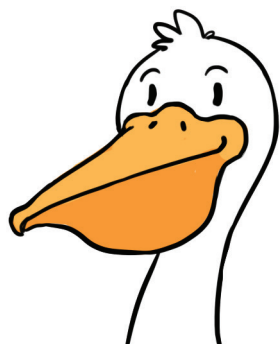


Loomis Chaffee Log

NOVEMBER 11, 2016

Issue 101, No. 3

thelclog.org



PELICANS,
Thanksgiving is coming soon
you can do it!

RENAMING MASON HALL

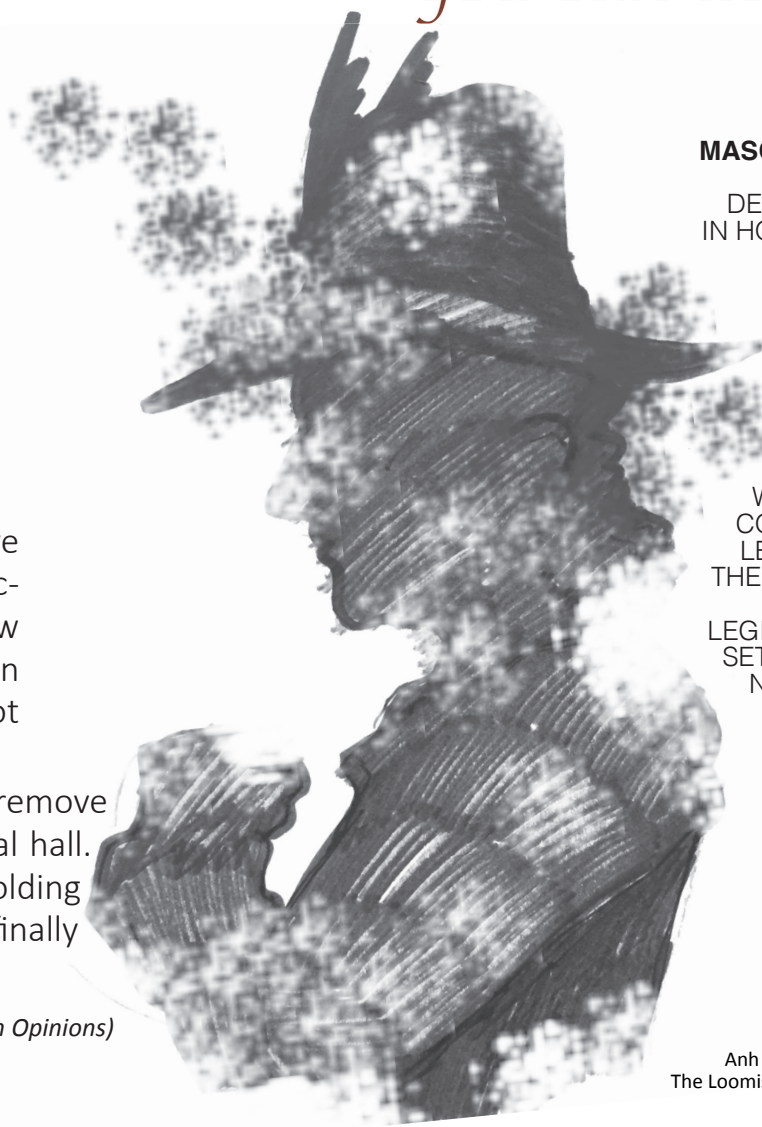
Staff Editorial

NAMES AREN'T SET IN STONE ANYMORE.

Decrying segregation and racism, students on college campuses have protested the namesake of Woodrow Wilson School of Policy at Princeton University; family crests with echoes of slavery at Harvard Law School; and commemorating racist founder John Evans at Northwestern University. Activism at Loomis Chaffee is no different. The past does not remain buried.

Last year, the Student Council officially endorsed a proposal to remove the name of Major John Mason from the century-old residential hall. After reviewing a report written by the Mason Committee and holding discussions from May to October, the Board of Trustees have finally decided to rename Mason Hall.

(continued in Opinions)



MASON HALL

DEDICATED
IN HONOR OF
MAJOR
JOHN
MASON

c. 1600
—1672

WINDSOR
COLONIST,
LEADER IN
THE PEQUOT
WAR,
LEGISLATOR,
SETTLER OF
NORWICH
1914

Anh Nguyen '17 /
The Loomis Chaffee Log

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

SUCCESSFULLY WELCOMES
NEW U.S. IMMIGRANTS

Jocelyn Chen '19 | Contributor

Being qualified to become a citizen of a new country is difficult enough, let alone the journey the immigrants took to be in this land in the first place.

The Loomis Chaffee community shared a heartfelt hour as 39 Windsor residents from 22 different countries finished their arduous journeys to become citizens of the United States in our very own Olcott gym. The audience roared in approval as each individual rose to receive their certificate, making for an unforgettable day for both the people being naturalized and many others in the LC community.

"One of the biggest cheers was for the Syrian woman in the ceremony... Before the event, I had a chance to talk to some of the folk who were naturalizing. She was one of the people with whom I spoke. She has many family members still in Syria, in and around Damascus. So the applause for her was heartwarming." Dr. Wright commented.

(continued in News)

NOVEMBER EDITORS' PICKS

SPORTS: LC'S VARSITY FOOTBALL
SAM GOLDFARB '18

FEATURES: LATEST ELECTION SALON
CATHY HYEON '18

OP-ED: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OR
TV SHOW? LOUIS CHEN '18

MELANGE: IL LOOM INATI
RACHEL WALSH '17

LOOMIS CHAFFEE THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF PERSPECTIVES ON SLAVERY

Ivy Nguyen '18 | Contributor

NEO – As the spotlight shines and her name is called out, Sydney Steward '17 appears on stage with her usual grace. She portrays Tituba, a woman from Barbados who practices what the Puritans view as "black magic," in the Loomis Chaffee fall production, *The Crucible*. Expressing her thoughts on her performance, Sydney shared her struggles. "It's a very transcending experience," Sydney said, "because I'm trying to put my feet in the shoes of my ancestors whom I don't even know. It becomes very self-deteriorating after a while. Before I get on stage, I have to get myself into the zone of being inferior. My role in *'The Crucible'* has made me very sensitive about how people talk about slavery."

Like Sydney, a lot of Loomis students are exposed to a variety of historical issues, including slavery. From the underclassmen learning about world history to the junior class attending the screening of *"12 Years a Slave,"* slavery is an unavoidable topic on campus and throughout the history of America. With the diversity of students at Loomis Chaffee, I set out to explore the many aspects and

opinions raised from students about slavery, not necessarily about how "bad" it is, but rather, how the issues that stem from slavery need to be addressed.

Education and Self-Identity

During the "Understanding Slavery, Understanding Ourselves" talk on October 28th in Founders Lounge, an overwhelming concern about how slavery is taught in middle schools and high schools alarmed those within the American education system. Shanelle Jones '17 voices her opinions on the issue: "The way I learn about U.S. History is that the United States is this grand country but briefly gloss over how inhumane slavery truly is." Many others explain how this shortage of emotional approach towards slavery leads to the lack of conversations about this dark period of American development. Without sentiments, later generations are unable to relate with the cruelty of captivity. "I wrote a paper on how slave-owners rely heavily on slaves to solidify their power. I wish more African American kids are able to know how powerful they are capable of with education."

(continued in Features)

INSIDE
THE LOG

NEWS
2

FEATURES
3

OPINIONS
4 - 5

SPORTS
6 - 7

MELANGE
8

POLITICAL TENSIONS REACH A FIERY CLIMAX

Robert Wang '18 | Staff Writer



Tracy Kuo '18 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

Politics has always been a controversial topic sparking discussion and rivalries throughout America. From the election in 1796 between Jefferson and Adams to the hectic election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, a clear divide between policies is evident. Whether the topic is tax cuts or foreign policy, the opposing views held by the

Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej died peacefully at age 88 on Thursday, October 13, sending a wave of sorrow throughout his country. Having ascended the throne 70 years ago in 1950, he was the world's longest reigning monarch.

On the day of the king's death, thousands of people assembled outside of Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital where he was being held. Many cried and stood in shock when they heard the news of his passing. The king was greatly loved in his country and viewed as the embodiment of national unity. "It's a devastating loss... He reformed the country and put Thailand on the map. If it weren't for him, the Thai people wouldn't be where we are today," said Warm Ayanaputra '17. Images of him are found everywhere in Thailand, from buildings to highways. For most inhabitants, he was the only king they ever knew. Piper Chaisilprungruang '17, a Thai Scholar here at Loomis, said, "He was not only our king, but he was and will be our father forever. I proudly say that I was born in the reign of King Bhumibol."

