

Loomis Chaffee Log

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Mark Oppenheimer '92 visits the Island

The debate champion returns to Loomis to hold a discussion with students and faculty

NEWS | PAGE 2

ANDREY VDOVENKO '16 (LEFT) AND JOHN KIM '15 (RIGHT) FEATURE IN WINTER MUSICAL



JULIA SONG '15 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

“Hello, and Welcome to Urinetown!”

The NEO's winter musical promises to enthrall audiences with its provocative storyline about a dystopian society.

FEATURES | PAGE 4

Peer Support in the Arts: LC's Work in Progress

BY CLAIRE KIM '14
Opinions Editor

Two questions for you: How often do you go watch a varsity basketball game, a volleyball game, or a lacrosse game? And when was the last time you went to a student music performance, an arts opening, or a dance company showcase?

At LC, peer support for the arts and music students is considerably dwindling as compared with the growing spirited support for the athletics.

I want to tell you before anything else that I'm a violinist in the school orchestra and a varsity field hockey player in the fall. And that means I'm fair. By no means am I telling you to quit going to the games and instead to go watch a concert. Instead, I'm asking you for a heck lot more: consider going to both.

Remember when our girls volleyball team played in the New England Final this past fall? Remember the Nothing but Nets charity game held by the boys varsity soccer team, the Play for the Cure held by the field-hockey team? The school-wide peer support for these events was incredible, inspiring, and well-deserved. School spirit came to life in the sweat earned over hours of training of the athletes, in the unified cheers of the spectators and the fans.

The last orchestra concert with a full audience that I can remember is the spring concert from my freshman year. My freshman year. Well, let's see – that's 1, 2, 3, 4, four springs ago. If I can do this math correctly, around 45 long months ago.

In the four years of my LC orchestra career, I always craved for a good audience, a full, supportive, and well-deserved (we prepare for a whole term for these concerts!) audience whom we can please with a good array of classical music.

Beside the orchestra concert, how about the choir concert, the jazz band concert, the student recital samplers, the Acapelan concert? These groups represent the diverse range of musicality in our community, parallel to the myriad of different teams in our athletics.

And oh, I mustn't forget the art students. How many of us discovered that one of our friends was an incredible watercolor painter, potter, photographer, and sculptor, after going to an arts opening show for the first time after a couple years of never going to the RAC because you thought you had no interest yourself in the arts? We all have stepped into the

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Super Bowl ads: Better or Worse than the Game?

BY BOBBY TURNER '14
Opinions Editor

When I think of Super Bowl Commercials, I think of feeling uncomfortable. That's right: that itchy, sliding around in your shoes, going to the bathroom for the umpteenth time feeling--that's how I feel about Super Bowl Commercials. Last year seemed to put a stamp on the level of awkwardness, the pinnacle of the most painful thirty seconds you will ever see. With Kate Upton's Mercedes-Benz Car Wash and Bar Rafaeli's Go Daddy elongated smooch, I thought the greatest, and certainly most popular sporting event in western civilization could not top itself. Thankfully,

I was right, because this year's Super Bowl, where Seattle's fish market vendors scrimmaged confused Colorado teenagers, did not have any of those kind of awkward moments. Just more roll-your-eyes, shake-your-head, and wonder why this is even happening type commercials.

Let's start with the classic Budweiser commercial-- as sporting and other testosterone-filled events go, the Super Bowl features at least one every single year. This time, they could have made it more sappier and cornier, with an awfully cute Golden Retriever forging a relationship with a Clydesdale horse. I couldn't believe it – this is beer we're talking

SUPER BOWL, PAGE 6

Pucker up, It's Senior Kiss Day!!!

A Favorite LC Tradition Is Back For Yet Another Year



MERCE VILLARREAL '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG
Red Lipstick is a Necessity on Senior Kiss Day

BY AURELIE LIU '16
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again. Not only can we see the light at the end of winter's grueling and incessant tunnel, we can also see pink hearts and roses decorating the dining hall and various rooms around campus. Valentines day, the most exciting or depressing day of the year, is never taken lightly at Loo-

mis Chaffee. Whether it is with a love-note or a flower, Valentines Day is never truly complete without a kiss. One of our long-standing traditions at Loomis is Senior Kiss Day; a day, as senior Pat Dickert eloquently puts it, "when people get to fulfill their fantasies".

For this event, the senior class sells kisses (on the cheek!) to the entire school for \$1 each to raise money for their Prom.

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Editor's Picks

Potential Schedule Changes

Lauren Rubino '14 comments on proposed schedule changes for next year, and how the status quo might be the best option for students and faculty alike.

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LC Swimming's Historic Victory

As coach of Loomis Chaffee Swimming and Diving, Fred Seebeck had never defeated the Big Red from Phillips Exeter Academy. That all changed on February 8.

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EVLC Hosts Inaugural 3v3 Tournament

You've definitely seen their flyers across campus- now learn about the people behind The Island's newest club.

PAGE 6



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Veracross Issue Comes to a Head

BY JEAN LEE '15
Staff Writer

Over the past couple of years, the Loomis Chaffee community has encouraged teachers to use Veracross, an online grading database that allows students immediate access to their overall grades as well as scores received on assessments. It is clear that Veracross has the potential to become an extraordinary tool for Loomis students; an understanding of one's current standing in a class is undoubtedly vital to showing strong academic performance. However, not many teachers are taking advantage of it, and many students are thus calling for a more widespread application of this online grading book. Thus, the Student Council has taken the initiative to devise a proposal to require every teacher to use the Veracross. As with any new proposal, the suggestion of universal implementation of Veracross at Loomis is shrouded in controversy.

One of the reasons why teachers are not willing to use Veracross is that they have individual preferences regarding grading systems, and a new, forced method of grading would drastically change their work. Some weigh their quizzes and tests differently, while many prefer physically writing the grades down. They have their own systems of accounting certain percentages of the students' grades from tests, quizzes or papers, and are against the online grading system taking that flexibility away from them.

Another reason behind teachers' opposition to the

system is one of Veracross's primary benefits. Immediate access to their grades puts additional pressure on students. Since there is not a set time when the grades would be uploaded, many students eager to know their test or quiz grades constantly check their portal to see if any updates have been made. Teachers do not want

grade and pay little attention to the teacher's feedback on area for improvement. "I have seen students who look at the B written on top of their paper, sigh, and throw it away in the recycling bin without even turning to the back to see why," said an anonymous teacher. Many teachers strongly prefer to talk to students about general areas

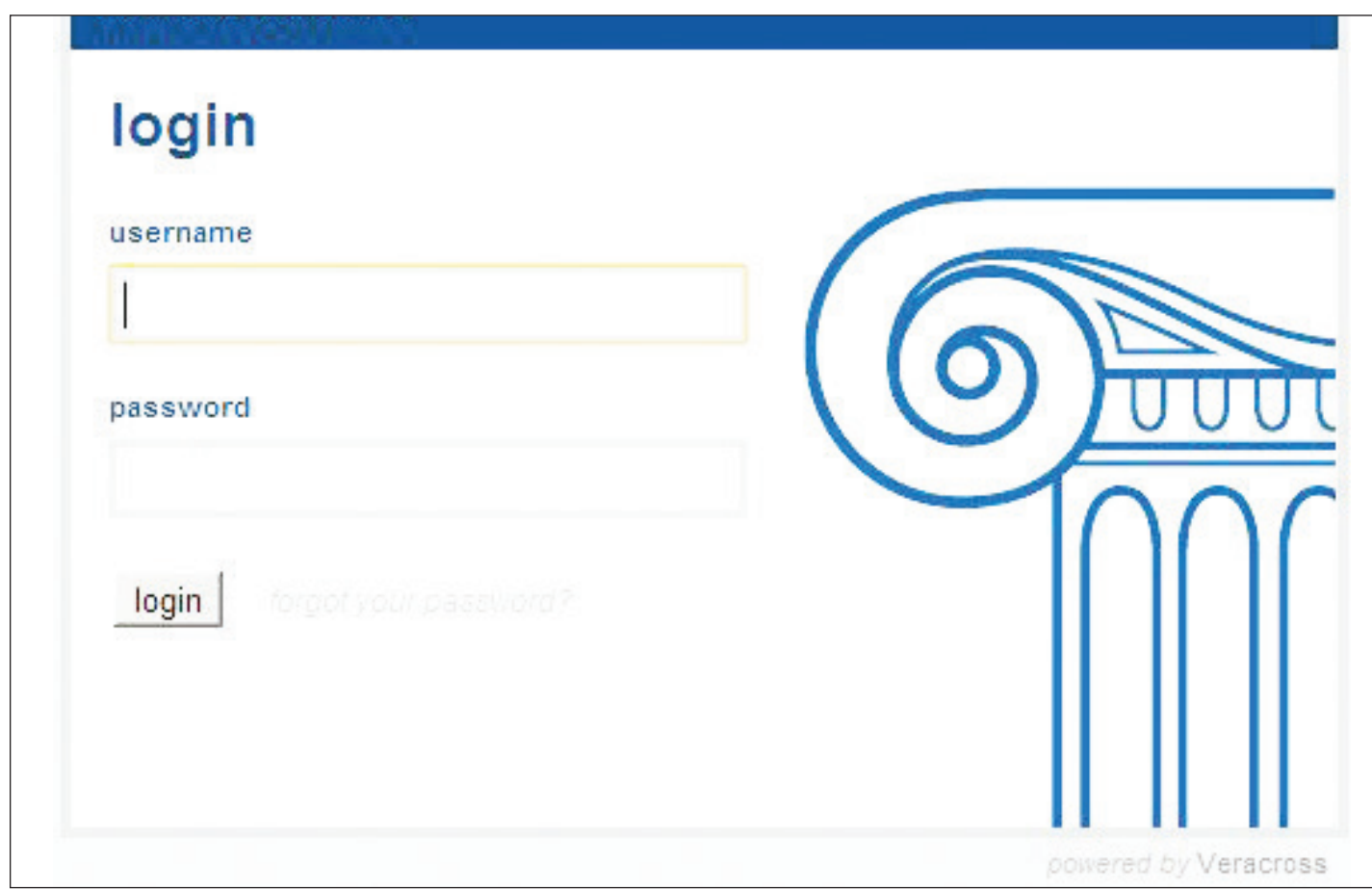
as it is deemed appropriate, but whether they can decide their teachers' work methods is highly debatable. Teachers feel that the students should not be given the rights to enforce teachers in changing their styles. Many argue that teachers should be given freedom in however they want to work, just like how students

many of these inconveniences and grievances composed by the teachers. It allows for flexibility of which assessments are counted more heavily over others, and can be used to fit many complex grading systems of teachers. Also, teachers can control when the grades are exposed to the students; that is, teachers may upload the grades

son why he uses the system is convenience. If the grades are promptly uploaded on Veracross, students do not have to ask the teacher individually to view their overall grade. Although he is happy to answer questions from students and is more than willing to go over whatever problems they may have, simply letting the students get direct access to his or her grade is quicker and requires much less effort. In an academically challenging setting like Loomis Chaffee, students, passionate about their studies, inevitably care very much for their grades and achievements. Having a convenient system like Veracross, according to Mr. Osei-Mensah, would not only save time for teachers, but also motivate students to perform better in school.

