

Loomis Chaffee Log

JANUARY 31, 2019

Issue 102, No. 5

thelclog.org



BEFORE THEY WERE LC FACULTY, THEY WERE...

Hazel Le '22, Andrew Park '22 | Contributors

Although the faculty members of Loomis Chaffee may seem as if they have been LC faculty for their entire working life, surprisingly, that is sometimes not the case. Behind the desk of every teacher, there is a compelling story about another part of his or her life.

Mr. Nick Barker, dean of the junior class and English faculty member, was a part-time ice cream truck driver during the sweltering summer months of his college years. He drove around the neighborhood "listening to a song like the Entertainer over and over again on repeat." He admitted that this got to the point where "the song [became] stuck in [his] head forever because of that job."

He also drove down to the beach and waved a sign around signaling that there was ice-cream, which was embarrassing and uncomfortable; he commented that he felt ridiculous at times.

The job taught him an important lesson which "ended up staying with [him]" throughout his career as an educator: "the importance of setting a goal and sticking to it...that's important both for yourself but also for other people and their expect-



Graphic by Andrew Park '22

Dean Barker in front of his office, where a sign says, "It's never too early for ice cream."

tations of you." One day, he skipped a street because he never had any luck there and almost nobody bought. However, as he was pulling up to the next street, one man ran up to him and said, "I can't believe you didn't go up my street!" This taught him that

when people are expecting things of him, it's important to be there for them.

Dean Barker said his most popular ice-cream flavors were "the Choco Taco, maybe Chocolate Eclair... or Strawberry Shortcake."

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LC STOCK MARKET GAME

Eric Song '21

Contributor

As a high school student, you don't necessarily have what it takes to make a big bank on Wall Street just yet, but Brian Chen '19 was able to gross half a million dollars on a regular Tuesday from the comfort of Taylor dorm. In a single day, you could short 10 billion dollars against the Bank of England and make a billion-dollar profit—like the stock trading legend George Soros did.

The thought seems surreal, but Loomis Chaffee provided all students with the chance to manipulate the stock market and see what it takes to be the next Soros. In a virtual stock trading competition hosted by MarketWatch.com, 185 students, ranging from freshmen to seniors, were given an exciting opportunity to experience stock trading without the worry of possible financial risk.

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SOLD: GUN RANGE

Stephanie Zhang '21 | News Editor

During everyday lacrosse practices in the Meadows last spring, the last thing anyone expected to hear was a series of sporadic gunshots sounding from the woods.

These gunshots originated from the 6.7-acre property that was regularly used by the previous owners as a firing range. This land parcel, located at the end of faculty row after the Mills House, extends all the way down to the Connecticut River. Due to its location near the Loomis Chaffee campus, "the noise and proximity of firearms adjacent to our property were of major concern," Mr. Webb Trenchard, the Associate Head of School, said.

Jordan Korn '22 had similar views regarding the location of the firing range. "Especially in this day and age, when school shootings are on the rise, hearing gunshots close to campus is concerning. You don't know what's happening and

confusion and panic set in really fast," she commented.

Although the plot's assessed worth was only \$5,600, Loomis paid \$150,000 for it on June 21, 2018. That purchase ended decades of negotiation between the school and the owners of the land, starting when Windsor Locks resident Albert Dematos purchased it in 1975. Albert later passed the land to his son Daniel.

The Dematos family had initially asked for a price that was "many multiples" of the final price of \$150,000, according to Mr. Rich Esposito, Loomis's chief financial officer.

"The owner felt very connected to the piece of property because it had been in his family for a long time, and so there was some sentimental connection there," Mr. Trenchard said.

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Map courtesy of <https://info.townofwindsorct.com/gis/>

The patch of land that Loomis purchased (highlighted in green) extends from Faculty Row to the Connecticut River.

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LC STOCK MARKET GAME

Continued from the front

Eric Song '21 | Contributor

Organized by Mr. Denunzio, Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Leyden, and Jasper Shi '19 of the LC Economy Society, the virtual competition opened on January 3 and will close on January 31.

The competition follows the US stock market in actual time, which creates the most realistic stock market experience possible for Loomis' economics students.

With a quarter of the student body participating, the competition inspired much buzz on campus, and this only increased as the department received prize money to give to the winners. The student in first place overall will receive a Visa gift card worth \$75, and the winner from each grade will receive a gift card worth \$50.

A small cash bonus alone does not drive students to devote time and effort into a virtual competition. The competitive, realistic, and accessible nature of the competition were contributing factors that ramped up a large participation. Mr. Denunzio and Mr. Henderson discussed the driving philosophy behind the competition, the current market economy, and student performance in the competition.

"The goal [of the competition] is to drum up as much interest in economics as possible but also increase the accessibility of it," Mr. Denunzio said.

He and the other organizers put an emphasis on making stock trading available for everyone.

"Knowledge is good, and knowledge is useful. Knowledge is free for everybody. What you must do is take information that everyone has and use the information to make an educated guess on what's going to happen," Mr. Denunzio said.

Name	Net Worth	Trades
1. Eric Song	\$1,969,766.19	316
2. Brian Chen	\$1,637,001.13	2177
3. James Wang	\$1,441,881.00	43
4. Edward Zhao	\$1,435,226.07	208
5. Trent Hieber	\$1,433,599.89	9
6. Ryan Armstrong	\$1,330,712.78	46
7. Ben Ritter	\$1,260,591.51	21
8. Reilly Connors	\$1,222,317.45	83
9. Alan Abdrazakov	\$1,201,851.90	44
10. Tyler Allcroft	\$1,201,613.22	107

The Stock Market Game leaderboard as of Tuesday, January 29.

Anyone can Google an earnings report or a 10-K annual report in seconds, but the ones who use the information best make the bucks.

"Part of [the competition] is to recognize that what happens in this competition isn't what happens in real life, [if we did] for sure we would all be millionaires today. The volatility show students that pratfalls of the market and what to be aware in real life," Mr. Henderson said.

As 2019 came around, the staggering of major companies and crumbling of federal institutions imposed heavy consequences on consumer sentiment. With the stooping drop of Apple, PG & E, and

many accomplished corporations, 2019's stock market is characterized by volatility and uncertainty.

Brian Chen '19 had outpaced the student in second place by a whopping 200,000 dollars by January 23. A tour of his "setup" reveals there is no magic at work here despite much conspiracy; Brian did not program an entire computer to mastermind his operation.

Being a senior, Brian has much leisure time and remarks, "there's nothing much to do here." The relaxing post-application schedule motivated Brian to devote left-over time and effort into devising strategies to win the competition. Brian's strategy is straightforward yet powerful: utilize technology and short-sell.

Such a strategy is dangerous. Short-selling is when an investor borrows shares and sells them immediately, hoping he or she can pick them up later at a lower price, return the shares (to the lender) and profit from the difference. Nonetheless, short selling is an effective approach to quickly pocket cash in little time.

Everyone can short sell with the click of a few buttons. The ones who incorporate strategy, research, and technology set a distinction between the winners and losers. Brian's use of this technology allowed him to tap into penny stocks which have low volume but high volatility. For Brian, the combination of technology, research, and a high-risk strategy ensured a swift climb to the top of the leaderboard.

The winners of the Stock Market Game will be determined on Thursday, January 31.

LC BUYS FORMER BANK OF AMERICA

Lily Potter '21 | Staff Writer

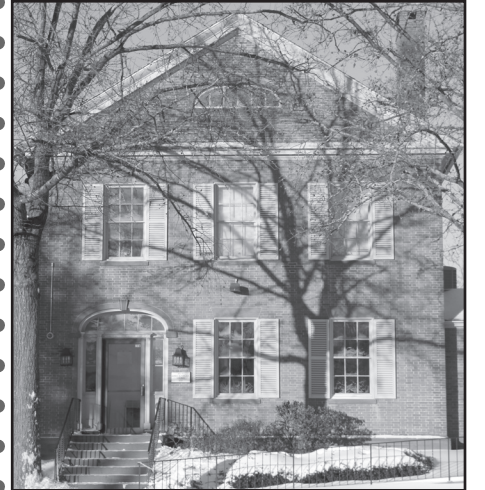


Photo by Anna Rebello '21

The Bank of America building on Broad Street.

Loomis Chaffee purchased the house of Colonel James Loomis and Abigail Chaffee Loomis, located on Broad Street in Windsor, in summer 2017.

Although it had served as a Bank of America for decades, the building was once home to all of Loomis' founders in history. In addition to the six founders, domestic servants, farm laborers, and apprentice store clerks lived under the Loomis family roof, according to Loomis Chaffee's archivist, Ms. Karen Parsons.

Both James and Abigail were Windsor natives. James worked as a merchant, private banker, and miller and owned a substantial amount of local real estate and farmland.

Ms. Parsons explained that he also served in the first regiment of the Connecticut militia and for two terms represented Windsor in the Connecticut legislature.

According to Associate Head of School Mr. Webb Trenchard, there are no definitive plans regarding exactly what to do with the building, but the administration is "open-minded to it [and would] like to do something that's good for the school and good for the community."

One idea that Loomis considered was opening a coffee shop or high-end fast food place. The school administration "would love to be able to partner with some entity that would make downtown Windsor more vibrant and that would represent some kind of appealing option to our students and our community," Mr. Trenchard said.

Although the administration reached out to Starbucks, the company was not interested in pursuing the partnership.

Other ideas being considered include using the space to showcase some of the historical holdings in the archives collection.

According to Mr. Trenchard, "One of the ideas is to use it to showcase some of the historical holdings in the archives collection. But, we aren't sure how well that's going to work. We're not sure that we want to do that outside of the loop, off campus."

"We're still mulling over details; we don't want to rush ahead and do something that would have long-lasting consequences that we'd regret a few years down the road," Mr. Trenchard stated.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Jean Shin '20 | Staff Writer

Is it legal to set aside a certain number of spots in a class for certain ethnicities? Is considering race in applications an act of discrimination?

To discuss these controversial questions, students and faculty gathered in the Nee Room on Tuesday, January 14, to examine the issue of affirmative action and the recent Harvard admissions trial. The Multiracial Affinity Club collaborated with the Norton Center for the Common Good to organize this dialogue.

Harvard University's affirmative action trial debated over the use of personality scores on applications. These arguably biased scores seemed to lower the admittance chances of Asian-American applicants while raising the chances for African-Americans and Hispanics. The consistent percent of admitted Asian-Americans also raised questions about the existence of racial quotas, which was deemed unconstitutional in previous trials.

The Harvard trial came to an end on November 2, 2018, but U.S. District Court Judge Allison Burroughs has not revealed her findings and opinion about the case yet.

Mr. Kevin Henderson, Ms. Amy Thompson, Mr. David Rion, and two Shultz Fellows, Jasper Shi '19 and Carter Hutchinson '19, delivered opening statements. Afterward, the discussion was opened to the audience for a question and answer session.

Mr. Henderson, a former lawyer and current history teacher, explained the legal history of affirmative action.

He explained that during the Regents of the University of California v. Bakke trial in 1978, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld affirmative actions by allowing race to factor into the college admissions process. The ruling proceeded to state that racial quotas, or a certain number of seats for a particular race, were unconstitutional.

He further mentioned that in 2003, the Supreme Court reviewed the Grutter v. Bollinger case and ruled in favor of affirmative action at the University of Michigan Law School. The court declared that seeking diversity is constitutional as long as the quota system does not exist.



Students and faculty engaging in a dialogue regarding the Harvard Affirmative Action trial.

Following Mr. Henderson's statement, Ms. Thompson, the director of admissions at Loomis Chaffee, shared her thoughts about this issue of affirmative action. In doing so, she shared information about Loomis's selection process.

Ms. Thompson revealed that race does not solely determine a student's acceptance or rejection at Loomis. Race is just one of the many factors in a student's application. Admissions officers consider the application on a holistic level, and race plays a role in completing each life story.

Mr. Rion, the director of college guidance, then explained the college selection process in relation to affirmative action.

