

# Loomis Chaffee Log

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## THE ISLAND REACTS TO TRUMP'S FIRST 100 DAYS

The last couple of weeks following the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump have been exceptional. The students of Loomis Chaffee have advocated for values pertinent to Loomis, such as not discriminating individuals based on religion, gender, race, ability, but rather respecting the diversity and individuality that make the Island unique.

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Chau-Anh Nguyen '17 for the Loomis Chaffee Log

## WOMEN'S MARCH ON D.C

Minna Gao '19 | Staff Writer

On January 21, 2017, the day after the inauguration, half a million people gathered at the Independence Avenue in Washington, D.C. to witness a historical movement, the Women's March on Washington. They marched, they performed, and they waved their signs with fierce pride all for the same cause – equality.

This march that 5 million people in over 80 countries spanning all 7 continents participated in started as a Facebook event created by retired lawyer Teresa Shook in response to President Trump's political views and policies. Soon after, many others responded to her call for united expression and started similar groups. The movement snowballed to a massive scale, with marches of sizes ranging from 36 people in small towns to hundreds of thousands of people in major cities. The news of the impact even reached Antarctica, where an expedition group "marched" on a boat.

### What Was This March Really About?

Feminism, you might be inclined to answer. To be more specific, gender equality, or a response to President Trump's controversial remarks and policies concerning

women. But it's much more than that. Over forty speakers from all different walks of life were invited to give a speech and each addressed a wide variety of issues ranging from education, racism, religious discrimination, environmental protection, healthcare, and workers' rights. As civil rights activist Angela Davis puts it, "[it] is a women's march and this women's march represents the promise of feminism as against the pernicious powers of state violence. And inclusive and intersectional feminism that calls upon all of us to join the resistance to racism, to Islamophobia, to anti-Semitism, to misogyny, to capitalist exploitation." The organizers of the event also stated that the march is "for any person, regardless of gender or gender identity, who believes women's rights are human rights."

"A women's march is a march about the environment, is a march about LGBT rights, is a march about education, is a march about BlackLivesMatter," agreed Erika Herman '17, who marched in D.C. with her sister, Elizabeth Herman '17.

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## GREEN CUP CHALLENGE

Rosie Park '18 | Staff Writer

The Green Cup Challenge is an interscholastic energy conservation competition sponsored by the Green Schools Alliance; the school with the largest percent reduction in overall energy consumption wins the challenge. The GCC began in 2003 at Phillips Exeter Academy as a campus-wide competition designed to promote energy conservation. After saving thousands of dollars in utility costs, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and educating the community about the importance of energy conservation in this initial competition, the event began to grow to encompass schools throughout the region and the country.

At Loomis Chaffee, the Green Cup Challenge, organized by the Environmental Proctors, has been an annual event for more than a decade, pitting us against schools such as Choate, Avon Old Farms, Deerfield, and Andover. The influence of this competition has steadily grown within the student body each year since its implementation, with tremendous effort being devoted to this year's challenge, which ran from January 18 to February 15.

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## FEBRUARY EDITORS' PICKS

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# GOING GREEN

## GREEN CUP CHALLENGE 2017

Rosie Park '18 | Staff Writer

(Continued from front page)

The goal of the Green Cup Challenge is to lower as much of the school's electricity usage as possible without resorting to drastic and unsustainable measures; for the past decade, it has served as an important school-wide event for a multitude of reasons. In perhaps the more obvious way, reduction of electrical consumption is one way to reduce Loomis Chaffee's carbon footprint, one way for us to accomplish our role in protecting against climate change. Although turning the lights off in an empty classroom seems insignificant on a global scale, such actions build upon one another and certainly make a difference in the long run done. For example, the energy required to power all the mini-fridges on campus costs roughly \$20,000 a year. Simply unplugging unused fridges and using the dorm fridge can have a significant impact on the school's electricity bill—a visible, immediate outcome unlike many other benefits of the GCC. The event sends a clear message throughout the school community that little actions can make a huge difference. In a more personal sense, the Green Cup Challenge increases awareness of current climate situations, and builds healthy, sustainable, energy habits. Repeatedly unplugging chargers may seem like an inconvenience during the competition, but eventually becomes nothing more than a habitual action throughout the year.

To instill a healthy, competitive spirit, the E-proctors host an inter-dorm competition each year in addition to the broader, interscholastic competition. This year, the dorm with the largest reduction at the end of each week received a \$50 prize to add to the dorm budget; in addition, cash prizes have also been allotted for those dorms with the greatest overall decrease. For the first week, Batchelder dorm took the lead with a 18% reduction in energy consumption with Ammidon/Flagg following next

with a reduction of 15%. For both the second and third week, Taylor dorm won with a reduction of 25% and 30%, respectively. Overall, Taylor was the winner for this year's Green Cup Challenge, beating Batchelder by 1% energy reduction, although all dorms performed admirably throughout the competition. Students can always check how their respective dorm is performing by looking at the energy dashboard located in front of the QRC in Clark Mathematics and Science Center. Moreover, the weekly results are published on pelican pride.

As a school, Loomis has been using less and less energy after each consecutive week. Starting off with 103,200 kWh (kilowatt-hours, a measure of energy consumption) after week 1, the number dropped to 99,600 kWh after the second week and dropped again to 91,200 kWh. Although the competition may be over, there is no reason why we as a community cannot maintain the same, lowered energy consumption that we managed for the past four weeks.

This competition, just one of many efforts that Loomis has made to be environmentally sustainable, promotes the development and implementation of sustainable habits that can help make Loomis a more efficient school as a whole while simultaneously minimizing our carbon footprint and serving our role in protecting the environment. The steady growth of participation from year to year just goes to show how our cumulative efforts can undoubtedly create a conscious and sustainable school community. With nothing more than a minimal sacrifice, significant, noticeable change can be accomplished.



Charlotte Marciel '18 for the Loomis Chaffee Log

## DOW JONES SURGE IS IT STABLE?

Nate Blumenthal '17 | Staff Writer

From November's election to January's inauguration, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.00%. At this point in 2017, the S&P is up close to 8% since the election, indicating a surge in value of America's top 500 companies. This is great news for public companies and investors alike because it signifies general economic growth. But who or what is to thank for the market's post-election boom?

There are a few viable answers to this question. First, investors could be bullish (eager to invest) on the market in anticipation of the Trump administration's stripping regulation and lowering taxes. With conservative fiscal

policy putting more money into US investors' pockets, anticipation for Republican policy could be driving the market upward and encouraging investment. However, it's also possible that Trump is not able to make substantial long-term changes to regulatory policy, especially if the Democrats are able to win back the Senate at mid-terms in 2018.

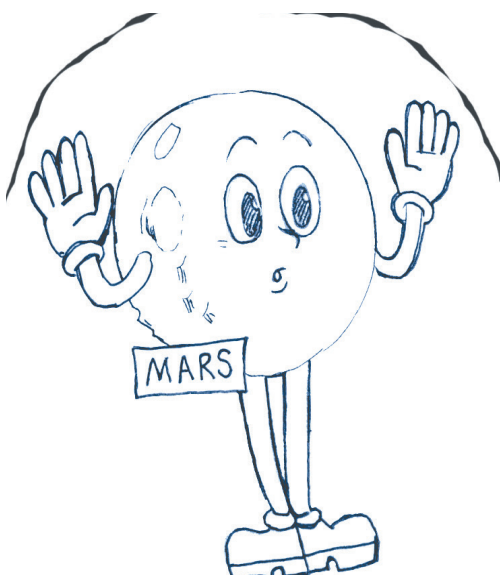
The stock market's recent fast-paced growth could also simply have to do with the strength of the US economy. Despite Trump's claims that the American economy is in shambles, the fact that unemployment is down and the Consumer Confidence Index hit a 15-year high this past December suggests otherwise. With the Federal Reserve set to continue to raise interest rates in 2017 in order to stem inflation resulting from increased borrowing and economic activity, the US economy seems to be continuing to

shake off the negative effects left over from 2007's Great Recession.

Although the President wields immense power, he cannot set the tone for the US economy without the legislative branch. Thanks to a Republican Congress, reducing regulation and taxes should be easy work. It's probable, however, that smart investors are less interested in basing their investments off of policy speculation, and more interested in basing their investments off of policy that is definitely set to change, such as the Federal Reserve's almost certain plan to hike interest rates for March. Whatever the reason for the leap in the market the past few months, investors will have to decide for themselves if the market will stay strong or begin to waver.

## THE SPACE RACE OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Nezir Alic '18 | Staff Writer



Ashley Chung '19 for the Loomis Chaffee Log

The 1960s was a decade of intense competition, particularly between the United States and the USSR, for dominance in space exploration and technology. It culminated in the widely televised 1969 landing of three American astronauts on the moon. This was a landmark in the human presence in our solar system and in the general progress of humanity. It laid the groundwork for today's more ambitious goals, the most prominent of which is the race to Mars.

Our first physical encounter with the red planet occurred in July, 1976 with NASA's Viking 1 (and soon after, Viking 2) probe. Since then, various NASA missions have sent probes to Mars, for both its surface and its orbit, to collect data and to photograph the planet. The most well known probes are the Opportunity and Curiosity rovers, which, to this day, roam the planet's desert-like terrain. Other countries and organizations have made similar efforts, including Russia, China, and Europe's ESA (European Space Agency). NASA, however, has had a significant lead in the field since its famed moon landing and continues to spearhead humanity's expansion into space.