Another argument for implementing the Veracross system is that grades should be transparent. Students should be able to address whatever questions or concerns they may have about their grades, and can even correct their grades if their teachers made mistakes in recording their grades. "It minimizes mistakes and discrepancies that may happen while recording the grades," says Mr. Osei-Mensah. Although teachers are open with their students on where they stand in terms of performance, allowing students' direct access to the grades allow less room for mistakes.

Veracross has many advantages and disadvantages, but the real issue, that many teachers perceive, lies on the necessity of the system.



Faculty use of the Veracross portal has been debated ever since it was introduced

PHOTO COURTESY OF VERACROSS

students to be burdened by the extra pressure, uncertainty, and anxiousness that inevitably accompanies receiving grades.

Teachers do not want the students to view their performances on assessments as simple, numerical grades. For many students, they only care about what effect a certain test would have on their overall

to improve on about the assignment before exposing the students to their letter grades. Teachers want their lessons and assessments to be focused on students analyzing how to improve and develop themselves rather than cling to extra one or two points on their tests.

Loomis Chaffee gives students as many rights and privi-

are not forced to study a certain way. Although many practical advantages support the mandating of Veracross and the support for the proposal grows every day, application of this system in real life is and always will remain a controversy.

However, many improvements and updates have been made to Veracross that fix

Veracross, but conceal them from students and let them see their grades whenever the teacher wants to.

Mr. Osei-Mensah, who teaches Advanced Placement chemistry, explains the advantages of the Veracross system from the perspective of one of the few teachers who utilize the system on a regular basis.

The first and foremost rea-

Mark Oppenheimer Speaks for the Common Good

BY KAREN CHA '14
Managing Editor

On Friday, February 7th, alumnus Mark Oppenheimer '92 visited the Island to contribute to the month's Common Good Dialogue. After a special dinner in the Parson Room with select students and some of Mr. Oppenheimer's previous teachers and advisors, the group moved to Founder's Lounge to join other members of the community eager to hear the famed debate star's commentary.

Coordinated by faculty members Al Friehofer '69 and Eric LaForest, the Dialogue series aims to explore everyday issues underscoring diversity and community, and encourage reflection on these topics between both students and staff. This particular meeting delved into the role of religion as a motivation and guiding life purpose, a subject that many students felt they had personal experience with at home and at Loomis. Meant to serve as a 'think tank' of community ideas, these discussions have allowed the Center of Common Good to reach out to not only classes relevant to each talk, but also notable alumni such as Mr. Oppenheimer, who specializes on topics of religion and society.

Most at Loomis may mistakenly attribute Mr. Oppenheimer to last year's all school read, *Democracy Despite Itself* (co-authored by one Danny Oppenheimer), but through his four years at Loomis, Mr. Oppenheimer was most well known for his impressive debate record. Adjacent to the window that looks down upon Hubbard Auditorium sits the speech and

debate trophy case, a glass cabinet full of plaques, cups, and a few Model UN gavels,

about half of which are estimated to belong to the speech star. In fact, his autobiography, *Wisenerheimer: A Childhood Subject to Debate*, is dedicated to debate coach and math department faculty Curt Robinson, with whom Mr. Oppenheimer could be seen avidly conversing at dinner before the Dialogue. Since his time at Loomis, Mr. Oppenheimer has spent four more years in Connecticut earning his undergraduate

degree at Yale University, before moving on to receive his Ph.D. in American Religious History, gaining columnist and staff positions on publications from the New York Times to The Christian Century. Raised in a Jewish

household and having studied his fair share of religion in modern culture, Mr. Op-

penheimer was the ideal candidate for the discussion of the day. The beginning remarks of the discussion flowed steadily from the topic of Twitter description boxes to parental influences on personal moti-

vation. Many students in the room were surprised when Mr. Oppenheimer opened

up the floor with the question, "What's your Twitter handle?," to which a giggling Leah Rubin '14 raised her hand and replied, "future matriarch."

Mr. Oppenheimer's culturally relatable opening then transitioned into deeper

points regarding one's ability to find purpose in life, as he described social media taglines common to those of faith: "Walks with Christ," "Psalm 27:1," even "Saved by the J-man." According to the hundreds of interviews Mr. Oppenheimer has conducted with families of deep religious commitment, the question, "what is your purpose in life?" often yields variations of the same answer: "To serve [my] God." While most of the students in the room, let alone any person at Loomis or in the world, might consider such a question extremely difficult to answer, Mr. Oppenheimer discussed how he has found that religion often allows people to have purpose in their lives. He then posed a similar question to the students: "What is your purpose at Loomis?"

In attendance were Mrs. Grinspan's Race, Roles, and Religion classes, several speech and debate students, faculty involved with the Center for Common Good, and any other member of the

Loomis Chaffee community. Mr. Oppenheimer's question elicited numerous responses from all spectrums of the Island, a range of cultural experiences represented in just the short one-hour period. While Anna Carter '14 reasoned that because she was taking a gap year before college, her intentions at Loomis were purely exploratory and academic, others attributed their time on the Island to fulfilling family expectations or the stepping-stone to a high quality university. Eventually the conversation drew back to religion, with several students such as Julia Song '15 voicing their personal spiritual developments at Loomis, as Mr. Oppenheimer continued to comment after each speaker. The result was an organized and yet fluid discussion, appropriately formal for the faculty in attendance, but colloquial enough for the room to laugh at Billy Holloway '15's comical T-shirt.

As the Dialogue came to a close and students raced to obtain a copy of Mr. Oppenheimer's autobiography (*Charlie Kenney '15* celebrated upon receiving the hardcover version), Founder's Lounge carried the sense of subtle resolution. Of course, no student could possibly have come to answer that fateful original question, "What is the purpose of life?" within those sixty minutes. But both students and staff left the building with new questions of self-reflection and a greater awareness of action—and this is precisely what the Common Good Dialogues strive to achieve. Inspiring students and instilling awareness, Mr. Oppenheimer has once again achieved a trophy-deserving moment on the Island.



Mark Oppenheimer '92

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK OPPENHEIMER

Senior Meditations Continue to Thrive

BY ISABELLA EPSTEIN '16
Staff Writer

Ask any seven year-old what he or she wants to grow up to be, and you'll probably receive a laundry list of job titles spanning from antelope-riding astronauts to python-training painters. By age seventeen, most have limited this list into a select few possible life paths, as years of extra curricular activities and academic training lead us to our individual passions. During the possible four years career at Loomis Chaffee, students are encouraged to discover and pursue their passions.

Once a term, the Island gathers in convocation to witness the Senior Meditations. The most seasoned of our students display various talents and speak about their aspirations, giving performances that often reflect on their time and growth at Loomis. This custom was introduced to us nearly six years ago by the woman behind it all, Head of school Dr. Sheila Culbert. Her main incentive was to give seniors the opportunity to share the unique activities they love with the community around them in order to celebrate their own achievements and inspire the younger classes.

But Senior Meditations have far exceeded the origi-

nal purpose and have come to take on a greater meaning. This event has become a time for students to not only showcase their talents, but also and perhaps most importantly, reflect on their individuality. As Rohin Bhargava '14 states, "It's okay to be you in this place. It's okay to be you in this world."

In order for these forty-five minutes to come together, much preparation occurs. This year, Yusuf Al-Nawkhtha '14 has taken the lead and truly done an outstanding job behind the scenes.

He contacts the senior class

to find and invite people to perform, (which can be a challenging task at times) be-

fore gathering the equipment necessary from the NEO, selecting the MC's, and setting

the stage up with the help of the physical plant.

These are simple, yet powerful presentations incredibly influence the Loomis community. Having the oldest students stand up in front of the entire school gives younger kids exposure and a sense of courage, and even leaves the faculty in amazement. Often times, the acts are poignant, and seeing how strongly the students feel towards something is absolutely moving. It is not rare that a performance brings the entire audience to its frenzied feet, as with violin prodigy Sirena Huang '12 and her unforgettable rendition of "Yankee Doodle." Mr. Seebeck emphasizes that he feels "real awe-in the literal sense of the word- awe in the talent, and is humbled by the experience."

We are all lucky to be placed in an environment that celebrates diversity and the various talent that it unearths. It goes to show that each person is special, no matter who they are, how they dress, their race, religion, or what they love. It is a moment when what

one person loves is conveyed to an audience and for an instance they are all indulged

in the same emotion.

Other than inspiring the community and reflecting on time at Loomis, the Meditations allow for seniors to express themselves, and leave a lasting mark on the school. Senior and state-honored writer Kassidi Jones, who will take the stage in the upcoming Meditation, remarks that "poetry is cathartic." Her natural talent and passion for the art reminds the community of others that have graced the Senior Meditation stage.