The King's son, Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, will succeed him, but not until a year of mourning has passed. In the interim, Prem Tinsulanonda, a former prime minister, will serve as regent. As a part of the mourning period, the Thai cabinet declared a public holiday on Friday for government officers, and requested that the public avoid any "entertainment activities" for the next month. Flags have also been set at half-staff for 30 days. A year from his death, the king will

two parties have created heated discussions in both formal presidential debates and school settings such as Loomis.

As a result of such unique candidates in our current election, a record amount of attention has been directed towards the governing of our country. An astounding 84 million people tuned in to watch the first presidential debate between Trump and Clinton. With a such a large audience and provocative candidates, it's almost inevitable that things will soon get out of hand. As election day approaches, the stakes have begun to grow as hostilities between the supporters of the two candidates increase. The big question now, however, is how far we are willing to go to support our beliefs and knock down the opposition.

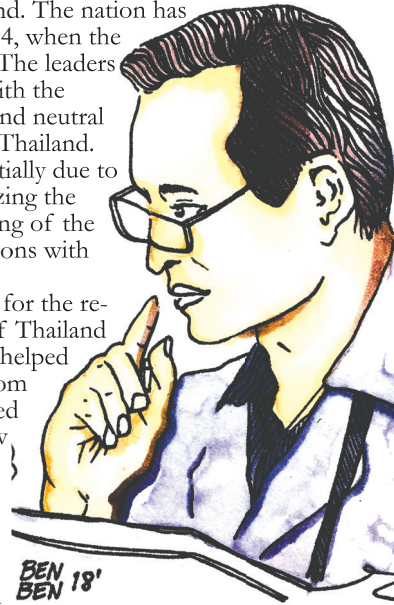
On Saturday October 15th, a GOP building in Orange County, North Carolina was ruthlessly firebombed and vandalised. The attackers, who have yet to be identified by the police, destroyed the office building and graffitied a shocking threat along the side of the building: "Nazi Republicans, leave town or else". At such a strained moment in the election, one which *Washington Post* writer Aaron Blake deemed "The most negative election of our lives," this attack has aroused conflicting views throughout the country.

In response to the event, Dallas Woodhouse, the executive director of the North Carolina Republican Party stated that the attack was an act of "Political terrorism" and "Whether you are a Republican, Democrat or Independent, all Americans should be outraged by this hate-filled and violent attack against our democracy." Despite his political position as a Republican, Woodhouse feels a sense of unity and tries to look past the distinctions between Republicans and Democrats. In a time of crisis such as the one at hand, Woodhouse encourages America to come together, put aside our political differences, and unite in order to address an act of such extreme hate.

be cremated, and Prince Vajiralongkorn will be coronated.

The transition of power may also hold important implications for the political system of Thailand. The nation has been ruled by a military junta since 2014, when the military gained power through a coup. The leaders of the uprising justified their actions with the claim that the military, a non-partisan and neutral entity, would bring political stability to Thailand. Adulyadej endorsed them (perhaps partially due to his weakening condition), thus legitimizing the new system, which included the rewriting of the constitution. But it is unknown if relations with the new king will remain as friendly.

King Adulyadej will be remembered for the remarkable progress and improvement of Thailand that he facilitated. During his reign, he helped to transform the country's economy from one based on agriculture to one centered on commerce and industry. He also saw a growth in democracy and an increase in democratic processes. In times of political turmoil and during various uprisings, he preserved national unity and peace. A pragmatist, he said he did not care how he would be remembered by history, but that if people want to write about him, "... they should write how I do things that are useful."

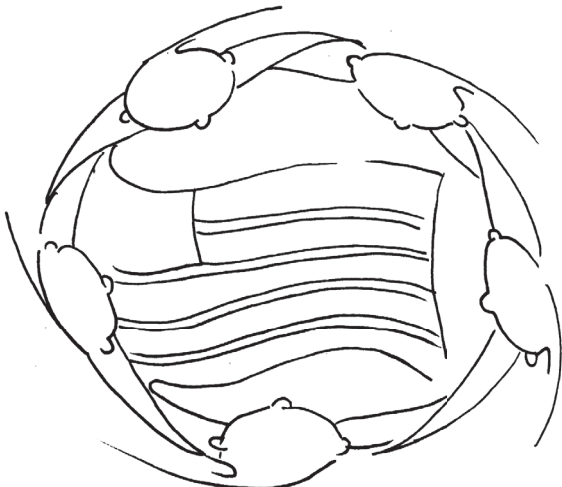


DEATH OF THAI KING

Nezir Alic '18 | Staff Writer

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

SUCCESSFULLY WELCOMES NEW US IMMIGRANTS



Anh Nguyen '17 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

Jocelyn Chen '19 | Contributor

"Gaining citizenship is no easy feat, and overcoming the ridiculously harsh system is an accomplishment that each and every person should be proud of. Seeing the smiles on their faces made me smile, and reminded me of what America has become (in all the good and the bad), and what its potential may hold," said Sydney Stewart, the PRISM club president.

The ceremony also had its share of sociopolitical statements: "... a few did not stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. This could be related to the Colin Kaepernick protest and Black Lives Matter," said senior Evan McDonagh. Although condemned by some, this expression of personal opinion does stand by the American traditional value of freedom of expression.

The Chamber Singers performed "The Star Spangled Banner" and "This Land is Your Land." Some younger audience members enthusiastically sang along while others might have heard the tunes for the first time. But no matter the age, gender, race, or any other differences we may have amongst each other, the ceremony gave everyone in the room a real life understanding of how difficult it is to become an U.S. citizen in order to enjoy the same protection and freedom many citizens are born with.

"As imperfect as the United States is... there are still millions of people who want to come here, are willing to go through multiple steps to become citizens, and are willing to pledge an oath of allegiance which includes service to the country. For those of us who were born into citizenship, it is our job to serve our nation as best we can, especially when that means challenging the norms to make it better for all. Our freedoms of speech, press, assembly not only entitle us to challenge our society to be better, but give us responsibility to challenge our society to be better for all," answered Mrs. Molly Pond, a speaker at the event and associate director of the Norton Family Center for the Common Good. At last, showing our support toward the

immigration issue momentarily during the convocation is far from enough. The naturalization ceremony has successfully brought awareness, but to continue supporting this issue is a different story. Here are some tips from Mrs. Pond, Mr. Eric LaForest, and Dr. Richard Wright, professor of geography at Dartmouth College:

"Appreciate and use the rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution. Take responsibility for the nation: support its strengths and work to fix its weaknesses. Vote. Stay apprised of current events. Engage others in conversation and debate over issues on which you disagree. Work to understand others, especially when their perspective is fundamentally different from our own."

"Community engagement, including and even beyond the civic duties that MP enumerates. As the grandson of two German immigrants, I feel strongly that we must get to know people who originate from different backgrounds. Then we can begin to get past divisive political rhetoric and entrenched economic problems. We will see that we have more in common with each other than we might think. E pluribus unum, as Dr. Wright reminded us."

"Embrace the ideals we celebrated at the ceremony. Stay on top of current issues. Try hard to listen to, and understand, opposing viewpoints. Be politically aware and active." Many students entered the room believing the ceremony to be nothing more than any ordinary convocation but were pleasantly surprised by its depth. "I was truly able to see and feel how happy each of the naturalized citizens were amidst their family cheering for them, waving the small U.S. flag after receiving the certificate, and the loud cheering the entire crowd made," said junior Rosie Park.

"It was undoubtedly worth it to attend the naturalization ceremony... A stunning moment was the Ecuadorian man, dancing happily after receiving his certificate. The crowd got intensely into it, clapping and stomping their feet, the ground quaking with each thud. [The event] really showed me how great of a privilege it is to be a born American citizen," said freshman Nolan Lorenzana.

Remember,

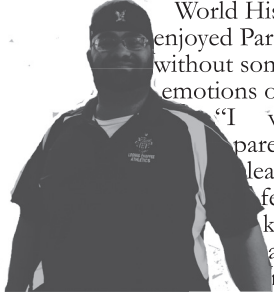
"This land is your land,
this land is my land.
... this land was made for you and
me."

F

PARENTS WEEKEND RECAP

Sharon Zhou '19 | Contributor
Angela Wang '20 | Contributor

The Loomis Chaffee community welcomed parents and friends to the Island this past Parents Weekend, which started on Friday, October 22. Guests were invited to participate in classes, meet with teachers, and join the Loomis community. Meanwhile, students and faculty members had an unusual experience, as they say more faces joining in on classes and walking around campus. We interviewed several teachers to get their perspective on the special weekend.