From his experiences working at Boston University, Brandeis University, Pomona College, and Occidental College, Mr. Rion emphasized that every college approaches the selection process of their class differently. The admissions process at Harvard University is unique, so it cannot be generalized to other colleges in the United States.

To give an example, Mr. Rion described University of California schools. In 1996, California passed Proposition 209, which banned state institutions to consider race and ethnicities in their applications.

"Since then, your UC applications don't have a place for you to check what race you are. They actually don't even see your name," Mr. Rion explained.

He went on to say, "But many of the UC admissions officers still value racial and ethnic diversity in their schools, and they don't want to be hamstrung in finding and recruiting it. They will tell counselors

and students to write about your life story. We want to hear about your background. In essence, they're still getting that component without it being officially in their system."

The co-leaders of the Multiracial Affinity Club, Natalie Halsey '20 and Isabelle Halsey '20, shared their inspiration behind organizing this event.

"We were both reading about affirmative action in the news, and our mom is a part of the Harvard Asian Association because she is a Harvard alumna. She was telling us at dinner one night that her association was so in favor of affirmative action. We thought it was interesting how there was such a divide in opinion even among the Asian community," Natalie said.

Isabelle added, "We also thought it would be a good topic to discuss within the Loomis community because diversity is such an important part of our community. It would be interesting to hear what Loomis people thought about it."

Overall, students were pleased with the thought-provoking discussion and its unique insights.

Tara Pugliese '19 remarked, "I especially appreciated how well-structured and balanced it was. There were a variety of perspectives, which allowed for an engaging conversation and made it accessible for those who attended the panel to comment and put their own opinions, thoughts, and perspectives into the conversation."



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MR. LAFOREST AWARDED BRIDGE BUILDER PRIZE

Elena Anderson '19 | *Sports Editor*

“I feel like I accepted it on behalf of the Loomis students because it’s my job to help Loomis students build community or get involved. It’s about the work the students have done on behalf of the school or with people in town.”

Eric LaForest, Director for the Norton Family Center for the Common Good and a Loomis Chaffee History teacher, was recently awarded a Chairman’s Prize, one of several annual Bridge Builder Awards presented to community members by the Town of Windsor’s Human Relations Commission. The mission of the Human Relations Commission is to “Promote understanding and respect among various racial, religious, and ethnic groups and individuals.”

Mr. LaForest earned this award through his advising of and involvement in various outreach and community service efforts done by Loomis Chaffee students throughout the Windsor community.

Although Mr. LaForest earned this recognition for his work in The Norton Center, he said, “I feel like I accepted it on behalf of the Loomis students because it’s my job to help Loomis students build community or get involved. It’s about the work the students have done on behalf of the school or with people in town.”

According to Windsor Human Relations Commission, “The Bridge Builders Awards are awarded to those individuals, organizations and companies that exhibit EXCELLENCE in Human Relations, Cultural and Social Justice and Humanitarian interest in the Windsor community.”

Throughout the history of the Norton Center, students have engaged in projects

that explore each facet of this mission, sometimes in Windsor, sometimes in their own hometowns, and sometimes even abroad. Recently, however, a few projects facilitated by the Norton Center have had a distinct impact on the local community, which has attracted the attention of the Windsor Human Relations Commission.

Last year, Haleigh Stewart '18 and Sarah Olender '18 researched and created a documentary about sex trafficking in Connecticut through the Norton Center after learning about this worldwide issue on an Alvord Center for Global and Environmental Studies trip to South Africa. When their film was first shown at Loomis, the Windsor Human Relations Commission was in attendance and was highly impressed by their work. This exposure soon led to another showing of the documentary at The First Church in Windsor then later a showing to the Pediatrics staff at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

The Windsor Water Warriors program, initiated by Chloe Irving '17, has been another especially impactful community initiative that grew out of a Norton Fellowship and still continues today. Every fall and spring on Sundays, Loomis Chaffee students, currently led by CJ Owen '19, Ben Laidlaw '19, and Laith Hijazi '19, run free swimming and water safety lessons for Windsor elementary school students in conjunction with the Windsor Family Resource Center.



Photo by Taseen Anwar '17

(L-R) Kevin Washington, Eric LaForest, and Patricia Mack at the 2018 Bridge Builders Awards Ceremony.

Throughout the 23-year history of the Windsor Human Relations Commission’s Bridge Builder Award, Loomis Chaffee community members have often been recognized for their community outreach. In 2016, Loomis won the Youth Service division of the award. This year, beyond the recognition of Eric LaForest, several awardees have strong Loomis Chaffee connections, including Hon. Dr. M. Saud Anwar and Enita Jubrey. Anwar is the current mayor of South Windsor and father of alumni Taseen Anwar '17 while Enita Jubrey, Windsor’s Assistant to the Town

Manager, is also a parent of two Loomis alumni and the spouse of James Jubrey, who works as a carpenter in the Loomis Physical Plant.

The Bridge Builder Award recognizes many of the same qualities that Loomis Chaffee consistently champions through its commitment to the Common Good. Through the work of faculty members like Eric LaForest and The Norton Family Center for The Common Good, Loomis Chaffee strives to teach the importance of community service and outreach to every generation of students.

FOOD AUDIT Sharon Zhou '19 | *Staff Writer*

Have you ever wondered where your unfinished pancakes go after vanishing at the end of the conveyor belt? Have you ever wondered how much food we waste as a community per day? Have you ever wondered if there are better ways to recycle our food waste?

Recently, the Loomis Agriculture (Ag) Proctors and Environmental (E) Proctors have been running a food audit in the dining hall to answer questions like these.

The Food Audit project is designed and led by Julianna Lee '19 as a part of her work in the CL Guided Research in Environmental Science class, taught by Mr. Jeff Dyreson. With only three students—Adam Guillemette '19, Drive Rojrach-sombat '19, and Julianna - this research class encourages students with a passion in environmental issues to explore topics around water, energy, food, and waste.

Having chosen to focus on food, Julianna initiated the Food Audit Project to learn more about our community’s food consumption and research how to optimize the disposal of food waste.

If you have been clearing your food toward the end of either lunch period recently, you have probably cleared your trash, drinks, and leftover food in the bins and buckets set up next to the clearing station. Each day, the Ag-Proctors and E-Proctors on duty for the food audit record the weight of the discarded food over two ten-minute intervals during lunch, when most people clear their food in the dining hall.

The food and drinks are sorted into several categories including untouched food, partially eaten food, water, and juices/milk to provide more details for the subsequent work. After gathering data, Julianna will do statistical analysis with Mr. Cleary to have a better understanding of the community’s food consumption and waste.

In the meantime, she is also getting advice from Tom Gilbert '96, a Loomis graduate who works on post-consumer compost, and her goal is to bring awareness to the community about how much and what are wasted, thus to remember to take only what we need at the food count-



Photo by Stacy Park '19

Julianna Lee '19, an E-proctor, collects food waste in the dining hall.

er.

The ultimate question Julianna hopes to answer is, what do we want to do with the waste? With support from her data, she might find a way to cooperate with outside companies that can take and compost the waste, and hopefully that will be cheaper than sending the food waste directly to landfill. Towards the end of her project, Julianna aims to share her experiences and discoveries with the community via presentations.

The Food Audit is but one of the many projects that our Ag-Proctors have been undertaking. When asked about her favorite ongoing project, Julianna mentioned the hydroponics system that Nina Gildor '19 has been building in Clark. Aiming to explore the possibility of farming without soil, the hydroponics system hopes to have flowers and herbs absorb the necessary nutrients from the mineral nutrient solutions.

Why would you be interested in a hydroponics system instead of the traditional farming methods? “Then you don’t have to worry about things like temperature, pesticides” because those factors can be

all controlled manually in the system, Julianna said.

Ag Proctor, Walter Krissel '19, also shared his experiences with the Agriculture Program. “My favorite part of being an Ag-Proctor is being able to do work jobs that I enjoy and get involved with projects such as aquaponics,” said Walter, who has been leading the food compost project, which he considers “a great way for us to recycle used food and turn it into usable soil for spring planting.”

When asked about his thoughts on the food compost project, Walter said, “it builds character as lifting large barrels of compost is particularly difficult, especially in the winter.”

At the end of the interview, Julianna, who has been involved in the Agriculture Program since her freshman fall, mentioned that “it’s fascinating to see how much [the program] has grown [over these four years].”

So when you see your friends working in the chicken coop or harvesting tomatoes by the greenhouse, go support your Ag-Proctors!

SOLD: GUN RANGE

Continued from the front

Stephanie Zhang '21 *News Editor*

Prioritizing the safety of its students, and recognizing the obvious problem of having guns so near to campus, Loomis Chaffee and the Dematos family “reached an agreement that worked for both parties,” Mr. Trenchard said.

“We are certainly very pleased to have acquired this land because we know that the noise that came from gunfire was often disruptive and, for many, quite unnerving,” Mr. Trenchard added.

Mr. Esposito stated that the school has already heard positive feedback about the purchase from alumni and parents who have long been concerned about hearing gunshots.

With this purchase completed, the school now owns a contiguous heart-shaped piece of land framed by the confluence of Route 159, the Farmington River, and the Connecticut River.

“We have unencumbered access to our ropes course, to our cross country course, to the paths along the river, but we don’t plan on doing much with it,” said Mr. Trenchard.

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FROM TEST TUBE TO CLASSROOM: MOLECULAR BIOLOGY RESEARCH WITH DR. GERACE

Victoria Che '21 | Contributor

In the Molecular Biology Guided Research Project (GRP) with Dr. Gerace, students are experimenting with gene expression in stem cells.

Dr. Gerace's group is working with pediatric surgeon Dr. Christine Finck and her lab at Connecticut Children's Hospital. Dr. Finck works on tissue regeneration, and she has developed a kind of bio-material that can be used in pediatric surgery for babies born without certain organs.

One of the organs Dr. Finck looks at is the esophagus. By creating a scaffold from the bio-material and putting it in the baby's body, she constructs the foundation for the regeneration of esophagus cells.

Although this method has been proven to be successful in pigs, researchers have yet to determine the mechanism through which the cells identify what tissue to regenerate. This is the question students in the GRP hope to answer, and Dr. Finck's lab has provided stem cells to the students to work with.

"Our kids are trying to characterize these stem cells, they will try to figure out what genes are expressed in those cells that then can allow them to become esophagus tissue," Dr. Gerace said.

In the fall term, students in the GRP learned techniques such as reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction and gel electrophoresis.

In the winter term, students began to work on their individual projects using these techniques. Each student is investigating one type of gene that could be involved in the regenerative process.

Molly Henderson '19 is investigating IGF-1 (Insulin growth factor) with the hypothesis that IGF-1 is involved in regeneration of these stem cells. Molly has enjoyed her experience in the GRP because she got to learn more about



Dr. Gerace engaged in the Guided Research Project class with Lucia Giannamore '19 (right) and Ashley Chung '19 (left).

the specifics of the medical testing
Photo by LC Communications/Jessica Hutchinson

cell culture and became friends with Dr. Gerace. She also thinks working in a lab like this is an unique experience that will not only stand out on one's résumé, but will also prepare one for future research in the biomedical field.

Log Director of Design Ashley Chung '19 shared, "It's a lot of trouble shooting, sometimes things don't work like you want it to, and you have to try a bunch of times before you actually get the result."

Students in the GRP are creating their own projects, and this process is very different than conventional science classes. Although designing individual labs proved to be difficult at first, Ashley said that Dr. Gerace is always very

supportive when they encounter problems in their work.

Dr. Finck also came to Loomis to talk about medical science and shared her work with Loomis students earlier this month. In her talk, Dr. Finck shared her hopes for the future of the medicine and the important role technology will play in the medical field. She also explained her work in pediatric surgery and the aforementioned bio-material she developed.

Aidan Gillies '21 commented, "Overall I learned a lot during the presentation, specifically the information she provided about the current state of Stem Cell research overall. I think she highlighted

process that a lot of people normally don't have access to." After learning about the GRP program, Aidan said "having the opportunity to help a real research lab seems incredible, and I would be very interested in taking part in the program."