In the past years, the Island has witnessed some amazing artistic displays. In terms of musical performances, we have seen Dan Wade '12 show off both his classical tenor voice, Liana Fernez '12 display her passion for musical theatre, and Alex Buis '13 with his brilliant and personal lyrics to a song of his own composition. The musical, artistic, and every other subject of Meditation is proof that our seniors have come a long way in finding and pursuing their passions. There might not still be a laundry list of future jobs and plans, but there is a more focused light for the path ahead.



Students performing at Senior Meditations

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE SCHOOL

Renovations Around Campus

BY ERIKA PURDY '15
Staff Writer

If you have been anywhere on campus in the past few weeks, you have probably noticed that two major areas of our school are currently undergoing renovations. The Loomis community—most notably the Physical Plant—has put time and effort into remodeling the SNUG as well as the second floor of the Brush Library. While the changes to the former area are much more noticeable than to the latter, particularly because of the nature of the Snug as a hangout for students, both are being completely reworked and reinvented.

The SNUG will be getting a new coat of paint, new furniture, new carpeting, and a new layout. Some of the walls will be replaced and reinforced, in order for students to have access to a cleaner, more open space. Head of School, Dr. Culbert, said that the changes to the SNUG are steps toward the ultimate goal of building a Campus Center, a larger, more central area where both students and faculty can relax and interact with each other. Currently, the school does not have the money necessary to undergo such a large project, and while discussions with sponsors are in the works, it will be a few years before Loomis can obtain the

necessary funds. For now, the renovations for the SNUG are coming from a small pool of money that the school sets aside for campus upkeep.

"We have to be very prudent in how we use the funds that we have. But my sense is that renovating the Snug is urgent and we need to do something in the short term while we're waiting for the bigger gift," said Dr. Culbert. A future Campus Center will most likely feature a larger grill and bookstore, but the ongoing renovations will update the ones already in place in the SNUG. Several students are also involved in the planning of the new area, and have contributed their thoughts to the senior girls' dean, Mary Liscinsky, in the hopes that the new space would reflect a good part of what the student body would like to see. The Physical Plant hopes to finish up the changes to the SNUG by the end of March break.

Only a few hundred meters away and two flights up, the second floor of Brush Library is getting a makeover, as well. The first floor was renovated two years ago, and has experienced great success. Many more students use the area to study solo or with each other on a regular basis, and the new study rooms have been

particularly effective and popular. Second floor renovations will revamp the bookshelves and text resources, create new study rooms and classrooms, and update furniture and appliances. For now, the library has only just begun to store books, but construction is scheduled to begin over the summer break, if not sooner.

The renovations were made possible by a gift from the Brush family, the people who initially gave the donation to build the library in the first place, and who later provided funds for the renovation of the first floor. So far, both the first and third floors have been reworked and remodeled, so the second floor is the only space that remains. It still remains to be seen whether or not the second floor will keep its status as a quiet zone, but it's more than likely that that aspect will not change.

In the future, students can look forward to an updated and remodeled SNUG, which will give them a better place to hang out and socialize, and a new second floor will provide greater opportunity for an updated workspace.

Sweatpants Days vs. Jeans Days

BY EMILIE SZEMRAJ '16
Staff Writer

Sometimes there are those cold winter mornings when you just want to crawl back into bed and sleep through the entire school day. However, classes must carry on, and we reluctantly roll out of bed and put some preppy clothes on and walk to class, hoping the day will warm up a little tomorrow. Our one comfort or a great break-away from a normal school day at such times is a sweatpants or jeans day. But as one might have noticed, we do not have as many sweatpants day as jeans days. Jeans and sweatpants seem to blend into the mutual zone of casual dress, so what is really the difference? There is a reason why we have less sweatpants days than jeans days, and it lies somewhere in the muddled thinking surrounding our dress code.

The Loomis Chaffee Student handbook states that "Students must be well groomed, neat, clean, and dressed in clothing appropriate to the occasion" for classes. The obvious exception to this rule is jeans and sweatpants days, which have become so revered that they are now incentives as class prizes for vari-

ous fundraising and class bonding activities. Having jeans days is not that much different from the normal dress code, however; most of us wear colored jeans to classes anyway. The blue jeans seem to be the only setback as they have too much of an association with casual atmosphere to be seen appropriate to be worn in classrooms. The difference between a jeans day versus keeping the normal dress code is just a tad bit more casual attitude. Perhaps this inconsequential difference is why we seem to have many more spontaneous jeans days than sweatpants days.

Lately we have seen an increase in sweatpants days, as they have become prizes for various school projects and fundraisers, more often. Groups like Student Council, class officers, and the Loomis Chaffee Parent Association has increasingly been using sweatpants day as an incentive for students to participate in various school events and to support different initiatives, and it clearly has been successful. Most recently, the underclassmen won themselves a sweatpants day by raising a significant sum of money during their annual Penny War with the upperclassmen. Sweat-

pants are a far stretch from the "neat and groomed" demands of the dress code, as they are meant to be worn for sports, lounging around, and plain old comfort. They are very different from the normal clothes we wear to classes; though one might get away with leggings or skinny jeans, sweatpants are an obvious dress code violation. Their clear difference from the preppy, clean style our school wants us to show in class is what makes sweatpants days so attractive and rare. Another reason behind the rareness of sweatpants days is the freedom students take with them; the sweatpants are usually paired with a t-shirt, sweatshirt, and sometimes, L.L. Bean's signature slippers. Sadly enough, as the dress code committee has already made the rules even clearer, sweatpants days will likely remain in the minority.

For now, jeans days will continue to be more common. Perhaps blue jeans will one day become an appropriate part of the class dress. Until then, keep your jeans ready and work with your class, crossing your fingers for a pleasant reward of a sweatpants day!

Write for the Log!

because you can hang out with cool editors like...umm...well...

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



JUWON JUN '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

Flowers for Futbol

BY STEPHANIE YIU '14
Staff Writer

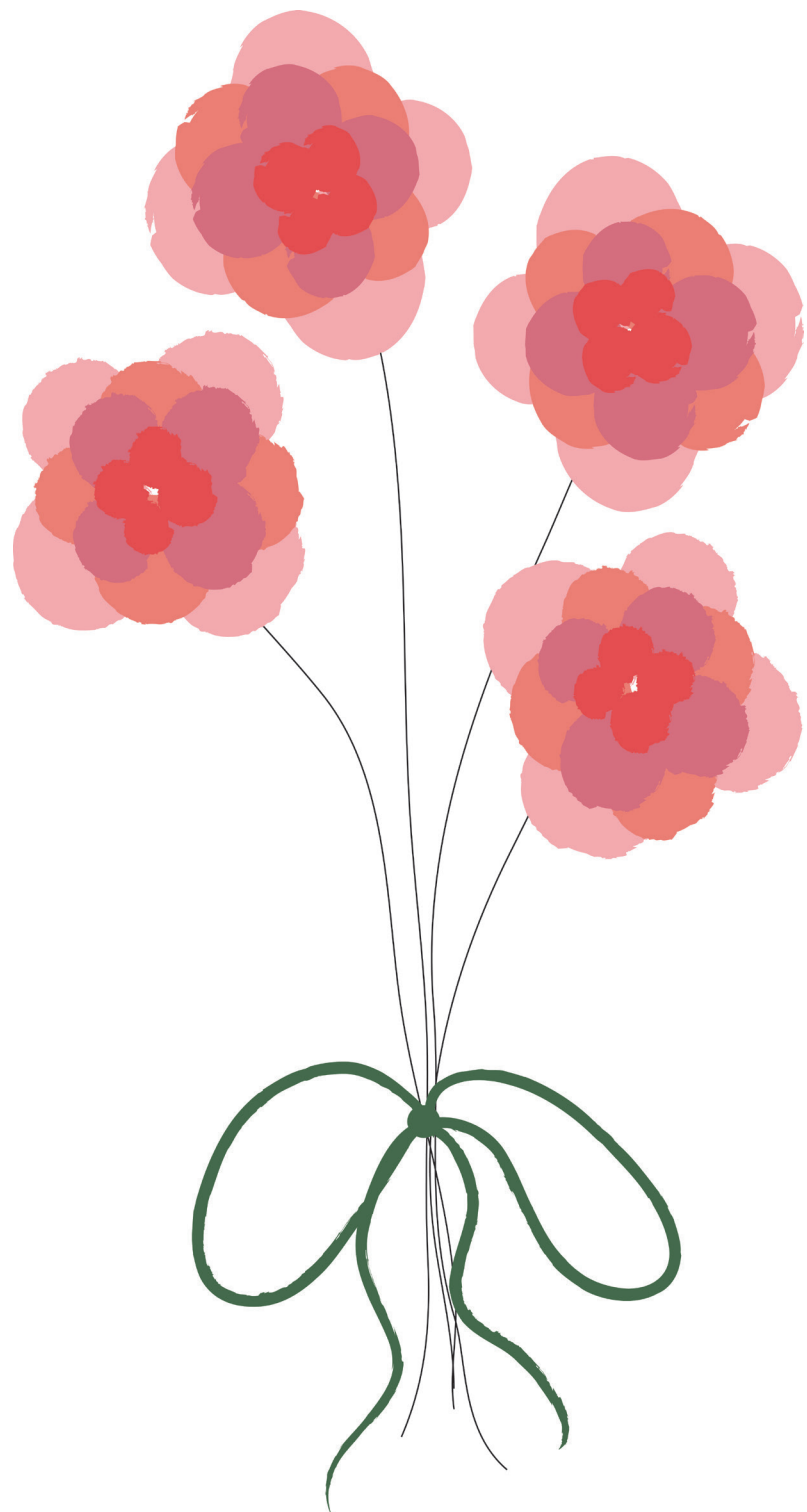
Valentine's Day began as a Roman Catholic feast day, commemorating the life of Valentinus, a Roman martyr in 3rd Century A.D. He was a Christian priest who healed a jailer's daughter from blindness. When he fell in love with her, the jailer imprisoned him. Before he was executed, he left a note for the girl, thus beginning the card-giving tradition.

