

Loomis Chaffee Log

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Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Pelicans commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. with a week of special events

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JULIA SONG '15 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

Community Art Show

Faculty Members' Artwork Takes Center Stage at the Richmond Art Center

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

"Ten Crazy Days": LC Swimming's 2014 Training Trip

BY JOHN FURLONG '14
Editor-in-Chief

On December 30, Loomis Chaffee swimmers arrived in sunny Vero Beach, Florida, for the annual Florida "Training Trip". For non-swimmers, the prospect of swimming 65km (that's 2,600 laps) over the course of a week sounds unfathomable, not to mention utterly ridiculous. Yet, that is exactly what the swim team was about to do, and believe it or not, we were actually excited for it. Greeted not with a trip to the beach, (which happened to be right across the street from our hotel) but rather with a 6,500 meter workout, the swimmers endured the first of the eleven practices to come that week, all held at the beautiful outdoor facility of the St. Ed-

ward's School. Two more practices followed on New Year's Eve, and after the evening session, the group of aquatic Pelicans hopped in the "Magic Carpet" bus (yes, that was the name of the bus company we used) and

maraderie grew stronger. The seniors even hosted a "speed dating" session to promote further team bonding, and despite some initial awkwardness, the event ended up being a huge success. Speaking of huge successes,



The twenty-eight swimmers who successfully endured the ten-day trip PHOTO COURTESY OF FRED SEEBECK

made the roughly 2 hour trek to Downtown Disney in Orlando, FL to ring in the New Year. As the week wore on, and the practices seemingly grew in difficulty, the team's ca-

trip, yet saddened that the end of the trip was near. For the four senior boys and two senior girls, the feelings of nostalgia were

"TURN UP", PAGE 8

"Bobsled" or "Bobsleigh"? All You Need to Know About the Winter Olympic Games

BY MICHELLE CHOI '16
Staff Writer

The Winter Olympic Games has been running uninterrupted since 1924 with the sole exception of the year 1935 due to the Second World War. Before 1992, the Winter games were held in the same four year cycle as the Summer Olympics, until the IOC (International Olympic Committee), decided to hold the two games in alternating even-numbered years.

The Winter Olympics have been hosted on three continents, but never in a country in the southern hemisphere (for obvious weather reasons). Austria, Canada, Japan, Italy, Norway, and Switzerland have each hosted the Games twice, France has hosted three times, and the United States four. This year's 2014 Winter Games will be the first to take place in a Russian city.

Since the very first Winter Games of 1924, hosted by France in Chamonix, twelve countries, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Great Brit-

ain, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States, have won medals at every Game. However, one country, the greatest country of all time, has managed to earn a gold at each and every one of the Games- ladies and gents, give it up for good old US of A (cue "USA! USA! USA!" chants).

The Summer Olympics are pretty straightforward, the only really questionable sports being Slalom style canoeing, BMXing, and Greco-Roman wrestling. However, the summer's Game's counterpart features some interesting events, including bobsleigh, skeleton, luge, and five subsections of skiing. I thought it would be quite useful to give a general overview and breakdown of these odd sports in preparation of this year's Games.

Curling, also known as the sport where "two guys clean the ice as if their parents will be home at any minute," or even referred to as, "glorified shuffleboard on ice", is an intense, blood boiling sport

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A Brief Summary of StuCo's Current Agenda

BY JOHN KIM '15
News Editor

Calculating and serious, the members of the Loomis Chaffee Student Council trickle into Founders Lounge on the week of January 5th, 2014 for their first meeting since winter break. The Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President call the Council to order and a disciplined silence settles upon the musty air. The President is not present, but the Council functions effectively regardless. Discussion begins in earnest. As a reintroduction into school affairs, the meeting was pri-

marily a chance for council members to re-familiarize themselves with pre-existing topics and agendas.

1. The AP proposal regarding final, Loomis exams for students enrolled in AP courses is still very much on the floor. Billy Holloway '15 and Charlie Kenney '15 are to speak to the faculty on this matter sometime in February in order to discuss the specific adjustments that will need to be enacted in order to accommodate this change. Holloway and Kenney themselves believe that a conclusive decision on this particular topic

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What Role Does Humanity Have in Ushering in Acceptance?

BY SYDNEY STEWARD '17
Contributor

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."-Martin Luther King Jr.

Ever since the beginning of history, the humanity has fought a perpetual battle with racism. This social toxin continues to skulk around us despite our efforts to cure ourselves with words of wisdom and morality passed down from past generations.

We all live within the racial battle. Something as simple as walking into a classroom and being the only person representing one's race can be disheartening, sometimes even frightening. Universal childhood figures, such as Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy, are exclusive racial symbols. Pedestrian interactions and conversations often inevitably have an underlying notion of racism.

How do we break the cycle? How do we find global interconnectedness, racial acceptance, and freedom of expression among us all?

Racial stereotypes deconstruct and alter the cultural reputation of an ethnicity. Preconceived ideas make it difficult for a person to express their culture without being deemed as a racist. For example, MLK week celebrates King's legacy and the

African American culture. Food is an important aspect of any culture, but PRISM often encounters difficulties when celebrating the Southern culture. Is it racist to serve students fried chicken, collard greens, cornbread, and other Southern foods to celebrate King's legacy? Serving this food is a reverent act of celebration, and there is no intended racism.

Universal symbols, such as Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy, hold importance in society. They link children all over the world under a common thread of tradition and innocent bliss. However, when one grows into an cognizant citizen, one can comprehend the hypocrisy in these childhood figures. Both Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy are portrayed as Caucasians. Is it possible that a child of another race could feel disconnected due to the different ethnicity? Racial exclusivity is represented in social media as well. Most American advertisements and television shows predominantly showcase Caucasian actors. We must understand that some of us, or maybe all of us, could feel isolated from society, and that this shameful marginalization is the consequence of our own actions.

If we are to grow beyond racism, we must approach the truth with an open mind and observe the lives of people of all races closely. Peggy McIntosh, director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, in her book *White Privilege, Color, and Crime: A Personal Account*, discusses racial privilege and its many shapes and forms in

"STARLESS MIDNIGHT", PAGE 6

This Temperature is TOO DARN LOW!

BY BOBBY TURNER '14
Opinions Editor

I woke up in a frenzy. My sheets slightly damp from the overwhelmingly disturbing dreams, I rock back and forth like a child out of his crib. What could be the meaning of this? Is this the work of the devil? As I continue writhing in apparent pain, I jerk my weary head to the side, to examine the brutal draft of icy wind that seemed to breathe fire down my innocent neck. I lift up the off-white shade and much to my dismay, the window was open. It was that simple, I was cold because the window was open. Why would I have the window open on a frigid January night? Even more, I

don't know why I have my fan on, especially on the third and strongest setting. My initial thought was to have it on for white noise, but on second thought I realized this may be a bad idea. That incredibly uncomfortable feeling when you get out of the snug bed and feel the fan's wicked air attack your once-warm shins and feet haunts me as I lay motionless, waiting for the alarm to sound and commence a start to another day. Another cold, cold, miserably cold day.

Now of course, as I'm writing this, it just so happens to be a day of balmy forty eight degrees - typical of New England. You know what they say: "If you don't like it, just wait a minute!" Well, I just

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Editor's Picks

Fried Chicken? Cornbread? Really?

In a special Op-ed, faculty member Elizabeth Parada defends the serving of "soul foods" on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day while also touching upon the nature of stereotypes.

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Get in the Loop!

Phuong Bui '17 reports on the launching of Loomis's second twitter account, @LCintheloop, and why it is worth it for you to "follow".

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A Summary of Student Council's Agenda

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will be reached by the end of the year, if not by winter term.

2. Another concern that was the locking of certain campus buildings at apparently arbitrary times. The chapel, for example, was discussed as an area often found locked when student groups, such as the Acapelicans and Musical Revue, needed to use it. Gabby Roncone '15 and Ellen O'Brien '16 have attempted to discuss this issue with Mr. Walters. From what they could gather, however, buildings are required to have faculty supervisors in order to have students in them.

3. The Penny War was concluded, with a total gain of \$213. The underclassmen won by an incredibly overwhelming majority, raising concerns about a severe lack of upperclassman school spirit and involvement. The underclassmen will receive a sweatpants day as a reward for their victory.

4. The annually held Game Night and Benefit Concert were also both introduced as events still requiring some planning. The Benefit Concert will, this year, be dedicated to the victims of the Haiyan typhoon in the Philippines, and will for the most part remain the same, with the sole exception that each performer will only be allowed a single act.

5. Ryan Wilde '14 presented his proposal on the "Toilet Paper Initiative". Designed to combat what Wilde claims to be a gross injustice to the students of Loomis Chaffee, the Toilet Paper Initiative is a piece

to and Mr. Beckford yielded little, if any conclusions that would lead to any serious consideration of a replacement of Loomis' toilet paper on account of financial and organizational issues.