Manned missions pose many significant obstacles that previous expeditions did not. Machines have the advantage of being less vulnerable to the harsh climate of Mars. But even they have encountered difficulties - dust storms in 2007 nearly disabled the Mars Pathfinder rover. The primary difficulties that must be overcome before

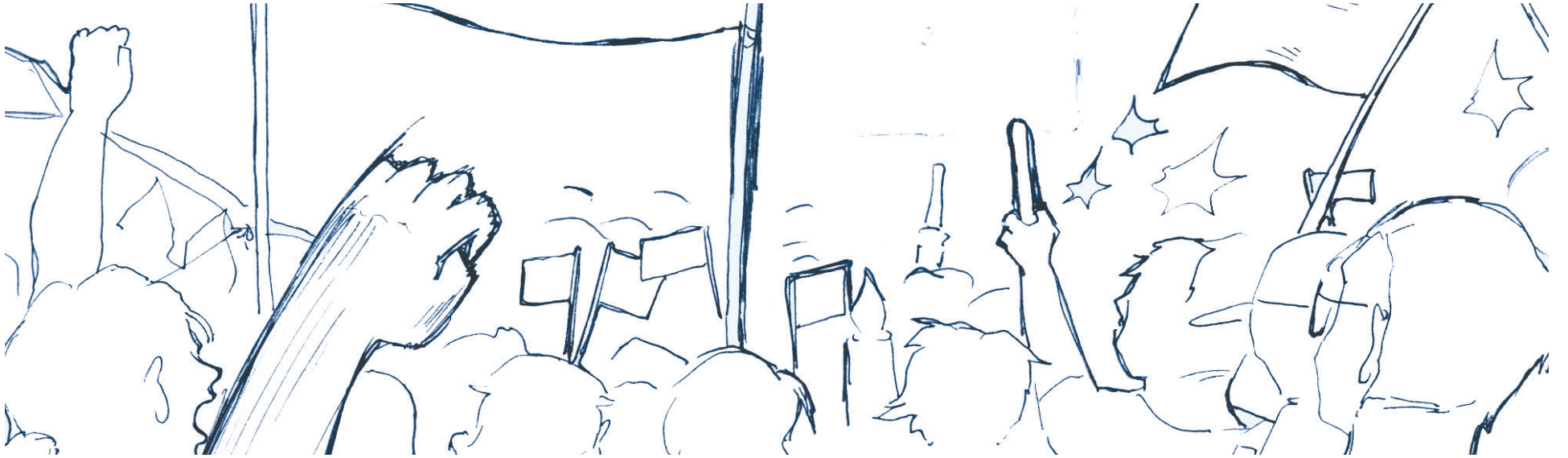
the U.S. successfully lands astronauts on Mars, as NASA plans to do by 2030, include understanding and reducing the detrimental health effects induced by extended space travel, and improving spacefaring technology. Due to the complex nature of the task ahead, an intermediate step for the U.S. is to land humans on an asteroid by 2025.

Many aspects of a journey to Mars are desirable for not only the scientific community, but also the entirety of humanity. An eventual goal is to form settlements on the planet, likely terraforming it along the way, i.e., transforming it into a more habitable place like Earth, primarily by implementing methods such as deliberate global warming. If and when issues arise on Earth, much of its population could be relocated to Mars. Additionally, as evidence suggests that the Martian environment used to be habitable only a couple billion years ago, more research could shed light on extraterrestrial life.

The space agencies of other countries, have been lagging behind NASA during the past few decades. However, China has announced ambitious plans for the next 5-10 years in terms of space missions. Although no manned missions have been proposed, China believes it can send a lander to the dark side of the moon by 2018, and another to Mars by 2020. Russia, the ESA, and SpaceX are all working on similar plans. But as all seven of the successful lander or rover missions to Mars have been launched by NASA, it seems that at least for now, the U.S. is at the forefront of space exploration.



# WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON



Ashley Chung '19 for the Loomis Chaffee Log

**Minna Gao '19** | *Staff Writer*

(Continued from front page)

## Solidarity and Sisterhood

One of the most important factors that made the march possible was the solidarity between the protestors. The march was peaceful and went smoothly, as over 2 million marched in big cities in the U.S. such as Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, etc., but no one was arrested for security reasons. Although the participants were socioeconomically diverse, and all marched for different reasons, all of them converged to form this women's march. A heartwarming instance of this unity was when a mother lost her young daughter among the crowd and a man asked everybody around to shout the girl's name in hopes of finding her. "It was so cool," Elizabeth said, "We found her in like, two seconds."

In like fashion, Erika was touched by the "supportive nature of everybody in the crowd." "You might not know the people around you," she said, "but whenever the speaker made a really good remark, you just turn to them and go like Yess!!!"

## Inclusion Issues: Pro-life vs Pro-choice

One of the most controversial issues addressed (or, not addressed since one of the groups involved wasn't allowed to participate) at this march was the topic of abortion rights. Views on abortion is generally divided into two categories: pro-life and pro-choice. Pro-life organizations believe that every unborn baby is a human being that deserves the right to live, claiming that abortion essentially is murder. On the other hand, pro-choice groups advocate for the rights of pregnant women to make the decision on abortion, especially in instances of rape or accidental conception. Each side of the argument stood firm in their belief, and although their opinions are drastically different, both sides claim to be women's rights activists. However, the organizers of the march did not deem the pro-life groups as feminists, and banned advocates from marching.

"It seems really hypocritical of [the organizers] to do that," said Margaret Kanyoko '20, a freshman who participated in the Hartford march, "I don't agree with them but it should still be their right to participate in the march." Many thought that the ban of pro-life voices in the march contradicted the march's principle of inclusion of opinions.

## "We March On"

"A lot of people were concerned that the march was gonna be it," said Elizabeth, "but that's the opposite of the truth." Carrying the momentum from the march, many sister marches and organizations arose across the world. The most accessible of them for Loomis students would be the Facebook Group located in Connecticut: "Women's March - CT We March On." Last weekend, this group organized an event that focused on helping Planned Parenthood, where members offered support and advice to families around the area. Other movements, such as the 10 Actions/100 Days movement coordinated by the organizers of the original march, demonstrate the continuation of movement for freedom and equality through peaceful protesting. "Everyone's still carrying that momentum," said Elizabeth.

## Pelicans at Hartford

Along with over 5 million people in other parts of the world, many LC students also joined the movement at the Women's March on Hartford. Sophomore Lily Verna said that the march "was very empowering and impactful." Margaret agreed and added that it's astounding how "collective feelings could be organized into a movement that was so massive it was that you couldn't ignore."

# SUPREME COURT NOMINATION

## JUDGE GORSUCH

### Trump urges going nuclear



**Rachel Ramenda '19**  
*Social Media Manager*

AP Images / Susan Walsh

A few weeks into his Presidency, Donald Trump might go nuclear, at least regarding the effort to have Supreme Court nominee Neil Gorsuch approved

by the Senate. President Trump sees Gorsuch as an apt replacement for the late Justice Scalia because of the two men's similar, originalist views of the Constitution.

But where does Gorsuch stand on today's key issues? And is he likely to be approved by the Senate? Like Justice Scalia, Gorsuch is a firm believer in upholding defendants' rights in criminal cases. Additionally, Gorsuch questions the idea of purging religious expression from public places

(like schools) as well as the idea that courts should defer to administrative agencies in interpreting the law. As for his nationally recognized decisions as a judge, Gorsuch sided in favor of Little Sisters of the Poor (an international congregation of Roman Catholic women) and the conservative owners of Hobby Lobby in challenging the Affordable Care Act's language that required employers to pay for their employees' contraceptive coverage, ruling that this mandate violated employer's religious freedom. Gorsuch has also made his viewpoints known in his writings, for example, his 2006 book, *The Future of Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia*, in which he discusses the evolution of attitudes regarding assisted suicide in the United States.

What lies ahead for Gorsuch is his pending Senate approval. Members of the Democratic Senate minority have already vowed to fight Gorsuch's nomination after the Republican blocking of Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court last year by President Obama's nomination. The Senate Republicans hold a 52-seat majority, but there is an obstacle in the Senate rules that they must overcome first - 60 senate votes are required for Gorsuch's approval. This means that Republicans will need eight Democrats to agree to vote Republican, or the Senate Republicans will need to consider the "nuclear option." The nuclear option in this case means changing the Senate rules to allow a simple majority vote. This is considered an extreme measure; hence the term "nuclear." This option was exercised by the Senate Democrats the last time they held the majority when they lifted the 60 senator requirement for some of President Obama's appointments. Accordingly, President Trump has already urged senate Republicans to use this nuclear option.

The debate over Gorsuch's nomination promises to be a bitter episode in an already contentious presidency. Although Judge Gorsuch was approved unanimously in his Circuit Court nomination (even by Democrats who now oppose him), now with the stakes far higher, Democrats and Republicans lock horns over the Supreme Court Justice appointment.



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# MODEL UN:

## A STEP INTO THE WORD OF DIPLOMACY

Yuyang Zhang '18 | Staff Writer



LC MUN poses in Old Campus during YMUN XLIII

Courtesy of Rachel Engelke

The weekend of January 19 to 22, the Loomis Chaffee Model United Nations team traveled to Yale University for the 43rd annual Yale Model UN (YMUN) conference with their advisers Ms. Engelke and Mr. Robbins. Each year, students from around the world come to Yale for four days to discuss pertinent topics based on their committees. This year, notable committees included the World War II Japanese Advisory Panel, the Roman Senate, and other interesting historical committees, giving delegates the chance to change history. In addition to seven committee sessions, Yale University organized Yale Day, in which all delegates were able to attend different activities based on personal interests, such as touring the university, eating lunch with Yale professors, and listening to presentations given by guest speakers. The team was also invited to the annual Yale showcase hosted by various talented Yale student organizations including Yale's dance club and stand-up comedy club. Moreover, the Delegate Dance and midnight Insomnia Cookies fulfilled the experience.

