

# LoomisChaffeeLog

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# happy halloween

## IS UBER FOR EVERYONE?

Gunnar Simons '18 | Contributor

As a result of Uber's recent rise in popularity as an alternative to taxi transportation, students on campus have flocked to the service. For many, Loomis weekends create a sense of being trapped on campus, no matter how many mall trips and food trucks Student Activities throws at us. So, a cheap and easy ride to go anywhere offers something that every private school kid craves: freedom. Of course, problems arise when teenagers are granted too much freedom. So, the Loomis administration, fearful of the consequences that granting students access to Uber would bring, ruled that only students 18 and older can ride in Ubers. They often cited that this rule was Uber's policy, and not Loomis'. But is this really Uber's policy?

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Graphic by BenBen Singhasaneh '18

## A REVIEW OF SIAM CORNER



# APPE-THAI-ZING!

August Donovan '18 | Contributor



Graphic from August Donovan '18

There's a new Thai place in town, and it's sawadee-licious. Although I'm sad to see the soul food place go, its successor sure is succeeding. I've been there twice now, and even though I'm not much of a food critic, both meals I've had were wonderful. The first time I made the trip was on the Wednesday that sophomores and juniors had PSAT's, and I skipped breakfast to gain a fuller appreciation for the feast I was about to experience. Also, I woke up late. My friend and I took the grueling quarter-mile trip down to the restaurant, and we were greeted by some delightdecor: exotic foliage, sleek glass tabletops, all-new signage, and more. Past Thai kings posted on the walls looked on from behind their glass frames as we perused the menu's options. Decisions, decisions.

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“On a scale of one to ten, where ten indicates a higher quality dining experience, I am glad to rate Siam Corner a NINE.”

## OCTOBER EDITORS' PICKS

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# CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Angela Wang '20 | Staff Writer



Graphic from Julia Zabinska '18

The Loomis community recently held its annual Harvest Fest on September 30th, providing students with a chance to peruse the various clubs offered. Here is a basic introduction of some of the clubs at the fair, both new and old.

By starting the Comic & Illustration Club, Ashley Chung '19 seeks to encourage the exploration of modern art, animation, and comic art. Ashley expressed great interest in animation and a desire to share such enthusiasm with the Loomis community. "Through open discussions about how mediums like cartoon and animation can influence our thinking and young generations, I hope to further explore that genre with my close friends," Ashley said. She plans to host "drawing nights" and "animation showings" for the club and believed that potential artists would benefit from this event by displaying their masterpieces and interacting with other club members. The Science Fiction Book Club, also started by Ashley this year, holds monthly meetings to appreciate famous contributions to science fiction and short stories. Ashley was keen on merging her love for art with her newly discovered interest: science. Endeavoring to foster interdisciplinary efforts, she would like to "make connections between my clubs' interests (cartoon and science fictions) and [the] current world's emerging topics." Ashley was planning to have a discussion on how cartoons can portray political topics and sensitive issues in a subtle way. She also encouraged her club members to examine the ethical sides of modern science. "Besides, everything I do is simply for enjoyment, too," Ashley added.

Freya Rich '20 from Project Green, an environmental club, aims to inspire positive change and sustainability on campus through different initiatives. She discussed one of the organizations the club is currently working with—Boomerang—which was established in Australia and is devoted to produce canvas bags out of recycling

materials such as old clothing. Project Green plans to disperse these bags around dorms and locker rooms. Students are encouraged to bring reusable canvas bags to the school stores or Geissler's instead of using plastic bags every time. Freya hoped their initiative will "reduce plastic and make people aware of its impact on the environment."

Lucy Shao '19, the current leader of the Chinese Culture Association has been a member of this club since her freshman year, when Annie Zhou '17 started this club two years ago. The club's goal has always been to provide the Loomis community with genuine Chinese cultural experiences and helping people to understand Chinese rites and traditions. "We aim to educate our members about the Chinese culture through various activities," Lucy stated. Activities such as Chinese movie nights, calligraphy sessions, Chinese food cookouts will engage other students in Chinese culture.

Aiming to encourage the exchange of ideas on campus, Minna Gao '19 and Maral Asik '20 established the Current Events Club, or, as they like to call it, "The Coffee Club." "We want to provide a laid-back, inclusive environment where students can share their thoughts on global issues, learn about different perspectives, and just have a good time," Minna said, explaining the origin of the nickname. With mostly discussion-based meetings, the Current Events Club values inclusiveness and embraces differences in opinions and perspectives. The club plans on hosting many exciting events in the future, including movie nights, LC alum talks, themed discussions, and corresponding with experts and professionals to substantialize members' knowledge of current events.

There are more clubs waiting to be discovered and appreciated. We hope everyone will have a great time in these meaningful activities and become their better selves.

## APPLES TO CIDER

Sumin Kim '20 | Staff Writer

Colorful leaves began snowing down through the chilly fall breeze. The crisp crunch of dry fallen leaves on the ground and the clear blue sky created an exciting and fresh atmosphere. As the heat of summer fades away, fall has finally arrived on the Island. Celebrating the change of season, many Loomis students launched and participated in various fall-themed events, engaging in the season of harvest.

Recently, the Ag-Proctors made apple cider using their DIY apple cider press, the product of two Gilchrist Environmental Fellowship recipients, Julianna Lee '19 and Gunnar Simons '18. They hope to further agricultural opportunities in the Loomis community after the apple trees are planted on campus. They developed their design and outlined the draft press by researching various DIY sources, and afterwards, submitted their proposal last spring, and embarked on the project this fall. Inspired by the garbage disposal process, the press works by smashing the apples and extracting cider. The process was mostly done by students, but many supportive faculty members supervised and helped the students through any problems that emerged. The apple cider event received its apples not only from the Island but also from a Loomis alum who owns Rogers Orchards and who donated 30 bushels (nearly 5,000) of apples for the activity.

With an ample source of fresh apples, the students made 10 gallons of cider after the first four hours of labor. In the end, Ag-Proctors and faculty members distributed the cider to the CSA (Community Service Agriculture), where farmers share and distribute their products. Furthermore, they sold the cider to faculty and students.

However, the process wasn't without its challenges. The sweet flavor of apples attracted many bees, which distracted the students. "Bees get drunk by drinking the apple cider, so they were flying crazy around us when we were working. Yet, I really loved it and it was rewarding," Julianna commented. "Even though the project required a lot of effort and time, it enriched our Loomis agriculture community and highlighted the start of a bountiful harvest season," said Mrs. Lee, the head of the Agriculture Program. Other than making apple cider, the Ag Program plans to harvest various herbs such as calendula, holy basil, chamomile, and mint to dry and make into tea.