6. The most significant of these by far was a speech given to the Council by Keara Jenkins '14. A member of the LC E-Proctors, Jenkins delivered remarks regarding a letter that had been written by a divest-

ment sub-committee of the E-Proctors to the trustees regarding Loomis' potential divestment from oil-based energy companies. The letter did not ask for immediate action on behalf of the Trustees. The purpose of the

payment for some service provided by a corporation. Loomis divesting would entail the school's complete independence from energy corporations. Divestment, as is to be expected, has massive financial implications for the party that divests. If Loomis were to divest, it would relinquish all paid-for forms of energy, meaning that the school would be forced to exclusively use alternative energy sources. This creates a number of problems for the school. Most importantly, Loomis' expenses will skyrocket; alternative energy sources in the US are uncommon for a reason: they are enormously expensive. Relying on alternative energy would force the school not only to considerably raise tuition considerably, but also force us to cut back on many forms of internal improvement (e.g. SNUG remodeling and the introduction of the NEST). From a larger perspective, the upcoming discussion on divestment will test Loomis' commitment to its ideals. Will Loomis cave in to economic demands, and by so doing commit itself to a course of action that primarily emphasizes the school's pecuniary interests? The Trustees and Student Council's answer to this question will shape the public's view of our government.



Student Council gathers for its weekly meeting

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of legislation that would, if enacted replace most, if not all, of the standard toilet paper within Loomis' bathroom stalls. Unfortunately there was not much discussion on this issue, as Wilde reported that meetings with faculty members Mr. Esposi-

"THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF THESE SPEECHES, BY FAR, WAS A SPEECH GIVEN TO THE COUNCIL BY KEARA JENKINS '14"

letter was simply to propose conversation. Jenkins asked for the Student Council's support to see the issue discussed, to which the Council answered with a resounding majority yes. Divestment is a process whereby some financial body completely halts

StuCo To Host 6th Annual Game Night

BY STEPHANIE YIU '14
Staff Writer

Student Council is teaming up with the Student Activities Organization to host a game night to help make the students' Saturday night more enjoyable.

Student Council President, Rohin Bhargava '14 credits John Fundock '14 for organizing this event. Bhargava said, "Game night has always been an evening filled with merriment and enjoyment, a shining beacon during the dark and dreary winter season. This year will be no different. Get ready to be ignited."

Game night began in 2008, when a student suggested the initiative to Mr. Donegan. Initially, Donegan did not think a night of board games would appeal to students; however, after the first event's remarkable support, it has been an annual event.

Mr. Donegan said, "My favorite parts [of Game Night] was seeing the kids slow down and take a step away from technology to play the traditional games that they grew up with and watching our own students playing with the FacBrats."

The fun begins on January 25th at 8 p.m. and Student Council is not leaving anyone out. Traditionally, Student Council played games with the FacBrats before the students arrive. This year, students can show up at 8 p.m.

to have their turn, and that is when competitions between students begin.

Dress code is casual, but Bhargava said, "There will be poker, so fancy dress is welcome. Cards will be drawn, serious faces will be on, and nothing but sheer luck can help you."

If luck is your thing, then

others in Jenga. If you are one of those boarders who stay in their rooms and play Minecraft, why not try creeping out of your room to come play Halo at the Student Council sponsored game night?

Some, like Student Activities technical coordinator, Derek Martinez '16, think Game Night could use some improvement.

"Game night needs some revitalization. I think it could use a little more excitement than just games. We could also use some new board games since many pieces from several games are missing while some games have too many of them; if I could trade in every Apples to Apples card that StuActs has for a dollar, I could buy myself a used car. No joke," Martinez said.

Even though there are a few flaws, there is no reason that students should not come and interact with people. In fact, because the SAT's are on the same day, students should come to blow off some steam, or as Charles Shotton '14 said "let go of your SAT blues."

you can take part in the raffles that they will be having, though the prize list is still undetermined. There will also be standard, strategic board games, too, from the classic Monopoly to the mysterious Clue.

If you have a steady hand, you should try challenging



A friendly game of chess

SHANNON DEVENY '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

Guest Musicians Perform on the Hubbard Stage

BY EMILIE SZEMRAJ '16
Staff Writer

The Loomis Chaffee Music Department has provided students with numerous opportunities to witness diverse and talented guest musicians in order to expose students to the advanced level of professional music. The hope of the Music Department is that regular guest musician performances will inspire and educate not just Loomis Chaffee's musicians, but also the entire school community.

The school year kicked off the guest musician program with the Hartford Symphony Woodwind Quartet. This performance demonstrated the advanced skill of professional musicians and gave LC's woodwind instrumentalists a goal to strive for.

The second concert was the Hemlock Project, a unique presentation that connected music with environmental science, introducing a new perspective into this year's all-school theme of climate change. The event consisted of a performance by a cello quartet, a lecture by an environmentalist followed by a small discussion about the piece. The quartet played an interesting piece; the composer had created it by climbing to the top of a hemlock tree, and recording the wind going through the hemlocks, a sound that was played along to by the cellos. The piece was an interesting blend of science and music and showed how music can relate to virtually any subject.

The third and very recent

guest musician performance was by Viva Quetzal, a South American and Caribbean fusion band that performed on Thursday, January 9th, 2014. A Quetzal is a South American bird that is very lively and has vibrant lovely colors. However, if the Quetzal is captured it will die within a short amount of time from captivity. Translated, Viva Quetzal roughly means, "the bird lives free", a name that matches the bands diverse and spirited music from their

is traditionally made out of an armadillo's shell in Chile. He also played the Zampogna which makes a wind-like sound and is also called an Andean pan flute. The band also used a recorder type instrument called the Kena, another Andean instrument that was first made by the people in the high mountains of South America. For background effects, the band also used scraper, a long gourd with spikes that is rasped on with a stick. The band included traditional wooden flutes and a soprano saxophone into their pieces. Their performance also included vocals, and was attended by most Spanish classes at Loomis. The performance was one of the many opportunities at LC to see another culture firsthand.



Viva Quetzal in Hubbard

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many different backgrounds. Because Viva Quetzal is a fusion band, the members play a variety of music: traditional South American music, jazz and reggae are only some of the different styles they perform. The band's members are Venezuelan, Chilean, Panamanian, and three are American. Their diversity is part of the reason their music is so interesting; they fuse music of their nationalities using traditional instruments into modern music that transitions smoothly from reggae to jazz.

Mr. Clavijo, an LC parent, is one of the leading members of the band. One of the major instruments he performed with was the Charango, which is similar to a Mandarin and

In the near future, on February 27th, the Adult Vocal group from Hartford called Voce, which means voices in Italian, will perform in Hubbard. This performance is hoped to inspire the vocalists on campus and provide examples of how great our singers can become.

The guest musician program is focused on giving students examples of professional musicians and goals to strive toward. The diversity of these performances shows how music connects to other subjects as well, and is an art that can be found anywhere. These guest musician concerts are certainly providing our community with positive experiences regarding other cultures and with vibrant musical exposure.

LC Travels to Yale For Annual Model UN Delegation

BY NATASIA NABILA '16
Staff Writer

A group of 24 Loomis Chaffee students will attend Yale Model United Nations XL, an annual Model United Nations conference held at Yale University, from January 23rd to 26th. An academic simulation in the conference will not only promote global-thinking and critical analysis but also help foster a keen insight on multifarious international dilemmas. Thinking will no longer be a perfunctory outlook by which students hold with casual indifference, but it will surpass their expectations by catching them off guard with new interpretations of seemingly dull topics.

Revolving around the theme, "Think Globally, Act Locally", YMUN XL delegates will truly immerse themselves in the perplexities of international problems while also delving into social problems around their communities. This valuable experience acts like a knowledgeable tour guide for the delegates—it will guide them through the tricky hills, complicated plateaus, and difficult terrains of their lives in the

future. They will be equipped with a better understanding of the world and will adroitly tackle obstacles.

As stated in the Yale Model United Nations official website, the aim of this conference beyond the mere three-day participation of the delegates is, "[having the] delegates to leave the conference feeling inspired that they too can make a difference in the world."

By providing a broad selection of committees, YMUN XL

allows delegates to freely explore what topics they are truly interested in. The committees are subdivided into four cat-

Economic and Financial Committee (ECOFIN), and Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

national Maritime Organization (IMO) and so on. [3] The Regional Bodies—the Arab League, European Union and

international relations program taught by some of Yale's professors and a Yale Showcase that will feature performances.

Insightful and enthusiastic, YMUN XL secretaries are ready to welcome the delegates. The Secretary-General of YMUN XL is Grace Chiang, a junior in Yale's Calhoun College. A Taiwanese who spent several years in Southern California before attending Yale, Chiang has spent her entire Yale career with YMUN. Other honored venerable of the secretariat include Alessandra Powell (Director-General of Admin and Services), Justin Schuster (Director-General of Committee), Matt Cohen (Under-Secretary General of Assembly Committees), and so on.

In addition, the YMUN XL community has also promised to organize a highly-enhanced technological team in order to improve the experience of the delegates by incorporating exciting technological resources

for each committee. Apart from the conference alone, "Yale Day" will also be held. These offerings include an in-

ternational relations program taught by some of Yale's professors and a Yale Showcase that will feature performances.



LC's 2013 YMUN Delegation

PHOTO COURTESY OF RACHEL ENGELKE

egories: [1] The General Assemblies—such as the World Health Organization (WHO),

Faculty Art Show Opens in RAC

BY ERIKA PURDY '15
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 14th, the annual faculty art show opened in the Richmond Art Center. Featuring pieces from seventeen faculty and staff members from the Loomis community, the gallery encompassed a wide variety of art, from video to audio, painting to knitting, and poetry to jewelry.

LC photography teacher, John Mullin, who was in charge of organizing the event, said that this year's showcase dis-

staff, and their family members. It is the only non-student art show during the whole school year, and even staff not associated with the art department are allowed and encouraged to participate. It is a way for faculty to show off their talents outside of the academic classroom. New faculty are always encouraged to submit pieces. There is no set theme or focus, the Community Art show is simply a showcase for pretty much any genre of art.