Sarah Mendelsohn '17, a LC MUN veteran, stated, "Yale Model UN was very organized and the chairs were very knowledgeable. In my committee, the delegates really pushed the debate to a high level and everyone was respectful." Our Loomis delegates prepared a lot for this conference, spending evenings researching their topics and writing their position papers, but their hard work paid off. They broke records this year at Yale, winning eleven awards including two best delegates, three outstanding

delegates, four honorable mentions, and two verbal commendations. Altogether LC garnered the most awards in Loomis YMUN history.

This past weekend, the LC Model UN team again competed in another conference hosted by a university, this time at Boston University. As an LC MUN tradition, our delegates along with Ms. Engelke and Mr. Shure ate dinner together at Taiwan Café, an authentic Chinese restaurant in Chinatown on the first night. The following day, the team went to visit the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and spent the afternoon in Harvard Square. Committee sessions officially started Friday night, and our amazing delegates worked around hardships, led blocs, and wrote resolutions; some crisis committees even had midnight crisis sessions from 12AM to 3AM.

Jia Yu Cheung, a junior delegate in the crisis committee (Ministry of Magic: The Wizarding World Exposed) said, "It was so fun role playing as Walden McNair in the Ministry of Magic and working with the Dark Lord to terrorize the wizarding community!" Again, the Model UN team broke another school record by having more than half of our delegates bring back awards (they claimed eleven awards out of their twenty-person delegation), giving a great finish to this year's MUN conferences.

The MUN team would like to thank Ms. Engelke and our three senior head delegates: Gaurang Goel, Lily Liu, and Gloria Yi, who have supported them unconditionally.



LC MUN poses in Boston Common during BosMUN XVI.

Courtesy of Rachel Engelke  
Note: Nezir Alic '18 not pictured above

## RECITAL SAMPLER: LINDEN QUARTET

Ethan Levinbook '20 | Staff Writer



Anh Nguyen '17 for the Loomis Chaffee Log

On Tuesday, February 7, the Loomis Chaffee community welcomed the Linden Quartet to the island. Founded at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, this quartet comprises two second-year graduate students, Jonathan Livio (violin) and Melinda Packer (viola), and two first year graduate students, Izumi Hoshino (violin) and Raj Kapoor (cello). The Linden Quartet was established in September 2016, with the goal of discovering works by classical music legends and providing audiences with wonderful chamber music.

The Linden Quartet began the recital sampler with Franz Schubert's monumental composition, the String Quartet No. 14 in D Minor, commonly referred to as the "Death and the Maiden." The composition was named for a piece that Schubert wrote in 1817 entitled *Der Tod und das Mädchen*, of which the theme can be heard in the String Quartet's second movement. The musicians performed only the first movement, *Allegro*. They will continue work on this piece throughout the remainder of the year, as they hope to master all three of the remaining movements: *Andante con Moto* in G Minor, *Scherzo: Allegro Molto* in D Minor, and *Presto* in D Minor.

The quartet closed the show with Claude Debussy's String Quartet in G Minor, Op. 10, composed in 1893. This was the first composition that Debussy wrote to which he assigned an opus number or general key signature. Ostensibly, this piece is structurally quite similar to the traditional classical string quartet, with a first movement written in sonata form, followed by a hurried scherzo movement, a passionate *andantino* movement, and an ebullient finale. However, within this conventional romantic frame, Debussy's music sounds ahead of its time. Its innovative and avant-garde harmonies pushed the limits of conventional classical polyphony. Debussy excited audiences with his genius utilization of textures and tonal effects. Effortlessly performed by the Linden Quartet, these modern melodies and textures delighted the Loomis Chaffee students. The performance compelled the audience to rethink their preexisting notions regarding the stereotypical, dull, classical composition.

The Linden Quartet performed a great recital for the students of Loomis Chaffee, exposing them to two pieces of contrasting style, structure, era, tempo, and texture. It showed the audience how much music has changed throughout the years: from the enlightenment-era rigidity to the sensuality of French music at the turn of the 20th century. Head of the music department Ms. Chrzanowksi was impressed with the group's performance, recalling that the "communication among the quartet members was exceptional." Further, she noted that the group clearly had a deep connection to the compositions, recalling that she "was impressed by their intimate knowledge and expressive execution of both pieces." The Loomis Chaffee community looks forward to seeing this fantastic group on the island in the future!



# GILCHRIST ENVIRONMENTAL FELLOWSHIP: JACOB SHICHMAN

Allen Park '18 & Charlotte Marcil '18 | Features Editor & Layout Editor



Courtesy of Jacob Shichman '18

Out of breath from sprinting down the hall, Jacob bursts into the classroom. With everyone's eyes on him, he exclaims, "Does anyone have twine!?"

Although this might seem like a strange question, whether or not any of the confused students had twine was truly a matter of life or death -- at least for Jacob's fish. A hole had been ripped in the tube leading up to the fish tank's filter, and several fish had swum up and gotten trapped. He needed the twine to patch the hole before any other unlucky fish got stuck, potentially ruining his project.

This project -- which some of you may have noticed in the QRC, as it stands taller than most freshmen -- is the work of junior day student, Jacob Shichman. Jacob or "Shich," as he is more widely known, a native of Avon, Connecticut, has always been interested in fish, water, and the environment. President of the Loomis Chaffee Fly Fishing Club, Shich has decided to take his interests a step further and take action, with the help of the Gilchrist Environmental Fellowship.

An "extremely small brown trout hatchery," as Jacob refers to it, the fifty gallon tank is currently home to around 75 trout and started out with 120 eggs. These eggs, purchased right after fertilization from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, or DEEP, are raised and matured until they are small parr trout. Once they are mature enough, they are then released into the Farmington River. According to Jacob, the "trout are really sensitive to their environment [so] there is always lots of work [to do]." For all this work to be completed, he even had to request help from LC E-Proctor Juliet Rhodes '18, and environmental enthusiast Warm Ayanaputra '17. For maximum survival, the water in the tank needs to be maintained at a steady temperature of around 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit and the fish need to be fed daily.

Through this project, Jacob hopes to accomplish a variety of things. He hopes to further educate the Loomis community in hopes that both students and faculty will be more interested and educated about the environment. Additionally, he hopes to stock the Farmington River with more trout, which will contribute to the pre-existing ecosystem. As Jacob stated, "In a lot of cases, stocking is bad in native streams, however there are no true native fish in the Farmington River." His fish will go from living in a 80 gallon tank to a 46.7 mile long river.

## THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE

Cara Keogh '18 | Contributor



Courtesy of Anna Zuckerman-Vdovenko

On From February 15 to 18, the Norris Ely Orchard Theater hosted the musical Thoroughly Modern Millie. The musical tells the story of a young woman from Kansas trying to make it on her own

in New York City. Insisting on embodying the new "modern" woman of the Roaring Twenties, Millie cuts her hair and devises a plan to marry her boss, with the notion that love and happiness will (maybe) come later on. However, Millie's plan does not go quite as she had hoped, and she falls in love with Jimmy Smith, who she believes only to be a poor nobody from Long Island. While she works and

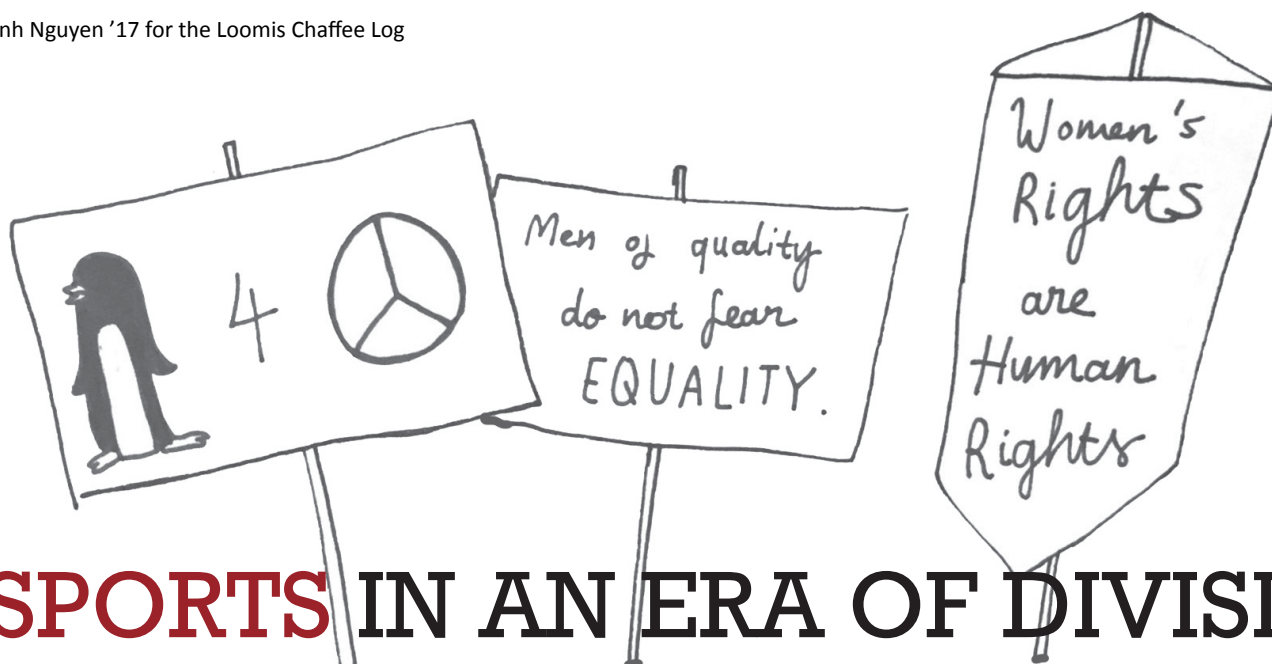
begins her new life in the city, Millie stays at the Priscilla Hotel with Mrs. Meers, who actually runs an underground trade for "white slavery," using two sisters from Shenzhen who want to bring their mother to America as helpers to ship young girls off to Southeast Asia. However, when Millie's friend Miss Dorothy Brown is kidnapped, Millie enlists the help of Jimmy and the well-known actress Muzzy to uncover Mrs. Meers's secret. Along the way, Millie discovers that love truly has no boundaries and that for her to be happy in a marriage, "love has everything to do with it."