Mr. Elliott Dial
Anh Nguyen '17 / The Loomis

World History teacher Mr. Elliott Dial enjoyed Parents Weekend overall, but not without some reservations. "I have mixed emotions on the Parents Weekend," he said, "I want to represent the class and give parents an insight into their children's learning process. I hope that parents feel it is worthwhile to send their kids to Loomis Chaffee." Mr. Dial also mentioned that he enjoys meeting students' parents. "I feel so happy when parents come to me and say 'my kid loves you' or 'my kid used to hate history, but now he likes it so much.'" In Saturday's class, the World History students went over their reading about the history of China in the Ming Era. One of the biggest changes Mr. Dial made was to include two groups of participants—the Loomis students and their parents. Parents, who sat around the classroom, were divided into groups of two to discuss the visual source, a study material widely used in the World History class. Parents tried to determine the composition, time period, and usage of objects of the image in the visual source, while students proceeded with their reading. "I try to keep parents busy rather than letting them just sit there, so they can better understand how the students actually learn in our history class," said Mr. Dial. During Saturday's class, parents were actively engaged in discussion, and they came up with creative thoughts about the visual sources. However, Mr. Dial does not consider entertaining

parents the main goal of classes. Teachers and students should choose the way that they feel most comfortable, rather than purposely showcasing their achievement.

Ms. Kate Saxton, an English teacher who has experienced three Parents Weekends here at Loomis, says she appreciates the opportunity to meet with parents and match them up with students. She exclaimed that looking at interactions between students and parents provided her with a better understanding of her students. Even though she was a little bit nervous having parents sitting at the back row, she explains that they were so supportive and their excitement to experience the class atmosphere calmed her down. Ms. Saxton also remarked that she tried not to make any difference to her classes and put on the representation of the things students usually do. In class, she introduced engaging activities that could get students talking. Students, however, also try to step up their game before the parents come, as they tend to prepare extra well for class. In discussions, students who are usually quiet will talk more to impress their parents, while those who tend to talk frequently will sometimes become nervous. "It is always a mystery to see students' performance on Parents Weekend," said Ms. Saxton. Meanwhile, Ms. Saxton also suggested that it would be much better to have more breathing room for advisor meetings. Moreover, when talking about her personal take away, Ms. Saxton mentioned that some unexpected things took place in her classes. "Learning to roll with the punches and adapt to uncertainty are as important as preparation." She is also grateful to the helpful Loomis students who do their best to adjust along with her and make the class go as smoothly as possible. Overall, Parents Weekend was a memorable experience for students, parents and faculty members.



Ms. Kate Saxton
Julia Z. '17 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

HARVEST FEST

Yuyang Zhang '18 | Contributor



Claudia Liu '17 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

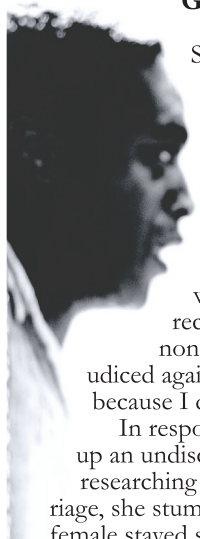
On October 14th, the annual Harvest Fest took place, filling the upperclassmen quad with students, activities, and snacks. Throughout the years, Harvest Fest has been an opportunity for new and returning clubs to showcase what they are all about. For two hours on a brisk autumnal evening, student club leaders dedicate their time to spread awareness of their clubs, ranging from contour, to animal aid, to the medical research club, by designing posters and involving games. Harvest Fest also aims to get students involved in the Loomis Chaffee community, creating excitement about the year ahead.

This year's Harvest Fest embraced the fall theme with pumpkin decorations and hot chocolate, and was one of the biggest events of the fall. Dr. Culbert and Dean Donegan's birthdays were on the same day and all of the students in attendance sang "Happy Birthday" and celebrated with balloons on the quad.

(continued on web)

THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF PERSPECTIVE ON SLAVERY

Ivy Nguyen '18 | Contributor



"Guilty not guilty"

As soon as the credits for 12 Years a Slave rolled, the movie received applause from the entire class of 2018. However, a vast majority of students quickly stood up or started laughing with each other, neglecting students who could not move out of their seats.

"People were already on their phone, they were laughing, talking, and few of them actually think about what they just saw," Kiyiana Downer '17 recalled. "The concept of 'white guilt' is non-existent to me, not because I'm prejudiced against my white counterparts, but rather because I don't see it."

In response to her classmates, Adriana brought up an undiscovered aspect of slavery discussion. In researching her paper last year on interracial marriage, she stumbled upon a court case in which a white female stayed silent about her black husband's abuses because her race has enslaved him and therefore she felt a sense of "white guilt." Adriana raised the question, "Where is the line between increasing white awareness towards the problem of slavery and attacking and over-generalizing white people?"

Natalia Butler '18 confessed, "I was surprised by my lack of emotions after [12 Years a Slave] finished. Even though slavery was a huge part of American history, I personally feel unrelatable to that dark precedent period of my heritage simply because I had nothing to do with it. Is it so wrong for me to not feel guilty?"

The kaleidoscope of experiences continues to expand as students are willing to open themselves more to conversations with their classmates, closing the gap of perception amongst the arguments.

"The talk"

From the constant threat of tyranny in American history to the decades of maltreatment in colonized Asian societies, oppression and slavery were not exclusive to any country, religion or race. Undeniably, the brutality and cruelty of history shape the world as we know it today. Our contribution as young citizens is to properly address and openly discuss the faults of our prior generations rather than eschewing away from the shadows of our history in order to create more superior society. Racial profiling, inequality, and segregation will continue to exist as long as our culture allows it. It is up to us to make the change we want to see in the world.

FALL DANCE SHOWCASE

Siyeon Kim '17 | Staff Writer

Audiences in the Norris Ely Orchard Theater were spellbound by the 50 dancers in the Fall Dance Showcase. Fall Dance Showcase is a presentation of the hard work of the LC dance companies during the first two months of the year and a preview of the Spring Dance Revue, the main show of the year. The approximately 50 dancers proudly presented 13 different pieces to the Loomis Chaffee community from November 3-5. The pieces comprised seven student-choreographed pieces and six pieces choreographed by the dance instructor, Ms. Kate Loughlin. The audience encountered many different styles of dance, including ballet, jazz, hip-hop, and contemporary.

The performance began with the piece of Dance Company 1.1, a company mainly composed of upperclassmen. The group effectively captured the four years of Loomis life by exhibiting confusion and anxiety of freshmen, wearing flannel to represent Sophomore Retreat, and demonstrating devastation and frustration for the stressful junior year. The piece is still a work-in-progress, and the final year, senior year, will be presented in the Spring Dance Revue.

Following up the Dance Company 1.1, the after-school ballet class presented The Mistake Waltz, a restaging of Jerome Robbins' original piece, which depicts all the bad things that can happen during a dance performance.

The show continued with series of student choreographed solo pieces by Derrick Garcia '17, Amaiya

Parker '18, Melissa Scanlon '19, Molly Henderson '19, and Kelsey Lee '20. Molly Henderson's jazz group, part of the Choreography Club, performed to the song "Oh Yeah" with rhythmic steps and moves. Dance Company 1.6's "Burden" depicted the hardships that people feel in daily life. Throughout the piece, by lifting up each other and reaching up, the dancers showed glimpse of hope and need of help.

Finally, the night was finished by Dance Company 2's phenomenal piece, "Evolution of Identity." Intricately woven by selection of small solos, the piece featured dancers in black leotards who demonstrated different stages of human evolution. This piece was also performed in Ethel Walker School last Wednesday.

Claire Collins '18 said, "The last piece was my favorite. Everyone was awesome; Amaiya's hip-hop piece was great, too." The dancers seemed to be satisfied with their performances as well. Kelsey Lee '20, a first year dancer in Loomis, said, "This is such an amazing experience. It is extremely cool to see all the dancers in one setting." Cynthia Hui '17, a three-year senior dancer, added, "This is only the beginning. The Spring Dance Revue, which will be my last, will be more exciting with more dances."

Although there are six months left until the next show, the Loomis dance community will continue to work diligently to present the best show to its audience.

ELECTION SALON

Cathy Hyeon '18 | Contributor

As the presidential election becomes more and more heated with accusations and slander, Loomis has addressed these current events through Presidential Election Salons. The last of these meetings took place in the Nee Room in Founders on October 18. While the previous discussion have focused on the economic and foreign policies of the candidates, primarily Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, the most recent discussion addressed their opinions on human rights issues. This talk began with both Rachel Ramenda '18 and Madie Leidt '17, who were chosen to read their submissions. The first statement talked about a range of topics, including LGBTQ+ and immigration rights, while Madie spoke about gun rights and the importance of creating stricter background checks. This topic sparked conversation within the room, starting with the buyback on guns in Australia and the possible implementation of the law in America. Some advocated the importance of stricter gun laws and background checks in order to limit the amount of gun violence. However, others believed that this could be an infringement on the second amendment and that guns give people the power to protect themselves. These opposing opinions on gun control started a debate that continued addressing other topics like the mental health issue, until the conversation was stopped by Mr. Eric LaForest, who opened the discussion to other important human rights issues.