At the end of her talk, Dr. Finck encouraged all those who are interested in the biomedical field to get more involved in research during their high school years. Luckily, Loomis provides great research opportunities to students who are determined in and devoted to their interests.

As Dr. Gerace proudly stated, "the fact that we have the capability to grow cells is outstanding for a high school."

REGIONALS:

LC MUSICIANS LEAVE THE ISLAND

Brett Donshik '21 | Contributor

Over just two short days, hundreds of musicians from over 40 schools in the northern region of Connecticut met together, formed new ensembles, learned new pieces, and gave dazzling performances.

Twenty Loomis Chaffee musicians, including the writer of this piece, attended the Connecticut Music Educators Association Northern Regional Conference at New Britain High School on January 18 and 19, after being selected through a competitive audition process

Hungarian March.

Cellist and Log Features Editor Ethan Levinbook '20 has participated in the CMEA Regionals Orchestra for the past six years at both the high school and middle school levels, as well as all-states last year.

"It is fun to take on new repertoire each year with some of the same individuals with whom I've performed in the past," Ethan said.

Ethan summed up his entire regionals experience by stating, "Regionals is a

Five other students also participated in the orchestra: Hannah Adler '21 (Violin), Heisen Kong '21 (Violin), Roy Lam '20 (Cello), Jean Shin '20 (Viola), and James Wang '19 (Cello).

The choir, directed by Dr. Jack Pott of Central Connecticut State University, sang four songs ranging from contemporary Eric Whitacre to classic Brahms.

"The weekend was great to spend time with a bunch of kids that shared my interest from Loomis and connect with old friends from other schools," said John Howley '21, a bass who participated in his first high school regionals.

While this was his first time participating in the high school festival, John did participate in the Eastern Regionals Middle School festival in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.

"I felt we had more time in the Middle School conference to prepare, and it also seemed smaller than the high school version. Despite these differences, I still enjoyed my time," John said.

Seven other students also participated in the choir: Brett Donshik '21 (Bass), Emma Kane '21 (Soprano), Kavya Kolli '20 (Soprano), Sylvia Mayo '19 (Alto), Makayla McPherson '20 (Alto), Andy Wu '21 (Tenor), and Tom Zhang '21 (Tenor).

In the band, Clara Chen '21, a clarinetist who has now participated in two northern regional conferences as well as all-states last year, has always enjoyed attending festivals.

"I have always enjoyed playing with honor bands ever since my first festival in middle school. You can learn so much more when performing with people who are at your level or above," Clara said.

This year Clara especially enjoyed

working with conductor Jared Cassedy of Lexington, Massachusetts.

"He's a very high energy person and makes rehearsals both funny and productive. He greatly contributed to the overall," she said. "My favorite part of the conference was talking to some of the other musicians. Prior to the concert, some of the students and I talked about the music program and academics at our schools and it was interesting to learn about other people's experiences."

Five other students also participated in the band: Cooper Donovan '22 (French Horn), Sam Feifer '19 (Tuba), Isabella Jiang '22 (Clarinet), Rebecca Yen '20 (Oboe), and Eric Zhang '21 (Clarinet).

Students are not the only ones that take part in the festival, which is also a time for music teachers from all across Connecticut to attend.

"As a music teacher, Regionals weekend provides two highly unique professional development experiences," said Susan Chrzanowski, the Loomis Chaffee Music Department Chair, who also attended regionals as a high school student.

"Throughout the weekend, and at our Region Directors meeting that occurs Saturday morning, I have the opportunity to network with music colleagues; we share pedagogy, literature, and curriculum, and we discuss the latest trends and developments in Music Education--it's awesome! As many of us are the only choral director or the only orchestra director at our schools, this type of discussion is incredibly valuable. In addition, through the weekend, we have the opportunity to observe nationally-known conductors rehearse--excellent inspiration!"



LC students who participated in the festival gather outside Hubbard.
Photo by Ms. Chrzanowski

in early November. Loomis students participated in the choir, band and orchestra.

This year the orchestra was led by Dr. Daniel D'Addio, who is a Professor of Music at Central Connecticut State University and conductor of the Connecticut Youth Symphony. The orchestra performed three works: Pietro Mascagni's "Intermezzo" from *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Dmitri Shostakovich's *Festival Overture*, and Hector Berlioz's

wonderful musical experience. In just one weekend, Regionals participants experience many components of the music-making process. From reading the compositions as a full ensemble for the first time, to polishing and perfecting individual sections, to bonding and working together with peers, to performing the works for an audience, Regionals provides the opportunity to work through demanding repertoire start-to-finish."

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BEFORE THEY WERE LC FACULTY, THEY WERE...

Hazel Le '22 and Andrew Park '22 | Contributors

Continued from the front

A Wedding Planner

Mrs. Ali Murphy of the Admissions Office is a wedding planner and has been for the past 20 years, since she was twenty-five years old. Although she moved with her husband to Loomis Chaffee fifteen years ago, it never hindered her ability to continue organizing weddings.

Mrs. Murphy's job is to ensure that "people [can] own the personality of their wedding." Her background is a huge help in her current job as Associate of Admissions; both jobs are related to "finding the right fit," whether that be the "right" wedding or the "right" students for Loomis. Since she was self-employed, she had to take care of all aspects of her job.

Mrs. Murphy mentioned that the best part of her job is to watch the couples enjoy the happiest day of their lives. Many couples don't realize how fast the day goes; she wants the newlyweds to capture and embrace every moment of their wedding.

In every wedding that she plans, she always makes sure to "take the couple from everything to a place where they could see what other people are doing ... (so) they can take time to appreciate their loved ones."

She truly enjoys what she is doing as her jobs are like "[finishing] a full circle of working with people and making connections." She also shared that she would be more than happy to plan Loomis students' future weddings.

A Soldier

Mr. Chris Lamy is the Loomis Chaffee Campus Safety Director, and he has many captivating stories to tell about his army career. He had worked in the military and the Department of Correction for ten years before changing his career to working in boarding schools.

He had never thought of working at Loomis, but the opportunity came to him just as he was looking for a new career. His daughter was a student at the Taft School and her friend's mother who worked at the Business Office there suggested that he apply for the security position at the

school. He moved to Loomis Chaffee four years ago.

When asked to compare the army and Loomis, he said he loved working at both. Although the time in the army was difficult, it made him appreciate the time at home more.

Hard times brought the soldiers close together, and he was grateful for the friendships he made. Yet he also grew so attached to the boarding school environment and being surrounded by "young, ambitious and talented kids" that he feels the school is too quiet without them during the breaks.

What Mr. Lamy did not expect was the similarity between both environments. Both a strong work ethic and teamwork are the two things apparent both in the military and Loomis.

The military is an intense and disciplined environment and he had to learn from others a lot when he was new. There is one story he specifically remembered during his training time.

Mr. Lamy, along with his team, was going through an obstacle course when the drill sergeant's hat fell off. His first reaction was to pick the hat up as any polite person would do, and he was scolded badly for the action. Mr. Lamy considers that to be a lesson of being more cautious in an unknown place because things work differently in different environments.

Even though his daughter is currently a newly commissioned Army Lieutenant, Mr. Lamy never meant to guide her to the same career path like him. It started from a joke when he told his daughter to sign up at the RTC (Recruit Training Command) representatives table during college orientation, and she did. She then found out more about the job and developed an interest in it herself. Mr. Lamy is proud of and happy with what his daughter is doing.

A Producer for ESPN

Senior class Dean Patricia Sasser used to work in sports television production at ESPN as an associate producer for seven years. She wanted to become a writer when she was young, but later changed



Photo courtesy of Chris Lamy

Mr. Chris Lamy served in the U.S. Army before becoming the director of campus safety at LC.

that dream due to familial influences and aspired to become a journalist.

As an associate producer, she worked with many different types of sports, including college football, college basketball, the NBA, figure skating, Grand Slam (tennis), skiing, ski jumping, US amateur golf, and the WNBA. She collected footage to bring to the trucks on-site and edited all the graphics.

Dean Sasser pointed out that there were many lessons she had learned. "You learn how to work as a team, to ask for what you need, how to pitch in...I learned a lot about time management and organization."

She also learned the importance of devoting time to oneself and not getting too immersed in one's work. As she was working at ESPN, she also took a hip-hop

dance class, a cupcake decorating class, a photography class, opened for a platinum recording artist at Oakdale, and volunteered. "It was after that and thousands of hours working that I realized that I needed to take back my life a little bit, and that I wasn't doing things that made me, me."

As a final note to students, she said, "Nothing has to be a direct line. I put a lot of work going into journalism, and I could have stayed...when I switched, I could have been really upset and felt like I wasted a lot of time. But I never felt that way... Every experience I have, it informs how I see the world, and it informs my work... And so sometimes I think it's about embracing the ride and embracing change, but also just really making the most and learning from any experience one has."

NEW DIRECTORS, NEW INITIATIVES

Liam Scott '19 | Editor-in-Chief

Although the Kravis Center is for "Excellence in Teaching," as its office in the library proclaims, Mrs. Sara Deveaux, Director of the Center, quickly acknowledges that the center is "student-focused in an indirect way."

Mrs. Deveaux began at the Kravis Center as the Associate Director last year, accompanied by Mr. MacClintic, who has since moved to the Pearse Hub of Innovation. This year, Mrs. Deveaux, who is also a French teacher, is the director of the center and is joined by two Associate Directors—Mr. Harrison Shure, history teacher and varsity equestrian coach, and Dr. Rachel Nisselson, French teacher and Modern/Classical Languages Department Head.

"This year it's so great to have Dr. Nisselson and Mr. Shure. Teaching should be a collaborative effort, and having three people sitting around table, talking about how to engage with faculty... is worth every penny the school is investing in the Kravis Center," Mrs. Deveaux said.

"We think teacher training is critical for retention, to keep great faculty. We do that by training, giv[ing] them support," she continued. "I'd say the fall was big picture planning, and we are starting to implement some of the new initiatives," Mr. Shure said about the transition.

One initiative created this year is the Kravis Council, composed of Mrs. Deveaux, Mr. Shure, and Dr. Nisselson, as well as history teacher Mr. Kevin Hen-

derson, science teacher Dr. Erica Gerace, senior class Dean Patricia Sasser, English teacher Dr. Will Eggers, and Spanish teacher Mr. Marc Cardwell. According to Mrs. Deveaux, "The goal of this group is to ensure that we are offering professional development opportunities that meet the wants and needs of the Loomis faculty."

These professional development opportunities manifest themselves in several other ways. For instance, Mrs. Deveaux explained the instructional coaches program that began last year. An instructional coach is an experienced teacher who coaches a newer teacher. This year, there are five instructional coach-new teacher pairings, including three Penn Fellows and two other new teachers.

"We want to ensure that early-career teachers have solid footing and have adequate support as they begin their careers," Mrs. Deveaux said.

"There is a new evaluation/professional development system this year," Mr. Shure explained. "Every faculty member is in an evaluation cycle or...engaging with professional development in a way that they are probably reflecting on those experiences a little bit more directly."

Still, Mr. Shure said that he is "most excited to keep working with the new faculty-cohort," even though it isn't a new initiative. "As someone who is still relatively new and quite young, that's a fun group to work with."

He also mentioned a Books on Learning and Teaching (BLT) group that he runs with Dr. Nisselson that meets every two to three weeks. The group currently is reading *Small Teaching* by James Lang.

Other initiatives include professional development seminars that occur Thurs-

day mornings from 7:45-8:45 am, as well as Open Classroom Week, in which teachers visit each other's classes. Mr. MacClintic and Mrs. Deveaux initiated Open Classroom Week, and this year it will grow to take place once a term.

"The great thing about [Open Classroom Week] is it opens up dialogue [... about] what pedagogies people saw," Mrs. Deveaux said. The dessert and teacher discussion at Dr. Culbert's house that followed Open Classroom Week was also a "highlight."