The musical received excellent reviews from both the actors and the audience. Natt Jaitrong '17 noted that his favorite part of the musical was the singing in Chinese. "It displayed the diversity that Loomis accepts and showed a beautiful side of the Asian culture." Many people enjoyed the play because of its modern aspect. Louisa Gao '18 commented, "I really liked the setting of the play -- New York in the 1920s -- because I learned about the literature and culture of that period, so the relatively modern setting was relatable." Another part of this aspect so enjoyed by the audience was the characters' love stories. Mei Ran falls in love with Miss Dorothy Brown, and Millie with Jimmy Smith.

Angela Wang '20, who played Mei Ran, said, "When Millie first comes to New York, she wants to find a boss to marry him. It's not out of love, but out of wealth. But then, after she meets Jimmy, she learns that marriage is all about love and not just materialistic matters. She also added, "I think those love stories really contributed to the major theme of this new modern world." Aside from the prevalent theme of love throughout the show, there was also a great deal of comedy present. From the boisterous character of Mrs. Meers to Mr. Trevor Graydon's impressive 'Speed Test' number, ecstatic laughter was heard in the NEO. Julia Thompson '18 especially loved "when Olivia, Cameron, and Noah all came out of that one laundry bin -- I was amazed how all three of them could fit in there."



Anh Nguyen '17 for the Loomis Chaffee Log

REACTION  
FIRST HUNDRED

OPINIONS

## SPORTS IN AN ERA OF DIVISION

Lauren Hinton '18 | *Sports Editor*

**A**thletics epitomize diversity. More and more, professional sports teams in this country are represented by various faiths, colors, sexualities, and origins. Nowadays, in the world of athletics, what matters most is not religion or race, but athletic ability. President Trump's travel ban issued in late January encourages prejudice and alienation on the basis of religion and faith, undermining the unifying presence of sports in our society. The president's ban will therefore damage the message of acceptance and inclusion shared by athletes of all levels, of all sports, of all nations.

Athletic events held abroad will face some obstructions as a result of the order. For example, Joseph Jones and JP Prince, two American basketball players competing in the Iranian professional league, were stranded in Dubai as Iran retaliated. There were also discussions taking place among Iranian government officials regarding whether or not to accept American wrestlers for the men's freestyle wrestling World Cup to be held in western Iran. Furthermore, athletes from the banned seven nations cannot enter the country to compete in American events. The Boston and New York marathons routinely feature athletes from several of the seven nations. There are visas issued to professional

athletes according to immigration law. The P-1 visa allows professional athletes to enter the US to compete or train. The president has not included this provision in his issued order so further limitations and conflicts between the US and other nations remain very likely. In terms of future venues for the 2024 Summer Olympics or for the 2026 men's World Cup, there have been talks throughout the past few years about the possibility of Los Angeles and other American cities. With the travel ban in effect, it is now very likely that the international committees that organize international events will want to distance themselves from the Trump administration and the US by association.

Many athletes have not been shy about stepping up and raising their concerns about the consequences of the ban. Michael Burroughs, a wrestler slated to compete in the Iranian tournament in February made a very perceptive observation about the unseemly collision of politics and sports. Describing his experience in 2013's wrestling World Cup held in Iran, he says, "It really said a lot for sports that we were able to go over there and compete even though our governments were at odds." Luol Deng, forward for the Los Angeles Lakers, fled from South Sudan as a youth to find refuge in the United Kingdom. He spoke up with state-

ments advocating for refugees and for the policies that protect and aid refugee families. He humbly shared the story of his family while also offering a piece of advice to the nation, "it's important that we remember to humanize the experience of others." Olympic medalist, Ibtihaj Muhammad, a female fencer who inspired the nation over the summer by being the first ever Olympian to compete while wearing a hijab, shared a very simple tweet to send her message: "Our diversity is what makes us great." She recently revealed in an interview that she was detained by US customs in the airport for two hours for reasons undisclosed to her. In her statements, she expressed the fact that despite her American pride, despite her years of training to earn a medal for her country, this nation, specifically its government, sees her simply as a Muslim woman with a Muslim name who should not be trusted.

The current effects of the travel ban are likely to be supplemented by further course of action by the Trump administration. In the wake of the president and his administration's decisions, it will be evermore important to preserve and strengthen the bonds of unity in the world of athletics.

## MUSLIM BAN HITS CLOSE TO HOME

Sarah Mendelsohn '17 & Liam Scott '18 | *Staff Writers*

**O**ver the past few weeks, immigrants, and refugees from Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Libya, and Sudan have not been allowed to enter the United States. President Trump's restriction of immigration from these seven countries and the questionable legality of the executive order calling for this shift in immigration policy have created fear and uncertainty for many people throughout the country. Even though the Island seems sequestered from the world, it did not escape the effects of this ban.

Maryam Fokur '18 highlighted the sense of insecurity felt by many immigrants and foreign residents explaining, "My friends and I are very afraid to leave the country because we think that maybe we won't be able to get back into the U.S. and our education could be jeopardized because we don't know what Trump could do overnight." Maryam explained how this ban has created an aura of unpredictability. It has left many who came to America seeking opportunities for careers, for education, and even for safety, wondering if they will truly have access to the opportunity and safety that this country symbolizes.

It is not just those trying to immigrate to the United States or study in the United States who have been affected. Even people who have lived and worked here for years find that their lives have undoubtedly changed. Arabic teacher Ms. Zamah said, "Even as a U.S. citizen I'm still afraid. I'm supposed to go to Florida over spring break to visit family and I'm already thinking of ways to minimize attention brought to [me and my family]."

Similarly, Amara Haider '19 explained, "My parents and I were forced to cancel our spring break trip because my parents thought they wouldn't be able to get back in the country if we left, even though they have green cards and have lived here for over twenty years."

A common theme to which all three individuals alluded was that this executive order is not the only way to reduce terrorism. Amara said that it is simply immoral to deny entry to people who have built their lives here, and to people who need to build their lives here in order to survive. Ms. Zamah put it poignantly: "Putting America first to me does not mean shutting other people out [...] and in fact, letting immigrants in helps make society

better, diversify it, and contribute to the economy. To be here and practice my religion freely is the most American thing you can do."

The sudden and radical executive order has prompted questions about what America represents. Is it a country of xenophobia or is it a country of inclusion? Many people have voiced their opinion on this matter, and have expressed their support of Muslims in America. Ms. Zamah recounted uplifting stories of people who have "gone to restaurants and [had] someone else pay [their] bill as a gesture of kindness." She also pointed out that most of the protesters of the travel ban at airports aren't even Muslim. While the ban has left many feeling abandoned by the United States government, it has also demonstrated the determination of American people to accept those who want to live the American dream.





# FROM TRUMP'S HUNDRED DAYS



## UNITY AMIDST DIVISION

Ivy Nguyen '18 | Staff Writer

With the recent inauguration of one of the most controversial presidents America has ever had in recent history, Donald J. Trump, the CNN/ORC Poll states that more than 8 of 10 Americans claim that the country is more deeply divided on fundamental issues this year than in the past several years. Despite the promises of creating a “new national pride” that will “lift our sights and heal our divisions,” president Donald Trump on Friday, January 27, temporarily banned roughly 218 million people from entering the United States. Citizens of seven Muslim-dominated countries have been banned from entering the country by executive order. The ban immediately received mixed reactions from both American and international workers who were seeking job opportunities in the land of the free. This stirred a wave of fear within immigrant communities living within the States. Some people question whether this course of actions is constitutional, while others celebrate its radical movement against pressing terrorism issues. Undeniably, this illustrates America’s increasingly split along racial and political lines.

However, even though American politics is polarized into Red states and Blue states, the public is not. To un-

derstand how divided a nation is, we need to understand not its demographic categories, but rather the citizens of the country itself. In a research published in *The American Journal of Sociology*, “Have American’s Social Attitudes Become More Polarized?” sociologist Paul DiMaggio and his colleagues found that Americans had been more integrated on issues regarding race, gender, crime, justice, and sexual morality (except for abortion). In fact, only about 10-15% of the population is strongly Republican; the same statistic applies to Democrats. The majority of Americans fall under a “centrist” camp that does not wholly commit to either side, which does not thoroughly reflect the “divided country” that we are so concerned about.

Throughout history, progressive movements for social equalities have shaped America to be what it is today. From the Civil Right Movements that reshaped our understanding of African American descendants to LGBTQ+ Rights movement that acknowledges the importance of gender identity, America never fails to respond to the lack of government involvement in social rights movement. Social media provides us with a new platform that allows the advancement of human rights movements. Now more than

ever, we are able to unite through a multitude of different ways: through words, actions and especially hashtags. The growing popularity of **#LoveTrumpsHate**, **#NotMyPresident**, **#NoBanNoWall**, **#TheResistance** and **#BlackLivesMatter** on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook proves how easily these online platforms can unite us as individuals who believe in the same ideology.