Among the pieces on display was the first film submission—a

also donated a few of his photographs to the effort. As per the usual, Mr. Forrester submitted a few of his haiku poems, printed on thick paper in green and red ink. He and a few core others are a part of "the gang", as Mr. Mullin describes it, that contributes year after year.

The show will be running until the end of January and a few weeks into February, so anyone who wishes to see the talents of their teachers outside of a classroom environment should visit sometime soon.

*A full list of the artists: Don-



Visitors view art at Annual Faculty Art Exhibition

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palyed some of the most diverse artworks in the show's history. "It's probably the most mixed show we've had in terms of mediums," he said.

The Community Art show, also known as the Faculty Art exhibit, is open to all faculty,

contribution by Mrs. Forrester. Mr. Glass has an audio artwork, a recording of an orchestra. Some of Mrs. McCandless's pottery was displayed, along with Mr. Mullin's photos. A former art teacher and director of the art gallery, Mr. Walter Rabetz,

na Burrall, Katherine Popadin, Jane Phillips, Mark Zunino, Chet Kempczynski, Jennifer McCandless, Patty Cousins, Martha Hess, Ewen Ross, Aly Ross, John Mullin, Dominic Failla, Walter Rabetz, Stan Forrester, Mary Forrester, Keller Glass, Tim Struthers.

Write for the Log!

...or else Karen Cha will hunt you down. We're not joking.

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

A NOTICE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Dear readers,

We feel that it is necessary to change the focus of the News section. Previously, our articles were based purely upon school events, without much analysis. We believe that, in order for our section to grow in intellectual quality, it is necessary to change the content and the style of articles to focus less upon the purely informative, and more on the reasons behind school events. Expect to see articles with more in-depth analysis in the future.

Thank you,
The Log Editors

Alumni Return to the Island

BY KELSEY DUFFY '15
Staff Writer

On Saturday, January 11, over a hundred young alumni from the classes of 2013 and 2012 returned to the Island in order to revisit their former home: the Island. From chatting with teachers, to catching up with friends, to visiting teammates at home games, young alumni enjoyed a quick break from their busy college lives by returning to Loomis.

As busy students hustled about the dining hall after Saturday classes, most either wolfing down sandwiches before an athletic event, or lazily talking to friends in anticipation of a long, restful afternoon, recent graduates accompanied them in the dining hall. While hugging underclassmen friends and enjoying Loomis dining

said, "Coming back to the Island as an alumnus was comparable to returning to the neighborhood in which I grew up as a child; although I saw some unfamiliar faces, the essence of the school was more present than ever. The combination of revisiting my old haunts, embracing my old classmates and teachers, and seeing new faces made me realize the profound impact Loomis had on my maturation."

Following a reception in the dining hall, there alumni were given a host of activities to attend. Home games and meets for the Boys and Girls Swimming, Boys Varsity Squash, Varsity Wrestling, and Girls Varsity Hockey teams allowed many alumni athletes the option to check up on their former squads and teammates. However, a

old teammates. I've known Dale Reese [Class of '13] and Dan Trompeter [Class of '12] since I came to Loomis, so it's good to catch up and see that they're both doing well after they've graduated."

The young alumni were also given an opportunity to make an impact upon Loomis, though they have already left. "Pelican Pride", a competition between the classes of 2013, 2012, 2011, and 2010 to see which class can generate the most donors to the annual fund in four weeks, is beginning. For the proverbial broke, college-age students, this is a daunting task.

Former pelicans, living and learning near and far, will always have a place to call home at Loomis. Though buildings may be renovated, courses may be altered, and new students will be added,



Young Alumni return to LC

PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISHNA KULKARNI '13

hall delicacies, the young alumni provided a great deal of entertainment with tales of college fun and adventures off the island. When asked about his return to the Island, Paul Lee '13, last year's Student Council President who now attends Yale University,

special tradition, the Alumni Basketball game, definitely received plenty of attention as well. The current varsity boys team faced off against alumni in an intense but playful game in Olcott. Basketball captain Pat Dickert '14 said "It was fun. I don't every day you get to compete with your

the fundamental beliefs of our school will remain the same. Paul Lee '13 commented, "Even though I'm growing up, I'll always be able to come back and be greeted with open arms,".

Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.

BY **ESMERALDA MEJIA '16**
Contributor

After the significant struggle, Martin Luther King Jr. day was officially agreed upon as an official day of recognition, and signed in 1983. Eleven years later, our Congress further re-emphasized MLK Day by turning it into a national day of service, a call to help solve the nation's most significant and pressing social issues.

Despite being from a different background, Martin Luther King Jr.'s actions were courageous and he conjured respect from everyone as he risked his life for a better change. I believe MLK day is to celebrate the life and legacy of a man who brought hope to America. He was a man full of courage, and gave us the best thing of all: knowledge. Dr. King's wisdom taught me, as well as countless others, the values of courage, justice, compassion, dignity and value. His legacy will continue throughout the actions of everyone he has touched as we honor his memory through spreading his teachings of equality, in everything from a day of dedication to even the Loomis Chaffee annual Martin Luther King convocation.

For some people MLK day is a holiday to honor the civil rights activist and an opportunity to educate themselves about his courageous acts. Others, however look at it as only a day off from work or school. If MLK day is not a holiday, I believe it will be surpassed. The commitment to respecting Dr. King's memory and the controversies he created will continue

to progress and change today's society in many different ways.

What we do not realize is that Dr. King's action do not only lead to change in racial expressions, but also in ethnicity, physical and mental ability, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, and all other kinds of expression of diversity in identity. As a member of the PRISM organization on campus, I have realized that most of the conversation we have had in PRISM is about race and the different controversies that arise between different races. As an introduction of what our club does: PRISM essentially looks at things from a full spectrum. Discussions that arise in our time together help us learn to be more open-minded about our community when approached with radical ideas, however unpopular they may be after all, King's views were once considered extremist. This extends to the kind of opinions people can change, such as those on ethnicity, physical and mental ability, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, and all other



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICIA COUSINS

topics that often come to controversy.

Just a few days ago during the sophomore class meeting, Bobby Cecere ('16) and Aidan Scott ('16) talked about their personal experience playing basketball with children who have physical disabilities. Their stories touched upon how they realized that children with physical and mental disabilities are often viewed in a negative light and are frequently ostracized in today's society, discriminated for inborn traits that they could not have possibly changed. Bobby and Aidan discussed how we often use derogatory words like "retarded," "insane," or even label them as "freaks" and consider them to be outcasts because of how different they seem. We tend to block the idea of communicating with the disabled, considering ourselves above anyone with such a disability. But learning the values of life and compassion is important; it is also what Dr. King believed in. Some people have disabilities, but just because of an unfair and perceived notion our society has against them, our opinion and

behaviors towards them shouldn't be affected by their differences. If anything, we should become more conscious and self-aware of our own privileges, whether that be physical capabilities, the socioeconomic backgrounds of a family, or even the education we have been so lucky to receive.

During group discussions, PRISM presidents Diamond Henry ('14), Errol Francis ('14), Dania Haughton ('15), Dontay Downer ('15), and Justin Morales ('14) create "hot topics" to get the conversation going. It is important to us that everyone take in the values from these discussions, because when we leave the PRISM room, our conversation lets us ask many different questions not only in our daily lives, but also in application to current events around us. With the right mindset, we have the potential to solve these problems and make the world a better place. Dr. King's courageous actions educated people about the problem of discrimination we face, even still today. So, my question is, why can't we be as courageous as him and step up for those who have not been treated within their rights: equally? What are we waiting for? What is holding us back? Like Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter". Let's get loud, Loomis.

The Endless Wonders of THE ALHAMBRA BANQUET

BY **RAMAL RAUF '17**
Contributor

Every year, Loomis Chaffee's History Department creates and coordinates the Alhambra Ban-

quet, an extensive re-enactment staged by all students participating in the World History course.

On Thursday January 16th, the entirety of the freshman class, along with the number of new and returning sophomores registered for the course, had the opportunity to partake in this exciting event.

What exactly is the Alhambra Banquet, and how are the students a part of it? Well, the Alhambra Banquet imitates a specific event in history during which intuitive and intelligent people of different cultures and religions such as Christianity and Islam gather together for a night of food, fun, and conversation. In Loomis Chaffee's Alhambra Banquet, concepts of time and place are tweaked in order to allow for a more diversified meeting of the minds. To create a larger scope than in actuality and incorporate every student, the banquet features historical figures side-by-side with explorer Christopher Columbus and innovator Johannes Gutenberg. Although such conversations could never have taken place, suspending disbelief for the sake of learning is seen as a worthwhile experience at the banquet.

When students "travel" to Alhambra, World History students gain the opportunity to understand a better perspective of what they are currently studying in their daily discussions, but outside the classroom environment. At this point in the

syllabus, World History classes are delving into the topics Christianity and Judaism. The Alhambra Banquet brings all of the people involved with those three religions, as well as scientists, philosophers, and even explorers, to the same tables. Guests include the likes of Ibn Rushd (an Islamic doctor and philosopher) and Zheng He (a Chinese admiral and navigator). Students fall under specific categories, with figures who share similar traits or qualities sharing a table so that the people that are "connected the most" eat together. This seating makes a table rich with connections and interesting relationships.