In an effort to become more "outward facing," as Mrs. Deveaux put it, the Kravis Center has started the Consortium for Teacher Development. Having "noticed no formalized organization for people whose main job was to [be] on the cutting edge of innovative teaching, teacher training, [and] professional development," Mrs. Deveaux organized a conference on October 3 for schools in the area. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and a committee comprising representatives from Loomis Chaffee, Hotchkiss, Deerfield, St. Mark's, and Milton resulted.

Looking ahead, Mrs. Deveaux hopes to start a Loomis initiative that gets students involved in the Kravis Center. She admits organizing this initiative would be a big project "but firmly believes students should be involved in the center to help identify what works for you, how can we make sure you are learning, providing ways in which you can learn the most effectively."

All of these initiatives ultimately work toward one goal: to "do everything we can to help our students succeed in the classroom," explained Mr. Shure. The Kravis Center clearly has its hands full—but they definitely seem to like it that way.



Photo courtesy of Steele Citrone '20

(L-R) Dr. Nisselson, Mrs. Deveaux, and Mr. Shure stand in front of the Henry R. Kravis '63 Center for Excellence in Teaching, located on the first floor of the Katharine Bush Library.



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, and we can be contacted via email at 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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Published by The Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor, CT.

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GUEST MUSICIANS: NEW WORLD TRIO

Ethan Levinbook '20 | Features Editor

On the morning of Tuesday, January 15, Loomis Chaffee welcomed the New World Trio to perform a recital in Hubbard Auditorium. The New World Trio, founded in 1985, includes founder and violinist Anahared Stowe, cellist Peter Zay, and pianist Pi-Hsun Shih.

Ms. Anahared Stowe began studying the violin when she was in primary school. Like many current Loomis Chaffee musicians, she too participated in her state's All-State Orchestra ensemble.

After graduating from Juilliard, she was drawn to chamber music and eventually worked with the Hungarian and Guarneri String Quartets. A member of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra since 1971, Stowe began her career in the first violin section and eventually became Principal Second Violin in 1979.

Like Stowe, cellist Peter Zay is a member of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra. He first began studying cello at age six under the tutelage of his mother, and has since performed around the globe at many leading classical venues, including Vienna's Musikverein and Stuttgart's Beethoven Saal. Zay has toured with classical and non-classical musicians alike; among those with whom he has performed are Andrea Bocelli, Barry Manilow, Aretha Franklin, the Beach Boys, and Luciano Pavarotti.

Pianist Pi-Hsun Shih is an active soloist, chamber performer, and teacher. She formed the Kelet Duo, a group that promotes the performance of music from Eastern Europe and Asia.

She regularly performs with Russian-American cellist and composer Tanya Anisimova as Duo Bona Fide. A devoted teacher, Shih is on the faculty at the University of Hartford Community Division and the Center for Creative Youth at Wesleyan University. "As a piano teacher, I believe every student is unique," said Ms. Shih. "My responsibility is to help students find their individuality and to grow their wisdom along with music making."

The New World Trio gave a rousing performance of P. Tchaikovsky's *Piano Trio in A Minor, Op. 50*. Composed between 1881 and 1882 in Rome, the work was dedicated to the recently-deceased Nikolai Rubinstein, one of Tchaikovsky's foremost mentors and acquaintances.

The monumental work spans more than forty-five minutes; for this reason, the composition is not only technically challenging, but also physically taxing to perform.

"I consider this trio as the 'Everest' of the piano trio repertoire for the pianist for its technique difficulties, the various tone colors, the length, and the artistry among the three instruments," commented Ms. Shih.

The piece is unique not only for its un-



(L-R) Pianist Pi-Hsun Shih, violinist Anahared Stowe, and cellist Peter Zay

usual length, but also for its structure. The trio contains two movements. The first movement, aptly named "Pezzo elegiaco" - "Elegiac Piece" - is in sonata form; its doleful theme reflects Tchaikovsky's overwhelming grief for the death of his friend.

The second movement, "Tema con variazioni," is a set of 12 variations, the last of which is set apart from the others and structured as a sonata of its very own. Each variation is said to depict different scenes from Rubinstein's life. Moreover, "[The Piano Trio] is... like a microcosm of Tchaikovsky's compositions," said Ms. Shi; "It reflects his orchestral works, piano works, and his ballet music."

The New World Trio brought their musical expertise to LC's chamber music class that same morning to coach individual groups. Ms. Shih noted that through chamber music, musicians "learn to communicate with [their] teammates... [and] also because it is a smaller ensemble, the interactions could be more detailed and intimate." Anahared Stowe stated on her website that chamber music demands an "unselfish virtuosity" from performers.

By their appraisal, chamber music is unique in that it demands from each musician a passionate performance of virtuosic quality tempered by a recognition of his or her role as one member of a bigger

team.

When the members of the New World Trio visited the chamber music class, they offered these pieces of musical wisdom in hopes of molding better chamber musicians, and by extension, better listeners, learners, teammates, and colleagues.

"The New World Trio brought us a wonderful music experience during chamber music rehearsal," commented Roy Lam '20, a cellist in LC's orchestra and chamber music programs. "Not only did they help us refine musical techniques and improve our rhythmic accuracy, but they also enhanced our understanding of the piece we have been working on. All four group members in my chamber music group have been enriched by the enthusiasm and knowledge of the New World Trio."

Violinist Prair Madden '21 believes that the visiting musicians' coaching helped enhance her own chamber group's performance. "Working with The New World Trio helped to greatly improve our quartet's sound, as they offered insightful and stylistic suggestions, specifically for the character of the individual movements," she commented. "I especially found their extensive experience in their main instruments very helpful since they could critique key details in articulation and tone quality."

LIFE ADVICE WITH 阮老师

Elizabeth Pecoraro '22 and
 Mercy Olagunju'22 | Contributors

Mr. Henry Ruan, or as his students call him, Ruan Lao Shi ("Teacher Ruan," 阮老师), is a Chinese teacher here at Loomis Chaffee. He was born and raised in Shanghai before attending university in both Shanghai and the US. He speaks French, English, and Chinese. Before coming to Loomis, he has worked at various colleges, independent schools, and primary schools around the world.

The following is an edited excerpt from an interview with Mr. Ruan in which he shared some of his advice on positivity and tolerance, as well as a few nuggets of wisdom he has gained through his global life experiences.

Elizabeth & Mercy (EM): You have told us before about how your experiences with multiple cultures have always been integral to your character. Out of all the places you've been and people you've talked to, what qualities have you found to be the most universally important or valuable?

Mr. Ruan: I think that the most important things are understanding and tolerance. One of the properties of humans is that we are social beings. We don't just live alone, we have to get along with each other and with the people around us. It is so crucial, important, and necessary that we learn how to live with each other, and how to get along with each other...Everybody has their own perspectives on seeing this world...but understanding each other is very crucial. That's why learning a language or learning different cultures can help you. No matter what language or culture you study, it can open doors and help you to understand people in different parts of the world better.

EM: What do you think can cause inequality?

Ruan: I think inequality can stem from a lack of understanding and tolerance. If I can't appreciate you because I don't think in the same way as you - that mindset is the cause of inequality. If we can understand other people and why they think the way they do, then we can probably live a little better with each other. Personally, the purpose of my language teaching is more than the language alone, it also includes teaching my students to understand and learn from others.

EM: It's not always easy, so how do you stay so open-minded to others and new ideas?

Ruan: Yes, it's not very easy. I have the tendency to say to myself, "if I cannot understand somebody, it's not somebody else's fault. It's my fault." And I'd rather put that burden on me than others. I usually just take understanding people as a goal I look forward to achieving so I can enjoy more in life, rather than be depressed and constantly complaining, "why are people different from me? why are they all so strange?" If I think differently, I'll try to understand the position on the other side and make an effort to find a solution or compromise.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: A FIASCO

Anya Sastry '20 | Staff Writer

Thirty-five days. For thirty-five days, around 800,000 federal employees did not receive pay. For thirty-five days, various federal departments and agencies suspended public services. For thirty-five days the government was shut down, creating widespread chaos for millions of people.

How did this happen? How did the leaders of the United States allow hundreds of thousands of people to feel such an immense financial strain?

The shutdown all boils down to Donald Trump's wall along the Mexico-United States border, a promise of his presidential campaign. Back in December, Trump demanded five billion U.S. dollars to fund the construction of this wall—something that the Democrats would not support.

As a result of the parties' disagreement, Congress could not pass a spending bill before the deadline, which resulted in a partial government shutdown.

Lily Potter '21 commented, "shutting the government down as a negotiation tactic sets a dangerous precedent; a government shutdown should be treated as an extreme measure, not a way for the president to keep outlandish campaign promises."

Since the start of the shutdown, the newly Democrat-controlled House has been able to pass the 2018 spending bill. However, the Republican-controlled Senate will not put the bill up for a vote without the inclusion of wall funding. Congress has found itself in a complete stalemate, unable to combat Trump's inflexibility. Trump has walked out of meetings with Democrat Party leaders and has not been willing to find a way to end the government entrenchment.

Harry Knight '21 commented on Trump's actions and demands for wall funds, "he's putting all of the government employees in a bad place where they don't get paid just because he's trying to put pressure for his border wall." Harry's remark echoes my own thoughts, as I find



AP Photo/Andrew Harnik
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California with the House Democratic members signs a deal on Friday January 25, 2019 to reopen the government.

myself highly disappointed, as well as disconcerted, that our President is willing to sacrifice the well-being of the American people in order to further his own agenda.

In my perspective, Loomis often feels like a literal island, unaffected by national affairs and current events; however, things are different now—many parents of Loomis students are federal workers and are greatly affected by the shutdown.

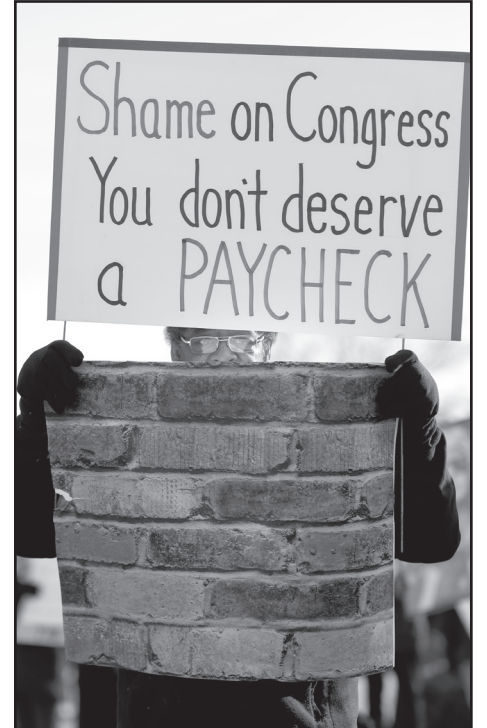
Christina Stone '20 said, "The shutdown has made things very tough for my family. We've had to dip into our savings funds to pay for everyday expenses." Families across the nation find themselves in similar situations. Federal employees on furlough are forced to scramble for money and withdraw from their savings accounts.

Christina continued on to say, "I hope that Congress and Trump can pull themselves together for the sake of the people

they're supposed to be governing."

Luckily, the future just became much brighter, as Trump has backed down from his stubborn stature and agreed to sign a spending bill that does not include any funding for the wall. While I understand how vital it is that Trump and Congress reach a well-grounded and more permanent deal concerning the border security wall, I believe that, especially after learning more about the negative effects of the shutdown, it is more important to reach a temporary solution as soon as possible to avoid any further problems for families around the country. Nevertheless, the solution is short-term, leaving the possibility of another shut down on February 15 in the case that Congress and Trump fail to reach a deal.

With this in mind, I suggest that the leaders of this nation start working immediately to ensure that an event of this mag-



AP Photo/Paul Sancya
People protest at a women for Trump "build the Wall" rally in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan on January 26, 2019.

nitude does not happen again. In order for that to be accomplished, I believe that diplomacy is a necessity and that there needs to be an effort from both sides to find a middle ground. If the President and our lawmakers continue to stay rooted in their own perspectives and refuse to even acknowledge the views of the other side, then there is no hope for progress.