One recent example for the unity of our nation under its “deeply divided” status is the 2017 Women’s March, a worldwide protest protecting the policies about human rights such as women’s rights, immigration, environment, LGBTQ, racial equality, religious rights and worker’s rights. It was the largest single-day demonstration in U.S. history, attracting over 5 million volunteers worldwide and 1 million in Washington D.C. The rallies were a firm yet peaceful response to Donald Trump’s offensive attitudes towards American minority. They made clear that people will not be afraid to let their voice be heard, and more importantly, the government cannot interfere with the unity of our communities.

## FREEZING THE MELTING POT

Hanna Hameedy '17 | Contributor

Growing up as the daughter of two Iranian immigrants, I learned the concept of America’s extraordinary acceptance of different people from an early age. Never in another country would both my parents have the high-quality educational and professional opportunities, as well as the safe, accepting culture where they could expand their family. Only because of the promise of equal opportunity did each of them uproot their lives from the other side of the world to live in a country where they could not speak the language, where they knew almost no one. This story is not uncommon; it’s the story of countless immigrant families. In my household, the open door immigration policy has a big part in the very foundation of my family and my perception in what makes this country great.

While I praise and appreciate America’s past immigration policies, which are nowhere near perfect, it would be

naive to think that the U.S. has always been so welcoming. I remember learning about the quotas and immigration bans that colored U.S. foreign policy throughout the early 1900s and being surprised that the country I was taught “welcomed everyone” had, in the recent past, outright excluded certain nationalities. I could not fathom such a United States that so callously separated families and blatantly cherry picked the people who could enter. Yet on January 27, the United States regressed before my own eyes.

While this ban, this executive order, was intended to help, founded in the interest of strengthening our border security and keeping our citizens safe, it goes about it the wrong way. Instead of protecting law abiding, innocent people, the rushed and poorly executed travel ban affected legal immigrants of seven Muslim-majority countries the most. Undergraduate and Graduate students seeking a high quality education, dual citizens, and permanent residents who have

waited patiently, some for years, for the proper legal channels to approve trips to join loved ones, to partake in their own versions of the “American Dream,” have all been detained at airports or stuck in unfamiliar lands unable to return to the place they call home. Instead of protecting, this ban leaves people unforgotten and in limbo, not welcome in a country where they learn, earn their living, and spend time with their family, but not a part of anywhere else.

The inconsiderate and rushed nature of this order opens the United States up to hurt-fueled criticism from severed families, international businesses, learning institutions, as well as other countries. The travel ban strips America of its coveted epithets of “a place where everyone is welcome,” the world-renowned “melting pot.”



Anh Nguyen '17 for the Loomis Chaffee Log



# Loomis Chaffee Log

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## ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE, "AP" IS HARD, "CL" IS TOO.



Beatrice Dang '19 | *Staff Writer*

Cathy Hyeon '18 for the Loomis Chaffee Log

If you came to Loomis as a freshman, upon entry you likely sat down with your adviser and were shown an empty chart meant to represent your four-year plan. You subsequently discussed your plan, of which you were fairly uncertain, while your adviser charted out your future. You then analyzed it, as if it were some foreign treasure map, to confirm that it was your perfect path to success. If you were like me at the time, very overdressed and very underprepared, you likely felt lost and unsure. Luckily, my adviser filled the chart in with pencil. Today it remains stored away in a file, and is retrieved annually during the course selection period.

If you did fill out one of these plans, there's a chance that some of the classes you had planned on taking would be advanced, or even AP courses. If you did decide that you would be taking an AP course in the upcoming year, you've likely heard about the transition from the "AP"

course label to the "College Level" or "CL" label. The "CL" label will not only apply to former AP courses, but will also apply to courses that are considered equally as, or even more rigorous. For some, this transition may be irrelevant, while for others it might be an exciting or disheartening change. Whether it impacts you or not, it's important to reflect on the reasoning of our school administration whenever change is made. As critical thinkers we need to assess the conduct of our community and what stand to take when change is necessary.

There are several different reasons as to why our faculty and administration decided upon the transition from AP to CL courses. There are many courses that aren't currently labeled as AP, yet are equally as rigorous, such as microbiology or multivariable calculus. These will now have the same "college level" label, which is more suggestive of the level of difficulty of the course. This creates more transparency not only for students interested in taking such courses but also improves clarity on transcripts. As for AP courses, departments are no longer restricted to the criteria established by the College Board, thus giving teachers

more flexibility. This increased flexibility gives teachers the opportunity to adjust the pace of their respective courses or alter the material covered. However, in most cases CL classes will be quite similar to their predecessors and, if indicated, will still prepare students for the AP exam. Finally, having so-called "college level" courses is attractive for prospective students and allows us to compete with other schools who have adopted the same label, or titles like "honors" and "accelerated."

Even though this appears to be a simple label change, it could have many repercussions, positive and negative. Let's take into account the fact that many courses that once went without any extra title implying level or difficulty are now being called "college level." In reality, the content and curriculum for the courses that are now being called "CL" will not drastically change. But now suddenly it becomes a college level course, which would leave us to assume that it has always been "college level." So why now? Does this change have to do with timing? Does it have to do with keeping up with other competing schools? And what does "college level" really mean? Is it really so simple to change a course's title to equate it to a college class? I don't mean to imply that these classes are not difficult and don't prepare students exceptionally well for college, but it's hard to say how realistic the comparison is in all instances.

Let's also take into account how this affects students. Having "college level" classes also undoubtedly looks attractive on transcripts. Outright, this seems to give students a great advantage. But as it stands, many students at Loomis already feel pressured to take advanced and accelerated courses. This can be the result of healthy ambition, but it can also be the result of peer-pressure or pressure from parents. This feeling of obligation to take difficult classes confuses students about what courses they really feel comfortable taking. I commend my peers who choose to take on the challenge of accelerated courses, but I admire students who choose these courses out of genuine interest, rather than obligation. I cannot deny the fact that taking advanced courses and getting good grades will help with the college process, but in such a rigorous academic environment we sometimes become too fixated on end results. We judge based on the outward appearance: grades, numbers, statistics, and labels, and thus become subjugated by some predetermined path. And now we have a myriad of "college level" courses to choose from. So yes, these labels may give students an edge, but at what risk? How much do we benefit, and at what cost? Regardless of the transition, I believe we as an academic community sometimes place too much emphasis on taking advanced and accelerated courses, rather than helping students find what they really feel passionate about.

There are a number of pros and cons to adopting the new "CL" label for "AP" and certain advanced courses. Overall, the change comes with a lot of intended benefits that will have a mostly positive affect our school and the students. There are always underlying issues within any transition, but it's important that our school is able to measure both the risks and the advantages. But first and foremost, the school's focus should remain on the welfare of its students; thus any possible issues that could arise from this change should be acknowledged. So if your adviser still happens to have your four-year plan stored away in a file, you should reflect on what sorts of classes you once wanted to take, and why you wanted to take them. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."



# PARK'S INFERNO

James Koh '17 | Contributor

"It will take them a hundred years to recover from the devastation."

— General Douglas MacArthur, after the Korean War.

MacArthur's prophecy seems to ring hollow, despite the reasonableness of his prediction. After all, South Korea, with a population of about twenty-one million, suffered over one million casualties, both military and civilian, according to CNN. The economy after the war was utterly devastated; per capita income was \$64 and even until 1960, the economy lagged behind the Congo's. More than 60 years later, the IMF ranks South Korea as the world's eleventh largest economy with a GDP of roughly 1.4 trillion dollars. No one can deny that South Korea has sprinted across a remarkable road of transformation and progress, to say the least. Yet the road has not always been full of bright spots. Modern South Korean history has seen not only astonishing economic growth and a triumph of democracy, but also a succession of military dictatorships, political repression, and unhealed wounds. Now the country is undergoing an unprecedented crisis in which the president has been impeached among accusations that she had been a mere proxy of a shaman. Understanding South Korea's short but complex history is necessary to understand the current crisis that has been enveloping the entire nation for months.

This history begins with the Japanese annexation of Korea in 1910, starting a brutal and exploitative occupation of 35 years. When the Japanese surrendered in WWII, the Americans occupied what would become South Korea, establishing a provisional military government. The Americans and the subsequent authoritarian, corrupt Lee Seung-man regime, instead of purging collaborators and traitors like France did after liberation, allowed much of the same old order to remain; consequently the collaborators and traitors under Japanese colonial rule, known as chinilpa, remained in power. The issue of the chinilpa is still an important one in Korea today, as society struggles to cope with the legacy of their influence. Perhaps the most illuminating example is that of President Park Chung-hee, father of current President Park Geun-hye. The elder Park graduated from the Imperial Japanese Army Academy in Japan during Japanese occupation and served as a lieutenant in the Manchukuo Imperial Army, the army of the Japanese puppet regime Manchukuo. In fact, Park engaged in intelligence activities against Korean guerrillas that were fighting for the independence of the country that he would eventually become President of. Moreover, he voluntarily signed a blood oath to the Japanese emperor which earned him recognition in the newspapers. After independence, Park would rise up in the military and eventually lead a coup, establishing a military dictatorship and overseeing an era of unprecedented economic growth, all the while torturing and murdering political dissidents. Many of the country's important institutions such as schools, newspapers, and businesses were founded by the chinilpa or their descendants, and thus their legacy still haunts and divides Korean society today.