The next big topic discussed was police brutality and the lives of African-Americans. When someone addressed the controversy of Colin Kaepernick's decision to sit rather than stand during the national anthem at an NFL football game, the discussion turned to the increasing number of citizens that have been victims of police violence. However, this talk became a heated debate when Patrick Pugliese '18 voiced his opinion on the state of minorities in the country. One could say that the numerous students who disagreed with his stance targeted him and questioned what he had said. Patrick, however, said that, "At no point did I feel my point of view was ignored nor did I feel disrespected." And much like many of the other students in the room he believed that they "got to express themselves in ways that may not have been presented otherwise."

Although the salon was successful in the sense that many different issues concerning the country were addressed, one thing it did not do was highlight the opinions of the presidential candidates themselves. While Mr. LaForest did attempt to steer the conversation toward specific claims that both Clinton, Trump or other candidates have expressed during their campaigns, students continued to talk about their own opinions on the matter. While this is not a bad thing, calling the talk a "presidential salon" would be far from an accurate representation of the meeting.

Loomis Chaffee Log

FOUNDED 1915

ABOUT

The Loomis Chaffee Log is Loomis Chaffee's official student newspaper. We can be found online at www.thelclog.org, 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.

ADVERTISING

Advertising rates can be found at www.thelclog.org/advertising. To advertise in the Log, please contact the Business Manager listed to the right.

Published by the Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor, CT.

JAMIE LEE '17 AND GLORIA YI '17 *Editors in Chief*
 JAMES DOAR '17 *Managing Editor* LILY LIU '17 *Web Content Editor*
 ANH NGUYEN '17 *Director of Design* ALEX GORDIENKO '17 *Web Director*

JESSICA HSIEH '08 *Faculty Advisor*

AKASH CHADALAVADA '18 AND MILTON LEE '18 *News Section*
 GRACE DUBAY '17 AND ALLEN PARK '18 *Features Section*
 RACHEL SHIN '17 AND KHANH TRAN '17 *Opinion Section*
 SAM GOLDFARB '18 AND LAUREN HINTON '18 *Sports Section*
 ROBERT LOTRECK '18 AND JEEWON SHIN '17 *Mélange Section*

KATIE LUNDER '19 *Web Manager*
 ANNIE CHANG '17 *Business Manager*
 RACHEL RAMENDA '18 AND JIA YU CHEUNG '18 *Social Media Managers*

STAFF WRITERS: Robert Wang '18, Nezir Alic '18, Siyeon Kim '17, Justin Grillo '17, and Justine Baird '17
 STAFF ARTISTS: Benben Singhasaneh '18, Claudia Liu '17, Julia Zabinska '18, and Charlotte Marcil '18

CONTRIBUTORS: Jocelyn Chen '19, Sharon Zhou '19, Angela Wang '20, Yuyang Zhang '18, Ivy Nguyen '18, Minna Gao '19, Ethan Levinbook '20, Louis Chen '18, Ben Rush '18, Rachel Burstein '17, Beatrice Dang '19, Rachel Walsh '17, Esther Wang '18, Sarah Gyurina '18, Cathy Hyeon '18, and Tracy Kuo '18

EDITORIAL: RENAMING MASON HALL

(Continued from the front page)

“By changing the name of Mason Hall, we as a school have not changed history; we’ve made history,” stated Taseen Anwar '17, president of the Student Council and a member of the Mason Committee. “I’m proud of our school for making this tough decision...By changing the name of Mason Hall, I believe we have finally washed away the blood of the Pequot War from the name of our school.”

Upon the announcement of the Trustee’s decision on November 3, students showed mixed reactions. The main criticism was that they, the student body, had felt largely left out of the discussion. While we commend the decision to rename Mason Hall, it is important to reflect on the procedure the proposal went through: whether students were fully informed of what they were signing (not just the actual name change, but the implications of it) and whether the proposal was debated sufficiently (if at all) within the student body. In the future, the petition process should be more rigorously examined to engage the wider student body, and petition procedures in the student council should be more clearly defined and transparent.

The Controversy

Juxtaposing a visit to Mason’s monument in Windsor with a stop by the dorm’s plaque has been long engrained in the World History curriculum. The field trip sparked the interest of Taseen Anwar '17, who revived the question of why the dorm was named after a figure who massacred 500 Pequots and enslaved the remaining 180 during the early colonial era.

The reason for the dorm’s name remains a mystery. The 1916 Student Handbook briefly mentions that West Dormitory will be named Mason Hall, after the historic figure of Windsor with no justification. The plaque currently outside the residential hall was placed in the 1980s, with added detail. Based on works from the early republic, Major John Mason was remembered as the pride of Windsor, the one who secured the land for the English settlers in the decisive and destructive Pequot War.

Though no genealogical records show that Major John Mason was related to the Founders of the Loomis Institute, he was indeed the namesake of Colonel John Mason Loomis, the youngest of the five Loomis siblings who founded the school. The first trustees after the Founders passed away were charged with the task of naming the first two dorms on the campus.

The Problematic Petition Process

Though the petition process raised awareness once more, it lacked thoroughness and requires re-evaluation.

Firstly, only one individual delivered the speech in favor of the name change in the fall of 2015 in class meetings across all four grades. Immediately after the delivery, the petition notebook was given to the audience. Half stirred by the speech and half conscious of others’ signing to petition the name change, most students automatically signed their names without consciously being aware of the implications their signatures had.

Secondly, the major disconnection between this strong representative voice and individual student stances was disconcerting. Upon discussing the Mason proposal, the administration based their final decision on the entire student body’s opposition to the naming of Mason Hall, as it highlights in its statement, “Today, many members of the Loomis community find the Mason name out of keeping with our values as a school and, in particular, with our desire to be a welcoming community for all students from all backgrounds. It was this discomfort that weighed most heavily on the

Trustees.” However, if the opinion represented in the petition does not actually represent the voice of the entire student body, the final decision could be very problematic. In fact, the lack of sufficient debate and discussion about this proposal within the student body led us to question whether this proposal represents the opinion of the majority of the student. For instance, at the open dialogue hosted by the Norton Center of Common Good in January, 2016, only sixteen students and five faculty members attended. The strikingly low attendance and publicity of dialogue, and the fact that this event was the only formal student discussion about the Mason Hall proposal, all indicate the insufficiency of debate.

Thirdly, the Student Council and administration did little to supplement the student body’s knowledge of the issue. Once the petition garnered around 300 signatures from the 675 students on campus, the decision to change the name was quickly passed through the Student Council and passed to the trustees. With the exception of that one dialogue held on a Wednesday evening, neither the Student Council nor the Administration provided sufficient opportunities for discussion amongst the students. StuCo did not sponsor any debates, nor did they hold town hall assemblies as they had with the Junior Internet proposal or the Veracross proposal in 2014-2015.

However, the lack of research was compensated for by the Mason Committee, a body comprised of 12 Loomis Chaffee community members, six students and six faculty members (*Editor’s Note: Gloria Yi, one of the authors of this editorial, was a member of the Mason Committee.*) The committee convened last spring to capture the “historical, historiographical, and organizational nuances of this story” and to be a resource to the Board of Trustees. Their mission was purely informational; there was no endorsement for future actions. The committee presented their final report to the Board of Trustees on May 12, 2016. However, the transparency of the committee comes into question. Despite meaningful discussions within the committee, the Mason Committee did not reach out to the community, save for one report written to the Board of Trustees.

Considering that the student body did not have the benefit of reading the report before signing the petition, it is safe to say a majority of the petitioners were not well-informed.