But for now, federal employees will receive their paychecks again and all the public services offered by federal agencies will restart. As Christina so accurately said, let's hope this issue is solved for the sake of the American people.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AFFIRMED

Carter Hutchinson '19 | Contributor

"Were you denied admission to college? It may be because you're the wrong race." This tagline is plastered across the website of Students for Fair Admission, the plaintiff in the affirmative action case plaguing the courts in 2019. I say "plaguing" with intention since, in my opinion, this case is nothing more than a political move championed by a vainglorious "ac-

tivist" named Edward Blum.

Edward Blum is the "mastermind" behind six cases in the past twenty years that aim to dismantle legislature that promotes diversity in education, government contracting and employment. In essence, he selects a minority group and builds a case around their circumstances in order to bolster the cause of the privileged, white

male.

This time, he decided to take advantage of Asian Americans. Blum has no intention to make the college admissions process fairer; the college admissions process has never been advertised to be fair in any way. What he intends to do is remove any sort of racial awareness from college admissions which is projected to benefit—you guessed it—Caucasians.

As someone who is going through the college admissions process myself, I've heard it all. As each deferral letter comes in the mail, the passionate protest, "It's so hard being a white, wealthy girl... We can't get in anywhere!" rings throughout the dining hall.

But is that a fair thing to say? Absolutely not. First of all, the college admissions process is arbitrary in many ways. Colleges and universities want to build the best possible class, and that doesn't always mean taking kids who are the smartest on paper.

College X may have admitted just one too many students who wrote about their mission trip to South America or happen to play the accordion, and suddenly, you're no longer going to your dream school. Though it's frustrating, it's clear from the start. Nobody says that the college admissions process is fair all the time, not your peers, not your parents, not your college counselor, nor the college themselves.

What Edward Blum has done in this lawsuit is to capitalize on the dejected, "Why not me?" opinion of Asian American students rejected from Harvard. That alone is questionable to me, but that fact

that Blum tries to pit minority groups against each other in this case is simply appalling.

For those of you who have taken any sort of American history class, you may recall that the country has discriminated in egregious ways against minority groups for hundreds of years. Affirmative action policies in the United States were introduced as a way to level the playing field and to begin to remedy the damage done by racial discrimination.

But guess what? Discrimination based on race, religion, sex or national origin has far from disappeared. That, in turn, means that it's still important to consider racial backgrounds in college admissions. This problem has not gone away, and any effort to remove the solution would cause us to revert to institutionalized discrimination.

Being deferred or denied from a college means one thing: you weren't necessarily the perfect fit for that school at that time. What it does not mean is that an admitted student—who in some aspects, you may be more qualified than—only got in because of their background. It's a giant leap to say that another student "stole your spot" because of affirmative action.

Affirmative action helps to remove restrictions that prevent talented and capable students from receiving higher education. I, like many other students, want these talented and capable students to be my peers in part because of, not in spite of, their personal circumstances. I want to attend a college that most accurately mirrors the America that I see each day.



AP Photo/Elise Amendola

A tour group walks through Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

EDITORIAL

ALL-GENDER HOUSING: A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Upon entering any boarding school, every student must make a choice that may seem arbitrary and even trivial to many: Will I be living in a boys' or a girls' dorm?

But now, many boarding schools are re-evaluating this question by taking a choice that seems to have only two options and creating a third: all-gender housing. Andover, Exeter, Northfield Mount Hermon, and Hotchkiss are just a few of the schools that have taken steps to implement all-gender housing, and now the administration at Loomis Chaffee is also doing so.

On January 9, the deans and the All-Gender Housing Committee sent out a survey to the student body to assess interest in creating all-gender dorms. According to Dean Mary Liscinsky, the responses to the survey were positive.

"[The] impetus is that we have heard from students over time that our housing might not meet the needs of all students. We have had transgender students [and] traditionally put them in the dorm of [their] declared gender. [We] have had a few [students who] are gender fluid and our [choice] has been to put them in dorm of [their biological sex]. That has worked ok, but we can do better and we need to do better," Dean Liscinsky said.

The goal of all-gender housing would be to create a safe space for students who may not feel comfortable in traditional housing regardless of their identities. Housing would be open to all students, including queer/non-binary/LGBTQ+ and straight/cisgender students. Students would be selected on a volunteer basis and would likely have to go through an application and/or interview process.

According to Andover's student newspaper, *The Phillipian*, students applying for all-gender housing are asked to identify as either someone with "self-identified need" or as an "ally or trusted advocate."

Following in the footsteps of schools like Andover, all-gender housing in Loomis will also become an option for not only students who identify outside the binary and need separate housing, but also students who want to support them.

Choosing housing should no longer be a question of, "Do I identify as a boy or a girl?" Rather, it should be a question of, "Where will I feel most at home, and where will I be able to express my identity comfortably and freely?"

However, the proposal of all-gender housing brings some potential problems into question: Will students exploit the option of all-gender housing to pursue sexual relationships? What would the inter-dorm rules look like in an all-gender dorm? Would all-gender housing isolate or stigmatize students who do not identify within the binary?

"We have been fortunate that the [other] schools have shared their process. We want to do the best by our students. The other schools that have done it, and the kids have been fine," Dean Liscinsky said.

In the same way, the implementation of all-gender housing at Loomis, if done properly, could likely yield very positive results. The Loomis community is built on diversity; all-gender housing would add yet another layer to that diversity that is fundamental to promoting tolerance and understanding in our community.

Your dorm is your home—a place where you should feel safe and comfortable, surrounded by people who want to support you. All-gender housing would promote this definition of "home" for students of any identity or background.

By creating this option, Loomis would be prioritizing the safety and comfort of its students and would finally address the needs of more individuals in the student body.

All-gender housing would promote this definition of "home" for students of any identity or background.

ARE NON-ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS UNDERAPPRECIATED?

Margarita Demkina '20 | Contributor

School pride is about valuing and supporting all.

Loomis Chaffee is well-known for extraordinarily strong and competitive sports teams, winning New England's, and fostering pelicans who commit to prestigious universities to play sports. But how much do the non-athletic related activities matter?

Loomis has outstanding achievements in debate, visual art, music, theater, Model UN, community service, writing competitions, math, science, and robotics, to name a few. How much recognition do the respective activities and the students who participate really get?

Let's start with the simple facts. Any athlete knows that only continuous practices yield results. Any diligent student knows that acquiring knowledge takes time and effort.

In the same way, any student who has done non-athletic activities knows that they require no less preparation and energy than a sport. Of course, you do not see that (unless a student has dark under-eyes circles, a bottle with coffee, and Snapchats from 3:00 a.m.), as students do not always exhibit physical signs of tiring preparations. Time commitment also appears to be the same for these kinds of activities.

Take the Debate Team, for instance. As an afternoon activity, they have long debate practices throughout the school weeks and weekends. Debaters have the tournaments two or sometimes three times a week. Their weekends usually start at 7:00 a.m. and end after 6:00 p.m. when the team returns from the competition. They even have competitions during which they stay overnight away from campus.

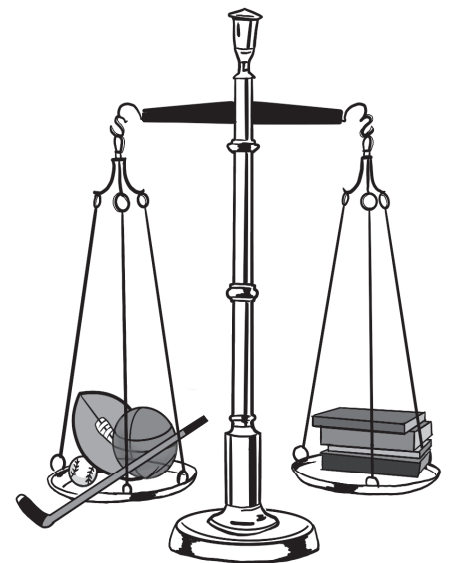
As for the theater, putting on a play or musical requires actors, tech crew, and faculty to rehearse until 6:00 p.m. every evening, as well as several hours of rehearsal on Wednesdays and Saturdays. This is in addition to stressful and agitating performance weeks. Sounds ridiculously familiar to sports' practices and meets, doesn't it?

So why do sports get more attention from students and teachers? Why do athletes get recognition as varsity athletic awards ceremonies, and there are none to celebrate other, non-athletic teams? Why do activities that do not require physical training receive less funding?

Why do pep-rallies and other events focus on a narrow group of people, excluding others? Why can't football players support musicians, like musicians support football? Why is there a divide on campus between passions that are so similar upon closer observation?

How much do we appreciate each other's efforts? Why do non-sport teams receive only recognition on social media or in a weekly "Pelican Pride"? Why can one paragraph cherish all the achievements and efforts that students went through?

Our school should not pride itself solely on the achievements of a select few. School pride is about valuing and supporting all.



Graphic by Michelle Park '20

OUR GREAT NATION

Nina Gildor '19 | Staff Writer

What defines a citizen? How does one denounce one country and take an oath to another? How does one obtain a visa? How does one become a citizen?

The process of naturalization and immigration has grown so complex that even most American citizens lack basic understanding of all the laws and regulations. The government has purposefully created a process so twisted because the more confused the public is, the more power they possess. Is a person born on U.S. soil really more American than anyone else born abroad?

All these inquiries spark the ultimate question: where did all these controversial and distorted rules originate?

Birthright is an 150 year-old law established in the Constitution, granting U.S. citizenship to anybody born on U.S. soil, and now this law also includes the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Designed to grant citizenship to freed slaves after the Civil War, the 14th Amendment clearly states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

So, the ideal of birthright was invented at the very beginning of this nation and now not only serves as the basis of U.S. immigration laws but also exists in at least 30 other nations across the world according to The Center for Immigration Studies. Therefore, if birthright was established by the founding fathers in 1868, how could the law even be in question today?

Birthright is actually the target of many anti-immigration groups who fear the abuse of law by undocumented immigrants, specifically the potential exploitation of American children to avoid deportation.

Based on analysis by the nonpartisan Pew Research Center, in 2014, 275,000 babies born to undocumented immigrant parents were granted citizenship, representing seven percent on all births in the country for that year. These numbers represented a drop from the peak year of illegal immigration in 2006.

Is birthright attracting undocumented immigrants? Is this law being abused? It is hard to make a judgement on this accusation. How can I blame an immigrant family trying to seek refuge in America in hopes of providing their children with a better life. On the other hand, how can I

excuse the breaking of the law whether I agree with immigration policies or not?

I believe that in order to consider birthright the government must also consider their policies regarding naturalization. If our nation were to end birthright, many immigrants would be left with only the option of naturalization, the process in which a non-U.S. citizen voluntarily becomes an American citizen, entitled to the protection, rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

However, there is a long list of regulations and a lengthy process one has to complete in order to even attempt to become a citizen. First meeting certain eligibility requirements: being 18 years old, being able to write, read, and speak basic English, understanding basics of U.S. history, demonstrating principles of U.S. constitution, and being a person of good moral character, one must then have a Permanent Resident Green Card for at least five years or three years if your spouse is a U.S. citizen.

After completing these steps, one must complete the ten step naturalization process comprised of applications, tests, and personal interviews. Finally, one must take an ultimate oath of allegiance. Natu-

ralization is a strenuous and stressful process that demands extreme commitment. If the American government were to erase the birthright opportunity, everyone would be forced into the ridiculous process of naturalization, resulting in chaos for both future citizens as well as the government.

In my opinion, birthright is a necessity for the function of the U.S. immigration policies until the process of naturalization can be revised and improved. I believe that the issues revolving around the abuse of birthright by undocumented citizen stems of the core concern of illegal immigration. This global problem needs to be fixed not by blocking out all citizens but by refining the twisted laws that prompted those in need to initially revert to illegal immigration. I believe that America could be become a nation that facilitates the legal, mass movement of immigrants, whom either are born on U.S. soil or seek refuge.

However, the resolution of this complex issue will take incredible collaboration, time, and the sincere desire of the nation to fix the epic disaster that is immigration today.