The country faces its biggest political crisis since the end of the Korean War more than 60 years ago. President Park Geun-hye has been accused of not only sharing confidential information with her long-time friend and cultist Choi Soon-sil, but also allowing Choi to effectively control government policies instead of her. Again, history proves important in understanding as to why on Earth a president would practically hand over power to a religious cult figure. Choi's father, Choi Tae-min, was the leader of a cult and became close with Park Geun-hye during the elder Park's regime by approaching Park, claiming that he could communicate with her deceased mother for him. This sordid association, one in which the elder Choi was described as having "complete control over the body and soul of the President in her formative years" by the U.S. embassy in Seoul, led the way for Choi's daughter to become the closest of confidants with the younger Park.

The eruption of the scandal and subsequent investigations have revealed the extent to which Choi, a citizen with no political experience or title whatsoever, directed the government. Ongoing probes have thus far uncovered a long and disheartening list of corruption and crime, and the list lengthens with each passing day, exposing an increasingly larger web of conspiracy deeply embedded in the country. Choi has personally edited many of the President's speeches, including many important ones that announce policy, such as one in Germany in 2014 when Park announced a reunification plan with North Korea. She not only edited speeches, but also directly controlled policy such as the appointment of cabinet members and the closing of a joint North-South Korean industrial park, bypassing the President directly. Apparently Choi even controlled the President's wardrobe, personally selecting Park's outfits for public occasions. As a final straw, it has been revealed that Choi also had free access to the Blue House, the presidential residence, using it as her own "private home," despite her civilian status and lack of security clearance. In fact, a police superintendent who worked at the Blue House chillingly said in an investigation, "Do you even know who holds the most power in the country? Choi is first, Jung (Choi's former husband) is second, and President Park is only third."

Choi not only exercised complete control over the government, but also used her power and influence to pocket

millions. She has been accused to using two foundations she controlled to extort tens of millions of dollars in bribes from the nation's biggest conglomerates, such as Samsung and Hyundai. Prosecutors have actually named President Park as a criminal accomplice as the companies received favors from the government in return for the bribes to Choi, and there are even suspicions that Park herself received a share of the bribes. Prosecutors in Germany, where Choi was found during the scandal, have listed an estimated \$670 million in 500 paper companies and bank accounts all over Europe as part of Choi's personal fortune. Even as of yet, the full size of her and her family's wealth is unknown, and German prosecutors estimate that it amounts to almost 10 trillion won, or roughly \$8.6 billion. Korean prosecutors will look into how Choi, whose only job in her life was running a kindergarten, amassed such an impressive fortune. Prosecutors suspect that instead of the unlikely explanation that Choi had been an unknown kindergarten tycoon, the money was collected from a combination of bribes from companies and from public funds furnished by taxpayers.

In another related scandal, the Park administration has also been exposed as blacklisting nearly 10,000 artists such as writers, actors, painters, and musicians, for criticizing the government or having left-leaning views. The list ironically includes some of the most prominent cultural ambassadors Korea has such as Park Chan-wook, director of internationally-acclaimed *Oldboy*, poet Ko Un whose name has been in contention for the Nobel Prize several times, and novelist Han Kang, winner of the 2016 Man Booker award. The blacklist not only denied governmental funding to these artists regardless of their merit, but also deprived them of private investment and placed them under state surveillance. Of course, such a blatant attack on freedom of speech and free political discussion would be unthinkable in a liberal democracy, but it becomes all too apparent that South Korea has, at this point, abandoned even the pretenses of a democracy. The culture minister and former presidential chief of staff have been arrested for their roles in creating the list and attempting to destroy evidence.

This unprecedented series of scandals have, of course, engulfed Korean society for the past couple of months, no mean feat for a country where seven out of eight previous presidents have been embroiled in corruption scandals. Mass protests erupted all over the country since the Choi Soon-sil scandal, and are still ongoing even after months. Every Saturday there has been a rally at Gwanghwamun square in the heart of Seoul. At the tenth rally on December 31, 2016, 10 million people participated in the rallies, averaging a million per rally, an impressive number given the nation's population of 50 million. Park's approval ratings plunged to a mere 4% according to Gallup Korea, possibly a world record for any president. Eventually on December 9, the legislature voted overwhelmingly in favor of impeachment, 234 in favor with 56 against. Park has been suspended from office as a result of the vote with her prime minister becoming acting president, although the Constitutional Court needs to ratify the impeachment vote in order to force Park out of office. Park, like a good politician, has steadfastly denied wrongdoing despite several vague official apologies, and has still not resigned. Moreover, as President, Park is immune from prosecution except for charges of insurrection or treason. Choi has been jailed but refused to appear for questioning, citing a panic attack among other excuses, and has so far denied all allegations. As of now, there is little to do but wait for the Court's ruling.

Even if Park does get impeached and Choi gets imprisoned, Korea still has a hard, long path in front of itself. Possibly the biggest problem in Korea, and the root of the scandal to begin with, is the deep-rooted system of corporatism, where giant family-owned conglomerates known as chaebols such as Samsung and Hyundai run the economy and politics. Once again, history proves important in understanding the power of chaebols. Long given preferential

treatment such as protectionist laws by Korean dictators such as the elder Park, they have been carefully coddled and nurtured as a tool for driving economic development. Although economic development has been realized, it has come at the cost of a seemingly impregnable cycle of corruption where politicians seek patronage, a widening wealth gap, and all-powerful chaebols running roughshod over society. Right now, Lee Jae-yong, the de facto leader of Samsung, is under arrest for his role in the Choi bribery scandal. He has been accused of bribing Choi to ensure political favors from Park in order to secure government support for a merger of two Samsung affiliates. Although the arrest is indeed welcome news, there are still doubts whether he will be convicted. Even if convicted, a long history of presidential pardons for the rich on the basis of "the potential impact on the economy." For example, Lee's own father Lee Kun-hee has been pardoned twice after conviction of white-collar crimes, without spending a day in jail. Six of the top ten chaebols, which account for more than 80% of GDP, are headed by men with white-collar crime convictions.

Yet the country has long been dissatisfied with Park's performance, even before the scandals. Park's approval rating was already a low 31% after local elections in April last year, reflecting the dismal failure of her presidency. A more outrageous example of such failures is the government's attempt to mandate a single new, state-authored history textbook instead of the previous method of allowing schools to choose from a variety of private textbooks. The president asserted that it is in order to arm young Koreans with "correct historical views and values," and the government defended the move, saying that "A textbook... should be written in a way that does not hurt our national pride." However, the move is widely seen as an attempt to whitewash history by glorifying the country's authoritarian past, such as Park's dictator father, and glossing over the history of the chinilpa. The move is reminiscent of the country's dictatorship past, when Park's own father imposed state-issued history textbooks. The Korean History Research Association, the country's biggest forum for history, has refused to participate in the writing of the state-authored textbook. There has been particularly outrage when the government, which has still not revealed the full list of writers, released the majority of the list. Particularly concerning is modern history, the most controversial section — four out of seven writers are members of neo-conservative organizations while none of them majored in modern history. The lesson to draw from this move seems obvious, particularly when there are similar disputes over the rewriting of history around the world, such as slavery in America and imperialism in Japan.

During winter break, I attended the tenth mass protest in Seoul at Gwanghwamun square, on New Year's Eve. As I stood surrounded by a million of my countrymen, I was overwhelmed by a wave of emotions. All around me, I saw male and female, old and young, families and friends, people from all over the country, all outside in the cold at the center of Seoul, on the last day of the year. I not only vowed that we would not fail the sacrifices of our forerunners, those who fought for independence and democracy against the country's occupiers and dictators, but also that we would change the world for the better so that our children and grandchildren would not have to live the way we did. At Gwanghwamun where the protests were held, there are two famous monuments of legendary figures in Korean history. One is the statue of General Lee Soon-sin, who fought against Japanese invasions in the 16th century, and the other is that of King Sejong, the inventor of the Korean alphabet. As I stood there and looked at the two monuments, I wondered how they will view this moment in Korea and in turn, wondered how history will judge us. Regardless of the outcome, I have never been prouder of my country or myself than that moment. For the first time in my life, I felt that justice might prevail in Korea.



# NBA vs. WNBA GENDER PAY GAP

Why do women get paid significantly less than men for essentially the same job?

Eugene Kim '18 | Staff Writer



Elena Delle Donne (right) posing with her new team, the Mystics. Donne's acquisition by the Mystics was one of the biggest trade in WNBA's history.

AP Images / Manuel Balce Ceneta



“...The **maximum** salary for any player in the **WNBA** is around **\$111,500** plus bonuses coming from league championships, receiving the MVP award, and other honors.

On the flipside, the **highest earning NBA player** in the **2016-2017** season is the Cleveland Cavaliers' **Lebron James**, earning a staggering **\$30,963,450** - nearly **300 times** the maximum for women. The minimum salary for any rookie in the NBA is \$874,636 - **8 times** the maximum for women.”



**T**he Declaration of Independence says, “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Note that the statement says “men,” which, in essence, does not account for women in the United States. Equal rights movement have been an instrumental part of our history, including the Civil Rights movement for racial equality, and the women's suffrage movement to fight for gender equality. The wage gap issue is a continuation of the fight for women's rights, and in the status quo, where on average, women are estimated to make 78 cents for every dollar earned by a man. This statistic is only an average, and if we turn our heads towards the professional sports scene, the differences escalate exponentially.

The maximum salary for any player in the WNBA is around \$111,500 plus bonuses coming from league championships, receiving the MVP award, and other honors. On the flipside, the highest earning player in the 2016-2017 season is the Cleveland Cavaliers' Lebron James, earning a staggering \$30,963,450 - nearly 300 times the maximum for women. The minimum salary for any rookie in the NBA is \$874,636 - 8 times the maximum for women. The differences are enormous, and although to some this may seem like a prime example of gender inequality, there are many reasons why this wage gap in the WNBA versus the NBA is established.