Two dorms, Ammidon Hall and Longman Hall, also took advantage of the refreshing fall weather and went apple-picking. Both dorms drove to an orchard and picked apples. Longman students also went pumpkin picking and painted pumpkins for Halloween last week, but Ammidon students weren't able to go due to the rainy weather. "Even though we couldn't do a lot of things that we planned, I think it was a great bonding experience for students and faculties in our dorm. I will be happy to do this again next year," said Alejandra Velasquez '20 (Ally), a first-floor Ammidon resident. Ms. Blas-Rangel, an Ammidon faculty, added that "the event happened in perfect timing when a lot of people could participate. It was sad that we couldn't go pumpkin-picking, but it [apple-picking] was a wonderful opportunity for the dorm to get to know each other and have a nice break from school work." Through a variety of fall events, Loomis students and faculties prepared for the transition into a new season.



Graphic from Gratia Lee



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## HOW(E) LOOMIS

### ADDRESSED CENTURIES-OLD SCARS: DORMITORY RENAMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT MISSION STATEMENT:

Stacy Park '19 and Ethan Levinbook '20 | *Features Editors*



Graphic courtesy of Sam Goldfarb '18

By changing the name of Mason Hall, we as a school have not changed history; we've made history," stated 2016-17 Student Council President Taseen Anwar '17. On Friday, October 20, 2017, history was made when Mason Hall was officially renamed Howe Hall in a dedication ceremony in Grubbs Quad. The ceremony began with opening remarks by Christopher K. Norton '76, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Speakers included head of school Dr. Culbert, dormitory head Lori Caligiuri, Howe Hall resident Juliet Rhodes '18, as well as Jane MacKay Howe '49. Mrs. Caligiuri emphasized how "dorm faculty have an important impact on a strong dorm community in the overall LC experience." She further noted that the Howes inspired dorm faculty to strive for their "best selves" and successfully guided countless students through their Loomis Chaffee careers. Juliet Rhodes remarked "how she feels a sense of belonging as [she] walks in the door every day."

The decision to rename the hall was first announced by the trustees on November 3, 2016 in response to a fierce, campus-wide debate regarding the offensive nature of the Mason name. Condemning racism, the Board of Trustees followed in the footsteps of major educational institutions like Princeton, Harvard, and Yale. These institutions had recently announced that they too would consider renaming buildings named for people whose actions, while important to the histories of their respective institutions, no longer model appropriate conduct.

The upperclassman girls' dormitory, located in the Grubbs quad, was named after Major John Mason (1600-1672). On the plaque that once was located on the exterior of Mason Hall, John Mason is described as "[a] WINDSOR COLONIST, LEADER IN THE PEQUOT WAR, LEGISLATOR, [and] SETTLER OF NORWICH." Born in Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire, England, Mason joined the English army in 1624 and was a sectarian in the Netherlands during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648).

He fled England for the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1632 during the Protestant Exodus. In 1635, he settled in Windsor, CT, at the confluence of the Farmington and Connecticut Rivers, serving from this location as a military leader of the Connecticut Colony. Having gained considerable military experience in the Thirty Years' War, he led the Puritans against the Pequot Indians of Mystic, Connecticut on May 26, 1637. He and his army slaughtered nearly every tribe member present in what is now referred to as the infamous Mystic Massacre. Mason directed two other massacres of Native American tribes on June 5th and on July 28th 1637. In 1889, a bronze statue that (ironically) stood on Pequot Avenue in Mystic was erected to honor Mason. However, due to local pressure, the statue was relocated to Palisado Green in Windsor, CT in 1996.

While the dorm was originally named for John Mason on account of his local celebrity, his controversial past forced the Loomis Chaffee community to reassess John Mason's impact on Loomis Chaffee, and therefore, his entitlement to a dormitory named in his honor. After much discussion on the island it was officially decided that, instead of honoring a person whose actions do not adhere to its current principles, Loomis Chaffee would dedicate the hall to someone who had a more meaningful, personal impact on the school. Glover '48 and Jane MacKay '49 Howe, longtime faculty members, alumni, and dorm-heads within Mason Hall, were the natural choice. Dr. Culbert reflected on the couple's impact on the Loomis Chaffee community in her May 16th message disclosing the new name of the dorm, "Glover and Jane guided thousands of girls and boys through their Loomis and Loomis Chaffee experiences and served as exemplary mentors to generations of faculty members." We hope that by renaming this hall after these important members of the Loomis Chaffee community, students will be reminded to honor their commitment, as stated in the LC mission statement, to promote their "best self and the common good."

## PERICLES PREVIEW

Sarah Gyurina '18 | *Staff Writer*



So goes the first lines of storyteller Gower in the NEO's rendition of Pericles, Prince of Tyre. The production opens Tuesday, October 24th, and runs through Saturday the 28th.

With prostitution, a joust, a puppet, and a couple shipwrecks, what more could you ask for?

Pericles was one of Shakespeare's most popular plays at the time of its creation, but half of its authorship is actually due to George Wilkins, another playwright at the time. It's a "problem play" and follows arcs similar to epic stories like those of the Odyssey or the Iliad, and it's complicated enough that a quick google of the plot before

seeing it might be helpful for playgoers. Be prepared for the heroism of Pericles (Macon Jeffreys '18), the storytelling of the Gowers (Richie Richardson '19 and Rhys Lewis '19), the righteousness of Marina (Sarah Gyurina '18) and the nobility of Thaisa (Lana Breheny '21), as well as the performances of countless others.

With a cast and crew of over two dozen students who have put up to 20 hours per week into rehearsals since the beginning of September, the show is bound to be a favorite for all audiences.

"To sing a song that old was sung, from ashes ancient Gower is come."

## MEET THE NEW FACULTY [PT 2]

Maddie Corsetti '19 | *Staff Writer*

Sebastian Blickman | *History*



Mr. Blickman graduated from Bucknell University with a degree in political science and Spanish and chose Loomis as a starting point for his teaching and coaching career. He made the decision to teach when he realized he "wanted to have an impact and loved the idea of becoming a teacher because some of [his] greatest role models were teachers." Mr. Blickman played soccer for Bucknell during his years there and then professionally for the Denmark national team. At Loomis he teaches World History, coaches the boys varsity soccer team, and works with the student activities department on campus. He explained his goal of "creating an environment in class where the kids are excited to learn and can share and discuss comfortably while still having fun." On the soccer field, he hopes to find success by "creating a competitive environment in which players challenge one another." He also wants to bring the Loomis community even closer together through generating support for games and activities on campus. Mr. Blickman attended Choate and is excited to return to the prep school world.