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OSCARS: HOT OR NOT?

Natalie Halsey '20 | Staff Writer

As awards season in Hollywood approaches, perennial questions return. Which movie will win Best Picture? Who will be snubbed? Who will wear the best dress? And of course, do any of these awards actually matter?

The first Academy Awards presentation took place in May of 1929, lasted fifteen minutes, and was attended by 270 people. Fifteen awards were handed out, and the winners had already been announced three months prior.

Last year's Academy Awards ceremony took place in March, lasted 3 hours and 53 minutes, and was watched by approximately 26.5 million people in the U.S. Even with the lowest ratings the Oscars have ever had, millions still tuned into an evening of glitz, glam, and gossip.

Despite its popularity in recent years, the Academy has come under fire for having little diversity of members. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is separated into seventeen branches of motion picture disciplines, and to become part of the Academy one must either have been nominated for an Oscar or sponsored by two current Academy members, and then have been sent an invitation by the 43 member Board of Governors.

A selective and secretive process, sure, but membership never expires, and only four members have ever been expelled.

The roster of the around 6,000 current members is a closely guarded secret, but in 2012 the LA Times conducted a study of Academy membership and found that the Academy at the time was 94% white, 77% male, and had a median age of 62. Only six of the governors are female, and Cheryl Boone Isaacs, an outspoken advocate for diversity and inclusion in the film industry, remains the only person of color on the board.

Following the online firestorm of #OscarsSoWhite, the Academy has made an effort to become more diverse and inclusive. But change is slow. The LA Times again reports that with all the new members, the Academy is now 89% white and 73% male. These are baby steps in the right direction, but for now old white men still dictate which movies are worthy and which ones are not.

Another problem with the Awards is the matter of Best Animated feature. Traditionally, the branches of the Academy nominate films for awards associated with that designated branch.

Actors nominate actors, screenwriters nominate screenplays, musicians nominate scores. But in 2017, the Academy created a new rule that states non-animation industry branch members were allowed to nominate animated films for various awards.

As a result, and to the shock and disappointment of many, Sony Animation's *Boss Baby* was nominated for an Oscar



Graphic by Michelle Park '20

last year, while many independent and foreign films were excluded, such as the French film, *Girl Without Hands*, and many others. However, this is not the first controversy surrounding the award. At the awards' inception in 2001, many animators outside of the academy critiqued the new accolade, as animated films would have a harder time piercing the live-action only hull of Best Picture.

And don't forget that, with an award similar to "Best Drama" or "Best Comedy," animation is once again pegged as the family-friendly genre, rather than a medium capable of many different types of movie and mood.

Since 2001, Disney and Pixar have held an almost complete monopoly on Best Animated Feature, with eleven wins in seventeen years; blockbuster Hollywood animations dominate the scene. In 2014 and 2015, anonymous Academy member interviews were published by the Hollywood Reporter, and several of the interviewees expressed disdain or outright vitriol for Best Animated Feature, voicing that they abstained on principle or just voted for the one their child liked.

And so here lies the reason why indie animated flicks such as *My Life as Zucchini* or *Loving Vincent* never win the award and Disney always does: Disney has influence and money.

The Oscars themselves aren't that important because of the homogenous voting pool. But that doesn't mean Best Picture Winner, *12 Years a Slave*, shouldn't be perennially shown to Loomis Chaffee juniors! It also doesn't mean it's not fun to root for your favorites during awards season! Although they're fun, awards don't have to mean too much.

91ST OSCARS PREDICTIONS

John Howley '20 | Staff Writer

It's finally awards season and just last week the nominations for the most prestigious awards in Hollywood were released. That's right, it's time for the Oscars! If you're like me, you're determined to get a 100% on your 2019 Oscar ballot and have already spent hours researching online and calculating the odds for each nominated film or actor.

But just in case you aren't as dedicated to the art of Oscar-Predicting, I've compiled an early list of who I think will win the major awards and why. Let's take a look at the nominees...

Best Picture: In what is being called "the year of the blockbuster," most of the Best Picture nominees this year are movies that made a significant amount of money at the box office, unlike past years where nominated films are typically more obscure and artistic. But amidst all these money-making-machines, who will win? It's really anyone's grab! But if you ask me, either *Rome* or *Green Book* will please the Academy voter enough to take home the prize. Although a few weeks ago *A Star Is Born* was the sure bet, losses at other major awards have slowed its awards momentum.

Best Actor: Christian Bale gaining over a hundred pounds to play a hated historical figure and Rami Malek turning in a dynamic performance as a beloved musician: sounds like Oscar bait to me! While some say Bradley Cooper or Viggo Mortensen have a chance, in my opinion, the winner is hands down either Bale or Malek (but probably Christian Bale)!

Best Actress: Acting legend and six-time nominee vs. musical superstar and international icon. The race between Glenn Close and Lady Gaga is heated, but if you ask me, Glenn Close has been snubbed for the big award too many times not to win

for this deeply moving performance. Wait your turn, Gaga. This is Glenn Close's year.

Best Director: While a lot of directors turned in career-defining films this year, Mexican filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón creates a serene and visually masterful movie about his own childhood experiences that can't be beaten. Predictors all around the country have spoken: Alfonso Cuarón takes home the award (once again).

Best Animated Feature: What a year for superhero movies! *Black Panther* gets its anticipated Best Picture nomination and now *Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse* dominates the Best Animated Feature category. But unlike *Black Panther*, which is unlikely to win, *Spider-Man* will almost definitely be the superhero movie that finally takes home an Oscar.

Best Supporting Roles: Regina King for the intimate *If Beale Street Could Talk* has all but locked the Best Supporting Actress race, even though, competitor and equally deserving actress Amy Adams still is overdue for her Oscar! As for supporting actors, Mahershala Ali will likely win for the awards juggernaut *Green Book*, although Richard Grant could potentially steal the prize.

Best Original Screenplay: Predicting this award is like comparing apples to oranges. You have *Green Book*, which flaunts a touching, traditional script, along with *First Reformed* and *The Favourite*, which have darker, more offbeat writing. Also, the screenplays are written by critical-acclaim-regulars. However, I believe that *The Favourite* will win the award since historically, the Academy Awards have recognized stranger and more quirky films in this category and *The Favourite* certainly fits that description.



Graphic by Ariel Kayton '19

THURSDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CONFLICT

Stephanie Zhang '21 | News Editor

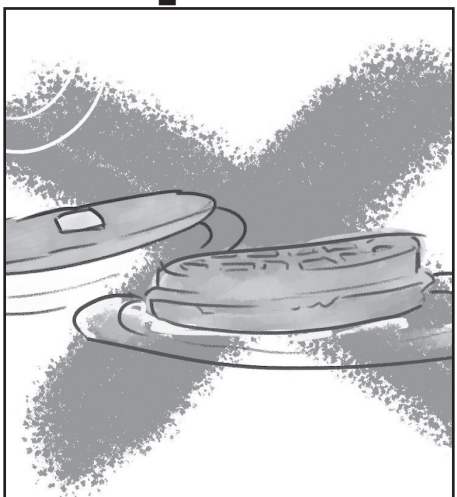
While the new addition of the waffle machines in our dining hall was happily welcomed by most students, it was seen as a threat to Pancake Society presidents, Owen Alderstein '19, Avery Caulfield '19, and Adam Guillemette '19.

"I absolutely feel threatened by it," Owen said. "The first day the waffle machine appeared I turned to Adam and said, 'Are you kidding me!? A waffle machine?' That's just a low blow."

The Pancake Society holds its weekly gatherings in the Batch common room. From 8:00-8:45 every Thursday morning, they offer coffee, fluffy pancakes—plain and chocolate chip—and plenty of delicious maple syrup.

But best of all, the Pancake Society gatherings offer a good time with friends and a jumpstart to lazy Thursday mornings.

For these very reasons, the waffle machines feel like competition to the Pancake Society's established Thursday morning breakfast food monopoly.



Graphic by Julie Chung '21

"I'm fine with it on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Just not on Thursdays," Owen remarked.

However, the Pancake Society does not anticipate letting this new threat get them

down.

"I would just like to add that Gunnar and Ryan came up with the idea of the Pancake Society while the waffle machine was still there," Adam said. "The whole purpose of the Pancake Society is to elevate the existing dining experience."

However, it should be noted that "elevating the existing dining experience" is exactly what Ms. Julie Clarke, Flik's Food Service Director here at Loomis Chaffee, is looking to do.

"I'm always looking to give the students exactly what they're looking for," Ms. Clarke said. "I want them to be happy, and the students have been asking for waffles ever since I started working here. I had been working with my chef and the vendor to get the machines set up and running. We're just so happy that everyone's finally smelling and tasting the delicious waffles."

With both the waffle machines and the Pancake Society, the Loomis Chaffee campus seems to be teeming with sweet

choices.

With their hilarious emails and mouth-watering pancakes, the Pancake Society won't be losing traction any time soon.

"Pancakes...are great," commented Olivia Zoga '21.

The waffle machines seem to be a big hit so far as well.

"Waffles are better. Fight me," Steele Citrone '20 said.

With the avid support for both breakfast foods, it seems that the only thing the Pancake Society should worry about is running out of syrup.

Don't get too comfortable, though. The rumor mill says that there might be a Crepe Club in the making.

Word on the street is that they're going to barge into a random Pancake Society meeting and challenge them to a breakfast food showdown. Stay tuned for more details on this campus's breakfast food power struggle.

WINTER HOROSCOPE

Neala Sweeney '20 | *Melange* Editor

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Your birthday is already here or is coming up! Make sure to make a super awesome wishlist for you special day. Don't get drawn into the lull of the winter. Make sure to put yourself out there, try something new, and look forward to delays and snow days!

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Look out for your lucky numbers this month: 3, 15, and 24. Since your ruler is Neptune, make sure to tap into your musical side, and be sure to listen to your Discover Weekly. You'll be sure to find some awesome bops for the cold winter days. Don't forget to go to open pool on the weekend to tap into your water sign side!

Aries (March 21 - April 19): Your ruling planet is Mars which means don't be afraid to take action in your group projects coming up during Winter Testing. You have a strong personality, so be sure to embrace group work and listen to other classmates' opinions. Your lucky numbers are 1, 8, and 17.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): You're an earth sign, so don't let the winter keep you from taking a walk outside and enjoying your surroundings! You have great intuition, so be sure to stick to your gut on that multiple choice question. Don't be afraid of change and embrace new ideas and concepts. You're compatible with Scorpios so make sure you look out for that special someone coming this Valentine's Day.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): During these winter months, be sure to prioritize your own health this time of year and don't get too caught up in your work! Make sure to tap into your writing sign, and since your ruler is Mercury the odds are in your favor for the Katherine Brush Flash Fiction competition. Take some time off after school commitments and homework to tap into your artistic side. You deserve it!

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Being ruled

by the Moon, your emotions are everywhere, so remember to take a deep breath and don't get too caught up in the mood swings. Cancers are typically guarded, so be sure to try and make some new friends this winter term. Your lucky days of the week are Monday and Thursday. There are good things to come!

lucky day is Wednesday, so make sure to look out for signs!