The WNBA has been in existence for almost 20 years, being founded in 1996. The league operates with 12 teams, with most having a direct NBA counterpart (for example, the LA Sparks with the Lakers). Half a century before that, the NBA was founded in 1946, and has since become the top basketball league in the world with 30 teams. The NBA raked in a revenue of \$4.8 billion, and the players' union and the owners of the teams have agreed that around half should go to the players. There are 15 players on the active rosters of each team, and with 30 teams, adds up to roughly 450 players. After some math, \$2.4

billion for 450 players equals to an average of about \$5.3 million per player. If we take a look at the WNBA, the salaries range from \$39,676 to \$111,500, a fraction of the average for the NBA.

This comes down to two things: 1) not enough people watch the WNBA, which leads to the lack of revenue and thus the minimized payroll of women athletes, and 2) players can make more money elsewhere in countries like China and Russia. WNBA teams have resorted to hosting sponsors' logos on their jerseys, following the suits of soccer and NASCAR, in order to maximize profits. However, there are limits with such measures - with an average attendance of 8,000, and an average viewership not even a fraction of that of the NBA, the teams are struggling financially. Chinese teams and Russian teams are offering upwards of a million dollars to star players in the WNBA, and some players play for these leagues in the off-season, while others ended their contracts with their WNBA teams and play for these foreign teams in the regular season. The departures of star players result in lower interest, and leads to a downwards spiral of lower finances for the WNBA.

Another argument that could be made is that some sports, although enjoyed and played by both genders, have drastic differences in interest. For example, soccer and hockey enjoy a lot of viewership on the men's games, while figure skating and volleyball enjoy such on the women's games. Basketball happens to be in the former category, and unfortunately, it seems unrealistic to say that the level of interest towards women's basketball will even come close to rivaling that of men's basketball. The same wage gap, but just the other way around, exists for sports in the second category mentioned above. It is true that the statistics comparing the WNBA to the NBA show significant differences in payroll, and this may be disappointing to some. However, it seems to be also true that this wage gap between players in the two leagues is a part of American society, and the difference in levels of interest has established itself as immutable.



# THE MARCH TO THE FINAL FOUR

Sam Goldfarb '18 | Sports Editor

**W**hen the 2016-17 Men's College Basketball season tipped off in early November, many analysts formulated bold predictions regarding the nation's top players and title contenders. However, after nearly four months of action, the list of plausible National Champions has undergone significant alterations, and with the NCAA Tournament commencing in less than a month, potential participants will want to establish momentum as quickly as possible. As a result, with Selection Sunday approaching rapidly, now is an ideal time to make my annual March Madness predictions.

## Most Overrated Contender: Louisville Cardinals

When solely analyzing Louisville's resume, many basketball fans will understandably not recognize why I have labeled them "Most Overrated Contender." After all, the Cardinals are currently ranked eighth in the country, possess a respectable 21-5 record, have not lost to an unranked opponent, and have defeated high level opposition like Kentucky, Duke, and Purdue. Louisville is also one of the best defensive teams in the country, holding opponents to an average of 63.2 points per game. However, even though the Cardinals' resume is impressive, they have slumped against the ACC's top teams, a trend that does not bode well for the NCAA Tournament. Since the beginning of conference play, Louisville has posted a disappointing 1-4 record against ranked opposition, with their only win coming against a Duke team without Coach K on the sideline. Louisville also doesn't possess threatening three-point shooting, with the team shooting an average 35.8% from beyond the arc. As a result, if and when the Cardinals encounter an elite shooting team in the tournament, they may struggle to keep up offensively. Louisville is certainly capable of making a deep March run, but I believe that their flaws will lead to an early tournament exit.

## Most Underrated Contender: Arizona Wildcats

The Arizona Wildcats are possibly the hottest team in basketball. Coach Sean Miller's team has won 17 of their last 18, with its only loss coming in a road blowout against a top-tier Oregon team. As a result of this run, the Wildcats are first in the Pac-12 standings; however, they are somehow flying under many college basketball experts' radar. Despite the lack of recognition, I believe that Arizona has a legitimate shot at a National Championship. Lauri Markkanen is the best stretch forward in basketball, with the Finland native averaging 15.3 points per game and nailing 46.5% of his three-point attempts. Guard Allonzo Trier has also been an important asset for the Wildcats, with the sophomore averaging 13 points and snagging 5.4 rebounds a night since his return from suspension. Finally, the Wildcats are a deep team, with nine players averaging more than 12 minutes a game. If Arizona can maintain team chemistry down the stretch, expect the Wildcats to be a tough out in March.

## Possible Cinderella: Valparaiso Crusaders

NCAA Tournament teams will not want to be matched up with Valparaiso on Selection Sunday. The Crusaders have a history of Cinderella runs, when, in 1998, the thirteenth-seeded team reached the Sweet 16. This year, Valparaiso, which currently possesses an impressive 21-5 record, may have the ability to notch an early-round upset or two. The Crusaders have already earned one win against a ranked team, beating then-21st Rhode Island by 3 points. Alec Peters is also having a tremendous year, with the forward averaging a double-double and shooting 46.3% from the field. "Valpo" will probably earn a 12 or 13-seed if they win the Horizon League Tournament, matching them up against potentially unsuspecting major conference foes. Advance them in your bracket, folks; you won't regret your decision.

Final Four: Villanova Wildcats, Kansas Jayhawks, UCLA Bruins, and the Arizona Wildcats

All four of these teams have the necessary qualities to reach the Final Four. The defending National Champion Villanova Wildcats, widely regarded as one of the nation's three best teams, are extremely experienced and understand how to outlast talented teams down the stretch. The Kansas Jayhawks may have the best backcourt in the nation, and point guard Frank Mason is the frontrunner for National Player of the Year. UCLA has the best offense in the nation, and the guard duo of Lonzo Ball and Bryce Alford will obliterate opposing defenses. Finally, Arizona's opponents will struggle to limit Lauri Markkanen's impact, and the stretch forward will exploit mismatches on the perimeter.

## National Champion: Villanova Wildcats

In my opinion, the Villanova Wildcats are the nation's best team. Nova is 25-2 and is extremely well-rounded, possessing a potent offense and stifling defense. Senior guard Josh Hart, who is one of the best all-around players in the nation, has had an unbelievable year thus far, averaging 18.7 points per game and making over 50% from the field. Darryl Reynolds has also held his own in the frontcourt, recording career highs in rebounds per game (5.5) and field goal percentage (70.3%). Villanova also has nine returning players from last season's National Championship-winning team, providing them with an invaluable advantage in big-game

experience. While some teams may have the edge in NBA talent and potential, Villanova's ability to cope with pressure situations will power the Wildcats to their third National Championship.



AP Images / Charles Rex Arbogast

# SERENA WILLIAMS

## QUEEN ON AND OFF THE COURT

Cathy Hyeon '18 | Layout Editor

**23** Grand Slams is just a mere statistic that can be used to describe Serena Williams. But this is just one of the many ways that she can be honored. A queen on and off the court, Serena Williams has been a role model for tennis players; there is hardly anyone who doesn't know of her name. Her most recent championship victory at the Australian Open has only confirmed the respect she receives in the tennis world.

Serena's success may be attributed to her individual dedication, but those who have supported her deserve credit. Serena's sister Venus Williams has always been a supportive resource, especially from a training perspective. In fact, Serena herself has mentioned that Venus' presence has helped her complete her brutal workouts, which consist of on and off court training to build endurance and strength. In addition to this important training assistance, the support of Serena's family after a serious injury helped transform the superstar into an even better athlete. While originally stubborn

and opposed to taking a break from playing matches, the persuasion of both her sister and father, along with one of her past coaches, convinced her to prioritize health. Ever since then, Serena

has been able to overcome the ups and downs that come with being a professional athlete.

Serena Williams has the dedication, willingness and love of tennis just like other players possess. However, what differentiates her to dominate on the court, despite her disadvantages, is one of the most important aspects of tennis: mental toughness. Serena has learned to take

care of herself before the sport itself, understood the importance of her mental stability before and after a match and has truly used her experience to become a wiser player. In an interview after winning yet another Grand Slam, Serena Williams highlighted the importance of having the spirit of a young athlete when playing the game. Despite the years of both successes and failures, she still recognizes the reckless abandon that allows one to take risks, getting lost in the moment rather than the implications of making a mistake, and the love that young players often have for their sport.

It is important to realize that Serena Williams' success is due to her talents and hard work; however, it is ultimately her own individual motivation that makes her an outstanding athlete.



AP Images / Aaron Favila



## POETRY OUT LOUD COMPILATION

Over the course of the Winter term, Loomis has witnessed some brilliant poetry. Whether at convocations or at the Slam Poetry Showcase in the SNUG, many students have used poetry as a medium to initiate discussion, specifically on the theme of social justice. As the term dwindles to an end, we at the Log have the great opportunity to share some of Loomis' finest evocative poetry. **Enjoy!**

## REAL LIFES

**Arman Henry '18** | Contributor

Who am I?  
I don't mean that rhetorically, hypothetic, simile-tic, metaphorically  
No really  
Who am I?