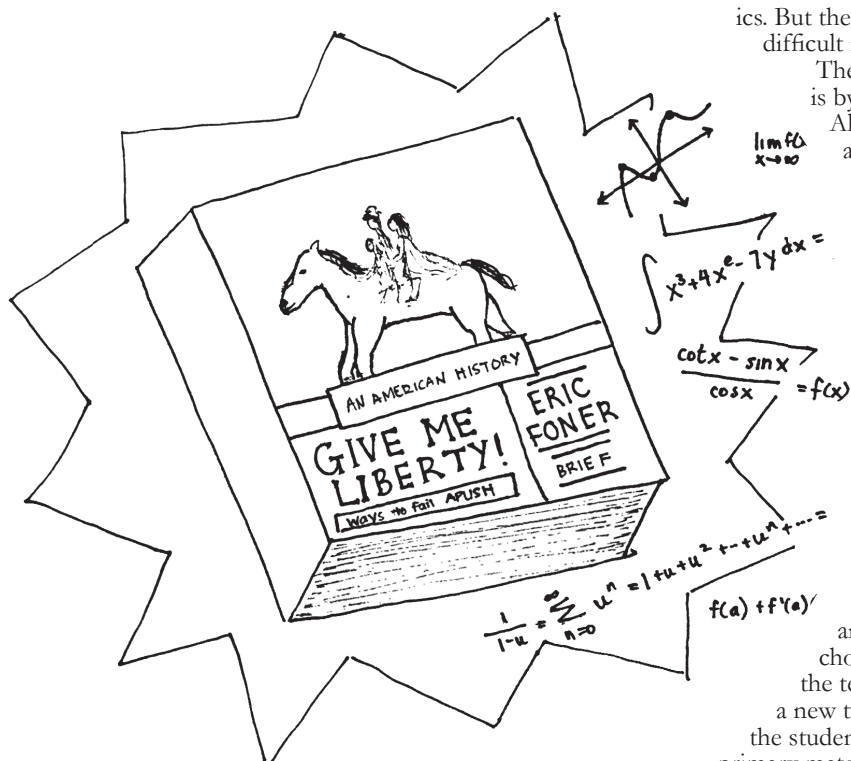
What Now?

In retrospect, despite the goodwill behind Mason proposal, the process that propelled the petition forward failed to fully engage the student body and facilitate sufficient debate. The name change is set now; however, it is crucial that future student initiatives of this much importance be formally presented to the entire student body and closely examined through debate and dialogues. Student Council should host a town assembly for the entire school after presenting a well-researched proposal. Student speeches could be made in favor of or in opposition to possible names and a democratic vote could be taken through the portal to avoid on-the-spot pressure. It is the responsibility of StuCo representatives to involve their constituents actively in these discussions to ensure they are able to take a stance after learning about both sides of the argument. Only then can a petition be put in place.

We hope that the process of replacing the dorm name will be more transparent to the student body and will include more student contributions, not just from a few individuals but from a group of students who carry the well-informed thoughts of the entire student body with their vote. After all, Loomis Chaffee is a school that strives for the common good; future deliberations on the renaming of Mason Hall should reflect a common decision.

WHAT ARE THE HARDEST CLASSES?

Minna Gao '19 | Contributor



Cathy Hyeon '18 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

Loomis Chaffee proudly hosts an extensive selection of classes, ranging from Linear Algebra to Ceram-

ics. But the question of which class is the most difficult remains unanswered. The consensus seems to be that AP Physics is by far one of the most challenging classes. Almost all students taking AP Physics agree that it is their hardest class. "It's hard to conceptualize," commented junior Leonie Kurzlechner, "And it's physics plus calculus, so it's even harder." Leonie's view is also shared by junior Nezir Alic. "Not only is it hard to grasp the idea, it's hard to apply the concepts. You have to be creative about it," he said. AP U.S. History is also a class that is right up there along with AP Physics in terms of difficulty. APUSH is a rewarding and an eye-opening class as it talks about U.S. History from different perspectives, but it's known for its fast pace and tremendous workload, and the tests are hard to prepare for. The tests are traditionally composed of multiple choice questions and short answers, but the test format was redesigned recently, and a new type of question was added, one where the students are given a stimulus passage (usually primary materials and articles) and have to answer accordingly. "There's just a lot of information, so you have to know what is important and what's necessary and tie them back to themes," commented junior Anna Essick. "You're not just learning facts; you are learning ideas." Multivariable Calculus is another difficult course that challenges many upperclassmen. As one of the highest level math courses in Loomis, it is unsurprising that it should

appear on the list. For most students, the hardest aspect of the class is the fact that it is calculus in 3D, which makes it exceptionally hard for them to wrap their head around it. "It's hard to keep up in class," commented junior Cathy Hyeon. Senior Yuri Kovshov also expressed that "the tests are disheartening, but the teacher curves the grades to compensate for hard tests. So students can actually end up getting okay grades." So there we have it; for many students AP Physics, AP U.S. History, and Multivariable Calculus seem to be among the most challenging classes, but the bigger question here is how students manage to conquer those challenges. Is there one essential piece of advice for studying that effectively deals with all the aforementioned classes? Yuri advises that in order to be successful in challenging classes, students need to know themselves, more specifically what types of learners they are: kinesthetic learners, who learn through active practices; auditory learners, who learn best through hearing and speaking; or visual learners, who are experts at visualizing concepts and often have a good memory. All students already have an idea of what type of learner they are through years of formal schooling. If so, utilize techniques that work best for you! For kinesthetic learners, implement difficult concepts in practice problems and actively seek out answers through trying things out! For visual learners, make flashcards, draw graphs or tables to help with connecting ideas and understanding sequence of events! For auditory learners, recite definitions to yourself, discuss puzzling concepts and questions with peers, and revise concepts through teaching them to others. These classes are, despite popular dispute, within humans' intellectual capabilities, so with substantial effort and hard work, everyone can conquer these "fearsome" classes. With that in mind, Pelicans, buckle up, study hard, and overcome those challenges.

(OBLIGATORY) FRESHMAN SERVICE DAY

CAN A MANDATORY COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY HAVE MEANING?

Ethan Levinbook '20 | Contributor



BenBen Singhasaneh '18 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

On Wednesday, October 19, while many students took the PSATs and worked on college applications, the freshman class participated in Community Service Day. This was a great opportunity for freshmen to give back and to learn more about the local community. It enabled the students to bond with one another and develop new relationships built upon the common goal of making a difference in others' lives. Additionally, community service day offered students the opportunity to put to good use those ideas discussed in Freshman Seminar:

altruism, charity, goodwill, selflessness, and moral courage. That morning, students were assigned to various groups based on Freshman Seminar classes. A number of service projects centered around the beautification of Windsor and the Loomis Chaffee Campus. Some students were given the opportunity to spend the morning raking leaves in Northwest Park, while others remained on campus clearing weeds with the agriculture program. In addition, a number of freshmen traveled to Pine Mountain and the Riverfront Recapture to provide their services for the morning. Students also engaged in service projects that strengthened their connection with the local community. For example, some students took part in arts and crafts activities with elderly residents at the Windsor Senior Center or Caring Connection, Windsor's adult day center. Other service projects included visits to the Oliver Ellsworth School and the Windsor Public Library. There, Loomis Chaffee students read to children and organized books. Finally, those enrolled in Mr. Elliot Beck's Freshman Seminar class visited Windsor's Cat Connection where students groomed, fed, and played with many different breeds of cat. There were certainly many positive aspects of this community service experience. However, some students took issue with what appeared to be the random assignment of each Freshman Seminar class to a particular community service project. It seems certain that many did not have the opportunity to participate in a community service project that they had a personal interest or connection to. For example, those who are passionate about nature may have been assigned to spend the day in the Windsor Public

Library. Furthermore, those who enjoy caring for animals may have been assigned to participate in agriculture activity for the morning. Lacking the choice to participate in their preferred activity, many students failed to feel a personal connection to their service projects. Others mentioned disappointment with the types of community service projects that were offered. Those students who remained on campus for the day felt that they had already given back to the school through their work jobs. Specifically, these students mentioned that they would have preferred to participate in a service project that benefitted the surrounding community and those in need. And although the goal of community service day is to demonstrate the virtues of altruism and philanthropy, these students mentioned that their experience felt more like an obligatory work job, rather than an opportunity to express their appreciation for the community. Overall, Community Service Day was a big success and a meaningful experience. Many students made a great impact on the local community while also lending a hand on campus. However, I believe that in order to make the most of future Freshman community service days, it may be helpful to give students the opportunity to choose the service project that is of greatest interest to them. I find that individuals are greatly motivated when they feel a particular connection to a community service project. Additionally, I believe it would be beneficial to extend the projects away from campus to enable all freshmen to make their mark on the community. These changes will likely make Community Service Day even more enjoyable and worthwhile for all.

AMERICA'S NEWEST REALITY SHOW

Louis Chen '18 | Contributor

For the past several months, American and the rest of the world have had front row seats to America's newest reality show- the 2016 Presidential Election. While every election has some sort drama with past secrets being revealed and the candidates acting passive-aggressive with each other, the impending election has turned into an elementary school brawl. The presidential election has devolved into a reality show. Undeniably, one the main reasons for this election's chaos is Donald Trump. Trump conducts his campaign like how he managed his former reality show The Apprentice; his campaign is filled with insults and barely focused on facts. Trump has called Mexicans murderers and rapists, proposed banning Muslims from entering the country, and has indirectly advocated for sexual assault. Similar to most reality show stars, Trump has no sense of shame for his



ELECTION REALITY (TV)

Charlotte Marcil '18 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

actions and comments. The media has also had a hand in this election. The presidential debates are moderated by news reporters such as NBC's Lester Holt, CNN's Anderson Cooper, and Fox's Chris Wallace. The broadcasting of these debates quickly turns the debate into a contest of who can get the last word or who can say the wittiest comment. In addition, social media's constant coverage further amplifies the atmosphere of a reality show. The election should not be considered as a source of entertainment; it should be a respected and honored symbol of America's democracy. Treating the election as a TV shows diverts the focus of the election from deeper issues and policies.