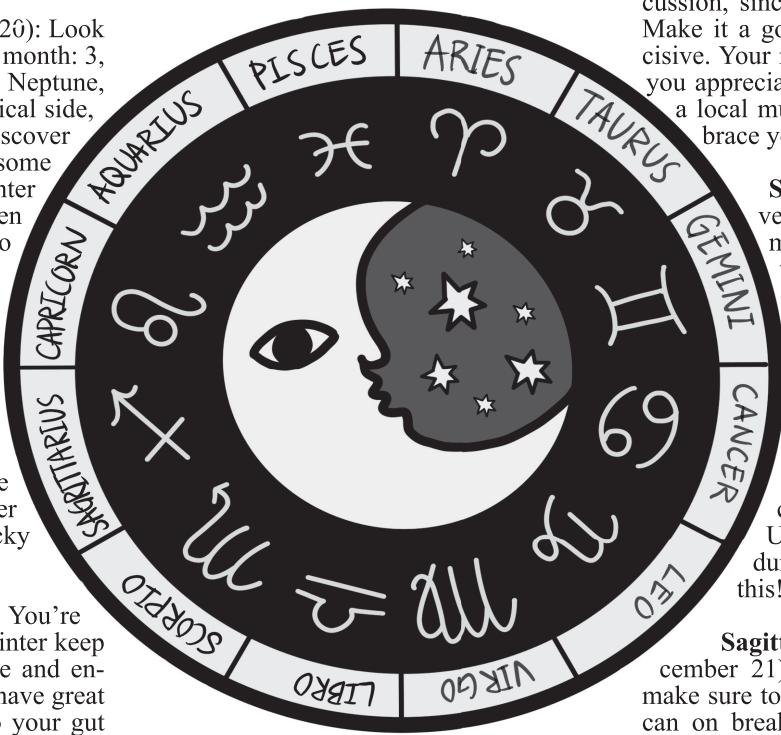
Libra (September 23 - October 22): Don't be afraid to spend some alone time over Head's Holiday and take some time to self-reflect. Also, don't be afraid to get into the middle of a heated class discussion, since conflict isn't always bad! Make it a goal of yours to be more decisive. Your ruler is Venus, which means you appreciate art and good food. Go to a local museum over Head's and embrace your inner foodie!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): You're determined and passionate, so put that energy to good use in your classes. Be a leader on your team, in your club, or with your friends. Your assertiveness will help! You are a water sign and your ruling planets are Pluto and Mars, which means you're emotional, but calm and cool in stressful situations. Use this to your advantage during Winter Testing. You got this!

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): You love traveling, so make sure to visit as many places as you can on break. With Jupiter as your ruling planet, your enthusiasm knows no bounds! Make sure you channel that into things you're passionate about and don't get caught up in superficial conquests. Your lucky numbers this month are 12 and 21, so make sure you look out for those days in February!

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): Be open to new ideas! Capricorns can be stubborn so make sure you listen to others and try new things. Your ruling planet is Saturn which means you're responsible and on top of your work, but it also can make you cold. Be sure to stay open with your friends and family about your emotions and don't box yourself off. Your lucky numbers this month are 13 and 22.

Graphic by Michelle Park '20



Leo (July 23 - August 22): Since it's the winter, let your bold side show! Tap into those colors and make your outfits pop to brighten up everyone's day. Make sure to pay attention to your friends during the cold months, listen to them and make sure they know that you appreciate them! Your lucky numbers this month are 3, 10, and 19. Wear some yellow to represent your ruler, the sun. Also, don't forget to buy your tickets to the winter musical, as Leos tend to have a flare for the dramatic!

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): You are very hardworking, so be sure to take a break from all the studying and go hang out with friends. You deserve some time off. Take winter term as a little bit of a break from super hardcore studying. Your

\$5.7 BILLION

Emma Goldfarb '20
Melange Editor

Recently, this completely random number—5.7 billion dollars—popped into my head, and I don't know why. So, instead of wasting time contemplating where this number came from, I have decided to calculate how many of various products you could buy with 5.7 billion dollars.

1. **76,000,000 applications to Harvard** at \$75 dollars each. That's about 1,778 times their usual number of applicants! Their super high 6% acceptance rate will go down, so I guess I'm making them look better, right?

2. **100 state of the art, LEED certified science center buildings** can be donated to Harvard to improve chances of acceptance (assuming that my 76,000,000 applications did not prove effective).

3. **Lump sum donation of all 5.7 billion dollars to Harvard.** Unfortunately they will barely notice because their endowment is about 40 billion. Can someone please donate 75 dollars for my application fee?

4. **1,000,000 high quality, fully functional soft serve machines** so that Flik can replace them daily for 2,740 years, not have to clean them, and give up the charade of the machine being broken.

5. **5.7 billion "hamberders"** that you could bring to the White House for a formal lunch or use as concrete for the wall (they pretty much have the same chemicals and shelf life anyway).

6. **28,500,000 chainsaws** to cut a hole through the metal slats of the wall, since I understand it is actually beautiful this time of year in Mexico, and we should enjoy the view.

7. **1,140,000,000 large SNUG/SNIF/SNAG** (who knows what it's even called anymore) **cookies.**

8. **1,140,000,000 tickets to the winter formal** so that you can bring all of your friends! Instead of feeling like you are going to pass out from overcrowding induced heat exhaustion, you actually will!

9. **4,071,428 Box Logo Supreme sweatshirts** so that instead of having to wear a winter jacket this season you can maintain your swag by layering them all.

10. **A 5.7 billion dollar donation to the prestigious LC Pancake Society** so that they can supply mouth-watering fluffy flapjacks to our students every Thursday morning while also offering free fitness classes for us all.

WINTER WORD SEARCH!

Y J N A P L F K E C I U W V E	HOTCHOCOLATE
A G Q T D R A Z Z I L B A L O	WINTERFEST
D A I T U E M K F D E Q B Q U	BLIZZARD
W G T I K L U S K C E Y C H K	SNOWDAY
O V G Z X L T C E T V L G K H	DELAY
N D C G J O H Z L P U R A H O	ICE
S Q B A O E X V Z V J F H Y C	BOOTS
F H H B P T F W O Q V J A G K	HOCKEY
E T A K S E B D V A J J S M E	SKI
D S E T A L O C O H C T O H Y	SWEATER
Z B X M W I N T E R F E S T G	
Z H Q V H Z Y Y S U X M S K I	
O T C X R E T A E W S M H M P	
V L V W A U S D F Y E T V M Z	
H F H A C K J C Y N Y F X N V	

Word search generated by A to Z Teacher Stuff
Courtesy of Stacy Park '19 and Liam Scott '19

WARNING: SATIRE

Liam Scott '19 | *Editor-in-Chief*

Inspired by *The Week*

GOOD WEEK FOR...

The tired and/or lazy, as the week before Head's is just two full days and two half days.

The cynical, who surely found the countless instances of people slipping on ice, scurrying through rain, and hopping through slush to be particularly amusing.

BAD WEEK FOR...

The old-school. Google Drive recently changed the font of its toolbar, and many just can't handle it.

Ice cream lovers. The soft serve machine in the dining hall is still broken—but at least we have a waffle maker now.

THIS JUST IN:

Potholes in the gravel lot are back and better than ever. Despite attempts to fill in the horrifying holes, the holes have returned.

"Honestly, driving over the potholes on the way into the lot in the morning has become a sort of ritual for me. They give me the jolt I need to start my day," commented one senior.

Write for the *Log!*

What else are you going to do on your weekends????

Contact us at
[log@loomis.org!](mailto:log@loomis.org)

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AN EVOLVING TRADITION OF EXCELLENT COACHING

Abby Cannon '20 | Contributor

From ancient Roman gladiator fights to present day's fully automatically-timed cross country meets, change has always been an integral part of the evolution of athletics.

Here on the Island, nestled among Loomis Chaffee's able coaching corps, exist our keepers of change, an outstanding group of long-time coaches who together account for a total of 136 years of experience. These coaches have seen it all, from traditions such as ringing the victory bell to new development of facilities, technology, and athlete development, all the while setting the bar high enough to keep the Pelicans at or near the top.

Perhaps chief among the changes in the last 25 years has been our understanding of how to train athletes and keep them healthy, according to some of Loomis Chaffee's most adept coaches.

Upon her arrival at Loomis in 1981, Mrs. Sally Knight, boys varsity cross country coach and English teacher, saw her team through the "running boom" era, in which recreational and competitive runners ran long distances every day to maintain a "streak," which is no longer a trend. Today, according to Coach Knight, most coaches understand the importance of a rest or recovery day after intense workouts, meets, games, or matches.

Similarly, warm-up routines have evolved. According to Coach Knight and Mr. Fred Seebeck, boys varsity swim coach and English teacher, Loomis Chaffee's teams have switched from doing exclusively static-stretch warm-ups to including dynamic stretches before competition and practice.

Notably, Loomis has recently added a strength and conditioning coach, which the long-time coaches see as a game changer for the performance of modern athletes. According to Coach Seebeck, "It's been a huge change, and it's helped tremendously."

Part of the new athlete development paradigm involves a shift from a focus on fitness to a focus on peak performance in competition when training athletes. In swimming, Coach Seebeck emphasizes "total immersion," a method of coaching that focuses on teaching swimmers to use their bodies in the most efficient way when moving through the water.

These changes in training methods and intensity have paralleled the increase in athlete specialization. Mr. Jeff Scanlon '79, boys varsity golf coach and English teacher, believes the movement toward



Graphic courtesy of Mrs. Allison Beason

Coach Beason (left) with MVP volleyball player Kimya Charles '99 (right).

athletes' specializing in a single sport now starts younger than ever. Coach Scanlon is troubled by the trend.

"I played three varsity sports [at Loomis]," he said, "and I was glad to do it, and I think I benefited from it. I also played two varsity sports in college. But today, if you show talent for a particular sport, then all your chips are going in on that one sport. Three-varsity-sport athletes are a dying breed, and it's really sad to see."

It's not just the athletes today who specialize. Coaches do it too, sometimes even in unlikely ways. Throughout her career, Mrs. Allison Beason, math teacher, has coached various JV and III girls' sports, discovering the benefits of coaching lower levels after 19 years of coaching varsity volleyball at LC. She switched to coaching JV and III because "the teacher in me loves the developmental side of coaching JV, whereas when I coached varsity, I loved the competitiveness, but I was way more stressed about the outcomes of games." With JV, Coach Beason can now focus on helping new players learn and grow, a process she finds "tremendously rewarding."

Loomis Chaffee has seen its share of new facilities in recent decades. Thank-

fully, the long-time complaint from both coaches and athletes about the lack of gym space was answered with the completion of the Olcott Athletic Center in 2003.

The coaches who were around before and after the development of Olcott gym agree that its addition has benefitted every team at Loomis. Even as the coach of an outdoor sport, Coach Knight said that she appreciates the extra gym space when her team needs a dry spot for meetings.

But some facilities are still not yet where they need to be. Coach Seebeck considers improvements to the Hedges pool, built in 1973, as one of his greatest ambitions. Although the pool is well-built, well-lit, and clean, it is simply too small to accommodate the current swimming, diving, and water polo programs.

Before the construction of Olcott, Erickson and Shimkus hosted all the boys sports, while the old Chaffee gym hosted girls sports, even when multiple teams competed for gym time within a season.

Coach Beason remembers a time when volleyball was a winter sport, and the challenges of always staggering gym time with basketball and accommodating both varsity and JV teams. She remembers teams practicing side by side, huddled

onto one court while the varsity and JV basketball teams stood on the side waiting their turn to practice.

The old Chaffee gym is now history, replaced in 2009 by the newly constructed Hubbard Auditorium.

Fortunately, the integration of the girls and boys facilities coincided with a change in attitude toward girls sports in general. Whereas not long ago girls sports were considered marginal, today we can see fairly equal opportunities for both girls and boys athletes with respect to facilities, equipment, and development. In the old days, one would never see a boy practicing in Chaffee gym, and it would have been a rare sight for a girl to be competing alongside boys.

Those cross currents in gender attitudes have also affected the coaching ranks. In 1981, former Athletic Director Mr. Bill Eaton hired Coach Knight to coach boys cross country, the first female coach of a boys' team and in the NEPSAC. Coach Knight recalls going for a walk-and-talk around "The Loop" during her interview with Mr. Eaton, in which he revealed that although the girls' head coaching position had just been filled, the boys' coaching position had just opened up, seemingly jokingly asking her if she'd be interested. Despite his initial surprise in her interest, Mr. Eaton considered it and soon made the hire.

In addition to these changes, the long-time coaches of Loomis have observed many continuities as well. According to Coach Beason, the little things remain the most exciting. "The excitement of seeing a player's skills develop and the coordination of plays really coming together is something that has lived on for me and really never gets old," she said.