Now, Valentine's Day has retailers reeling in money by selling Valentine's Day cards and chocolates for the yearly tradition. The typical action is to send your significant other a dozen of roses. But,

interest." PSO Co-President Victoria Smith '14, also approves of the option to have a variety of flowers.

Flowers can be collected in the dining hall the day before and the day of Valentine's Day. Victoria says, "I think that it is a great event because it gives a little love and support to the Loomis Chaffee community while also raising money for a great foundation to help others." Why not buy one for someone and watch him or her smile?

If happiness isn't enough, PSO is also donating the profits to Kicks for Kids, an organization Abby Sotomayor '16 and Michelle Choi '16 suggested to PSO. Abby states,



NATHA SINGHASANEH '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

"Why should I?" Tradition is the main reason for why we give flowers to loved ones on Valentine's Day; flowers express gratitude and love to your dear ones.

This year, Loomis Chaffee once again presents its annual carnation sales. This event began ten years ago by an alumna, Katy Novwieski, a previous president of PSO (Pelican Service Organization). They used to sell chocolates as well, and initially they donated the profits to sponsor dinners for homeless shelters in Hartford. When asked about her thoughts on the event, PSO Co-President Eliana Zhou '14 said, "buying a carnation for someone is a great way for people to show their appreciation and love for their friends." PSO hosts Carnation sales in the dining hall and in dorms during the week of Valentine's Day. They keep the prices low, selling them for only a dollar to give the students and faculty an opportunity to buy something special for the important people in their lives.

Each flower also comes with a special note that you write for the receiver. Furthermore, the flowers come in a variety of colors. Unfortunately, there's limited stock-- PSO will sell only 200 flowers this year. Although carnations aren't the most traditional type of flower around Valentine's Day, they are one of most the beautiful kinds of flowers.

Would you rather stick with Loomis's traditional carnations, or do you think it would be better to have an assortment of flowers? Eliana states, "it could be very possible next year if people show enough

"Michelle and I both love soccer and believe that kids should have the opportunity to play the beautiful game despite their circumstances. We want to share the joy of the game with everyone, especially with the children who will appreciate it the most."

Kicks for Kids is part of the "One World Futbol Project" to create indestructible soccer balls. A lot of children in third world countries have to improvise, inventing their own balls by tying together bottles and shirts. When they do get their hands on balls, they don't last very long in the conditions they play in, as the balls are easily ruined in dirt and on rocks.

Abby and Michelle are teaming up with Asante Ana, an organization with connections to schools and orphanages in Tanzania and will ship the soccer balls overseas for them. Abby comments, "We are eager and excited to get this idea rolling, and the carnation sales will help with the initial funding. We are very thankful of PSO for helping us immensely."

Show your friends you love them by sending them carnations! Ms. Lombardo describes the event as a "wonderful mid-winter ice breaker and a feel good all around event. It gives us the opportunity to share love, warmth and kindness to our friends and colleagues." Sending a carnation will definitely make others happy, and sometimes showing that you care is all people really need.

EVLC Hits the Courts

BY SOMIL SANGHVI '16
Contributor

Contrary to what you may think, we do like babies. You've definitely seen at least one of the flyers we had placed around campus, showing pictures of Uncle Sam, of babies, and of Antoine Dodson. Actually, someone that was helping me had the brilliant idea of placing one of those above a urinal (of guys, obviously) and in the inside of the stall doors in some of the bathrooms. Well, all of this "fun" (if that's what you want to call it) stuff we have done was actually pretty hard. It involved talking to the Deans, ticking one of them off, going to the Business Office, then finding out I didn't have to go there, and just a bunch of really random useless meetings. So what exactly is this for, you might ask, and what the heck is EVLC? Well...EVLC stands for Ekal Vidyalaya Loomis Chaffee. Ekal Vidyalaya (Eyy-call Vid-ya-lay-ah) is an organization (in India, you can probably guess, because you can't pronounce it) that sponsors education for the underprivileged children living in the rural villages of India. Each

village has about 40 kids, and Ekal Vidyalaya delivers education to these villages for \$1 a day. No joke. Right now, Ekal Vidyalaya helps 1.5 million kids in 54,000 schools across India.

So, I (with Marcus Witherspoon and a couple other people) decided to create a club here at Loomis, an extension, to help promote awareness and raise money for this cause. A little before Winter Break, I re-read a comment of Mr. Taylor's from my report card the year prior. In it, he mentioned how Chynna Bailey and I made a presentation about the NBA and the 18th century Salmon Brook people. That made me start to think, why not do something similar (with basketball) with my club? So I talked to Marcus, and we thought the idea was pretty dope. I emailed a couple people, never got a response, and then went to visit them. Mr. Frei, Dean Barker, Sarah Regan, and Mrs. Lombardo were a few of the people we went to meet. The idea was received in interesting ways, being called both "puny" and "huge." Finally, after we got back from break, we began planning a bit. We came up with the idea of having four brackets, each being a grade, and holding an

underclassmen and upperclassmen conference. Then, we began the recruiting. We got Sam Roy, Aidan Dunlavey, Liam O'Brien, Mike Cerny (aka the Public Relations Coordinator), and Justin Legowski to help out, just to name a few of the amazing people who contributed. And then I talked to Dean Donegan about really creating this, and booked it.

This tournament we're having is on February 22nd, Saturday, from about 6ish to 8:30ish. I stalked all the sports teams and saw that everyone, besides Boys Varsity Hockey, would be back to school before 6:00. It is co-ed, but not inter-grade, and the winners (meaning either the under or upperclassmen champions) win shirts with their names on the back (fancy, right?), a shout-out at the next convocation, and their grades would get a sweatpants day. It is \$3 per person, so \$9 per team to play. I really hope that we can raise enough money to contribute more to this amazing cause, and have a bit of non-Olympic caliber fun. And yes! Babies are so cute—how could you not like them?

URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL.

BY DEREK MARTINEZ '16
Contributor

As far as selections for the Winter Musical at Loomis Chaffee goes, *Urinetown: The Musical* is different to say the least. A satirical comedy based in a futuristic setting, *Urinetown* tells the story of a town thrown into chaos by a twenty-year drought, where reservoirs have dried up, and as a result private toilets have become utterly unthinkable. With nowhere else to turn to, citizens must literally pay to pee at public amenities, or bathrooms, which are run by the giant, cruel, and monopolizing corporation, the Urine Good Company, or UGC for short. The consequence of not paying to pee is scary and wrapped in obscurity – anyone who doesn't pay to relieve himself or herself gets arrested and promptly shipped off to the mysterious place known as "Urinetown".

Although the musical and its Broadway Actors have been nominated for numerous Tony and Drama Desk Awards and won a few including the 2002 Tony Award for Best Original Score and the 2002 Theatre World Award, the plot of this extravagant and perplexing production often raises questions



JULIA SONG '15 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

"Urinetown" runs from February 18-22 in the NEO Theater about the musical's reasonableness. In actuality, *Urinetown* is not so extreme. Water is what I like to call a "high-risk commodity"; in our world today, whoever controls or attempts to control water controls life. If you are currently reading this, chances are you merely need to turn a knob for water to flow from your faucet or showerhead or hose. However, around 1.2 billion people, roughly a number over a million times the number of Loomis Chaffee affiliates (including students, faculty, staff,

and others employed by the school) live in areas currently faced with water shortages or scarcity in today's world. This number will not become any smaller. In fact, it will continue to grow. By 2025, 1.8 billion people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity.

If you think these facts are scary, let's take a trip to Vevey, Switzerland, where the well-known company Nestlé is headquartered. In 2005, Nestlé's CEO Peter Brabeck released a video interview where he said "Water is of course the most important

from a lake or stream is not your own. He believes, to get clean and adequate water supplies to the masses, water should be privatized. To him, human beings having a public right to water is an extreme solution to a water crisis.

Sound familiar? Such ideas and philosophies border very closely to themes in *Urinetown: The Musical*. Water shortages, tainting of water, and water scarcity are in no way issues the United States is exempt from. In states such as Pennsylvania, hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking", for natural gas (a process that involves pumping a mix of water, sand, dangerous chemicals, and other substances into the ground at high pressure to crack shale or other rock formations to release natural gas) is a highly controversial topic. Cheap natural gas, and therefore energy, comes at a cost. In Pennsylvania alone, over 6,000 fracking wells exist, however minimal safeguards are in place to protect the environment from such gas-extracting processes.

Water privatization, water shortage, political corruption, and social responsibility are all themes of *Urinetown: The Musical*, and although they are grossly exaggerated in the production itself, is the plot of *Urinetown* really that different from the world we live

in today? *Urinetown* is not a musical where you will walk out of the theater and say "Oh, how cute!" or "I'm so happy they found each other in the end." *Urinetown* will take the dirty facts of life, wrap them up in a wonderful musical score and story, and hurl them back at you with the force of a mountain lion. So I ask each and every one of you who are coming to see our fun-filled, fascinating performance: Is *Urinetown* really just a musical, a future far away... or a reality today?

raw material we have today in the world. It's a question of whether we should privatize the normal water supply for the population... The one opinion, which I think is extreme, is represented by the NGOs who bang on about declaring water a public right. That means that as human being you should have a right to water."

Peter Brabeck is saying that water is not an inalienable right. He is declaring the water that falls in your yard as rain or the groundwater you get from a well or the water you use

Senior Kiss Day

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE



You can buy a kiss for yourself or for a friend, all in good spirit and of course, true love. "Senior Kiss Day is one of those traditions you experience your freshman year at Loomis and look forward to participating in your senior year," explains Senior Elise Browchuk. Boys can kiss boys and girls can kiss girls, so don't hold back! Each senior will be given a list of people to kiss and they will

all everyone wins: Seniors get to gush over their kiss list and all other students get to have their dreams come true," laughs Senior Caitlin Farrell.