Ethan Percy | *College Guidance*

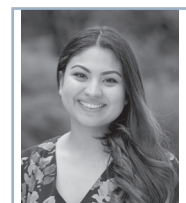


Mr. Percy attended Elms college where he received a B.A. in Business Management and later a M.S. in Education from Johns Hopkins University. He worked as the Director of College Advising at Baltimore City College in Baltimore, Maryland where he also coached the Boys' Varsity Soccer program and taught business. Prior to that, he was the East Coast Regional Director of Recruitment for the University of Arizona and an Admissions Counselor for Elms. Here at Loomis, he works as the Associate Director of College Guidance.

Laura Milligan | *English*

Ms. Milligan '99 returns to Loomis after obtaining a BA in American Studies from Smith College and teaching at Choate and the Millbrook School. At the Millbrook School, she taught English and History, coached field hockey and lacrosse, and was a dorm advisor. At Choate, she was the Director of Day Students and taught English. She also co-hosted a successful podcast on strategic teaching. At Loomis, Ms. Milligan teaches English II and English III and commutes from Madison, Connecticut where she lives with her husband, Chris, and two sons, Oliver and Oakley.

Maribel Blas-Rangel | *Language*



Ms. Blas-Rangel graduated from the Cranbrook Kingswood School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College in French and psychology. She resides in Shimkus and works in Ammidon with the Pelican Service Network while teaching Spanish II and French III Advanced this year. In the past, she worked as an English tutor to ESL students and as an assistant to the academic dean and a residential advisor for Horizons Upward Bound, an academic summer program.

John Cunningham | *Communications*



Mr. Cunningham is a 2017 graduate of Connecticut College where he double majored in history and government, while also working as a sports information assistant, writing sports stories and managing the athletics website. He also played on and captained the men's lacrosse team. Prior to college, he attended the Pomfret School. At Loomis, he works in The Office of Strategic Communications & Marketing as a sports information director, lives in Warham Hall, and coaches three sports teams.

Graphic courtesy of LC Communications



# Loomis Chaffee Log

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## ABOUT

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

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**SAM GOLDFARB '18 AND MILTON LEE '18** *Editors in Chief*  
**LAUREN HINTON '18 AND ALLEN PARK '18** *Managing Editors*  
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**SHLOK SHARMA '19** *Web Director*  
**PORTIA INZONE '20** *Social Media Manager*

**STAFF WRITERS:** *Yinyang Zhang '18, Sarah Gyurina '18, Nezir Alic '18, Michelle (Hee Won) Kim '18, Rosie Park '18, Eugene Kim '18, Charmaine (Hui Man) Sze '18, Eric Li '18, Pin (Prapada) Kanjanachusak '18, Sharon Zhou '19, Jeri Kim '19, Marleigh Gilberto '19, Lucy (Yangxiaoxiao) Shao '19, Suman Guntupalli '19, Angela (Hanchi) Wang '20, Sumin Kim '20, Maddie Corsetti '19*

**STAFF ARTISTS:** *Julia Zabinska '18, Ashley Chung '19, Sharon Zhou '20, James Oberling '18, Yusuf Zaidi '20, Michelle Park '20, MC Osborne '18*

**CONTRIBUTORS:** *August Donovan '18, Matthew Weng '21, Gunnar Simmons '18, Jackson Done '19, Arjun Grover '19, Christina Stone '20, Emma Devlin '21*

## LAS VEGAS SHOULD RESULT IN GUN LAW REFORM

Sharon Zhou '19 | Staff Writer



Graphic courtesy of AP Images

The Las Vegas shooting on the night of Oct. 1st shocked the entire nation. During the Route 91 Harvest music festival, a gunman, Stephen Paddock, opened fire on the concertgoers from his hotel room on the 32nd floor. An appalling disaster that killed 58 people and wounded about 500, this event is the deadliest mass shooting ever committed by an individual in the US. How should our school react to this tragedy as a com-

munity? In Mr. LaForest's CL US History class, students discussed their opinions on the school community's response to the shooting. Several students recalled that "business went on as usual," and more than one student confirmed that the in-class discussion was their first time talking about this tragedy. Many agreed that maybe the school should make an effort to "educate the students about what has happened," including hosting discussions, open meetings, convocations, etc. Raising awareness about important events helps community members stay informed, and the proposed discussions will certainly help facilitate a collective reflection on the horrible incident.

Despite this consensus, the class had a hard time reaching an agreement on the form these discussions should take. There certainly is concern that debates could be over-politicized. What role should the school play in discussions on controversial topics? As Amara Haider '19 pointed out, "the general difficulty in depoliticizing topics such as the massive shooting." In my opinion, politics by itself should not be treated as an abominable subject to be avoided in conversations; if we strive to maintain an open, receptive mentality in political dialogues—which is, admittedly, not the easiest thing—we will be able to see multi-perspective opinions complementing and adjusting to other.

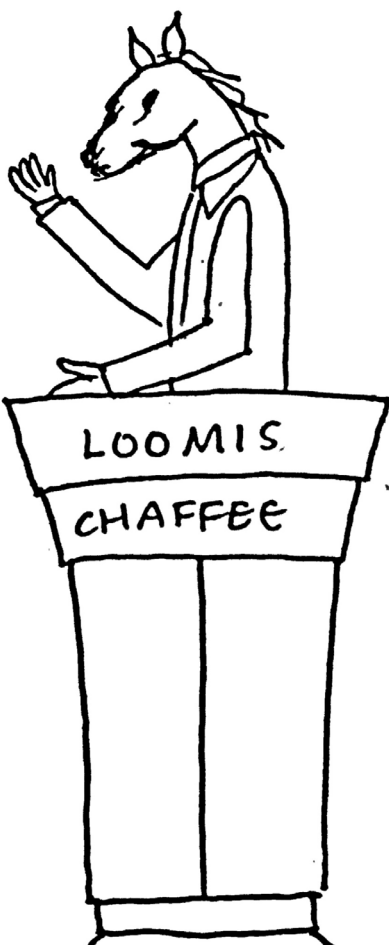
Now, let's take a look outside the Island and shift our focus to the debate on gun control, one of the numerous controversies stirred up by the massive shooting. Over the

course of history, supporters of citizens' rights of possessing guns have often cited the Second Amendment, which states that "a well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." The important role of citizen army in the American Revolution also contributed to people's pride in bearing arms, which gradually took on the connotation of independence. In response, supporters of restrictions on gun control claim that guns are less used for self-defense than other purposes. According to the Violence Policy Institute, in 2010 there were 230 "justifiable homicides" in which a private citizen used a firearm to kill a felon, compared to 8,275 criminal gun homicides.