To make the night even more exploratory and informational, students at the Alhambra Banquet write poetry about their character's life or interests, and they each must deliver a unique present to the person who is holding the banquet. Witnessing a person from your textbook, translated into real life, allows students to explore new concepts, ideas, and delve deeper into their research and course studies.

Students look forward to this event, and, in preparation, exhilaration and creativity are blooming. Many of the female students playing Queens look forward to embracing the power of their characters, and many even said they look forward to being treated like royalty for a night. Many students are especially eager to promote authenticity, as the poem is an important component, allowing

students to express themselves and their characters. The gifts are also exciting to construct—representations of the plethora of characters. For example, as a King or Queen, you would give commodities like silver or gold, a clear representation of wealth, power, and standing. Students' knowledge of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism will be augmented by the Alhambra Banquet, through an evening of immersion and excitement.

Though it may last for only two hours, the Alhambra Banquet will remain cemented in students' minds for a long time after its completion. It is an excellent and extraordinary event that enlarges our scope of history, and engages our perspective on the times with more than just facts—we learn not only as student academics, but also as members of a world creating history every day. Through this event, many of us, if we have not already, will learn to incorporate the emotions, relationships, and other significant components of history when we study particular occurrences throughout Loomis' History program, from United States History, to AP Economics. Another incredible learning experience at Loomis, the Alhambra Banquet will truly open students' eyes to the vast, incredible countries and times that students study, allowing our textbooks to quite literally jump into real life.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIANA EDWARDS

Chinese New Year Celebration

The Loomis Style



BY AURELIE LIU '16
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again. The excitement of winter break and all its delights have calmed down as the sadly familiar piles of homework reappear on our desk. Yet fear not, the holidays are not entirely lost, with one big event still looming: Chinese New Year. In Ancient China, people used a calendar that was based on the movement of the moon, as opposed to the sun. It is because of this that Chinese New Year is often christened the "Lunar New Year." This year, Chinese New Year falls on the 31st of January. Countries all over Asia with significant Chinese populations, as well as the multitude of "Chinatowns" worldwide, take part in celebrating this festival.

Traditionally, Chinese New Year was a time to honor the gods and their ancestors. Ancient customs have been relentlessly passed down through centuries of generations, and are still widespread to this day. Of these traditions include the exchange

of red packets. Adults will give red envelopes, usually containing varying amounts of money, to employees and younger relatives. Although it may seem a bit bizarre to be giving out money, it is seen as a way to ensure good luck for the rest of the year, for red is a lucky colour in Chinese culture. During Chinese New Year, it is impossible to leave the house without seeing an abundance of red decorations at every street corner. Calligraphy signs of Chinese idioms are hung outside the doors as innumerable



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN GROG

lanterns embellish the streets. It is truly a sight to be seen. Another major aspect to this festival is the

practice of lion and dragon dancing. People hide under costumes and dance to the beat of drums

and cymbals to make it seem like the lion or dragon is dancing. This practice is said to expel all the bad

spirits for the New Year. Loomis never fails to do an excellent job incorporating other cultures into our community, and Chinese New Year is no exception. Every year, the Chinese club arranges an amazing night in the snug filled with an abundance of red decorations and an incredible array of traditional Chinese foods. From dumplings to chinese cookies, there's always more than enough food for everyone. Between stuffing yourself with fried noodles and rice, you can also enjoy the different stations where Chinese students teach others students many traditional activities, such as writing calligraphy, tying chinese knots, and making paper lanterns. Whether it is to discover the passion of Chinese New Year or simply to get free food, make sure to be at the snug on February 7th to support your peers as they try to bring part of their home and culture to Loomis.

SKI TRIP:

A PACKAGE OF ENDLESS FUN

BY HARRIET CHO '14
Managing Editor

I have many exciting memories from my Freshman year. Student orientation, first day of classes, Scam, and the Alhambra Banquet are only a few memorable things that pop into my mind right away. But whenever I gather with my friends from freshman year, one topic that we always talk about is the ski trip that we all went on together. I still remember the time when my friends and I stayed up until 4 in the morning playing card games, watching movies, and just talking. Cooking meals with friends, ice skating, and skiing itself are also fun filled memories that I will never forget. When asked what is his favorite part of the trip, "The best thing about the ski trip is how close one can be with others," said Jaewon Kim '14. "I was able to spend as much time as I wanted not only with my friends but also with those whom I never had a chance to hang out. That's why I went on the trip for the three years that I have been at Loomis, and am still willing to go on my fourth and last one." Loomis will be offering the 14th annual ski trip from January 30th to February 3rd to Smugglers Notch Ski Resort. The trip includes transportation from LC to the resort and back, four night stay at a slopeside condominium, four day ski lift tickets, all meals, night tubing, ice skating, indoor pool and

hot tubs, convenient access to rentals and lessons. To learn more about the trip from the perspective of the faculty organizing the trip, I spoke with Mr. Donegan.

Who are the faculty in charge of the trip? Will all of them be coming on the trip with the students?

-Mr. and Mrs. Donegan, Mr. and Mrs. Field, Mr. and Mrs. Dyreson, and Ms. Sapula. Except for one or two, all of them will come on the trip, so we will have at least four or five adults around the whole time during the trip.

Do you think the trip has become more popular throughout the years? If so, what do you think is the reason?

-I think it started rather slow 13 years ago. We started it to simply give students something to do over the long headmaster's weekend, and then it became much more popular about 10 years ago when the school officially decided to close the campus during the weekend. Before then, we encouraged students to go on the trip so faculty could get a break as well, but then the closing of campus became official, so everybody had to go somewhere. So if you did not have a host home or could not go back home, ski trip was certainly a very good option. Right now, we have 25 people signed up for the trip this year.

The trip is popular not only for the skiers and snowboarders, but also for the international students.

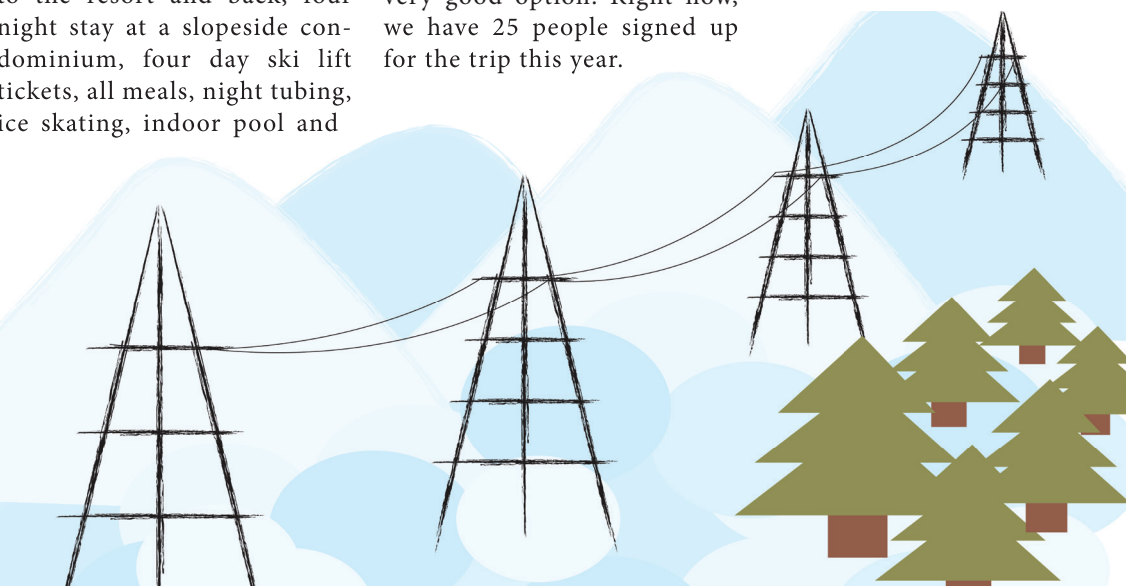
What do you think is the best part about the trip?

-That you are not in school! You get to ski all day and hang out with your friends, sleep late if you want, go to restaurants, game room, snow tube, ice-skate, play X-Box, watch movies... It's obviously a lot of fun. It's almost like an all-inclusive vacation where everything you want to do is right there on the mountain. We don't have to drive anywhere to enjoy all these.

Would you like to say anything for the people who have interest in participating in future trips?

-Sign up as soon as possible, so we can get the right number of condos and right amount of food. So, as soon as you know that you want to come on the trip, please let me know.

You've heard him. From my own experience, the ski trip was a memorable one and I think all students will love being able to spend a few days with their friends just hanging out and having fun. I believe more students will look to the ski trip as a great way to spend their head's weekend.



NATHA SINGHASANEH '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

The Obsession With Prom Begins

BY ISABELLA EPSTEIN '16
Staff Writer

Glitter, sparkles, glitz, and glam. Prom is a night for every girl to dress like a princess and be treated like a queen. Since a young age, girls dream of this special evening, and, in order for the outcome to be flawless, several components come into play. Every detail counts: the hair, makeup, shoes, the perfect date, and especially the dress. Though to some picking an outfit may seem simple, in reality it is quite the opposite. Girls go to extreme

lengths in order to assure perfection for this one night, and having the right dress seals the deal. So, at Loomis, we take it one step further. Not only do we strive for excellence, we attempt to ensure that each girl has her own piece of the spotlight, meaning no two people can wear the same gown. Has the search for the perfect dress instead become a race?