During Lunch, students will convene in the upperclassman dining hall to brave the hilariously awkward kisses delivered by our Seniors. The senior girls like to sport bright red lipstick so they can leave their mark on their targets, particularly those unsuspecting freshman boys. It is definitely fun to watch boys wander around uncomfortably with their blushing faces covered in red lipstick. Although all exchanges are supposed to be kept strictly PG, the spirit of Valentines Day cannot always be tamed. Innumerable

kiss day is the only reason I wake up every morning," divulges Sophomore Isabel Hanson. "I've been waiting for this day since the first time I stepped onto campus."

The senior class has put in a lot of effort into making this event a success. "It's a fun way for the seniors to celebrate Valentines Day--you can expect some hilarious moments" shares Senior John Furlong. Along with the excitement of the universal day of love, Senior Kiss Day is a great time to forget about the stress of everyday work and revel in the joys of tradition. Whether you are awaiting a kiss from the person of your dreams or hoping to see your friend's reaction to the kiss you deviously bought for them, make sure to come support the senior class in their efforts of making this Valen-



Caitlin Farrell '14 smooches fellow Senior Lauren Rubino

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try to follow it to the best of their abilities, although tracking down each person in the midst of the frenzied crowd of blushes and giggles does tend to be a challenge. "All in

pictures will be snapped and forever be kept as a souvenir to this momentous occasion. Freshman girls will be squealing in fits of excitement and dreams will be made. "Senior

times Day a memorable day. As Senior Jenny Li elaborates, "people should expect a day of love and joy as we leave our final marks, literally, on the school!"

Pelican Spirit in the D.R.

BY MICHELLE CHOI '15
Staff Writer

The Center for Global Studies' trip to the Dominican Republic is amongst the most popular trip options that the department offers. With this year's anticipated temperatures between 71 and 83 degrees Fahrenheit, the trip will be the perfect escape from the long, freezing winter of Windsor, Connecticut.

Led by Mrs. Nisselson and Mr. Dial, the team will set off on an early morning flight out of Bradley International Airport on March 6th to the beautiful Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Fresh faced and ready to go, the Pelicans will embark on an exciting exploration of the country from the moment their flight lands. Santo Domingo, a UNESCO world heritage site and the oldest continuously inhabited European settlement in the Americas, will be the home of 15 Loomis Chaffee members as they learn and practice Spanish, bond as a group, and explore the city.

From Santo Domingo, Jose, a Cambiando Vidas guide, will lead the students to San Juan de la Maguana, where they will spend five work days building a home. The family recipient of the home is chosen by a lottery system, and they are always incredibly grateful, welcoming, and friendly.

A typical work day will in-

clude practicing Spanish over breakfast, heading over to the project site, working until about 4 pm alongside the family and local volunteers, sharing a traditional lunch with the community, and a dinner at a different local restaurant each night. Each day, however, there will be a special learning opportunity or activity to take part in. On one day there will be a tour of the town's most recent development efforts and projects having to do with solar energy, microfinance, and biofiltration systems. Baseball games, local river swims, and a final dinner celebration of the finished home will cap off their work days as they head off to Playa Real.

A gorgeous beach community on the Caribbean Sea, Playa Real in Juan Dolio will be the final destination for the LC crew before heading back to Connecticut. There, a catamaran ride will take the Pelicans to Saona Island, where they will beach and snorkel all afternoon long. The final morning will be spent at Playa Real as they say their farewells to the DR.

The trip's popularity is no surprise after asking any Dominican Republic trip veteran how wonderful the experience was. Tessa Lightfoot '15 shares her most memorable part of the experience. "My favorite part was definitely building the house—spending time with the locals and getting to know the family was

so fun. Everyone there was so friendly and welcoming and it was amazing to watch the whole community come together to help one family. Seeing the bonds form between members of our group and the kids there was truly incredible. When we left, we saw how thankful the family was and knew we were changing the lives of the people who had next to nothing. It was an unforgettable experience." Another member of last year's DR trip, Lindsey Kendall '15, tells of how much the DR changed her perspective. "What impacted me the most from the trip was seeing the selflessness of all the community members. People would come to help us build the house even if they didn't know the family or didn't even have a house of their own. People would come every day and do whatever they could, whether that be bringing other members drink, making lunch for everyone, or helping build the house itself. It definitely made me a lot more appreciative and inspired me to give back. The community members came to help us simply because they wanted to help fulfill the dreams of another family. I hope one day I can be as giving as them." Not only do the students come back to the Island with a glorious tan, but also return with a heightened sense of community and new, strong friendships.

LC Robotics Gets in Gear

BY XANA PIERONE '16
Contributor

To an outsider, the world of robotics appears to be a secret society of geniuses dedicated to the creating robots with the sole intention of taking over the world. While this may be a captivating plot for a sci-fi novel, it is far from reality. The Robotics team is a group of invested and intelligent individuals working together with technology to create a machine. This concept seems easy enough, but the amount of effort and time put into this creation is astounding.

Although building a competition robot is the not sole purpose of the Robotics Club, competitions are important as they require a lot of focus and effort. Loomis Chaffee recently won the Connecticut FIRST Tech Challenge Qualifying Event--The LC Shakedown, and the Loomis Chaffee robotics team, Team Hax, advanced to the Connecticut State Championship. "Everyone gets involved at tournaments whether it is driving the robot, scouting other teams' robots, or making small adjustments to our robot," commented Jason Liu '17. Just by talking to the members of the team, it is apparent how proud and accomplished they feel for their recent success, but it is also apparent how determined they are to bring even more energy for the next event. With a couple weeks

left before the next competition, wish the robotics team luck for the big day on March 1st.

Along with building a competition robot, the members of the Robotics team can work on their own personal project, such as learning basic programming, or even working with Legos. The world of robotics is exciting, and some may

to build a robot such as creativity, and most importantly, interest. Jeremy Brezenoff '16 stated, "Personally, I find the whole idea of building a mechanized vehicle and programming it to do various tasks fascinating. In a way, it's like making a little life form that one can change at will and adjust as necessary." Although robotics

may seem daunting to a new student, or anyone who is not the strongest in the science department, the best way to determine whether or not the club is right for you is to try it out. Robotics teaches problem solving, basic programming, and thinking outside of the box. Building a robot is a task that requires determination, focus, and community. Jeremy comments, "Robotics is more than just building and programming a robot. Yeah, that's the big picture, but there's so much more than that. We (the club) are a community, almost a family. We joke around, we have arguments, and we mess up.

But in the end we're still ready to help each other." Now, you know that robotics deals with problem solving, computer programming, and in-depth thinking. But more importantly, you now know that robotics produces a sense of unity that stems from working together and relying on one another.



Cam Nelson '14

SARA GERSHMAN '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

wonder, "Who can join?" I asked some of the members what it takes to be a part of the team. Summitt Liu '14 answered, "Robotics is open to anyone and everyone, but there does seem to be a predominant computer science interest with many of the members." Computer science plays an important factor, but other skills are needed

Finding Zen on the Island

BY NATASIA NABILA '16
Staff Writer

It is an undeniable fact that Loomis students lead hectic lifestyles. Sometimes we bury ourselves in piles of homework for hours without rest. Through the stress of classes—often 6 days a week, a constant stream of homework that piles

up the minute it is cleared out—often the stress damages our minds, and most importantly, our happiness. That is where yoga comes in. When we fret or worry, we stress. Stress affects everyone to specific degrees, and, since everyone has different resistance levels to stress, his or her immunity system collapses at different rates. Ultimately, if we do not seek alternatives to relax and recuperate, our body becomes vulnerable to illnesses, and in worry of permanent lack of homeostasis. To avoid this undesirable complication, we can choose to seek comfort or relief in certain activities. For many Loomis Chaffee yogis, Yoga is the one true answer to their problems.

Yoga is available as a club sport during winter term. The students meet three days a week for an hour. Mrs. Bobbi Moran, the yoga instructor, is a Yoga enthusiast who cheerfully imparts

interscholastic winter sport but would like to practice Yoga too, you're in luck! Two LC seniors Shannon Deveney and Sarah Regan have pioneered an LC Yoga Club. They believe that Yoga can release inner inhibitions. Shannon reveals the significance of Yoga in her life, "It reminds me that I can really control myself. It is a restorative measure." With this positive outlook, she wishes students to find meaning and strength in Yoga. The club meets once a cycle at 7:00AM for about 50 minutes in both fall and spring term.

There are several ubiquitous myths on Yoga in our society even though they are not necessarily true. "I feel like people think that if you do Yoga, you have to like green tea. I hate green tea," declares Sarah. Shannon, on the other hand, elucidates a general misconception, "Yoga is thought of as an easy activity for flexible people only.

Yes, it helps to be flexible in Yoga but it is not easy at all." These two seniors' experience with yoga allow them to illuminate common stereotypes and shed light on the misapprehensions of Yoga.

Where can I do Yoga if I am not able to join Mrs. Moran's sessions or those of the LC Yoga club's? The answer is simple—you can always do Yoga by your-



MERCE VILLARREAL '14 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

self or with your friends anywhere, anytime! All you need to do is to bring your Yoga mat with you. Try some funky poses, and it is completely okay to fall (or fail), because it's quality time. And try Shannon's favorite move, the Parivrtta Parsvakonasana, which is also known as the revolved side angle pose. It's basically a forward lunge position with an upper body twist. It challenges your balance and flexibility. But if you want to choose some safer options, you can always do calming postures such as the Shavasana (the nap posture: you just lie on the mat with your eyes closed).

Simply put, Yoga acts as a coping mechanism for athletes, ordinary students, teachers, parents—basically everybody. So don't be afraid and try out the inspiring and incredible activity in order to feel the yogis' high.