In particular, this shooting directed people's attention to "bump stock," an attachment that enables a rifle to fire faster. Enabling the rifle to slide freely, the bump stock allows the shooter to fire consecutively, turning semiautomatic weapons into lethal automatic ones. Although bump stock is not banned under federal laws, the National Rifle Association announced on Thursday that it would support tighter restrictions on such devices (The New York Times). While this decision seemed to have gathered support from a wide audience, it ushered in disputes over who should actually carry out the new policy, if it were to be enacted. As people deeply mourn the tragedy, this incident may lead the intensive debate on gun control in new directions.

## WHY LOOMIS NEEDS A CONSERVATIVE CONVOCATION SPEAKER

Sarah Gyurina '18 | Staff Writer



Graphic by Cathy Hyeon '18

In my four years at Loomis Chaffee, I've never seen a conservative convocation speaker set foot on our campus. At first, I hardly noticed- I was in the majority, sitting comfortably in an echo chamber of liberal voices speaking on memory, media, mind-over-matter, and globalization. These guests were leading voices in their fields, I thought, worldly and considerate and open-minded. It wasn't until my junior year that alarmingly, their words started to blend together. As an ally to the LGBT community, to minorities, to women's rights and the environment, I began to realize that I wasn't learning anything new. These convocations were supposed to broaden my horizons, but the messages that were repeated loud and clear on that Olcott stage only made me stubbornly stand by my own beliefs. If all of the "experts" knew all of the answers, how could there even be an argument against my truth? The Loomis student body has never had a chance to fully explore the political spectrum; the consensus is that a liberal arts education breeds liberal students.

But the United States has always been a nation of multiple parties.

It's so easy to sit by as the world around me praises each point I make. It's not so easy for a large portion of Loomis students, who for years on end have endured political jabs toward the right-wing by countless convocation speakers. The speaker makes a comment on a new Trump policy, for example, a comment that shows little understanding of another, often more economically-focused perspective- a comment based solely in the moral compass

that guides liberalism- and a quarter (or more; it could be a silent majority) of students shifts uncomfortably in their seats, wishing for their voices to be heard. I'm happy to criticize my own party because I've made an effort that few have seemed to do: to recognize the true flaws of that party. I've made an effort to read scholarly articles, by the Wall Street Journal and The National Review, not the sensationalized personas of Ann Coulter and Sean Hannity. I've made an effort to become the devil's advocate, to say to a liberal friend, "half this country would disagree with you, and here's why." And I'm starting to get bored with the reiteration of my own ideas, like those stuffed animals that tell you "I love you!" each time you press its paw.

A liberal education should introduce a diversity of thought to the students. Such diversity of thought should include an array of convocation speakers with a diversity beyond the color of their skin. The administration claims to embrace multiculturalism, different perspectives, and inclusion, but it doesn't offer a chance for conservatives on campus to freely express and argue their beliefs, and it doesn't let liberal students question their own, either. This kind of exclusion fosters resentment and leads to the polarization facing our country today.

Having an intelligent, reputable conservative speaker address the entire school might ease some of these tensions, and allow for more freedom of debate. Now more than ever, understanding the complexity of issues plaguing the United States is vital. Loomis needs to let its students be a part of that conversation.



# TO KNEEL OR TO STAND?

Matthew Weng '21 | Contributor



Graphic Courtesy of AP Images

I can still vividly remember when I watched the replay of the New York Jets playing the New England Patriots in the first NFL game after 9/11. When the national anthem was sung, the only feeling in the air was unity. The singing of the anthem rejuvenates the spirit of all Americans after tragedy. Through sports, the national anthem strengthens its role as a symbol of power and solidarity.

The national anthem is often performed before major sports events when all players, with right hands on their chests, share a moment of patriotism and respect. In the preseason of the 2016 to 2017 NFL season, former all-pro quarterback Colin Kaepernick, however, knelt with his right fist in the air, protesting the national anthem to bring to attention the unfair treatment of colored people in the United States. This act immediately received an astounding amount of both support and criticism. A heated debate was started regarding whether the kneeling was appropriate or disrespectful. Nonetheless, Kaepernick's singular act triggered a wave of protests throughout the entire NFL. During the 2016-2017 season, nearly half of the players in the league protested the national anthem in some way, whether it be raising their fists, kneeling down, or even sitting on the bench. During the off-season, Colin Kaepernick remained unemployed due to his role in the protest even though he was one of the better players in the free-agent market. The kneeling continued into the 2017-2018 season. The controversy only deepened when several weeks ago, president Trump criticized the protests and urged all NFL owners to release the players who are involved in the "unpatriotic" exhibitions. The statement inspired a response from the NFL as the commissioner Roger Goodell openly defended the players, and many more NFL teams locked arms or even decided to remain in the locker room for the national anthem to show the support for those protesting for racial equality, the cause that started the kneeling.

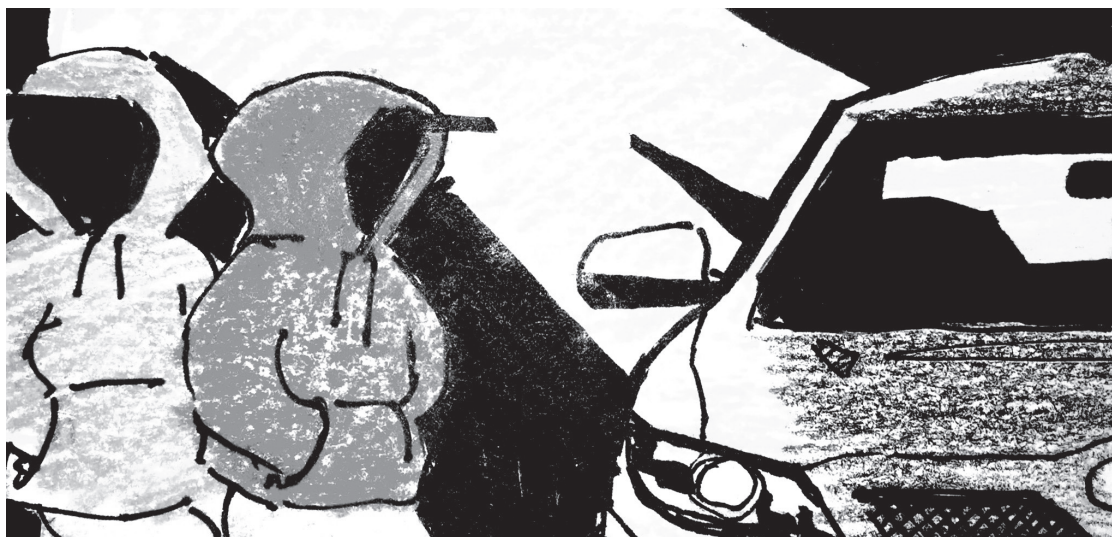
The whole National Anthem saga triggered an interesting question. What is patriotism? Is protesting for racial equality in a country really that unpatriotic? Or rather is ignoring such issues and staying with the norm unpatriotic? Everyone has their own definition of patriotism, Alejandro Villanueva, former army ranger and the only Pittsburgh Steeler that stood during the national anthem before a game while the rest stayed in the locker room, told reporters that it became incumbent upon him since when he attended West Point to salute the American flag and stand at attention during The Star-Spangled Banner.