S

CROSS COUNTRY IS NOT DEATH

Rachel Burstein '17 | Contributor



Cathy Hyeon '18 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

Whenever I mention running, 99.999% of the time people will grimace dramatically, and then most likely terminate our friendship. They reject running even before I've asked them to take a run with me. To a lot of people, running implies hours of sweat, discomfort, and obviously death (I've never run more than eight miles, so I can't speak on behalf of marathoners). Thankfully for all of the future cross country runners, spectators, and skeptics, I'm here to dismiss most of your common fears and preconceptions; hopefully, I can bring some of my own positive insight from more than three years of running girls LCXC.

First, I shall run through the technicalities. Contrary to popular belief, cross country is more than simply organized running. While we follow a training schedule, each day is not pure misery intended to break our wills to live. With meets each Saturday, cross country runners train five days, race one day, and rest one day. Between distance runs, easy runs, and hard workouts, we run about 15-30 miles per week. Although I often complain, I cannot imagine myself participating in any other sport. Each hard workout is really a reward in itself; you can't feel that kind of self-appreciation until you've run up six "big mama" hills, consecutively. Ask any XC'er and she or he will inform you of the hill's magnitude. As for distance and easy runs, many of us utilize these runs to rant, to laugh, and to have surprisingly deep conversations. Though strenuous, training gives otherwise lazy teenagers (like me) the ability to run great distances with great friends.

Like other teams, our bus rides are full of nervous conversation, singing, and sleeping, but our "games" do not compare to those of any other sport. Each course we run is about a 5k, or 3.1 miles. For girls on our own team, the time we spend running this distance is between 19 and 35 minutes. From gathered intel, girls spend this time reciting Mrs. Purdy's famous mantras, singing one song over and over again in their head, counting footsteps until 3,000 and then starting over again, and utilizing literally every other distracting device that has ever existed. During meets, I am met with my worst fear, the fear of competition. However, each meet, to my own surprise, I can barely contain my excitement for the race to come. Running with a

pack (2-5 girls of similar pace), passing other girls, beating a PR...these are just a few moments that bring cross country runners so much happiness. And, as an added bonus, I get the unequivocal luxury of wearing my bright, colorful spike that make me feel light, fast, and capable.

Clearly, cross country is a lot of relative reward; we work hard, but the gains are tremendous. With each cramp, stitch, ache, and pain, comes badge of honor, rewarding us for our fearlessness and perseverance in the face of dread and discomfort. Of course, not all races are a beautiful story of triumph and glory; there unavoidably will be races that remain out of our control. Whether it's something we ate, a lingering injury, or just an "off" day, a bad race is greeted with first disappointment but later acceptance. While you will see that most cross country runners can recount their "bad" races in bitter detail, we also recognize that our bad races make our good races that much better.

Another unique thing that XC offers is our food. Other than perhaps the football team, I doubt the existence of another team on campus that eats as much as we do. After every meet, we naturally expect the day student parents to shower us with cookies, apples, and, if we're lucky, Bill Pieroni's macaroons from Whole Foods. In order to run the distances we run at such a high caliber, we absolutely need a healthily excessive amount of food. So, not to name any names, the small girl walking past you with two plates of spaghetti, three brownies, four apples and a cup of chocolate milk is, of course, a member of XC.

I'll leave you future cross country runners with one last take away, and one of my favorite things about cross country: my team. Since we go through such difficult training together, I think that all cross country runners have an indestructible bond, a sisterhood. Whether on varsity, JV, or the injured squad (of course it's a thing, this is cross country), an XC runner cannot deny the camaraderie. We might be the thieves of each other's watches, hair ties, and food, but we're also each other's source of encouragement, support, positivity when it comes to challenging courses. With the little breath we have during races, a simple, "nice *GASP* job," can mean the world. And yes, of COURSE you can join next year, for the trail's capacity will never be filled.

TRAGEDY IN THE TRACK WORLD

Ben Rush '18 | Contributor



AP Photo / John Minchillo

Olympic sprinter Tyson Gay's daughter Trinity was shot and killed early in the morning on October 16th. The shooting took place near a restaurant in Lexington, Kentucky at 4 am, where two men in cars opened fire on each other. Trinity wasn't a passenger in either car, but was hit in the neck by a stray bullet. The police brought her to University of Kentucky Hospital, where she died later that morning.

Tyson Gay is a world-renowned Olympic track star who is the second fastest man to ever run the 100-meter dash, falling short to Usain Bolt. He won gold medals in the 100-meter, 200-meter, and 4x100-meter races at the 2007 world championships in Osaka, Japan. However, Gay had to return his 4x100-meter silver medal at the 2012 London Games after testing positive for steroids.

Like her father, Trinity was aiming to become a track star, being one of the best sprinters in the state of Kentucky. She attended Lafayette High School in Lexington, the same high school as her father, and was the best runner on the team. She finished third in the 100-meter and fourth in the 200-meter at the state class 3A track meet in May. The two shared a passion for Track brought the two very close together, with Tyson saying "It was pretty amazing to watch her run and compete and still keep her spirits up high when she didn't win."

After the death of Trinity, condolences poured out from the community. Trinity's high school released a statement saying "Our hearts are broken this morning over the loss of Trinity to this tragic and senseless act of violence. Please join us in keeping the Gay family close in thought and prayer and supporting the students, staff and families at Lafayette High during this unspeakably difficult time." Additionally, the high school brought in special grief counselors to help the students and faculty through the difficult time. Many celebrities shared their condolences on Twitter, including Jamaican sprinter Asafa Powell, who wrote "Bro want to send my condolences... can't even imagine what you must be going thru."

As of today, three men, including a father and a son, have been arrested and charged in the fatal shooting. Chazarae and D'markeo Taylor were apprehended hours after the shooting and charged with wanton endangerment. The third man, Dvonta Middlebrooks, was later charged with wanton endangerment along with the possession of a firearm that belonged to a convicted felon that is connected to the case.

From everyone in the Loomis Chaffee community, our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Trinity Gay.

IS PLAYING AT HOME TRULY AN ADVANTAGE?

Beatrice Dang '19 | Contributor

In the fall of 2014, Loomis Chaffee's varsity boys' soccer team boasted an undefeated season. Their victories would carry them all the way to the New England Quarterfinals, where they would face rival, NMH. In a nail-biting match, NMH departed from our very own Meadows triumphant in a 3-2 win. Just weeks earlier we had defeated them 1-0 on their home turf. So could this match really have supported a censure against advantage on the home pitch? Maybe it was just a chilly day in the Meadows, a bit too much goose dung, or another senile referee. But considering previous and future seasons, there's a trend. In their 2013 season, only 45% of boys' varsity soccer games were at home, and 100% of their losses. Looking at our current season, 5 out of 9 of our wins and 2 out of 3 of

our losses have been at home, a slimmer margin, though less games have been played. There's always the argument that we've won three times the amount of games we've lost, but when we do lose, it tends to be at home. Maybe it's the escalated pressure of playing in front of our own parents and classmates, the pressure that comes with the belief in home advantage. Even the dreaded "12th man" could be to blame. But shouldn't it assuage the nerves, having to perform on that same field on which you've been practicing?

Looking back at 2014, the New England Quarterfinals wasn't the only eminent soccer event of the year. The 2014 FIFA World Cup, in Brazil, was a metropolis for historical soccer matches. One of the most memorable being the semifinal match between Germany and Brazil, in which

Germany defeated Brazil with a score of 7-1, a disgrace to the tournament's host. In such a devastating loss, sweat and tears would be shed by the Brazilian nation. But for every devastating loss, there's an exhilarating victory. Two years later, in the 2016 Rio Olympics, Brazil found modest redemption in a too-close-for-comfort match, defeating Germany in 5-4 penalty shootout. So can it truly be argued that the ultimate advantage is the home advantage? Or does circumstance always favor the better team? Does field location even matter? Perhaps the idea of the "12th man" is an illusion, simply constructed to instill a sense of confidence in the home team. Undoubtedly, sports will perpetually belie the expected, home advantage or not.

LC VARSITY FOOTBALL:

Sam Goldfarb '18 | Sports Editor

ONE STEP AT A TIME



Sam Goldfarb '18 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

As kickoff approaches, the entire Loomis Chaffee Varsity Football team organizes itself into one giant group. The Pelicans are moments away from a Founders Day matchup against Andover, and every player screams at top volume in order to fire up those in attendance.