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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OP-ED

BOBBY TURNER '14

“When is This Over?”

A football fan’s candid overview of the Super Bowl commercials

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

about! Beer, not Hallmark! This one seemed to top the charts for bending the laws of advertising, as in “How much can we stretch our marketability?” With that one, I just rolled my eyes and grabbed another loaded nacho.

I did, however, get a hearty chuckle from one of the first commercials – the time machine Doritos one. A man casually accepts a child’s cardboard time machine while munching on a hefty bag of Doritos. He then gets viciously shaken in the “time machine,” only to be abandoned by the child and screamed at by the old person who so happened to be the owner of the yard of the cardboard. Of course, the deranged man thinks the old man is the boy, commencing a plethora of giggles and guffaws. With this one, yes, of course it is ridiculous, but the stupidity

of the man makes it that funny. This commercial was the only one where I really felt like it wasn’t over the top or sappy.

thick and creamy Greek yogurt. In the classic, flirtatious game of “get the yogurt off John Stamos’ lips without using your hands,” I

wrong, that stuff is good, but really? Isn’t that just a step or two too far? When has yogurt ever had a connotation of seduction?

end, of course, is “We don’t like compromise, either,” or something like that to show a bright red Audi speeding through

stealing any and everything out of an electronics store, didn’t really make that much sense. I think of Radio Shack as a fine retailer, not worthy of such a low mark. It’s like the 80’s was bad or something.

With all these ridiculous commercials, even the Coca-Cola “America” or the Cheerios one, there’s a simple message: “How do we get the audience to pay the closest attention in as little time as possible for the greatest chance of them spending money at one of our stores?” Well, in that sense, these commercials did it justice, with just plain crazy, melodramatic, or outright ridiculous clips strewn over one of the worst Super Bowl games in history. It seems like these advertisements just keep getting progressively more ridiculous, and I don’t see an end to this trainwreck of a trend. Maybe if the actual game just got better?



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESPECTIVE COMPANIES

If you wanted over-the-top and sappy, look no further than the John Stamos Oikos Greek yogurt ad. You know, the guy from Full House? This one consisted of John and his female significant other, in the kitchen over a

slunk down in the couch, grimacing at how much they seemed to be enjoying themselves. Of course, it was ruined by two guys from SERVPRO needing to clean up the industrial sized spill of Vanilla Yogurt. Don’t get me

There were some others that come to mind, like the “Doberhuahua” Audi commercial, where it shows a breed between a Doberman and a Chihuahua increasingly wreak havoc on humanity. The punch line at the

the abandoned streets of some sprawling metropolis. It’s just so much for one little phrase. But, I guess that’s what you have to do to rake in the big bucks. The Radio Shack ad, or the montage of stereotypical 1980s characters

LOG STAFF EDITORIAL

Is it Necessary to Actually Deport Justin Bieber?

If you click “News” on Google, chances are you’ll find something about Justin Bieber. That’s right, J-Beebs, Bieba Baby, or even The Bieb. After jumping the border into the land of opportunity, Justin has been increasingly exploiting his fame and enjoying himself a little too much. When we say “too much,” we mean we could not share the information in this article without getting major backlash. Let’s just say he’s not getting a tight eight hours every night. Remember, this little gremlin is Canadian, not American. That’s why, in one of more recent she-nanigans with the news, people (individuals with sanity), began discussing the idea that this child should be deported. Sent back to Canada. Moreover, this petition was signed by over 10,000 people, which made it worthy of a closer look by the White House, a.k.a. Obama. Like Obama needs one more thing to worry about – now he’s got people hollering from all directions demanding Bieber be removed from the 50 states, back to Ontario. So, this begs the question – is Justin Bieber really

that bad? Does he really need to get deported?

Let’s take a ride down memory lane folks, to 2008. Justin Bieber, just a young, innocent fourteen-year-old YouTuber, belting out pop song after pop song. When he slowly started piling up the views, and talent-seeker Scooter Braun began watching, listening, and actively pursuing Bieber, pieces fell into place and Justin got himself a record deal. So, perhaps Mr. Braun is the one to blame for all of this, but let’s not get ahead of ourselves. After he landed this sweet deal at the ripe age of fourteen, Bieber, at a very rapid rate, gained popularity and was featured on talk show after talk show. After he released his first album, he began touring across the country. Consider this – long hours on the road, no real parental guidance, singing in front of thousands



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP IMAGES

of screaming girls and odd older gentleman for massive amounts of money. This does sound very nice,

certainly, but there comes to point when a teenager needs to be confronted and let known of his tom-

foolery. An eighteen-year-old boy will make poor choices, but to make disastrous mistake after disastrous mistake is just plain ludicrous. Gaining that insurmountable amount of fame at that age cannot be a good thing, and clearly, with more and more of his personal life and misfortunes reaching the Internet. On the other hand, Bieber himself has done really nothing to better his image, with suggestive photos on his Instagram, Twitter, and even Tumblr. Add up all of these factors and you’ve got yourself a fresh petition at the doorstep of D.C. Add all of these up, and you’ve got basically every article on TMZ. With all of this happening in America, and not Canada, Bieber seems to be bringing a lot of negative attention to the United States. His man-

ner, the way he carries himself, and his overall aura seems to diminish the charm that is America. In addition, he may even be a safety hazard to a number of children and adults, which would result in nothing good. His dangerous and reckless approach to life serves no purpose in the US, and for that reason, his utter mischief must be taken to his native country: Canada.

It may be a little strong to send Justin Bieber, a heartthrob to countless young women in the US, to his native homeland, but that’s exactly what needs to be done. Sure, he could still perform in Canada, enjoy recreational drugs, party till the break of dawn, and even speak to a delusional group of teenage girls. But here’s the thing – it’s all north of the border! With his trouble kept in the northern country, America will rid itself of a massive blemish in the face of pop culture, an elf with tattoos running around cities at night screaming his hit songs. And plus, Canada needs the excitement, anyways. What else do they have?

OP-ED

KELSEY DUFFY '15

Perfecting the Prefect System

A day student offers a hopeful outlook on LC's initiative in offering a new way of integrating day student leadership into the boarding community

Each spring, dozens of hopeful and well-qualified sophomores nervously hand in applications and sit through interviews in hopes of being selected as prefects. A select few are given the opportunity to mentor, support, and guide underclassmen for an entire year. Not only are prefects respected, but also they are expected to set positive examples of how to deal with everything Loomis might throw at you: tough courses, tiring sports practices, or trouble with friends. But all of these, from the authority to the drama, are usually associated with boarders only --- perhaps no longer.

This year in student council, the prospect of opening up the prestigious position of prefect to day students came to light, and ideas began to circulate of creating a day student prefect system. Gabby Roncone '15 has been heading this project since the start.

"The House committee wants to use this proposal not only to give new day students emotional support through a big-brother, big-sister program, but we also want to use the day student prefects to help with day student integration into the boarding community. The day student prefects' presence at community events would help relieve the dorm heads of extra work while day students are included in certain events that they otherwise would not be invited to," says Gabby.

Despite how simple and novel this idea sounds on paper, the idea has provoked much discussion and debate by many on campus. The question of whether day student prefects could forge the same bond with their younger

peers as boarders do without living together seems to be the crux of the doubt behind all the debate.

Current Kravis prefect Fletcher Lent '15 says, "I do not believe that day students could do the kind of work that prefects do in the dorms. I don't think the day students fully understand the time commitment and that being a prefect entails being there for the dorm all the time, not just when your parents agree to pick you up late at night."

A clear obstacle of establishing this system is definitely going to be figuring out a system that will offer freshmen and sophomores the opportunity to create a strong bond with their prefects, using other means other than late-night talks in the dorm or dorm activities. Furthermore, we will need a system that can tie together these new prefects, as well as the underclassmen, into an existing dorm. While the prefects must establish themselves in positions of authority, they must also be accessible to their prefectees.

When asked about the toughest part of being a prefect, Sierra Semmel '15, a prefect in Carter, says, "It's sometimes tough to walk the line between being authoritative to them and just being friends, and balancing that is a challenge." Day student prefects will have to find other ways to establish this balance without the granted job to give 7's or reminders on dorm work jobs.

Despite these complications, much of the community agrees that further integration of day students into the boarding community and establishment of a system to knit day students together is in order. Day student Anna Costello '15 says, "I would love to be able to help out

younger students who I normally wouldn't have the opportunity to meet through sports and classes. I was lucky and had a lot of older friends on my sports teams, but I know a lot of people don't have that." Many argue that although peer counselors offer support and advice, a system that is designed to create a more systematic and official big brother and big sister relationships, like the prefect system, would greatly benefit the day student population.

In addition, for those who worry that the addition of these prefects and inclusion of day students in dorm events will cut down dorm-exclusive occasions, Gabby says, "We're not taking away exclusive dorm events, but we're creating new ones involving both day students and boarders to encourage integration."

Although viewpoints on this campus change differ vastly, the prospect of more cohesion of the day students with the boarders seems to have little negative consequences. Yes, the relationships formed in dorms over Domino's and late-night chats with dorm mates may not be able to be quite resembled, but the addition of new prefects will only add to the existing leaders in dorms. Could Loomis take on this new challenge to finally close the gap between the day and the boarding populations? Could there finally be no denominations in the student body, but a truly integrated whole? The system may not be perfected soon and is certainly still in the works, but this bold outlook seems to be a promising start to more official and viable day student integration into the Loomis life.

LAUREN RUBINO '14

Different, Not Permanent: Changes to LC's Calendar

After faculty members infamously voted in favor of retaining Saturday classes for the 2014-15 school year, it looks like endless Saturday sleep-ins will not happen anytime soon. When I spoke with Student Council Calendar Committee member Yusuf Alnawakththa '14, he noted the abundance of support for Saturday classes. However, many teachers and students are in favor of reducing the amount of Saturday classes during the school year, with the recent faculty vote recommending 8 Saturday classes a year compared to the eleven on the 2013-2014 schedule. However, there are still many who do not see Saturday classes as a problem that needs to be addressed, but rather a necessary evil given Loomis's generous vacation times, as well as maintaining LC's academic rigor.