He showed his respect for his country. Colin Kaepernick, a colored person adopted and raised in a white family, decided to protest against the same issue many great and successful figures had fought hard against before him. The moral justification of his action was quite the same as those who fought for racial equality in the past, he just did so through a different and perhaps more controversial method. Sure he might have knelt during the anthem, but he did so to try to make the United States more accepting of all people no matter their race; is that not patriotic? There aren't any necessarily correct answers to the question, but the only thing that matters is that he is exercising his own freedom to fight for a good cause without causing harm to others.

At the end of the day, no matter the protests, the national anthem is still one of the most important and powerful parts in professional sports. Whether it is the rush of adrenaline one experiences when the national anthem is played in an international sports contest, or the sense of strength and comfort in unity when the national anthem is played after a disaster, the anthem is still and will forever be what brings the entire nation together as one.

# LOOMIS SHOULD ADHERE TO UBER'S MINOR POLICY

Gunnar Simmons '18 | Contributor



(continued from first page)

Graphic by Tracy Kuo '18

As it turns out, this is not an Uber rule. From the Uber terms of service, we can read the following:

**"The service is not available for use by persons under the age of 18. You may not authorize third parties to use your account, and you may not allow persons under the age of 18 to receive transportation or logistics services from Third Party Providers unless they are accompanied by you."**

Now, if you didn't bother to read that block of information, or simply didn't understand it, their code of conduct states that no one under the age of 18 can have or use the app. But wait – there is some hope. Uber's terms of service also states that a minor can ride in an Uber as long as an 18-year-old orders the Uber and rides with said minor. If the deans truly are basing their school rule on Uber's Terms of Use, the school's absolute ban on minors riding in Ubers should be lifted, allowing minors to take Ubers on the condition that they are accompanied by another student 18 or older.

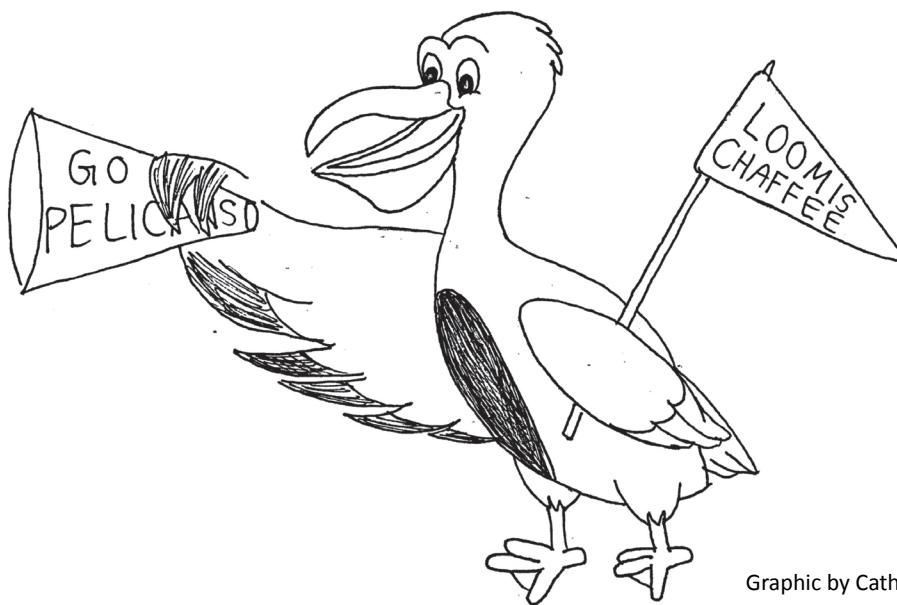
A possible argument the deans could make, however, is that the rule is for our own safety and is meant to keep us

out of trouble. A claim like this is just silly. Though Uber doesn't screen its drivers, the microscopic chance of a criminally inclined Uber driver is even more insignificant when as per Uber's official policy, minors would be accompanied by legal adults; it's perfectly logical to assume that a crime is less likely to be committed to an 18-year-old and a minor than to an 18 year old traveling solo. Moreover, according to The Atlantic, police departments "[don't] track assaults by where they happen—in a taxi, in an Uber, or in someone's home—so there's no data to compare reports against Uber drivers versus taxi drivers or limo drivers... This is meaningful because it underscores how the narrative about ridesharing and public safety is largely anecdotal."

For those of you reading this (all 13 of you to be exact), if you honestly believe that the school-wide Uber rule is absurd, then do something about it! Go to your StuCo representative and make them do something for once. If enough of us run amok yelling about how we hate this rule, then inevitably someone will take notice. Yell at someone on Stuco, yell at your friends, yell at your parents, have a polite and completely unaggressive conversation with the deans and maybe, just maybe, we can change this rule.

# SCHOOL SPIRIT INITIATIVES

Jackson Done '19 | Contributor



Graphic by Cathy Hyeon '18

School pride is the glue that holds a school's community together and connects those who wouldn't have otherwise been connected. This in turn makes it a quintessential part of Loomis Chaffee's identity as a school, but in reality, is our school spirit at the level that it should be?

Coming from a large public high school of 2,700 in Los Angeles, student pride was like the blood that ran through every student's veins. Whether it was a football game, a rally, or even an impromptu dance battle in the quad, everyone shared a common experience in participating in an event that brought the student body closer together. These events made us care more about each other as peers. By no means am I saying there wasn't normal drama and bullying, but for the most part, people developed a mutual respect for others' interests. Looking back on these experiences, these events weren't very well put together; a four-year-old could have organized them better, but that was far from the point. The point was that we made it our own in so many different ways. That's the reason why schools go through all the trouble of putting on those events: to help us realize we aren't just a group of individuals, we're a community trying to promote a common good and bettering one's self. Isn't that what Loomis is all about?

