavilion, on the University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus. The game broke Florida's five-game winning streak and allowed UConn to remain undefeated.

The Huskies were down by three with 33 seconds left when they were able to grab two offensive rebounds and position Shabazz Napier to score a three-pointer. Napier was by far the game's standout, scoring 26 points while also hitting the game winning shot at the buzzer.

"Growing up I wanted to be Superman. Everyone wants to

be a hero," he said, surrounded by adoring UConn students and fans. "I just felt I was fortunate enough to be in the right spot at the right time." After hitting the game winning shot, Napier ran

"It was a once in a lifetime experience. I know that sounds cliché but it was," says UConn freshman Ashley Mulryan. "Buzzer beaters rarely happen and just being apart of the atmosphere

at Gampel when that shot went in, and for the game in general, is something I will never forget, even if it was just a regular season game."

New Head Coach Kevin Ollie also couldn't be more proud of his star player, especially since he started off the season with major critics who were huge fans of his predecessor, the legendary Jim Calhoun. "Shabazz was phenomenal," said Ollie. "When we needed the big shot he hit it. When we needed the big play he made it. ... He is one of the big-time players to wear the jersey and walk on the floor at Gampel Pavilion."

UConn hopes to continue their winning streak by beating Stanford on December 18th.

Let's go Huskies!



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES
UConn Guard Shabazz Napier

into the student section and was embraced by hundreds of adoring fans.