As noted previously, the issue of Saturday classes has many different aspects to it, but overall, I feel that Saturday classes should stay at Loomis based on the sole fact that it's better than the alternative options. If Saturday classes were eliminated, the daily schedule would most likely be extended by twenty minutes, include three doubles per day, and have the majority of gap periods removed.

With Loomis students already having to balance a tight schedule of school, sports, and other extracurricular activities, an extra four hours of school on infrequent Saturdays seems far more appealing than the other option. Despite what many students would probably say, Loomis actually does not have many Saturday classes. With multiple Saturday classes cancelled throughout the year, LC students have Saturday classes far less than every other week as is so widely assumed.

Another hotly debated issue for the Loomis Chaffee Calendar Committee is early graduation. When I talked with faculty member Fred Seebeck, he noted that many students and faculty have yearned for early graduation ever since he first came to Loomis over thirty years ago. One of the main benefits of early graduation (besides the obvious reality of having an early start to summer) is that all seniors do not have to take final exams; in the past, seniors could only be exempt from final exams if they had a B+ or higher grade average in a class. However, as with any change, there are some drawbacks to the prospect of early graduation. With the 2014 Commencement taking place on May 25th, seniors will have graduated before Loomis's annual Spring-

Fest celebration, a carnival-like event seen as a kickoff to summer, and also an event where Loomis seniors frequently made a large portion of their funds for prom. However, the pros of early graduation seem to heavily outweigh the cons. Loomis functions much like a college or university with its heavy workload, expectations and requirements. Therefore, the argument can be made that students working at a college level should also be rewarded with college level vacation, something that is included in early graduation.

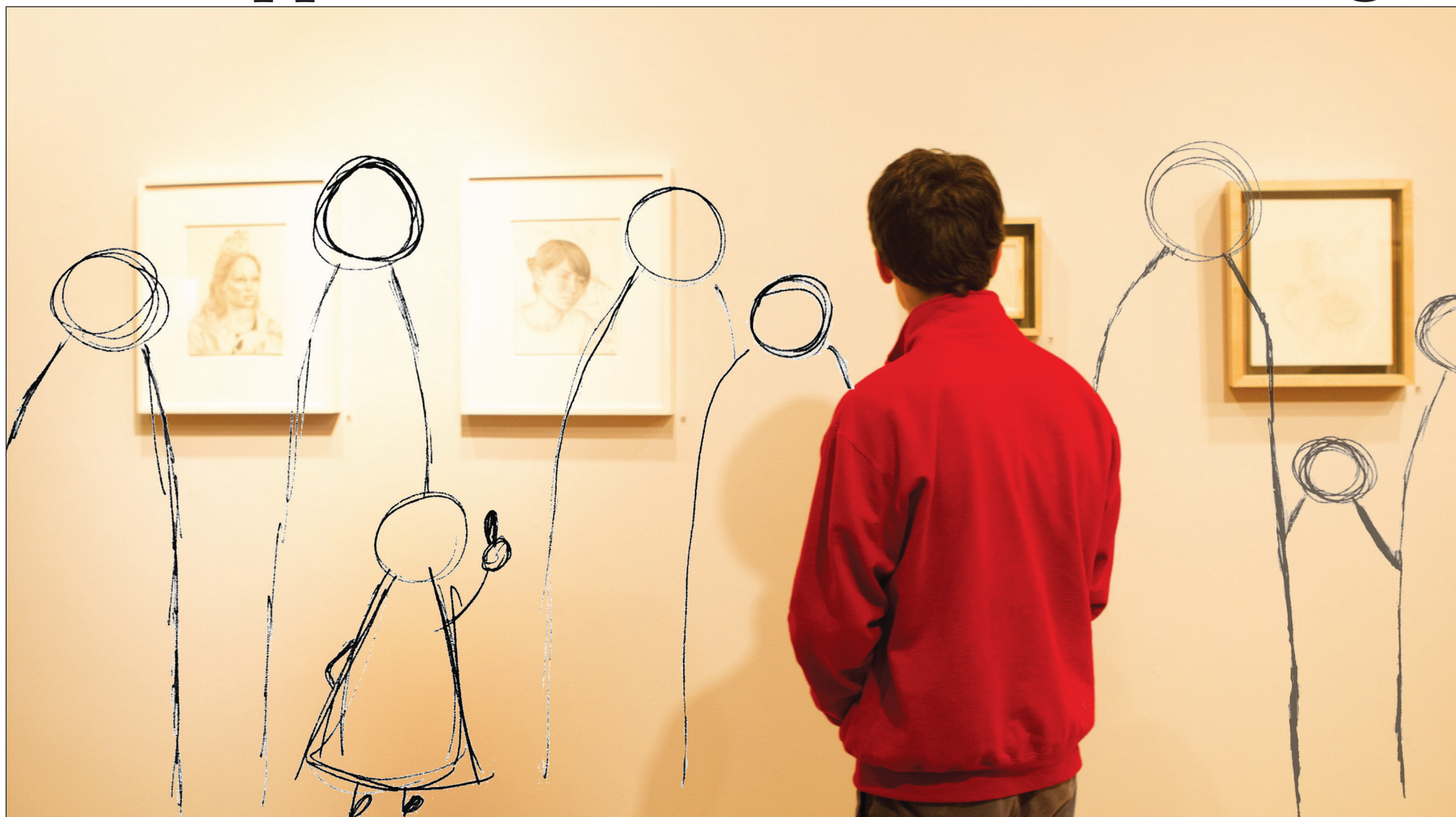
Despite the overwhelming approval for Early Graduation, there is no guarantee that it will be standard practice in the years to come, as Dr. Culbert and the Trustees will have the final say on both the removal of Saturday classes and early graduation. This year and next may serve as time for trial runs for both early graduation and the elimination of Saturday classes, where both could either continue or be eliminated. However, seeing that most faculty and students are in favor of early graduation and opposed to the new schedule, it looks like students may very well be graduating in May from now on without having to deal with the stress of three doubles per day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LALIGADELALECHEPR

CLAIRE KIM '14

Peer Support in the Arts: A Work in Progress



JULIA SONG '15 FOR THE LOOMIS CHAFFEE LOG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

crowded arts show with the smell of the brownies and coffee served wafting through the air and unexpectedly saw extraordinary col-

lections of art works done by our very own schoolmates and even faculty!

Being an artist or a musician is often silent work. An artist, a musician, they don't often ask for loud and unified cheers. They

simply wait for you to come to the concerts, recitals, arts shows, dance showcases, musicals, and appreciate the creativity and the time that they have put into these unique manifestations of their own talents.

I know, I know. Time at LC is more precious than anything and it escapes the tip of your fingertips every night when you need more time to study for that math test and to get at least some sleep. How can one possibly find time

to go to a concert on a Thursday night, or to a sampler during the all-school free when you have to study for that Bio quiz?

Isn't that you all would tell me? Or at least, that was my excuse for a heck lot of things in the past

four years. No time to spare for this and that, because at LC, you are always busy, busy, busy.

I think not. I regret making those excuses for all that I missed in the course of my four years at LC. I wish that I had gone to watch that winter musical "Hairspray", the senior music recitals, more hockey games, more of everything, that I had allowed myself more time to appreciate others' creativity and passion in the arts, music, athletics, anything.

Trust me. You don't want to miss out too much. Don't make excuses because if you do, you know others will also make the same excuses to miss out on your own work, your own passion that you want to perform, act, and show others. Support your peers in their works, and they

will reciprocate the support that you give. LC has talents above and beyond in everything because you are a part of it. Share yourself, but more importantly, grow more through others.

Featured Athlete: Steph Jones '15, Girls Varsity Basketball Captain

BY MAISIE CAMPBELL '15
Web Editor

Focused and determined, Steph Jones '15 continues her unwavering love of basketball by competing for Loomis Chaffee, but this year, she leads Girls Varsity Basketball as team captain. Jones starting playing basketball with her brother when she was six years old, beginning her competitive career in the third grade. For Jones, basketball is an outlet for her competitive nature and a way to have fun and to express herself; the court is the one place where she can truly express herself.

But basketball is not all fun and games; Jones also has a strong work ethic, both on the court and off. According to her, "Basketball here at Loomis is life. Basically, you go to school, you play basketball and you go to study hall." Jones also stays in shape during the fall and spring, working out at least two hours a day. In the summer, Jones plays for the AA basketball team, 'the Gallaghers' in New York and works out from 7 in the morning to 5 in the evening. Jones' hard work has certainly



Jones has led the Girls Basketball team to a 17-3 record

keep everyone on track and focused and make sure everything is getting done." According to Jones, you don't need to be the captain to be a leader, but being team captain means everyone is looking to you for guidance. As a team captain, it is important to always be on the top of one's game so that everyone else can be on the top of theirs. Jones notes a strong team chemistry this year, certainly a contributor to their 17 wins out of 20 games played. According to Jones, "Your team is your family, your family away from home." Clearly there

play ball. Almost two years later, Jones is extremely with her decision to come to Loomis and is very committed to her team and her game.

After coming to Loomis and devoting herself to her team, Jones feels that she has grown and matured significantly. She came to Loomis and was nicknamed the "angry elf" but has since become more calm and composed. Replacing frustration caused by others' mistakes with a more encouraging and helpful attitude, Jones is very proud of how much she has developed as a player and as a person. This year, as a team captain, Jones takes on more responsibility that accentuates her growing maturity. Jones has also made other progressive leaps and bounds in the course of her basketball career while here at Loomis. Last Wednesday, in a game against Suffield, Steph scored her 2000th career point. Coach Stew, halting the game in the middle of a play, came out on the court, with Steph's team and mom to congratulate her on the accomplishment. Steph, though small in stature, is definitely 'smooove' on the court.