When looking at Loomis' sense of pride, a few things are apparent. The first being the time allotted for gatherings and events specifically for upping the excitement for

an event is surprisingly low. Let's face it, a random email from someone we've never met announcing a gathering in Hubbard isn't enough to get us there. On days leading up to a big game, what might help pump up the hype about the game would be an all school meeting or a series of community time activities. Community time is a great time to have activities in the quad where games with higher stakes could be played. Games should reward prizes that are worth something to the participant. For example, if someone won a game, instead of winning a cheap bracelet, they should win the ability to skip their work job for a week. Sounds a little more interesting, right? This would make the game more enticing for someone trying to get out of a bad work job or just someone looking to prove themselves to their friends. The incorporation of themes for football or hockey games with specialty t-shirts for the event could be another suggestion for improving school spirit.

These are but a few things put forth by one student in regard to improving the spirit of the school. Imagine if everyone were to come together to think of ways to improve school spirit. We would be a community in which the social norm would be to support every game and go to every class meeting just to make the school a more connected place with increased student involvement. That's the type of school I would love to be a part of.







# OKE-FUN-OKE

## LC SECRET SOCIETY CONTINUED

Liam Scott '19 | *Melange Editor*

So it turns out Loomis has a pretty cool history. If you read my previous article, you know that upon returning to Loomis this year I began research into the potential presence of secret societies on campus during the history of the school in order to prove to an Andover friend that Loomis has an interesting history, too. I honestly was expecting to find nothing, but an initial email exchange with Mr. Williams proved otherwise. Discussion with Mr. Williams, Mr. Scanlon, Mr. MacClintic, and Ms. Parsons further increased my knowledge of the esoteric fact that Loomis used to be home to secret societies, the most prominent being OKE-FUN-OKE, a secret society famous for elaborate pranks.

According to Mr. MacClintic, OKE-FUN-OKE was a secret, seniors-only organization that would occasionally do anonymous pranks. There was also a faculty advisor whose job was to keep the pranks in check and to advocate for what the society was doing on a philosophical level. The group would organize about two pranks per term around peak stress times with the intention to lighten the mood and increase school spirit. An article I found in the archives said that this society arose in 1971, after the Pirandello Society (a similar secret society) died out. On a side note, the Pirandello Society's name may be inspired by playwright Luigi Pirandello, whose name is described as "synonymous with the breaking of theatrical boundaries" in an article by *The New Yorker*. This idea of breaking boundaries may have served as inspiration for the founding of OKE-FUN-OKE. Mr. Williams, who is hazy on the details, told me that the name was a reference to the plot of the society's pranks- everything starts out normal and okay (oke), then there's the prank and everything is fun (fun) and then everything goes back to being okay (oke).

Regardless of names and roots, OKE-FUN-OKE was built on shaking up the mundane, and shake up the mundane they certainly did. The most memorable prank I learned of was a story told to me by Mr. Scanlon. "Those naughty boys," he recalled, "got ahold of a full grown cow, brought it up to the second floor of Founders, and let it go." Cows cannot go down stairs so the cow had to be lowered down from the balcony by a crane. Mr. MacClintic informed me that when he was a member of OKE-FUN-OKE during his senior year (he made it clear that he normally would not confess since "that's not the nature of secret societies," but his participation in the society had already been discovered fifteen years ago) he

advocated for truly clever pranks because "if [the prank] is really clever, they laugh while cleaning up." Mr. Scanlon said that the cow defecated all over the place, so I'm not sure if this would be a prime example of responsibility, but it is a prime example of OKE-FUN-OKE's characteristic overt boldness.

A prank of debatably equal brazenness was in the early eighties when students drove Mr. Williams and someone else's car into Chaffee (when the gym was in Chaffee) and blocked two entrances the night before a convocation speech from the head of school, John Ratté. Mr. Williams recalled that Mr. Ratté found this prank to be funny and "delivered his convocation address outside in front of the science center greenhouse, standing on a trash barrel."

Mr. MacClintic recalled a prank that took place when he was a student before joining the society when all of the silverware was stolen from the dining hall and ransom notes popped up every couple of days with hints regarding the whereabouts of the stolen silverware. The prank went on for several days before someone found the silverware in the Lost and Found.

Mr. MacClintic and an old Log article all shared details of another legendary caper. Essentially, there was a lot of hubbub for a few days urging everyone to go to the quad on Thursday during lunch. On Thursday, a day described in the article as one where "OKE-FUN-OKE actually did something, something creative and on their own," a helicopter flew overhead and someone wearing a gorilla suit threw money (customized OKE-FUN-OKE money mixed with some real money).

Mr. MacClintic seemed nostalgic as he remembered OKE-FUN-OKE and his time spent as a member. Through speaking with him I learned that overwhelmingly, OKE-FUN-OKE was something bigger than its members and a major source of school spirit. He accredited the difficulty of restarting the society to two main reasons. Primarily, OKE-FUN-OKE was not about individuality, so today's "nature of connectedness and proclivity to take credit for things" would make anonymity very challenging to achieve. Additionally, today's concern with safety would make a revival difficult. Regardless of whether or not OKE-FUN-OKE will ever return, we can still remember them and model their ideals. This is not an endorsement for all our mania, but we can still appreciate and learn from their iconic boldness and seemingly laid back nature.

# ARAMARK 2.0

Tommy Shi '18 | *Contributor*



Graphic by Lauren Hinton '18

After the departure of the corporation that catered prisons and Loomis Chaffee for years, we have now welcomed the arrival of FLIK Dining. After weeks of FLIK's food, I have discovered unexpected side effects. After meals and meals without a fork, I had an epiphany: a barbaric tool such as the fork has no place at a dinner table. After testing the new combination of spoon and knife, I realized that a previously thought-to-be convenient tool that spears food is actually unnecessary. Why wait for clean forks when you can awkwardly lift ribs with a teaspoon? Why sacrifice efficiency using a fork for pasta when you can slap your face into the plate and just inhale? Forks should be eliminated from American society altogether. My newfound realization has granted me efficiency, allowing me to waste times in long queues and finish food rapidly when I eventually reach the serving table.

Even more shockingly, I felt a physiological change within myself. I have developed a new tolerance toward dehydration. Like a lizard that adapted to the searing heat of the desert, I also adapted to the lack of cups. This recent change within my body has aided my traversing of the desert that is Rockefeller quad, allowing me to walk through the dust, unharmed. In my opinion, Loomis athletes will improve due to the involuntary dehydration training. On the other hand, we must be cautious in our consumption. After all, our bodies are our temples. Instead of consuming the dubious chemical dihydrogen monoxide, perhaps we should wait for more research on this substance, more commonly known as water. According to statistics, 100% of criminals consume this chemical, and it causes thousands of deaths in the US alone. Does it really have all the benefits trained medical professionals claim? Or is it just all one big conspiracy manufactured by the utility company? I'm sure FLIK had good reasons for protecting us from the obvious hazards of water.