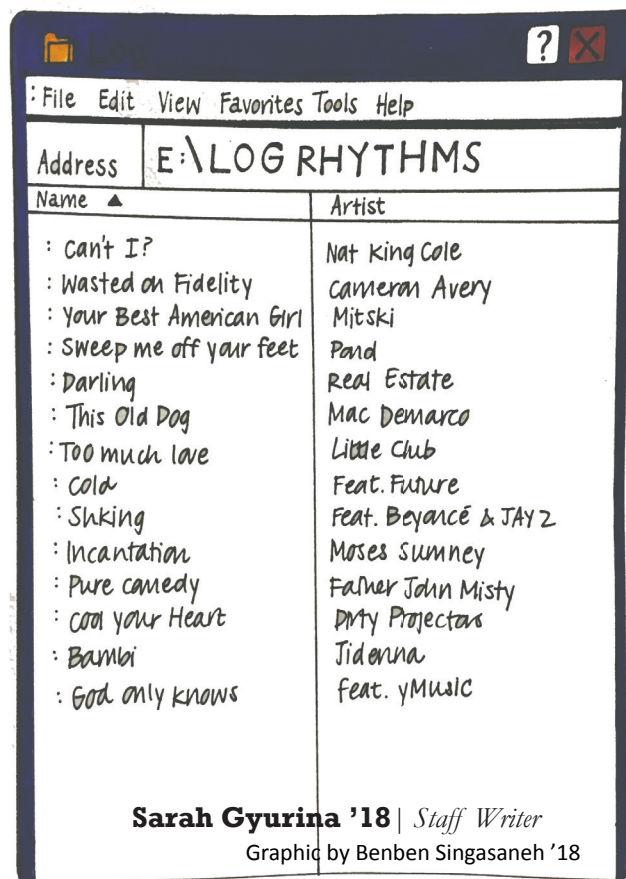
I can tell you I'm an educated young black man with a plan  
On the road to success  
when I speak  
I speak eloquently so much so that my vernacular  
has the capacity to impress  
I have to courage speak publicly  
and stand out from the rest  
But to you,  
I'm a threat  
"A 6 foot 3 black man ready to snatch the necklace right  
off my neck"

yeah, You see me as a threat!  
and you probably should...

Because if you pay any attention to any form of any mass  
media,  
I'm always up to no good.  
So much so that I'm suspicious for walking though my  
own neighborhood,  
with a hood!

I gonna tell you something that you may not know  
despite the Illusion of Choice, there are only 6 major  
broadcasting companies  
with only 15 media C.E.O.s  
therefore the 1 percent is in full control  
of your perception  
of every black man that you do not know

Open your eyes  
realize  
that these lies  
are  
real-lies  
and these real lies are  
costing us real lives (2x)



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Address E:\LOG RHYTHMS

Name	Artist
: Can't I?	Nat King Cole
: Wasted on Fidelity	Cameron Avery
: Your Best American Girl	Mitski
: Sweep me off your feet	Pand
: Darling	Real Estate
: This Old Dog	Mac Demarco
: Too much love	Little Club
: Cold	Feat. Future
: Shking	Feat. Beyoncé & JAY Z
: Incantation	Moses Sumney
: Pure comedy	Father John Misty
: Cool your Heart	Dty Projectas
: Bambi	Tidenna
: God only knows	Feat. yMusic

**Sarah Gyurina '18** | Staff Writer  
Graphic by Benben Singasaneh '18

## DEAR RACISM

**Amiaya Parker '18** | Contributor

Today I'm up here hoping someone in those bleachers is  
listening  
Not just sitting, yawning, or complaining  
But genuinely listening  
Listening to my cry  
Listening to me shout the names of those who have died  
Listening to me call out the ignorant people who run and  
hide  
Listening to me expose society's biggest lie  
Racism doesn't exist  
Unlike Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland and  
Alton sterling...just to name a few  
Racism is still alive and well  
It's heart is pulsing  
It's blood is flowing  
It's ignorance is thriving  
It's words are blinding  
Racism walks up to me and says I'm pretty but I'm lucky  
that I'm not blacker  
Racism hides on Instagram calling my friends porch mon-  
keys or niggers  
Racism sees a black boy with a hoodie on and skittles in  
his hand lifts up its gun and easily pulls the trigger  
Now let me stop with the fancy rhymes and poetic meth-  
ods to make this point clearer  
Because as I stand up here and spread awareness of  
racisms presence in this country  
Racism is somewhere in those bleachers calling me just  
another Angry Black woman  
I am not just another black woman  
And I am not angry  
I am enraged

Enraged that my skin color seems to be linked to more  
cons than pros  
Enraged that despite the imbalance of pros and cons we  
still have something strange called "black privilege"  
Enraged that a gorillas life matters more to society than a  
black life  
Enraged that I can stand up here preaching  
Preaching  
And preaching  
About the struggles people of color go through yet still  
not be heard  
So Today I'm up here hoping that Racism in those bleach-  
ers is listening  
Not just sitting, yawning, or complaining  
But genuinely listening  
Because even as I watch my words go into many ears and  
out the others  
My voice will not cease  
Everyday my sisters need to be reminded that we are not  
only beautiful but graceful from our laid edges to our  
feet  
Every day my brothers need to be reminded that their life  
matters and they are not and will never be just another  
nigga  
People of color appear to be a minority  
But there is nothing minor about us  
So, racism Today I'm up here hoping you're in those  
bleachers listening  
Not just sitting, yawning, or complaining  
But genuinely listening  
Because We do not fear you

## LATINIDAD: BREAK THE CHAIN

**Isaac Guzman '17 and Derrick Garcia '17** | Contributors

Together: From arroz to goya, from coco to quenepas, we  
are latino, not hispanic.

Isaac: Yo soy Boricua, pa que tu lo sepas.

Derrick: Yo soy salvadoreño, ya tu sabes

Isaac: So, you must be mexican right? Wait, but you are so  
light? I'm confused...

Derrick: Wait, you can't be spanish...you don't have an  
accent.

Isaac: First things first, I am not from spain. I am colo-  
nized; my people have been destroyed and my culture  
dismissed. I am left to pick up pieces, I didn't know  
exist. So, no, I am not spanish.  
I am the caribbean, I am the slave trade, I am borin-  
quen. I am the roots of my past that have been washed  
away. I will never go away for my legacy will always stay.  
I am that stain that could never dissipate.  
I am white, I am brown, I am my momma's child.

Derrick: Second, I am not Mexican. Central America is  
not defined by one name. We have broken our colo-  
nized chains and let freedom ring. We fought for our  
dignity and recognition as a country. Dismissed in the  
classroom, noone cares to learn about what thrives  
below the border. All we are taught are the rise and  
demise of ancient european order.

I am Central American, born in Nueva York, raised by  
a single mother, yo soy Salvadoreno.

Together: From arroz to goya, from coco to quenepas, we  
are latino, not hispanic.

Isaac: Okay, derrick, i peep you. But, remember we are the  
diaspora. We are the breadth and depth of migration,  
the ins and outs of our history. We are harlem, philly  
and everything in between.

Derrick: We are also the progression of Latino Excel-

lence, continuing what our family has built from dirt  
and air. We dance bachata through the house as we  
focus "en nuestros estudios". Though we struggle to  
find our culture in a place far from home, we bring our  
own flavor to the mix.

Isaac: Tato, papa. Derrick, did you know its "y tu novia"  
season as abuelita conjures brujeria in the back. "Cuan-  
do yo me muero" as retaliation for our actions and a  
"aye fo" you stink like the streets when I walk through  
that door.  
Or the "ponte vicks y ya" to remedy that cold, but still  
cannot seem to heal our souls. From dirt and air, we  
rise.

Derrick: Buenooo. You right, but don't forget the expect-  
ations to date within our race. La sangre must be pure,  
but my heart yearns for more as my idea of love has  
been limited.

Isaac: the blacker the worse, "Ay santo" "No, puedo"  
Pero, mi abuelita is black, and can't stand to look at that  
fact and move on. Internalized oppression will always  
hold. Fighting against that is what makes us bold.

Derrick: Hold up, you hear that in the back? That salsa  
and bachata, the beat that never lacks. Suavemente  
como nuestros movimiento, or Aventura enseñado a  
nosotros como a olvidar. Our rhythm flows through  
our veins, and every latino knows that when you hear  
that beat you better run and find a partner.

Together: From arroz to goya, from coco to quenepas, we  
are latino, not hispanic.

Together: one last thing, dont appropriate my culture and  
forget who I am. Do not clump me, do not ignore me.  
I am latino, not hispanic, and I rep my identity on my  
back. Pa' lante.

## A STORY ABOUT MÉLANGE'S WRITERS' BLOCK

**Robert Lotreck '18** | Mélange Editor

to cover and write about. News section covers worldly  
events, sports takes care of, you guessed it, sports, and  
opinion covers people's different opinions. So I'm left  
with, well, mélange, a French word for a miscellaneous  
mixture. While I'm grateful to have such freedom with my  
section, after countless listicles and poems, I'm beginning  
to hit a wall.

Maybe I'll try another poem.

My words hit the page with ease.  
As more and more lines appear, I become pleased.  
But just when it becomes a breeze,  
My brain suddenly starts to freeze.

There it goes again.

Ideas come in and out, yet very few seem worthwhile

and good enough to be included in the Log.

Oh, here's one!


"37 Ways to Survive: senior slide/junior year/APUSH/  
college apps/here we go again/the same thing/over and  
over/never ending listicles"

Hm. So close.

Then it hits me.

Why not ask the readers what they want Mélange to be?  
Instead of trying to make it new and original every time,  
try to survey the public and see what they like the most.

Well that's it then...what would YOU like Mélange to be?



**S**itting in my chair facing my  
laptop, I watch the clock  
tick away as the Log Editors meeting  
approaches.  
Should I make a Buzzfeed-style list?  
Weird dining hall food combina-  
tions?  
A memorial for summer vacation?  
Well, unfortunately, those have all  
been done before.  
Struggling to come up with new  
ideas, I begin to officially embrace  
my Mélange writer's block.

When you're in charge  
of a section such as  
Mélange, there's only  
so much you are able

Anh Nguyen '17 for the Loomis Chaffee Log