Preparations leading up to the actual evening are immeasurable, to say the least. Since Prom is one of the most memorable events of high school, serious planning occurs. The Prom Committee, led by Quinn Schoen '14 and Paul

Nguyen '14, Student Representatives Leah Rubin '14 and Shannon Deveney '14, and the Fundraising Committee take it upon themselves to see that this night is unforgettable. Along with choosing details as large as the location to as small as the class gift, students prepare months in advance, but arranging prom is only half of the work—finding a dress is the rest. To prepare for the occasion, nearly four months in advance,

The chemistry on the page is encouraging, friendly, cute, and without question, respectful, although there have been a few incidences of first-come-first-serve dress choice situations. Most wouldn't consider dress picking an art, but choosing the right dress requires patience and understanding. Senior Nana Minder comments she "spent over ten hours picking out [her] dress," making sure "it [was] the right size, and the perfect shape to compliment [her] body." Since Prom is the one last night when all the seniors are together, neither stressed nor worried but



JAE LEE '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

Facebook Prom Dress Page. Though it may seem of minimal importance, the significance of this web page is incredible. The page, a longstanding tradition continued by Leah Rubin and Shannon Deveney, was designed for senior girls to post their Prom, Graduation, and Class Night dresses with the intentions to avoid any "oopsies" of girls wearing the same dress, which could pop the bubble of perfection of the night. This year though, the page went up earlier than ever—half a week before Winter Break's end, an exciting build-up to prepare for the eve.

will surely begin to heat up, with dresses being picked out, Promposals around the corner, and the actual event only a few short months away. Julia Crerend '14 notes that "Prom is a time to make your final statement, and savor the last few moments as a class together." Though the preparations leading up to the event can occasionally be overwhelming and stressful, in the end, the night and the people are all that really matters. "It's not about what dress you're wearing, it's about spending time with people you love for one last hurrah."

only nostalgic, "everything has to be perfect."

Within the months to come, the Prom craze

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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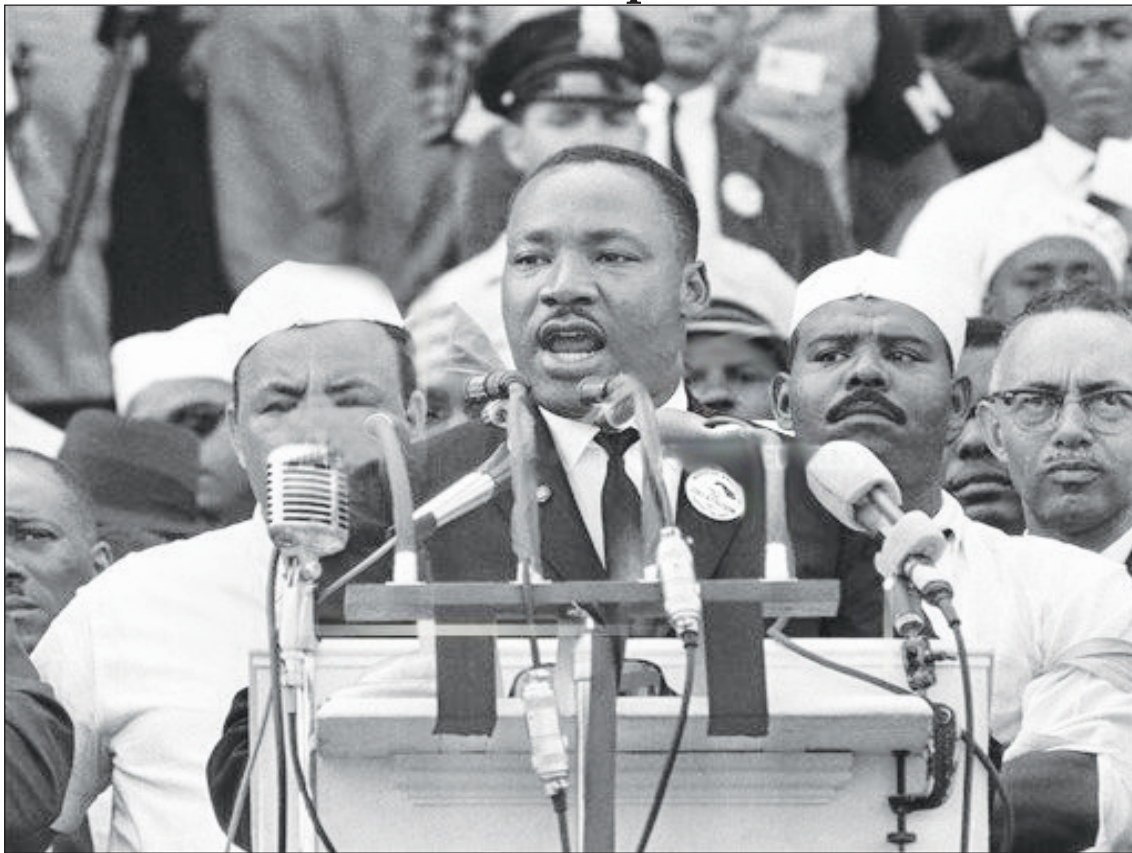
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OP-ED

SYDNEY STEWARD '17

The Starless Midnight In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a student offers a poignant commentary on race and on humanity's duty to enter a new era of acceptance



CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE
 society. McIntosh creates a list of statements linking race and the system of our daily life. I have listed a few below. Do you agree or disagree with the statements?

1. "If I am laughing with friends on a street at night, it is not assumed that we are in a gang."
2. "I am allowed to believe, and encouraged to believe, that people of my race are in general law-abiding rather than law-breaking."
3. "When I am told about our national heritage or about 'civilization,' I am shown that people of my color made it what it is."
4. "I can choose public accom-

modation without fearing that people of my race cannot get in or will be mistreated in places I have chosen."

5. "I can choose blemish cover or bandages in 'flesh' color and have them more or less match my skin."

In her narrative, McIntosh explains the racially-driven power system of our society, highlighting the discrepancies among lives of people of different races. McIntosh's narrative only adds to my point about our necessity to create a color-blind world, so to speak, to reach equality, not just theoretically, but with our very own per-

sonal actions. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for racial equality for all of humanity. It is our responsibility, regardless of our own racial backgrounds, to fully acknowledge the existence of racism and battle the societal toxin. So, try to help each other in this battle for us all. Ask the questions that you may be fearful to ask, stop the hurtful words and actions that you can stop. With due time, we will escape this starless midnight and finally see the world under the warmth of light.

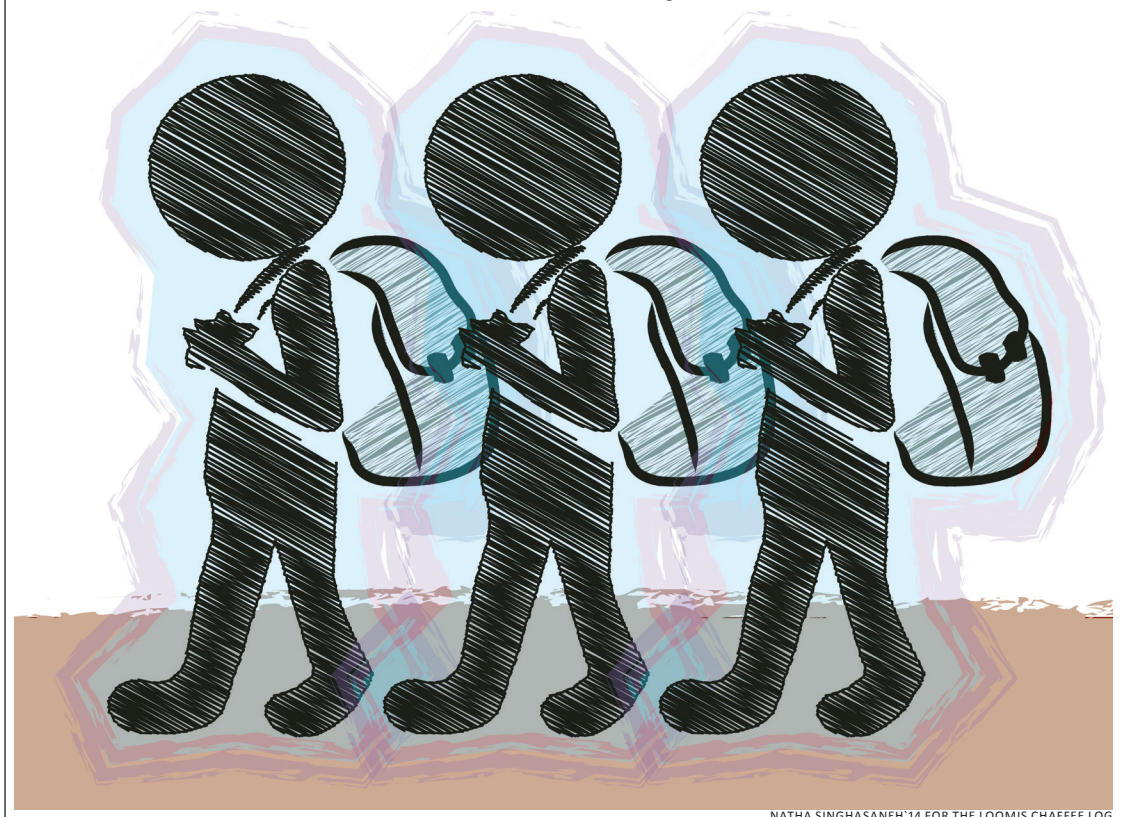
BOBBY TURNER '14

"Is that my hair or an ice cube?" A look at a New England "Wintah"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE
 can't believe it. My face simply hurts when I venture outside. I put on two pairs of gloves just to take out the trash. And that's just across the hall. I think I received around three winter hats for Christmas, and I'm glad because I'll need everyone of them to survive these doldrums. And let's not get started with that wind – that icy, brutish, barbaric wind. I feel like a hunter-gatherer type each time I walk to Chaffee. I'm just trying to go to English class, not to maul a sabertooth tiger. It just whips at you maliciously in all directions, like it wants you to feel pain, or maybe just not be able to move your mouth. Even the leg muscles get kind of cramped up, like the air just zapped any and everything out of them. That feeling of planting myself at my desk,