Coach Scanlon says the true continuity over the years is the steady flow of talent. He commented that although there is not always high level talent from top to bottom, the continuous arrival of a corps group perennially forms the basis of our successful tradition.

Although Loomis Chaffee athletics have continuously evolved over recent decades, Coach Scanlon reminds us that the more things change, the more they stay the same. "Things may be radically different, but you know what, they're radically different for everybody," he said. "If equipment is available to everyone and everyone is getting on board with 'the new things,' I don't know that any of it changes that much."

A FAMILY DYNAMIC IN THE POOL

Justin Wu '21 | Contributor

"Just one last set to go," varsity swimmer Qais Hijazi '21 whispers as he finishes the second set of the 18th, "Last set, I am finishing it no matter what."

Not long before, boys varsity swim coach, Mr. Seebeck announced that the boys would be doing "The 18th," one of the most tiresome, hardest sets, consisting of 18 one-hundred meters freestyle.

This set is so challenging because the interval is short and descends as the swimmers get more exhausted. Across the pool, senior swimmer Laith Hijazi '19 just finished his fastest hundred, an impressive 1:12. As both swimmers sprint and touch the wall, finishing the set, a smile finally breaks out on Coach Seebeck's face.

Laith and Qais Hijazi are siblings who compete together on Loomis Chaffee's swimming and water polo teams. Laith has been in the Loomis Chaffee community for two years now and is heading off to college next year, whereas Qais just joined the Loomis community this year.

"Sometimes [Laith] annoys me, but it's fine," Qais answered with a flair of humor when asked about the feeling he has for his brother. He continued, "We are usually supportive to each other, but we may argue about things that others may not have argued about."

Even when competing side-by-side, Laith has always been a "big brother" figure to Qais. As a co-captain of the boys varsity water polo team, Laith is in charge of his teammates' performance and effort. Qais found his niche this fall as a swing player for varsity, and Laith has always been supportive to his brother and has provided effective support of his brother's game sense and decision making in games.

Conflicts between teammates are inevitable, but it can be even more difficult between siblings. Qais admits, "Sometimes if I don't finish warm up, [Laith] is going to be annoyed by it"

"But still, we maintain a normal relationship and we don't argue unless we have to," Qais discloses as he watches his brother and swim teammates celebrating a big victory over Hotchkiss with a team dinner in the Burton Room.

Coming from Jakarta, Indonesia, on the other side of the world, Kai Sheng Tham '21 and Kai Jun Tham '19, better known by their teammates as KJ, are another pair of brothers that participate on both the swimming and water polo teams. Similar to Qais and Laith, senior Kai Jun has been playing alongside sophomore Kai Sheng for over a year now.

"It feels normal to play with [Kai Sheng]," KJ said. "Even though he is my brother, I treat him as a teammate."

Unlike Qais and Laith, KJ and Kai Sheng's personalities contradict each other. KJ does not talk much and maintains a calm, modest attitude while often providing great assists and goals for the water polo team. On the other hand, second-year sophomore Kai Sheng has a louder presence that captures great attention from his teammates.

"Conflicts may happen between my brother and I," KJ said. "When he made a bad pass, I will point it out, but in a comforting way."

The decision to put them in the pool together has generated great results for the Pelicans with notable wins, like those against Brunswick and Andover over the previous two water polo seasons.

There are many siblings at Loomis Chaffee who play sports together at every level, but the boys swimming and water polo teams are especially notable for having two pairs of brothers.

While every sibling dynamic is different and some may believe that siblings can create trouble, it can be a blessing here at Loomis.

By the numbers

5,000

bags of ice the trainers' office runs through in a year

250,000

meters a swimmer swims in a season

90

gray t-shirts exchanged at the Cage per day during the fall and spring season

1,000

career points scored by girls varsity basketball player Reilly Campbell '19

Graphic by Ariel Kayton '19
Statistics by Matthew Weng '21

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THE IRON MAIDEN OF LC WRESTLING

David Choung '19 | Sports Editor

The following dialogue is an interview with the Loomis Chaffee wrestler Kennedy Anderson, a sophomore boarding student who hails from Detroit, Michigan. She currently lives in Cutler Hall. Kennedy is the sole female wrestler on the Loomis Chaffee wrestling team, a team typically dominated by men. She belongs to a prestigious, yet extremely small, group of female wrestlers in Loomis Chaffee history.

David Choung: I think it's fair to say that it's very interesting to have a female wrestler in a sport typically dominated by men. What made you want to wrestle for the wrestling team?

Kennedy Anderson: I don't really know. I was originally signed up for swimming because I've been swimming competitively for years prior, but I didn't want to swim anymore because it was something my mom told me to do. So, I was just looking for a way out. I saw wrestling, and I thought, why not? [laughter]

DC: Was there anything you were nervous or excited about coming into wrestling?

KA: I didn't really know what to expect, to be honest. I didn't really watch wrestling. Mrs. [Lilian] Hutchinson told me that wrestling had the hardest practices of all the winter sports, and kids would be throwing up and stuff. I was like 'oh god,' but I thought there would be no cardio.

DC: [Laughter] Oh no! No cardio?

KA: That's what she told me. I was like we're not going to be running, are we? She was like, it's not that type of sport where coaches are "go run a mile."

DC: Well, she wasn't necessarily lying though.

KA: We had to run a mile. More than one time, so I was bamboozled. But yeah, I was nervous about how hard it would be.

DC: Since you said you didn't know much about wrestling before you started, I'm curious to know what would be the first thing that would have popped up in your head if someone said the word "wrestling".

KA: John Cena. Breaking chairs.

[Laughter]

DC: I know this is your first year on the Loomis wrestling team. So far, at this point, what has wrestling taught you?



Photo by Haven Low '21

Kennedy is a sophomore in Cutler Hall and comes from Michigan.

KA: It has taught me it's not always going to come easy – a pin. You got to work for [a pin] sometimes even if you have to go to the 3rd period. We work so hard in practice, and it helps when your opponent is getting tired. It's always good to have endurance because when they get tired, they're going to give up a pin more easily.

DC: What are your goals for this season and for your overall wrestling career?

KA: Oh, I already beat some of my goals already. I wanted to get a pin, and I got that. Now, I got two pins and that's three wins overall. Also, I'm going to an all-girls meet this weekend, and it's on my birthday this Sunday. So I'm nervous about that because I'm going to be wrestling against varsity level girls, and I haven't. I, at least, want to do something good there because it's my birthday, and I need

something not to make me sad. I also want to make varsity by the time I'm a senior.

DC: Do you have any fun or interesting stories from your wrestling career?

KA: I don't know if this is interesting, but I have one about a JV match I had. JV matches [have a two-minute first period, one-minute second period, and one-minute third period], so I was glad that the periods were lowkey shorter [than varsity matches] when I wrestled this guy to the third period. This guy kept trying to tie up on my neck, and he kept ripping my hair cap off. It kept flying off, the headgear was flying off, but I was so tired that I was just happy for a break to put it back on. I was taking my sweet time putting it back on because I was so tired. I don't even know what the ref was calling, but the ref kept calling something on the other dude

to the point where we had to stop wrestling. I was talking to coach, and he was like 'do you want some water?' Best thing he said to me that entire match.

DC: So, you mentioned how you did competitive swimming for a while. On that note, what other sports have you played prior to wrestling, and how have they helped you wrestling-wise, if at all?

KA: I think the sport that helped me most for wrestling was gymnastics. For gymnastics, you work with your own body weight a lot, so we don't lift very much. Gymnasts usually do a lot of exercises like pull ups and handstand holds. With wrestling, you work with your own body weight a lot as well and other people whose weight is similar to yours.

DC: Personally, I think swimming and wrestling are two hardest physically taxing sports. Since you've done competitive swimming and now that you are a wrestler, what are the similarities and differences?

KA: For differences, in swimming your arms and legs get tired. In wrestling, you're not doing these physically grueling stuff in the water, so it's not the worst thing in the world while you're doing it. Maybe when you're wrestling competitively you can get tired. Swimming can feel like forever. I think both give you mental toughness and encourage you to push on.

DC: What do you enjoy most about wrestling?

KA: Winning. [Chuckle]

DC: Since you are the only female wrestler on the team, what would you say to the other female Loomis students who want to try out the wrestling team but are too scared or nervous about the stigma surrounding wrestling?

KA: Well, [wrestling as a girl] makes you look bada** for one. It makes you look pretty cool. I feel like the main issue is the whole thing about wrestling guys. I would tell them not to be afraid of the guy aspect, especially in practice. I don't always engage in guy talk or locker room conversation, but I think you should [put] yourself out there. If you make yourself part of the team, you'll get the respect you want.

Disclaimer: The interviewer is a teammate of Kennedy's.

SPOTLIGHT ON CLUB BASKETBALL

Oscar Ye '22 | Contributor

With the sharp sound of the whistle, the final game of the club basketball season started. This afternoon was destined to be unforgettable and breathtaking. The cheers and applause from the audience blended with the upbeat music, making the game even more thrilling.

A figure rapidly flashed by. Krister Atkinson '19, the leader of the blue team, broke through the defense of the red team, and laid the ball in with a smooth finger roll.

As the minutes ticked by, the atmosphere grew even more intense...

After watching the finals between the



Photo by Julia Manafort '22

Max Wice '19 dribbles past Luke Budd '22 and Andrew Frisbie '22.

red and blue teams, Aaron Yang '20, a player of the green team, recalled his opening season game in Olcott this winter. "My teammates suddenly shot three deep 3-pointers from nearly half court which allowed us to take the lead. We performed tough defense, had a lot of blocks and steals which strengthened our team's spirits and helped us to seize victory over a seemingly superior team."

When whether there are any players who left deep impressions on him, Aaron said that he really liked his previous co-captains Ryan Chan '19, and Eric Chong '19 from thirds basketball.

"Eric is a dominating center and Ryan has excellent ball-handling skills, so it is definitely fun to watch them play since they often display an exciting game," he explained. "Although they are top players on the team, they still trust the young players by encouraging them to take more chances and giving them more time to play on the court."

Aaron also mentioned John Patterson '19, saying that "he acts as a mentor and possesses inspiring spirit, so that a number of younger players look up to him as a model."

As a two-year former thirds basketball player, Aaron spoke about his experience in III and the differences he had felt between III and club basketball.

"Though I am a malleable player and I'm capable of playing several positions such as point guard and center, from playing III [basketball], I learned how to be a more structural player and a more reliable

teammate," he said

"Playing thirds taught me how to hold my own actions dependable, and sometimes consider more about the team instead of acting selfishly. And apparently, I am not that great of a player so I would support teammates [from the bench] while they were playing on the court," concluded Aaron.

Not only do the players enjoy being a part of club basketball, but the coaches also adore this sport. Spanish teacher Ms. Corman who is now in her third year of coaching club basketball, said, "It is a lot of fun. Every day after school, the kids are looking to get their energy out and be with friends. I like the camaraderie of it. I really love seeing my students, my own students in the classroom and in Erickson everyday, since they become more relaxed and energetic. I get to know them in a different way, which is really rewarding."

Remembering a previous season of club basketball, Ms. Corman told a story about a group of soccer players who at first were so poor at playing basketball that they lost quite a few games. Nonetheless, during the season, after putting in considerable effort, they gained better and better teamwork and basketball skills.

No one would have imagined that this team could make it to the final and eventually win the championship.

As evidence of how invested the coaches are in club basketball and how much they care about the players, they awarded shining trophies to the championship-winning red team.



Photo by Julia Manafort '22

Phineas Scott '22 takes a shot as Luke Peter '22, Jack Hammond '19, Cam Pilon '21, Krister Atkinson '19, and Gabe Epstein '19 look on. The writer is airborne in the center.

Then, Ms. Jennine Solomon, one of the coaches and Associate Director of the PHI, 3D-printed humorous second place trophies for the blue team.

As a team sport, club basketball surely contains competition and victory, but more importantly, it promotes the relationships between teachers and students and brings joy to and fosters friendship between the players.

Aaron expressed this understanding of a greater purpose, saying, "Making sacrifices for the team developed me to be a true athlete."