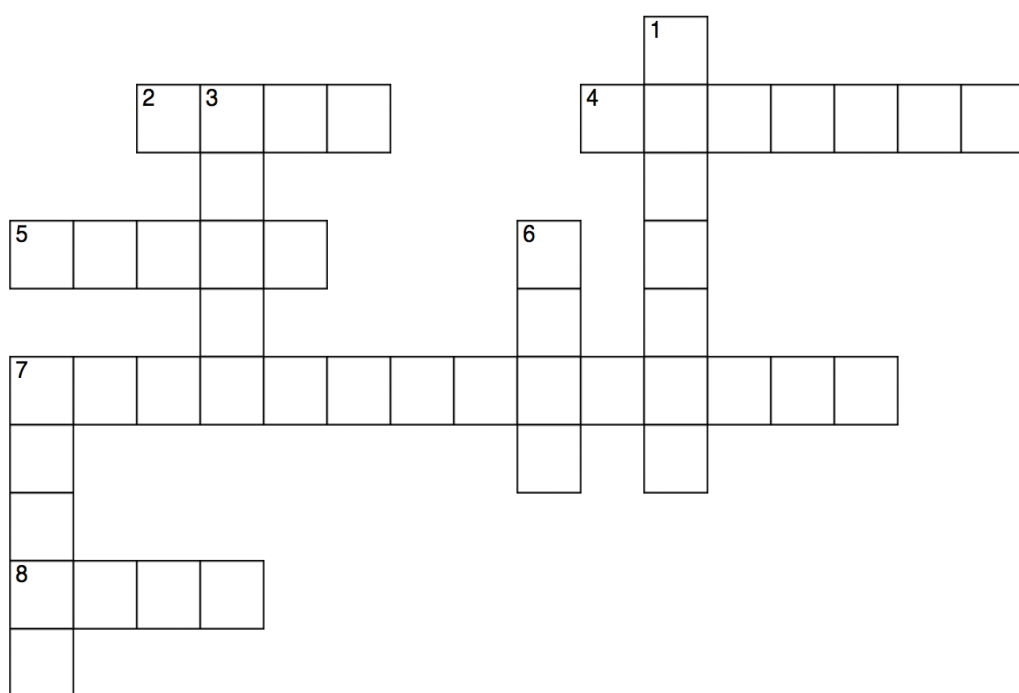
FLIK has even more hidden benefits in addition to allowing me to devise innovative ways to consume food and protecting me from dangerous chemicals. Instead of gorging myself on a consistent supply of hot food, I can now easily limit my intake. Instead of carefully counting calories, a person who wishes to lose weight can simply enjoy the complimentary service offered by FLIK. To put this complex service simply, you can't get fat if there's not enough food. Another fantastic opportunity I have discovered with the lack of consistent food supply is the inevitable, long lines. A line for food serves as a great bonding opportunity that unites the entire student body. In line for food, a senior can even have a conversation with a freshman by simply complaining about the line. An expertly designed social mixer, the long lunch lines are excellent opportunities to form unlikely friendships.

But wait, there's more! Parents of picky eaters, worry not. FLIK's limited selection of hot food allows no grounds for bargaining. If you want hot food, you eat what is served. Just like the ingenious Soviets, FLIK has the simple but effective solution for picky eaters: you can't choose if there is no choice. The lack of selection is truly a stroke of genius that makes parenting a much easier chore. The members of the LC community are absolved of the arduous duty of choosing from a wide selection of food. Instead of making an amateur mistake of serving a different array of hot dishes, sandwiches, and international food, FLIK had the foresight to increase efficiency and relieve the stress that food selection stirs in its customers.

On a more serious note, the food quality has undoubtedly improved. FLIK is making substantial progress with the limited resources that they have. But it's been almost two months, is it too difficult to ask for clean cutlery and enough food to satisfy the army of PGs?

## Late Fall Blues

Graphic by Milton Lee '18 and Lauren Hinton '18



### ACROSS

- 2 Proof that Stuco does work (once in a while)
- 4 WeHa's Chipotle
- 5 Unorthodox name of G. Paltrow's child/fall food
- 7 When teachers act nice and students are shy
- 8 hottest ethnic cuisine in town

### DOWN

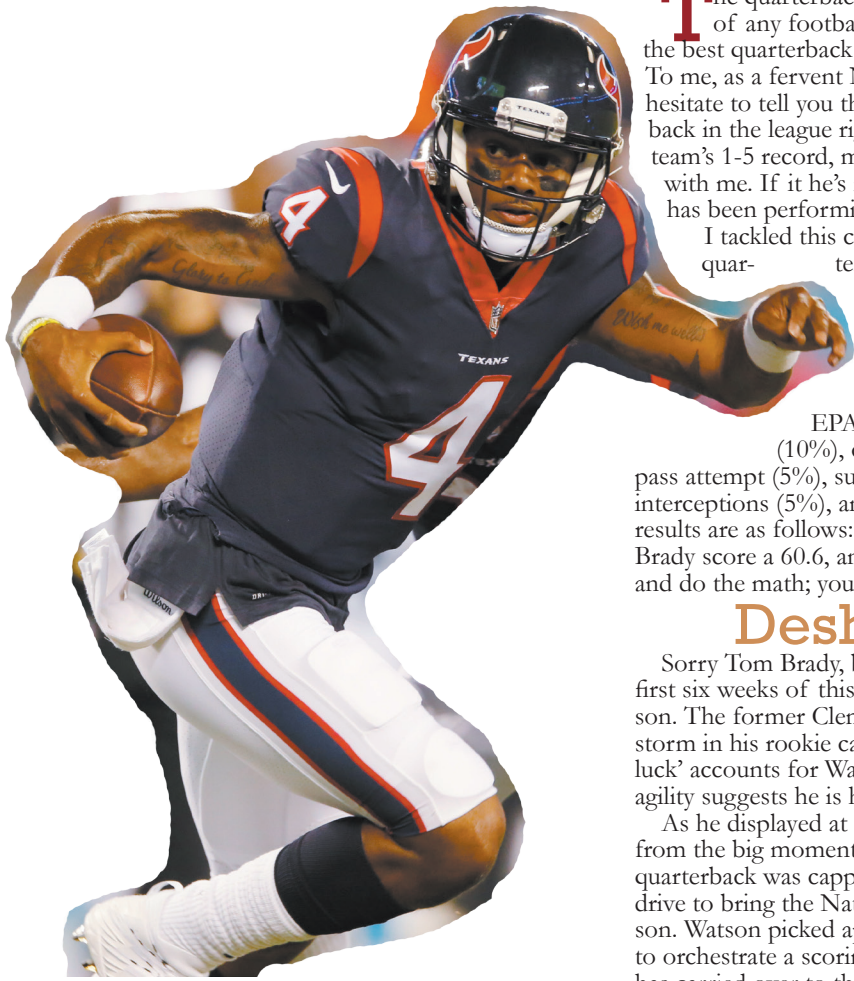
- 1 served every Thursday morning in Taylor hall
- 3 Late friend of Eunice and Valentine
- 6 cheaper (more dangerous?) taxi
- 7 Italian staple/ one thing we don't run out of in the dining gym



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## NFL'S BEST QUARTERBACK?