cracking open my Macintosh and beginning to trudge my way through an analytical paper – on a Friday night, haunts me every morning. What's worse, I can't even open the window. It seems like every time I open even the smallest crack, the entire team from "Ice Road Truckers" barges in to make me miserable. I'm definitely not making the same mistake (see opening paragraph). This isn't even funny anymore – it's beginning to look like a health hazard. Children can't be in class with hypothermia. That just isn't right. What if they passed out in the middle of giving of presentation? What would the teacher do, deep the poor soul who had to suffer the arduous and freezing hike from the day student parking lot to the third floor of the library?
 I'm not a man of strong con-

viction, but I will put my foot down on this matter: It's just too darn cold. Something needs to be done. I recently read somewhere that some schools in Minnesota and Montana closed schools because of the temperature. I like the sound of that. These people have at least a little bit of sense. They understand and realize the importance of not only mental health, but also staying warm, or, not leaving the comfort of closed quarters and halls all day. These implemented "cold days" will assuage the pangs of dealing with temperatures hovering around zero and should certainly better the school community. I have a feeling Pete Gwyn might have something to say about this, however.



NATHA SINGHASANEH '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

ELIZABETH PARADA

Is the Fried Chicken Really Necessary? A faculty member comments on the nature of stereotypes

By the time you read this article, we will be in the midst of our MLK week-long celebration. Students will have shared insightful experiences about the multiple aspects of diversity through personal stories, music, poetry and dance. We will have been moved to action by our guest speaker, Ms. Majora Carter, who so passionately speaks about the plight of poor inner city neighborhoods and the need for environmental development in those neglected areas. And you've most likely enjoyed the fried chicken, mac and cheese, and collard greens served for lunch on MLK day.

While our choice of programs and speakers is usually very well received, there

are some who object to our choice of menu. After all, isn't it a bad thing to fall into stereotypes? Didn't Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie warn us of "The Danger of the Single Story"? Isn't it wrong to assume that because Dr. King was African American that those are the foods that he would eat? Bottom line, isn't that racist?

Here is the issue. Things are not usually so clear-cut. While I agree that boxing people into stereotypes is dangerous because stereotypes limit our ability to appreciate the full potential and reality of individuals and, by extension, groups of people, we may very well fall

within a stereotype. Take me, for instance. According to some stereotypes, as a Latina I should like rice and beans, and guess what? I do. I don't plan to stop enjoying my rice and beans to go against the stereotype! There are also events where any meal simply just won't do. I am certain that many Americans would be very upset if they did not get their turkey with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving.

All the literature points out that Dr. King, as a son of the South, very much loved his Southern foods. Why, then, would we choose a different menu on his birthday celebration? Is it racially insensitive to choose to serve foods

that he would have chosen to eat at home on special holidays? Southern cuisine is delicious and comforting, and to be enjoyed on special occasions. I suggest that we enjoy it when we can, that we acknowledge its roots, and that we come to the understanding that honoring Dr. King means honoring the full person. Let's not try to take away his Southern black culture, but rather embrace it.

Choosing this particular menu has never been a unilateral decision. It is discussed at our PRISM meetings, where students can weigh in on what they would like to have as our lunch on MLK day and then the se-

lection is passed on to the dining hall. Not every request can be granted. For instance, our first choice of dessert, pecan pie, cannot be prepared as our kitchen is nut free. At one point the recipe for the fried chicken came into question for being too sweet and the batter formula was changed. The ultimate goal is to approximate as closely as possible a meal that Dr. King, and the rest of us, would enjoy.

As a school, Loomis Chaffee chooses to be in session on MLK day. Rather than having a day off from school, we create opportunities, both on MLK day and throughout the same week, to

highlight, learn, discuss and enjoy elements of what made Dr. King such a great man and made his such a lasting legacy. If the food were the only acknowledgment of Dr. King's legacy at this school, I would agree that to reduce his legacy to what he liked to eat would lack sensitivity and enter the realm of racism. As it stands, his food preferences were simply one more, albeit minor, facet of the man, which I believe we do not need to be afraid of appreciating.

OP-ED

PHOUNG BUI '17

Follow @LCintheloop!

When I came back from Christmas break, waiting for me on my door was a wristband saying #getintheloop. Like everyone else in the dorm, I had a ton of questions, like "What is this?" (I mean, of course it is a wristband, but what is #getintheloop?) and "Why do they give us these?"

Not until last weekend did I find out that this was part of Loomis's most recent initiative to share stories of the school community through social media. With Instagram and a brand new Twitter account, Loomis is getting more and more effective at bringing people's attention to the stories relevant to them.

To the best of my knowledge, this social media initiative has been a hot issue throughout the community. Though some students think that such effort "is a bit overkill" because we already have an official website and also an Instagram with over 700 followers, I still believe that this is a brilliant move. Although the number of Twitter users is roughly 1/5 of that of Facebook, it is growing faster than ever. I agree with Steve Heller's idea that while Facebook is more about personal connections, Twitter is more about public "broadcasted" conversations, emphasizing real-time trends in the world.

This makes @LCintheloop even better because the whole point is to improve students' experience at the Island - making it easier for students (and faculty, as well) to keep track of what is going on every day, from athletic updates to one-hour delays. As explained in the @LCintheloop home page, it is all about "updates on all that's happening at Loomis Chaffee".

Not only helping us to follow up with what's around, the tweets by @LCintheloop also feature casual photos of students having their favorite meals or having fun in the December 6-inch snow. Not quite like Instagram, where bigger moments of school life are recorded, these Twitter photos uploaded by @LCintheloop provide a much more casual perspective of life at Loomis Chaffee. It is unquestionable that @LCintheloop gives students and faculty another chance - besides the informative Daily Bulletin - to catch up with campus news. Besides, it is also for sure that @LCintheloop is a much more "interesting, easier way to get to when students need to keep up with school events," as Charlie Weld '16 told me.

Plus, surrounding by Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, and many more social networking sites, not every-

one has an account for each. Therefore, it is beyond question that @LCintheloop is giving the Loomis community another option to socialize. A friend of mine recently commented, "The more we have to interact with everyone at Loomis, the better."

Also, it is undeniable that this new Twitter account gives Loomis alumni a clear insight of what is happening at Loomis. It is crucial that the alumni and Loomis keep in touch, and I think @LCintheloop is doing an exceptional job of bringing the two groups together. Who wouldn't want to find out about how the Girls Basketball team is crushing their competition?

"I think it's a good idea for the school to be involved in so many types of social media. We're a multifaceted school, and I think that each social media outlet can help us highlight the best that we have to offer," school president Robin Bhargava '14 said. "Also, it's nice to see that our mentors use the same things that we do - it makes me feel as if they're on the same plane as we students, and that gives me comfort." I couldn't agree more!

If you haven't had the chance to take a look at the brand new Twitter account of Loomis, THIS IS THE TIME! Go here: <https://twitter.com/LCintheloop>.



JULIA SONG '15 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

SAM COX '16

The 113th Congress: A Work in Progress



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

Last year, our leaders in Washington were supposed to bring us a grand bargain on budget reform, an immigration bill and sensible initiatives on gun safety and global warming. Unfortunately, the country's 113th Congress has proven to be among the least impactful in our nation's history.

In the first year of the current term of the House of Representatives, only 225 bills have gone to a vote, out of more than 6,000 bills that have been proposed. Out of those bills, only 72 made it through the Senate and were enacted into law.

Not convinced? Consider how past Congresses fared after a year. The 112th Congress, like its successor, earned its own reputation of being the least productive in history - but still at the one year mark the House managed to pass seven more bills than the current one. Republican House Speaker John Boehner blames the failures on the Democrat-controlled Senate. "The House continues to do its job," he has said. "It's time for the Senate to get serious about doing theirs."

This is a midterm election year. That means every representative, and a bunch of senators, will feel a pressure in November similar to the one experienced by an Ameri-

can workforce that has been up against the wall since the great recession - they, too, could lose their jobs. But legislators have some control over their destiny. They still have a chance to satisfy voters by passing bills that help the country to move forward. Democrats want to hold the majority in the Senate, and Republicans want to continue to control the House. This creates an incentive for both to get something done.

Democrats and Republicans alike need to worry about job security. Gallup polls show the American public's approval rating for Congress dipped to 9 percent during the government shutdown of 2013, and is only up to 14 percent this month. Though this doesn't exactly predict who will lose their jobs, it suggests voters aren't pleased with their incumbent politicians. That doesn't bode well for the 435 House members whose positions are up for grabs on November 4.

But before then, there are things this Congress can do to boost its approval ratings. One is to pass an immigration bill. Many Republican leaders are pushing for this now, hoping to strike a balance between strengthening border patrol and interior enforcement of illegal immigrants while appealing to a growing demographic

that has traditionally voted for the Democratic party. Polls have shown an increasing Republican voter demand for a system that allows some immigrants into the country to work legally.