Loomis, playing in front of a very loud and proud fan base, grinds out a 20-10 home victory in its first league game. More than a month later, the Pelicans (5-3 overall) remain undefeated in league play. After Saturday's 31-28 win over Worcester Academy, LC is one of two teams with a 4-0 Founders League record. The other undefeated unit is Choate, a perennial state superpower riding a 27-game win streak.

One factor in the Pelicans' success has been their effective preparation for games. Head Coach Chuck Reid believes that the players' hard work leading up to the season has played a large role in the team's road comebacks against Kinkaid and Deerfield. "The ability to come back, that's based in the toughness in the team," says Coach Reid. "What we go through in the preseason, mentally and physically, that prepares [the players] to handle adverse situations." Postgraduate quarterback Will Bellamy also understands the importance of readiness, revealing that he "spends a great deal of time studying [opposing] defenses by watching film."

Loomis' roster also boasts many individually skilled players. Bellamy, who starts at QB for the Pelicans, has had a strong season thus far, finding open receivers and deliv-

ering accurate passes. Meanwhile, in LC's seven-man backfield, PGs Carlos Garcia and Andre Brackett have formed a dynamic duo. Brackett is more of a finesse back, accelerating at a rapid pace in order to outrun defenders and changing direction in order to juke defenders out of their shoes. Garcia, on the other hand, is a power back with the ability to shrug off tacklers and plow over defenders. The Pelicans also possess a very dangerous group of receivers, with senior Patrick Craig, PG Blais Herman, junior Brenner De Souza, senior Skip Scott, and many others wreaking havoc on opposing secondaries.

The Pelicans' defense and special teams units have performed very well throughout the season. One noticeable success that has occurred on special teams is LC's new kicking unit. Junior kicker Andrew Schreiberstein has been remarkable, making almost every field goal and extra point attempt in his first season of high school football. The former soccer player has also excelled at kickoffs, pinning opponents deep in their own territory. Meanwhile, on the defensive side of the football, the Pelicans have been relatively stingy, keeping the team competitive in multiple close games and forcing opponents to work tirelessly for points. "On the defensive side of the ball, we are all about toughness," claims sophomore outside linebacker Tyler Delgado. "We practice hard and are we are always mentally sound."

The final major factor of the LC Football team's success is the players' support from fans and teammates.

Junior lineman Deuce Ford believes that when the team receives large support from fans, he possesses an even greater desire to win a game. When focusing on Loomis' great away support at Kinkaid and Deerfield, Ford states that he "didn't want to let the people cheering for [him] down." The players also receive encouragement from their fellow teammates. "During a game, my teammates are always my biggest fans," Schreiberstein comments. "When Coach calls either a field goal or extra point, I always hear words of encouragement and my name being yelled from the sideline.

Due to this success, many LC Football fans are excited by the prospect of a bowl appearance. Many players cite this accomplishment as their goal for the end of the season. "While the Loomis football program has never been to a bowl game, this team has thrived on being the first in history to do so," Bellamy claims.

However, the team still has to overcome one major test. On November 12, the Pelicans will take on Suffield Academy at home (6:30 PM). Both LC and the Tigers have identical league records, and the result of this matchup could impact both teams' bowl hopes. Despite the challenge the team faces, Loomis' coaching staff and players possess a beneficial, in-the-moment mindset, and this unit definitely does not appear distracted by any non-guaranteed, postseason matchups. "It's not about the future; it's about the present," Coach Reid explains. "Our future is determined one week at a time."

THE CREAM OF THE CROP: THE NFL'S TWO BEST TEAMS

Justin Grillo '17 | Staff Writer

With Week 8 coming to a close, naming the best team in the NFL has become extremely difficult as well as debatable. Personally, as a New York Jets fan my bias doesn't come into much play in this particular sports piece of The Log. In 2015 at the conclusion of Week 8, it was undeniably clear that the unbeaten Carolina Panthers and the New England Patriots were the NFL's best teams. In 2016, at the conclusion of Week 8, the league contains no unbeaten teams, making it extremely difficult to name the best unit. However, teams that deserve honorable mentions into the category of 'Best Team Currently in the NFL', include: the New England Patriots and the Dallas Cowboys.

Even as a New York Jets fan, it's hard not to applaud the New England Patriots' franchise. Heading into Week 8 with six wins and one loss, they faced a depleted Buffalo Bills team without their star running back LeSean McCoy. The Pats obliterated their AFC East rival, 41-25. The Patriots have been firing on all cylinders offensively with the return of Tom Brady. Brady has only only played in 4 games so far this season has an amazing completion percentage of 73.1% for a total of 1,319 passing yards. Thus far, the Patriots quarterback has 12 touchdown passes without throwing a single interception. Brady has also been the league's best at converting on third down, as the Patriots' offense has moved the chains 55.8 percent of the time in this scenario. Along with the addition of Tom Brady, Rob Gronkowski has returned from injury and has provided well for the Pats offense, recording 22 receptions for 484 yards and 3 touchdowns in 6 games played. LeGarrette Blount, who has seen exponential growth this season, also has played a large role in the Patriots' offense this season, recording 9 touchdowns heading into week 9, and running for a total of 609 yards. This unique offense

is a force to be reckoned with considering its prowess in both the pass and run game. On the opposite side of the ball, the New England Patriots' defense currently ranks 3rd overall in the league in points allowed per game. The defense of the Patriots has not been flashy or game changing; however, they get the job done and find ways to provide the offense with phenomenal field position.

As the New England Patriots have topped the AFC East, the Dallas Cowboys maintain control of the NFC East with six wins and one loss. This year's Dallas Cowboys have shocked a lot of people with multiple rookies playing large roles. With early injuries to quarterback Tony Romo and wide receiver Dez Bryant, it seemed as though the Cowboys would be unable to compete against the league's top teams. However, the Cowboys responded with a 5 straight victories after losing a week one game against the New York Giants, an NFC East rival. Dak Prescott has proved to be more than a 4th round draft pick, completing 144 passes for 1,773 yards, 9 touchdowns, and only 2 interceptions. Additionally, the rookie first round pick Ezekiel Elliot has taken the Cowboys run offense to the top of the league with a total of 799 yards, and 5 touchdowns. Overall, the Cowboys have proved to be an elite team through week 8, and with Dez Bryant returning Dak currently has a tier 1 receiver to throw the ball to as well as the league's best running back in the backfield. Keep an eye out for this Cowboys offense because they are dynamic, young, and fun to watch.

As a fantasy football team owner I can personally tell you that these two teams who top the league right now contain some of the best players in the NFL. Playing them against them week in and week out and screaming at my phone when Ezekiel Elliot runs for 100+ yards and 2 touchdowns, or when Rob Gronkowski catches 10 passes for 100+ yard and a touchdown is painful from a fantasy football perspective. From the Cowboys' rookie quarterback, to the Pats' consistent running back, both teams possess high level, fun to watch players and I really hope we see these two in February. Currently, my quick prediction on a matchup between these two top teams would be a New England Patriots victory. The current form of these two teams would undoubtedly result in an exciting finish. However, due to the fact that Tom Brady remains on the Patriots' roster, I expect the Vince Lombardi Trophy to return to Foxborough this winter.

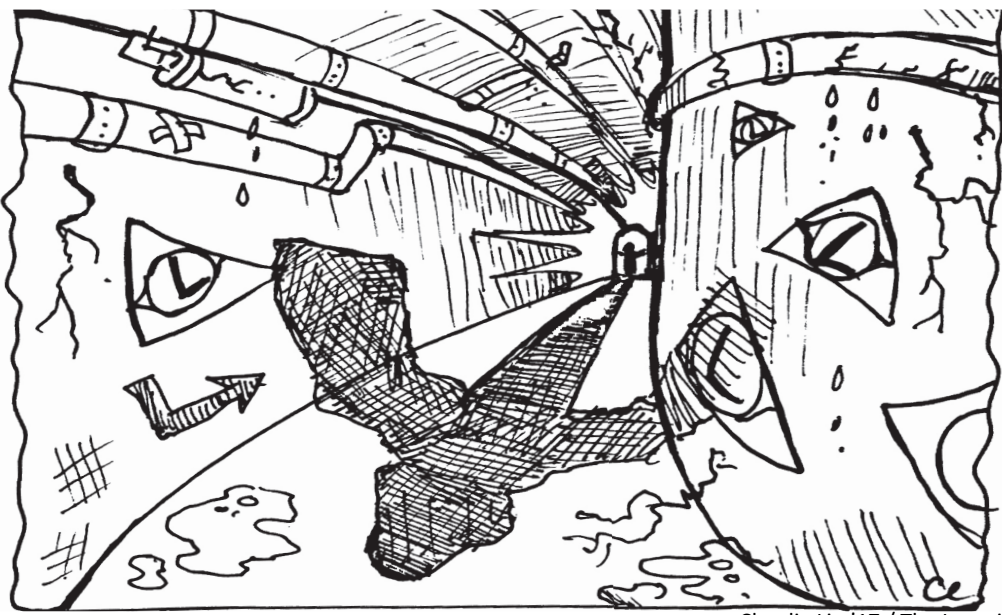


AP Photo / Mark Tenally

M

ILLOOMINATI CONFIRMED? (SATIRE)