Arjun Grover '20 | Contributor



The quarterback: unquestionably the most vital part of any football team's offense. So, who has been the best quarterback through Week 6 of the NFL season? To me, as a fervent New York Giants fan, I would not hesitate to tell you that Eli Manning is the best quarterback in the league right now. However, judging by the team's 1-5 record, most people would rightfully disagree with me. If it he's not Eli Manning, which quarterback has been performing at the highest level so far?

I tackled this complex question by analyzing all NFL quarterbacks by statistics, because as almost any math teacher would say, the numbers never lie. I used eight different statistics\* and each one held different weight. The scores were broken down as follows: QBR (25%), EPA (25%), number of touchdown passes (10%), completion percentage (10%), yards/pass attempt (5%), super bowl rings (5%), number of interceptions (5%), and fantasy football points (15%). The results are as follows: Deshaun Watson scores a 63.7, Tom Brady score a 60.6, and Alex Smith scores a 60.5. Go ahead and do the math; you will get the same ranking, I promise.

## Deshaun Watson

Sorry Tom Brady, but there is a new top dog through the first six weeks of this season. That man is Deshaun Watson. The former Clemson superstar has taken the league by storm in his rookie campaign. Some may say that 'rookie luck' accounts for Watson's success, but his strong arm and agility suggests he is here to stay.

As he displayed at Clemson, Watson does not shy away from the big moments. His 32 and 3 record as a starting quarterback was capped off by a memorable game winning drive to bring the National Championship trophy to Clemson. Watson picked apart Alabama's world class defense to orchestrate a scoring drive as time expired. His success has carried over to the NFL, where he leads the league in

touchdown passes (15) and average QBR (136); QBR is a quarterback's rating based on the effect he had on the game. Also, Watson has made fantasy football players who gambled on an unproven quarterback very satisfied. He tops all quarterbacks in fantasy football points. If anyone would like to trade your Deshaun Watson for my Aaron Rodgers and Odell Beckham Jr. (both out with season ending injuries), please contact me asap!

Although very good, Watson is not perfect; he has shown signs of weakness in his first weeks in the NFL. With five interceptions in 6 weeks, he is having trouble reading experienced defensive backs and his passing accuracy varies game to game. The good news for Watson and the Texans is that these two abilities come with time. They may have just found their franchise quarterback.

So far this season, Watson has been a perfect fit in a Texan offense that has stumbled in years past; Houston had 2 different starting quarterbacks in 2016 and an astonishing 4 in 2015. Watson instantly offered stability. Watson and DeAndre Hopkins, Texan star wide receiver, have become an unstoppable duo; Hopkins leads the league with touchdown receptions at 6 and has a position ranking of 2 in the league, according to ESPN. Although Watson is having success, his team is in a three-way tie for first in the AFC South at 3-3. Injuries to defensive stars J.J. Watt and Whitney Mercilus has caused the Texan defense to nearly fall apart.

Sorry Patriots fans, but Watson's first couple weeks in the League are enough to edge him over the GOAT himself, Tom Brady. Before you Patriot fanatics get too mad at me, just remember there are 10 weeks left in the regular season and the quarterback rating may very well change in the matter of a few days. Agree with me or not, Deshaun Watson has been the best quarterback in the NFL this season so far.

\*All stats are from ESPN.com as of the end of week 6.

Graphic courtesy of AP Images

GIRLS SOCCER:  
STILL GOING STRONG

Christina Stone '20 | Contributor

The Loomis Chaffee girls' varsity soccer team is right where we'd expect them to be a few weeks into their season. The girls have their hardest job yet, to defend the title of NEPSAC Champions. But that accolade is in the past, and Coach O'Brien is urging her squad to focus on the new challenges of each game in their current season. The Pelicans are 7-3-1, a respectable record for the five-week mark in their season. Although they may have fallen to Choate and Nobles, the girls' team earned an exciting win over Taft and a decisive victory over Kingswood Oxford. We hope their success will continue throughout the rest of their season.

The Pelicans have passed the midpoint of their season, but have yet to reach their peak. They've spent weeks perfecting passing patterns, shot placement, and learned the value in staying onside. Some other areas of importance include following every shot on goal for rebounds, and never straying from their approach to the game. The team may have suffered some injuries over the last few weeks, but they never abandoned their style of play, signature work-ethic, or possession of the ball. No matter the physicality or lack of class in their opponents, the girls' soccer team always finds a way to outsmart, outrun, and outmatch their competitors.

The girls' soccer team strives for greatness at every practice and game, the competitive environment building on their character and team chemistry. In practice, intense small-sided games are welcomed with determination, and functional drills are studied with precision and intent. The girls aren't afraid to hold each other accountable and voice their opinions about team strategy. Of course, the team does their share of sprints, but the players know the hard work will pay off as they get deeper into their season.

When they're not getting down to business, the girls' soccer team knows how to have fun! Team dinners and charades are team favorites, as well as the occasional birthday snack. The girls cheer each other on during games, and celebrate every win with enthusiasm. Team talks after almost every practice are the girls' favorite pastime, especially with the team yoga sessions that follow. This group is very cohesive and energetic, led by their four captains; Lia Laprise '18, Grace Smith '18, Izzy Lachcik '18, and Lauren Hinton '18. The rest of the team looks up to these girls to lead, both on and off the field. The four captains put lots of time and thought into the team, and never fail to lead the rest of the group to victory. The girls' soccer team loves to have fun, and they enjoy every moment of the season.

This team is full of talent and determination, two major ingredients for success. As the girls' soccer team gets deeper into their season, there will be many more obstacles to overcome and plenty of goals to be scored. It will be exciting to see how far these pelicans will fly, and of course, we will be cheering them on every step of the way. From the first whistle blow at the beginning of the season, to the last second of their final game, Loomis Chaffee girls' varsity soccer will be a force to be reckoned with.



Graphic courtesy of Slawomir Lachcik



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