Another potential bright spot may be tax reform. The United States has among the highest corporate tax rates in the world, though many companies are able to reduce their taxes through loopholes. Simplifying the system in a way that lowers the overall burden, could be sold to voters as a step towards bringing jobs back to the country.

If Congress gets it together, sensible gun legislation may come up again in 2014, as it did at the beginning of last year in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook School shooting. A background check bill, that had 92% of Americans support, didn't pass through Congress last year, but a revival of a similar bill may be on the horizon.

The list of what Congress can do in an election year is not limitless, but there are a few reasonable, sensible legislative initiatives that could not only better our country, but keep the current crop of unloved Congressional leaders employed past 2014.

HARRIET CHO '14

Human Greed Project

A critical look at the scientific pursuit of perfection of the human race

Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor to unify China, terribly feared death and sought the elixir of life, which he believed would grant him immortality. So desperate, he sent out fleets carrying hundreds of young men and women to search for elixir-making magicians, and burnt thousands of books on topics other than alchemy and chemistry so his scholars could focus only on creating the elixir for him. Such obsession, which, of course, resulted in vanity, seems analogous to the current struggle to map out the human genome and predict or prevent diseases and disabilities.

It has been roughly thirteen years since the Human Genome Project started. Through new discoveries of complex facts about the human genome, scientists have been able to reconstruct the history of human population and racial distribution. However, not many medical benefits, which would most directly affect our lives, have been gained from the project thus far. According to National Human Genome Re-

search Institute, although there has been some progress in developing drugs for specific genetic defects, most common diseases such as the common cold and chicken pox have turned out to be much more difficult to be treated through this project than originally anticipated. Also, numerous potential problems regarding ethics have been continuously raised. The Human Genome Project could enable parents to determine what congenital traits they want their children to inherit—the so called "designer babies"—which may lead to the loss of sufficient genetic diversity among the human population. Furthermore, the misuse of genetic information may violate privacy and cause discrimination in situations such as deeming health and life insurance, and employment depending on the genetic information.

In addition to these practical reasons, I think that the Human Genome Project should not be so

avidly pursued, considering how it will have a fundamental impact on

our life-style. The World Wide Web,

iPhone 5, IOS 7—the growing human desire

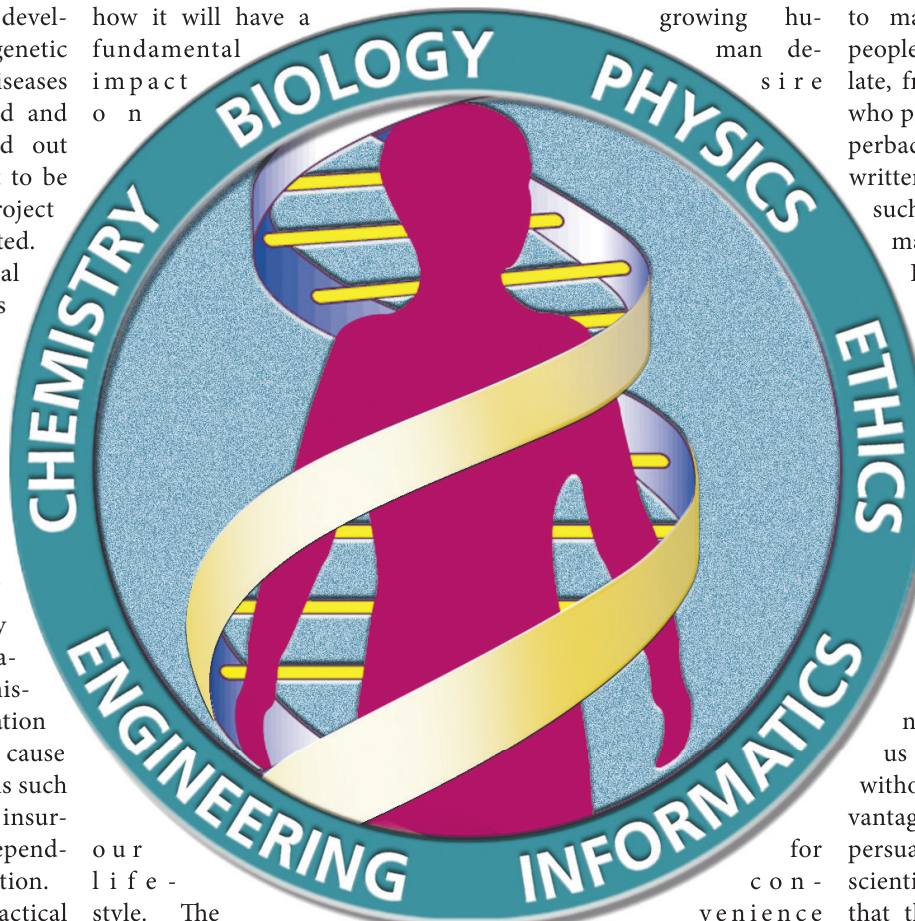


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKI COMMONS

move faster every day. And now, in addition to making lives ultramodern, people want them to be immaculate, free of illness. As a person who prefers a bike over a car, paperback over e-book, and handwritten letter over e-mail, I find such rapid advancement of mankind frightening. The Human Genome Project will predestine people's lives. Like prisoners facing the death sentence, or people carrying a time bomb, we will have to know our imminent ending, maybe even when exactly it will arrive, and will have to live under constant anxiety. Though those who support the project often say the Genome Project will help us reach perfect happiness without any congenital disadvantage, such an argument is unconvincing for now since much scientific research has shown that the medical technology is still far from being able to cure all the diseases that the Genome

Project will reveal. At the current stage, the Genome Project offers only a specter of hope.

There is an old Chinese legend about a creature named "Tam". It is born intemperate and ruthless, and devours everything to quench its everlasting greed. After it eats up everything it can possibly find, it devours itself, and returns to nothing. Maybe the ancient Chinese foresaw where our greed would lead us to when they told the story of Tam. Mankind is a very peculiar in that it never knows when to stop. We have changed this planet to fit us. We are still conquering it bit by bit. And now we are trying to modify ourselves to satisfy our selfish desire. And what will we do next? I shiver, even at this moment, closing my eyes tight, just in case the next step of mankind leads us to nothing but vanity.

Editor's Note: This was originally submitted as an assignment for Mr. Scanlon's AP Literature class.

Jameis Winston: Sporting Hero or Immoral Villain?

BY ALEXANDRA SMITH '14
Sports Editor

On January 6th, 2014, Florida State beat Auburn in the BCS Championship, leaving the Florida State's freshman quarterback, Jameis Winston on top of the world. He had just lead the seminoles to a 14-0 undefeated season, and the entire town of Tallahassee, Florida rejoiced in the Seminoles' championship season.

A month earlier, he was named the second freshman and youngest player in history to win the Heisman Trophy. He had also just been cleared of rape allegations that had been brought against him almost a year earlier.

In January 2013, rape allegations were brought against the Heisman Trophy winner by an unidentified Florida State student who claimed she was raped by Winston in an off-campus apartment. She claimed that Winston pinned her down and forced her to have sex, and afterwards she found bruises all over her body.

The Tallahassee Police Department did not look into the case until nearly a year later and on December 5, 2013, four days before Heisman Trophy votes were due, State Attorney Willie Meggs closed the investigation, claiming there was not enough evidence to charge Winston.

The victim claimed to have re-

ceived significant pressure from Winston's attorney and the TPD not to proceed with the allegations. A member of the police department was alleged to have said, "Tallahassee was a big football town and the victim needs to think long and hard before proceeding against him because she will be raked over the coals and her life will be made miserable."

However, this story is just one of the many that are brought against college athletes each year and causes major questions to be asked about the way that these types of cases are handled by colleges that place a high value on their football programs. Numerous cases involving football players at Notre Dame University, the U.S. Naval Academy and Vanderbilt University have emerged over the last couple of years.

While these athletes should be given their day in court the same as all other alleged criminals, it becomes clear that many people are much more apt to defend these young men due to their positions on athletic teams. Victims are much less likely to come forward knowing that there is a very real possibility they will receive extreme backlash and be ostracized by their school communities and in some cases, by the national media.

As a society, we need to ask ourselves whether these victims should receive such punitive retaliation and work to end the favoritism against student athletes.



FSU QB Jameis Winston PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

Curling: the Weirdest Olympic Sport (Not Just For Canadians)

BY MICHAEL CARTER '15
Writer's Melange Editor

Curling is the most entertaining sport in the Olympics. And by most entertaining, I mean the most entertaining to make fun of. Curling is the lovechild of hockey, gymnastics, shuffleboard, and household chores; there's lots of yelling and lots of tension; and if the opportunity to laugh at the funny outfits and funny poses just aren't your thing, the opportunity to laugh at the image of full-grown men madly sweeping a path in front of a sliding rock will. LMFAO parodied curling in their video for "Yes," the Simpsons parodied curling in their episode "Boy Meets Curl," and curling seems to parody itself every time the Winter Olympics comes along. If it weren't for synchronized swimming, curling might be considered the most pointless, unexplainable, unathletic game in the Olympics. When someone asks why curling even exists, you just have to shrug and dismiss it as one of those things.