Coming at the end of the basketball season are the New England Championships. Jones has a positive attitude as she asserts that their team's victory is not an "if" but a "when". And when they win, "Coach Stew will get a haircut that says 'Champs' and might even bring his flat top back." On February 26th, Jones hopes to see Loomis fans out in force, cheering the team on to a New England Championship.

is a strong bond between these girls and a strong sense of commitment.

A big influence in Jones' decision to attend Loomis was the basketball program, and specifically the coach, Coach Stew. Coach Stew sold both the basketball program and the school itself when Jones began looking for a prep school where she could

Sage Kotsenburg Wins Gold By Just "Winging It"

BY SAM COX '15
Staff Writer

After winning the first gold medal for the United States in this year's olympics, Sage Kotsenburg told reporters he "just winged it," when asked about his gold medal he won at the first ever slopestyle snowboarding event.

In slope style, a competition judged on a competitors ability to ride rails and jumps, Utah native Sage Kotsenburg threw down an impressive run, including an unprecedented "1620," 4.5 full spins, and a "steazy 1260 double cork," on top of a super clean rail section. Despite this astounding performance, coming into the Olympics the snowboarding community seemed convinced that a "triple cork," a trick that consists of being inverted three times while spinning, would be needed to get the gold. But Canada's Mark McMorris and Max Parrot were shocked that, after they each landed two triple corks in one run, they both finished behind Sage and Ståle Sandbech of Norway. (Mark picked up the gold, bronze while Max came in fifth)

The controversy surrounding the judges, who score the

riders on their runs, is still being discussed. It's pretty clear that Sage's style, throwing clean tricks, stomping the landings, and adding his own unique approach to the course, was seen as more deserving than other peoples technical triples, something that snowboarding purists see as more gymnastic than tricks like Sage's. Some are praising the judge's decision to credit style over number of inverts, giving them kudos for trying to bring uniqueness back to snowboarding. Others think that the judges made a wrongdoing for giving less credit to more technical runs, that are arguably due to harder a higher level of training and skill. Nevertheless, a good show was put on for snowboarding fans, and the Olympic debut of slope style was a complete success.

In the 22 foot Superpipe, an event that American Shaun White has dominated the last eight years, his control of the competition was finally put to rest after a disappointing fourth place finish, ending his back to back streak of olympic gold. Iouri Podladtchikov of Switzerland took home the gold, landing his signature trick, the "YOLO Flip," consisting of two flips and four spins. Two kids

from Japan, aged 15 and 18, claimed the silver and bronze respectively. Shaun's run, consisting of shaky landings and unimpressive tricks, put the favorite in fourth, ending the 27 year old's attempt at a three peat, most likely his last chance at gold.

This disappointing finish came after a week of decisions that has prompted criticism from White's opponents. After many athletes, including White, complained that the slope style course was only sub-par and unsafe (Norwegian Torstein Horgmo fell in practice and broke his collarbone on the rail section), he decided to pull out of slope style all together, putting all his money on winning the half pipe gold. His competitors called him out on being selfish, and taking away that spot from a younger, lesser known rider. Others said he dropped out because he knew he had no chance of winning. Canada's Sebastian Toutant and Max Parrot both took to twitter, saying he dropped out because he didn't have a shot. Although this may be true, we'll never know what Shaun was thinking when he dropped out of the event, because it sure didn't help him win gold in the pipe.



Kostenburg was the first American to win a medal at the 2014 Sochi Games

Wait What, We Have A Ski Team?

BY ISABELLE RAPOSO '15
Contributor

Loomis Chaffee's alpine ski team doesn't let the school's lack of an on-campus ski mountain deter them from following their athletic passion—four days a week, they take a forty-five minute bus ride to practice at Ski Sundown in New Hartford, CT.

This year, the ski team had enough members to field both a varsity and JV squad. In the New England Prep Championships on February 12th, the girls' team (Isabel Guigui, Sara Corsetti, Abby Biddle, Ali Corsetti, and Katie Warner) came in second overall, a striking achievement considering the quality of the competition they faced.

Unlike Loomis athletes with

on-campus facilities, LC Skiers can only use their practice space for forty-five minutes to an hour before it's time to get back on the bus. These time constraints demand complete focus and flawless cooperation by all team members in order to make the most of their available practice time. What the participants in other sports are able to accomplish in two or even three hours a day, the skiers must accomplish in under an hour. The bus rides and chairlift time provides ample opportunity for team bonding, attests sophomore Abby Biddle. Although the the ski team is a time-consuming commitment, (they practice Monday through Thursday each week and race on Wednesdays) Friendships blossom and team spirit always runs high.

Alpine skiing demands unparalleled stamina and focus, not to mention the ability to remain composed in the face of the significant danger one puts themselves in while speeding down a white monolith in the company of others, flirting with the upper limits of your personal capacity. Team members Isabel Guigui, Rohin Bhargava,

Abby Biddle, Tucker Santoro, John Fundock, Katya Yepifanova, Katie Warner, Sara Corsetti, Ali Corsetti, and Sam Rice all possess these qualities in ample amounts, and their dedication to the sport certainly pays off.

The ski team hones their skills under the direction of James Montana and Frank Roberts, who are affiliated with Ski Sundown. The benevolent Marco Rodarte drives the team to the mountain each day they practice, making the entire endeavor possible. Ski Sundown is home to ski teams from other schools which the Loomis team competes against, an unusual occurrence in the world of interscholastic sports. Ski Sundown offers a magnificent array of fifteen different trails, and even has night skiing capacities.

Junior Isabel Guigui explains the technicalities of downhill ski racing, even graciously including some diagrams: "There are two types of racing: slalom and grand slalom. The first, requiring precision and art, consists of a series of gates (poles) closely spaced together. The skier must navigate the course without missing a single gate, or they will find themselves disqualified. It's customary for a racer to knock the gates over as they pass. Giant slalom, aptly named for its wider course, requires a focus on power", Isabel adds, illustrating her point across the back of her French homework. The skiers' times are taken when they arrive at the end of the course, and the team with the lowest composite time wins.

Although the LC ski team is a sometimes overlooked, the skiers' effort, dedication, and talent shines through in their races and victories, deserving just as much respect as any other varsity sports team on campus.



Tucker Santoro '15 and Ali Corsetti '14

LC Swimming Takes Down Exeter For First Time in School History

Log Staff Report

In his thirty-one years as the Loomis Chaffee Boys Swimming & Diving coach, Fred Seebeck has accomplished just about everything there is to accomplish in New England prep swimming. However, in Coach Seebeck's three decades at the helm of LC Swimming, he had never defeated the swimming powerhouse that is Phillips Exeter Academy. That all changed on February 8, as Loomis took down the Big Red from Exeter by a resounding score of 100-81. Not only did the team record the school's first ever win over Exeter in Boys Swimming, two records--one individual and one relay--fell on what was truly one of the greatest days in the program's storied history.

In the meet's first event, the 200m Medley Relay, the Loomis relay team of Jeremy Bogle '14, John Furlong '14, RJ Finlay '15 and Geneth Chin '14 swam a time of 1:51.09, defeating Exeter's relay by eight seconds while also besting the School Record, set last year by Bogle, Furlong, Finlay and Tucker Cheyne '13. After the Loomis "B" relay placed third, the Pelicans took a commanding 10-4 lead through the first of twelve events. In the second event, the 200m Freestyle, Senior Captain Tripp Miller went head-to-head with Exeter's Captain

and top swimmer, Joe Shepley. Not only did Tripp defeat Shepley, (coming within two seconds of the school record in the process) but Tripp's brother, Jack Miller '17, outtouched the Exeter Captain to give Loomis a critical 1-2 finish in an event they were not expected to win. After Exeter reestablished themselves with victories in the the 200 IM and 50 Free, LC's lead had dwindled to eight points as the Diving portion of the meet began.

James Daring '14 and Pat Craig '17 placed first and second, respectively, in the diving portion of the meet, giving a 45-33 edge to Loomis at the "halftime" intermission. In the first event after the break, the 100 Butterfly, Pelicans Finlay and Bobby Cecere '16 would face Shepley, the three-time defending New England Champion in the event. Not only did Finlay easily defeat Shepley, but Bobby Cecere overcame a body-length deficit at the final turn to defeat Shepley by a hundredth of a second. After the 1-2 finish in the 100 Butterfly, the Pelicans led 57-37. With Captain Jeremy Bogle winning the 100 Freestyle, the stage was set for Senior Captain Tripp Miller to make history in the 400 Freestyle.

Tripp paced his race perfectly, dominating the competition and finishing in a time of 4:15.29, besting the 14-year old school record by a whopping three seconds. It was the first individual school record set since Jake De-

Coninck broke the 200 Freestyle record in 2007. With Loomis now leading 79-47, it would take nothing short of a miracle for the Big Red to even have a chance of making a comeback, and after winning the 200 Freestyle Relay and the 100 Backstroke, Loomis officially clinched the victory. But, just for good measure, David Chen '16, Furlong and Will Meng '16 swept the field in the 100 Breaststroke, going 1-2-3 in the final individual event of the day. With the meet already won, one would expect Loomis to take it easy in the final event of the day, the 400 Free Relay. That is *definitely* not what happened.

After first three legs of the relay, Exeter and Loomis were neck and neck, the race coming down to the anchor legs being swam by Shepley and Bogle, respectively. Fresh off his 100 Free victory from earlier in the meet, Bogle easily defeated Shepley, making the final tally 100-81 in favor of the Pelicans. Coach Fred Seebeck noted after the meet that it was "A hungry, relentless performance from the Pelicans," while also commenting that "this meet bodes auspiciously for a strong showing during the championship season." LC Swimming would like to thank Exeter for such a dignified yet intense dual meet, while eagerly anticipating the Founders League Championships on February 22 and the New England Championships on March 1-2.