Rachel Walsh '17 | Contributor



Claudia Liu '17 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

One of the most intriguing aspects of Loomis is the tunnels. We all know they're there, beneath every dorm, with the entrance in the basement. There are the rumors that ghosts roam up and down the long hallways, searching for a new home now that the old Health Center is no more. Apparently people got trapped in there once. But that could just be another rumor. One time, while storing stuff in the Mason basement, I asked Mrs. Caligiuri about one of the doors down there, wondering if it was the tunnel's entrance and joking about going in. She looked startled and quickly rejected my joke, which peaked my suspicion. I had always been told, ever since freshman year, that the tunnels were built as bunkers for the impending nuclear war. This seemed extremely plausible to freshman, day student me, but then, junior year, I realized that Loomis was built a few decades before nuclear war was a threat. Also, they extended the tunnels when building Cutler back in 2014, and, God, I hope there was no threat of nuclear war then. Then, the explanation was that we could hide in the tunnels during a tornado or some other weather emergency. But what was the likelihood a tornado of that magnitude would hit Windsor? I have no idea, but let's go with unlikely. So, what are these tunnels for?

You may have heard of the Illuminati, a group that just kinda fixes reality to a certain outcome. Well, here, at Loomis, in the tunnels, we have the Illoominati. Yep. This is a fact. Feel free to fact check. The Illoominati is the coalition of faculty, staff, and one student who meet every second Tuesday of the month at 12:21 AM in the tunnels. Think ominous hooded-figures. At the head of this crew is none other than Dr. Culbert. All dorm heads are positioned as gatekeepers, in fact, dorm heads are chosen based on how much they're trusted to protect the entrances at all costs. Faculty and staff receive invites to the meetings through their coincidentally, Loomis-supplied FitBits, and board members, subordinate to Dr. Culbert, occasionally show up at the meetings when they're invited back for a "meeting" or a "trustees brunch". That one student in the Illoominati is chosen by Dr. Culbert herself. No other student could ever guess who it is because they're so carefully chosen on account of their intelligence, stealth, and social ties. It may be safe to assume it's

the same person hiding in the pelican costume. But have you ever notice how some kids just don't come back one school year? The Illoominati can only trust one person for so long, and they must remove the previous Student to prohibit any information getting out.

So what does the Illoominati fix? Actually, what doesn't the Illoominati fix? Ever tried out for a sport and gotten cut from Varsity or the sport itself? Illoominati. What about the play or the musical? Ever gotten the "thanks for auditioning, but we're sorry we don't have room for you email?" Illoominati. Ever seen Mr. Lawrence absolutely insist spring term ceramics is full and cannot possibly fit another person? Illoominati. The Illoominati creates students' futures for them by steering them away from the wrong things. During those early morning/late night meetings, the group discusses ways to manipulate students into pursuing what they deem their "destiny." Also, whenever the moon is full, the teachers make a pact to give tests, papers, and projects all do on the same day. This is known as the "November 1st Pact."

The Illoominati's ways, although a little disturbing sounding, has actually proved to work quite well. It has steered every student a certain direction since 1914. Jason Wu (Michelle Obama's go-to dress designer) was pushed into art exemptions and AP Art. It was just "too bad" that he got cut from nearly every sport he tried out for and that cardio was full. He would just have to do an art exemption instead. "Sorry, Jason, but the only art class available for you to take is AP Art!" Coincidence? I THINK NOT.

All that being said, the Illoominati could just be yet another rumor. Maybe the tunnels really do serve as shelter for one of those seasonal, Windsor tornadoes, or maybe nuclear war remains a threat that's extremely lacking media coverage. Or maybe there's just some water pipes down there and the tunnels act as place for the water to safely remain when the pipes inevitably burst. On the other hand, just because we don't see the Illoominati doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Not all rumors are false. Kanye said Taylor Swift let him use her name in "Famous" and we didn't believe that rumor, but Kim proved it! For this conspiracy to become truth, we need our hero—our Kim—to confirm the speculation of the tunnels.

WELCOME, NEWBIES!

Justine Baird '17 | Staff Writer



Claudia Liu '17 / The Loomis Chaffee Log

Every year on the first day of classes, it seems like I see more faces on campus I do not recognize than faces I do recognize. As a proud four-year senior, I am not fond of the disruption that comes with a new school year: confused students and faculty alike trying to figure out how Loomis really works. I finally got used to every face on campus the year before, and now, I have a whole new group to get to know. But, despite the disruptive nature of the arrival of new students, I do consistently enjoy meeting the new faces on campus.

New students remind us weathered pelicans that we have something to be excited about. The Island, filled with an wide array of stress and happiness, really is an incredible place to live, learn, and frankly, grow up. We have incredible faculty watching out for us and unique peers living with us, but often, we tend to forget how lucky we are. Even though new students quickly join in on the campus-wide complaints and struggles, their initial excitement and fervor for all things Loomis highlight memories of the opportunities that awaited us all those years ago. Freshmen, new sophomores, new juniors, and PGs all come to Loomis in awe of what we have to offer and hopefully aware of how lucky they are to finally be here. They get excited that pizza is offered every day, they admire the beauty of the Meadows, and they love the look of the Upperclassmen quad. Every year, new people remind me to be grateful for what we already have. This remote place with relatively boring weekends and endless amounts of homework is also a place of amazing relationships and inspiring people. The returners have forgotten it and the newcomers quickly forget as well, but, for that slight period of time at the beginning, the appreciation and consuming love for Loomis shines clearly.

However, the freshmen peppiness can become annoying. To us seniors, bogged down by the stress of college and senior fall grades, the endless amounts of loud screams and dabbing coming from the freshmen class are extremely irritating. But, after having time to get to know some freshmen, I realized their innocence and excitement to be in high school is adorable. They know so little about what is to come: Senior Kiss Day, Springfest, Boys Hockey games and much more. So, I urge all returners to appreciate anyone new and try to get to know them personally. Only with your help will they survive their Loomis Chaffee career, and only with their help will you come to understand how lucky you are to be on the Island.

Sarah Gyurina '18 | Contributor

Charlotte Marciel '18 | Staff Artist

L.O.G. RHYTHMS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Cute
- D.R.A.M. | 7. Fall in Love
- GoldLink |
| 2. Fake Love
- Drake | 8. TOGETHER
- KAYTRANADA |
| 3. Let Me Explain
- Bryson Tiller | 9. utopia
- Austra |
| 4. Luv (Remix)
- Tory Lanez | 10. Theoretical Girls
- Star Parks |
| 5. Onlu U
- Partynextdoor | 11. Cranes in the Sky
- Solange |
| 6. Wild Ting
- 11:11 | 12. Shut Up Kiss Me
- Anael Olsen |

GET TO KNOW ME: THE NORTH AMERICAN LEAST SHREW

Esther Wang '18 | Columnist

Growing to only three inches in size, I am one of the world's smallest mammals; however, I've got a fierce bite. The venom in my saliva can cause pain and swelling for anything I sink my teeth into. I wear an outer coat of grayish-brown or reddish-brown with a belly of black or white fur. Reaching a length of about 0.5 to 0.75 inches, my tail is extremely small. I can even help humans exterminate pests by constantly snacking on scrumptious insects. My favorite foods include beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, crickets, and even snails and slugs. Due to my high metabolism, I need to eat my own weight, around 0.14 to 0.25 ounces, in food each day. As a very social animal, I enjoy sharing my burrow and food with fellow friends. My biggest enemies are owls, hawks, raccoons and

snakes, who easily prey on me. Unfortunately, even if I avoid these predators, I can only live for about two years. My species is often found in meadows, pastures, and open grassy fields in Michigan, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Sadly, decline in cropland and the use of pesticides have limited living space, causing a decline of our population. But don't worry! You can help us by supporting programs in Connecticut that restore and protect coastal dunes and marshes.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ME AND OTHER
ENDANGERED ANIMALS IN CONNECTICUT,
PLEASE VISIT:

WILDANIMALCONSERVATION.WORDPRESS.COM.



Anh Nguyen '17 / The Loomis Chaffee Log