But curling has been one of those things since 1511, the date etched into a curling stone found at the bottom of a recently drained Scottish lake (loch?). Called the Stirling Stone, it has further proved the existence of a large and extensive history of curling that has long gone undocumented. (I wonder why?) What we know about the origins of curling so far is limited—aside from a 1541 painting that depicts Dutch curlers at work, we have little to tell us much about where the sport started and how it came to be. What we do know, however, is surprising for such a small and universally ridiculed sport today. Having been popularized as a winter sport for Scottish weavers during their breaks, curling was first instituted in the Kilsyth Curling Club in 1716. The club claims to be the first of all curling clubs, but it sure has competition; curling clubs soon became very popular across Europe and America, with

the Royal Montreal Curling Club the first sports club of its kind in all of North America. Though the sport hadn't gained Olympic recognition as anything more than a demonstration sport until 1998, curling was, once upon a time, not just one of those things—it was the thing. Why? Well, because curling is one of those things that, in Scotland, Scandinavia, and of course Canada, (because you know they love their unconventional ice sports – maybe as a way of hiding their fear of the dark?) can be done almost anywhere. All that's needed to pull off a great game of curling—or "the roaring game," as

the thrower is still holding on to the stone when it passes the line, an illegal move in curling. Each team has eight stones per set, and only the stone that is closest to the center, not the team with the most amount of stones in the ring, determines the winner. On top of that, it's illegal to knock out the first four stones of each set. Why? Because when curling became a matter of profession, it became common for teams to purposefully knock off other teams' stones, leaving the score at zero at the end of each set. To combat this, curling authorities (yep) instituted the Free Guard Zone, thus mak-

trollably. The sweepers use their brooms to smooth out these pebbles, making the stone move faster and with less curve. It's highly strategic—with the skip, or the curling equivalent of crew's coxswain, yelling directions and instructions for how, when, where, and with what power to sweep, it's an intense and very precise job.

If there's one thing that makes curling the weirdest sport in the Olympics, it would have to be its code of good sportsmanship. There are a whole host of rules surrounding not just the method of curling, but also the attitude with which you must curl. For example, a true curler must always apologize to the other team when they gain an advantage, but only when that advantage was accidental and not at all their intention. So when they botch a move but still end up in a good position, they go and say sorry for being such terrible opponents. It's kind of touching, really. When a curler makes an illegal move, such as "burning," or touching with their broom or body, another stone that has already been thrown, or knocking out one of the first four stones in play (see above), they call out the mistake themselves—there are no refs in curling, save for the Olympics. Further, the true curler never, ever cheers the mistake of their opponent. If the thrower misses and throws the stone right off the side of the curling sheet (a rookie mistake), their opponents will keep a perfectly straight face. And when a curling team makes an awesome move and completely owns the competition, they treat it as just another move in the game. It's not until the trophy is in their hands do curlers go nuts. And goodness, they go nuts. To the point that squirrels actually surround them, things do get weird in curling. The last, and most fun, piece of curling sportsmanship is that it is highly recommended for the losing team to buy the winning team a round of drinks at the after party. Which to me sounds like a great end to a very, weird game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

the Scots called it—is a stretch of thick ice, some rocks, some brooms, and a couple of drinks. Of course, the game we watch on TV during the Olympics has become a bit more refined than that.

First of all, the stone, or the thing that is slid across the ice, has become a piece of work that is unique from other sports in practically every way. All official stones used in the game are exactly 44 pounds, have a designated rounded shape to them, and are made of a special kind of granite called Ailsa Craig. The handles, originally made from old door-knobs, are now fitted with a special device that can detect whether

ing the game exciting once more. And yes, I swear it's actually worth watching.

Another defining feature of the world's weirdest sports is the broom that is used to clear the path of the stone as it makes its way towards the target. It looks rather like the sweepers of the king's royal assistants making sure the ground he walks on is spotless (I have a couple of those), but the broomwork is actually a crucial part of the game. Before each set, water droplets are frozen on top of the smooth ice to create "pebbles," or rough areas, to keep the stone from sliding too fast and uncon-

Extra Time to "Turn Up": LC Swimming's Florida Trip

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overbearing as this would be their final time in Vero Beach as a member of the LC Swimming and Diving program. After one final stop at our favorite Vero Beach ice cream shop, Kilwin's, the thirty-two pelicans boarded the Magic Carpet bus departing for Orlando International Airport. Jeremy Bogle '14, undoubtedly nostalgic, asked "dude, what would happen if we got stuck in Florida somehow? How sick would that be?"

After a delay pushed the team's departure time back three hours to from its original time of 7:05pm, the pelicans were finally heading back to Connecticut. Or so they thought. Roughly 90 minutes into the flight, the Southwest Airlines captain announced that, due to poor weather conditions in Hartford, the flight would be diverted back to Orlando. Each

took this news differently; some, like Jeremy Bogle '14, treated the prospect of an extended stay in Florida with unbridled joy, while some, like David Marchena '15, anxiously wondered aloud how long it would take for him to finally get home. After returning to Orlando International Airport at around 2am, nobody, not even the coaches, knew what to expect. Coach Seebeck told the twenty-eight team of us to "get comfy", as they would undoubtedly be spending the night in the airport while he and Mr. DeConinck worked on getting a flight back home. At around 4am, with most of team asleep in different places throughout the terminal, a weary coach Seebeck gave those still awake the news: due to the group being so large, he could not get a flight until Wednesday morning. The twenty-eight swimmers and four chaper-

ones were stranded in Florida for the next forty-eight hours.

The following morning, after a sleepless night in the airport terminal, Coach Seebeck greeted his team with some "good and bad news"- the good news being that we had found hotel accommodations for the next two days, with the bad being the confirmation of our biggest fear: that we would all be without luggage for the duration of our extended stay. Without luggage, the only belongings we had until Wednesday were carry-on items and the clothes on our backs. To make matters worse, the weather forecast called for a high of forty degrees- This was especially bad news for a few members of the team (most notably David Chen '16, who wore only a tank-top with jeans) who were wearing warm-weather clothes.

but not this team. Not LC Swimming. We turned our two extra days in Florida into an extended "Turn up Session", as Kelsey Duffy '15 so eloquently put it. After spending the remainder of the day settling into our rooms and lounging at the hotel pool, the overwhelming majority of team members came together to watch the first half of the BCS National Championship game between Florida State and Auburn, a get-together graciously hosted by Mike Cerny '16, Connor Farrell '17, and their roommates. After getting some much needed sleep on Monday night, the swimmers woke up on Tuesday morning rejuvenated, travelling--by public bus, no less-- to the local movie theater to see either *Anchorman 2* or *Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, an event graciously paid for by Loomis Chaffee StuActs. Another "turn up" session followed that night, this one taking place in the hotel's hallway, much to the chagrin of other hotel guests. With the flight out of Orlando scheduled for 8:15am on Wednesday morning, the bleary-eyed group of swimmers departed Orlando International- this time, actually making to their final destination.

With most delirious from a lack of sleep, the group of brave pelicans made the short journey to the new hotel not knowing what to expect. Many teams would have taken this abrupt change in plans poorly,



Training at St. Edward's School in Vero Beach, FL PHOTO COURTESY OF FRED SEEBECK

Spotlight on the Winter Olympics

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in which a giant granite stone is thrown into a big target with other granite stones.

Bobsleigh, or commonly referred to as bobsled, is a sport that includes a team of either two or four people sitting together in tight quarters, sledding down an iced track for a time. The pilot is responsible for steering the sleigh along the "line" that is most efficient to travel on. The other members of the team are chosen based on how fast and strong they are in pushing the sleigh before the start of the race. This year, we expect Prancer, Vixen, Comet, and of course, Rudolph, to represent the United States this year.

Skeleton, as its name insinuates, is an incredibly daring sport in which a person voluntarily speeds down an ice track, head-first and facedown.

The luge, a cross between bobsleigh and skeleton, is said to be the most dangerous of the "sliding" sports. Two Olympic fatalities have occurred while prepping for the event; Georgian Nodar David Kumaritashvili and British Kazimierz Kay-Skrzypeski passed away in fatal crashes during training runs. This sport requires its competitors (in singles or teams of two) to travel down the course face up and feet first. They steer using their bodies, which are moving at speeds up to, on average, 87 miles per hour. Manuel Pfister of Austria clocked the top speed of

95.69 miles per hour in Whistler, Canada in a practice run in 2010.

The five skiing disciplines: alpine, Nordic combined, ski jumping, cross country skiing, and freestyle skiing, all testing different aspects of the competitors' abilities. The five Alpine skiing events in the Alpine discipline are the alpine combined, downhill, giant slalom, slalom, and super-G. The alpine discipline tests, at its very rudimentary level, the ability of the skier to get down a mountain. Cross country skiing on the other hand, which includes the 15km, 4x10km relay, 50km, combined 15 + 15km mass start, sprint 1.5km, and team sprint, challenges the athletes with a relatively flat, long, arduous course. Freestyle skiing, arguably the sport needing the sickest, most daring discipline of all, scores the finesse, aesthetic appeal, and technical ability of skiers in the aerial, mogul, ski cross, half pipe, and slope style events. Ski jumping is literally what it sounds like: jumping from massive heights on skis. Lastly, the Nordic combined is a combination of both cross-country skiing and ski jumping, sponsoring the events individual ski jumping K90, sprint K120, and team 4x5 km.

Now that you are all properly equipped with the knowledge of the winter games, you are one step closer to properly getting pumped for this year's Games in Sochi. Live, love, curl. (USA! USA! USA!)