

The Loomis Chaffee Log

Issue CIV, No. 7

Est. 1915 • 4 Batchelder Rd., Windsor, CT

May 24, 2020

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!

A Farewell to Longtime Faculty Members



MS. RUTH DUELL
Faculty Member Since 1991

By LILES WALL '20
Contributor

After 29 years of serving the Loomis Chaffee community, Ms. Ruth Duell is taking a step away from teaching to spend time with her family.

Ms. Duell is known by most students on campus as a psychology teacher, but she has held many positions during her time on the Island. In 1991, she came to campus with her family of five and served as a part-time community service coordinator.

Starting in 1993, she worked as the associate director of studies and taught one psychology class each term until 2011, when

she became a full-time psychology teacher. In addition to her roles as administrator, community service coordinator, and teacher, she was a Harman dorm affiliate for over a decade.

Ms. Duell notes that Loomis moulded her into a teacher; before entering the Loomis community, she had never intended to become a teacher.

"I had always worked with people who had disabilities of various types," she said. "Teaching developed as I became part of this community, and the school gave me training and support, and so it happened!"

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MR. FRED SEEBECK
Faculty Member Since 1983

By MIN JUN JUNG '20
Contributor

After 37 years, Mr. Fred Seebeck, also known on campus as Seeb, is retiring from Loomis Chaffee. Seeb has served our community in many capacities; he's been an English teacher, a coach (boys' swimming, boys' water polo, girls' track), a dorm head, a dorm affiliate, a dean for many years, an interim English department head, a Student Council advisor, an admissions officer, and even a member of the committee that selected Dr. Culbert's predecessor.

A fixture in the Loomis community, Seeb will soon conclude an unparalleled ca-

reer of service to our school.

During his time here, Mr. Seebeck has watched Loomis Chaffee blossom into the school and the community that it is today. He noted that he's seen "something like 11 different buildings being built."

In addition to the campus's physical transformation, Seeb remarked that "our school has become much more diverse and international in a positive way." Seeb believes that our community has become a "lot more harmonious," especially as "day students feel a lot more at home... than they once did." With a laugh, he noted, "Kids are also a lot more disciplined."

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Dr. Pauline W. Chen '82 to Speak at Commencement

By PORTIA INZONE '20
Managing Editor

Throughout her Loomis Chaffee years and her rich, successful career, Dr. Pauline W. Chen's pelican pride has not faltered. A member of the Loomis Chaffee class of 1982 and now a member of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Chen will deliver the 2020 Commencement address at a currently undetermined date.

Dr. Chen is one of many members of her family who are affiliated with Loomis, including her late sister, Dr. Lena M. Chen '87; her brother, Dr. Michael Chen '92; and

her cousin, Oliver Chen '96. Her daughters Natalie and Isabelle Halsey, both LC '20, continue the Chen legacy at LC.

Growing up in Windsor, CT, Dr. Chen attended Loomis Chaffee as a four-year day student, serving as an editor of the Log and a member of the Loomis Chaffee Orchestra and Chamber Singers. On Class Night, Dr. Chen received the Cheruy Prize in Language, a precursor to her many future clinical, educational, and service awards.

"I would give anything to be able to sit as a student in a Loomis Chaffee class again," Dr. Chen said. "You're not only learning, but you're learning from someone who cares

about you personally and intellectually."

She differentiated classes she took at Loomis Chaffee from those at Harvard University and Northwestern University, which she would later attend, because of the LC faculty's geniality and care.

"Before attending, I was a good kid, but I wasn't spectacular," she said. "I feel like Loomis Chaffee took a chance on me. The teachers at Loomis Chaffee taught me how to think differently, how to think outside of the box, how to push myself, how to learn on my own. I feel like a lot of what I have done since goes back to that, to that first letter of acceptance that said 'we'll take a

chance on you!'"

Dr. Chen reflected on the changes to Loomis Chaffee since her graduation, sharing that, beyond the obvious physical transformation of the campus, "when I was there, I was one of two, maybe three Asian kids on campus."

With 29% students of color and 15% international students today, Loomis Chaffee has become far more diverse in the years since Dr. Chen attended.

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Photo by Joanne Chen

Dr. Chen grew up in Windsor, CT, trained as a surgeon after graduating from Loomis and Harvard, and is now treating COVID-19 patients in Boston. Her memoir, "Final Exam: A Surgeon's Reflections on Mortality," was published in 2007.

Dr. Pauline W. Chen '82 to Speak at Commencement

By **PORTIA INZONE '20**
Managing Editor

Continued from the front

Having received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, Dr. Chen shared that the transition from high school to college "was very seamless."

Dr. Chen continued to study at Northwestern University Medical School and Yale University, completing training in the surgical and transplantation fields, and the University of California, Los Angeles, where she worked for four years. Throughout her professional career, Dr. Chen has carried with her the principles that Loomis Chaffee instilled in her as a student.

"When you're a student at Loomis Chaffee, the best self, the common good, the mission of the school really gets drilled into you. You don't realize how much that's a part of you once you've graduated...it's your DNA," Dr. Chen commented.

Today, Dr. Chen works in the Boston VA Healthcare System and is currently treating COVID-19 patients and fighting on the front lines of the pandemic. "I cover three hospitals, and when you go you can sometimes feel like you're going into a war zone" Dr. Chen said.

In addition to treating patients, Dr. Chen is currently serving on the Loomis Chaffee Trustees COVID-19 Task Force. "We're helping to advise," she said, "but I have to say that Dr. Culbert, the administrative team, the faculty and the staff have been amazing. My joke is that Dr. Culbert could've gone to medical school, she's so on top of the medical and public health aspects of this pandemic!"

New York Times bestselling author of the memoir "Final Exam: A Surgeon's Reflections on Mortality," Dr. Chen combines her surgical and journalistic expertise as she writes about the doctor-patient relationship. Beyond her critically acclaimed memoir, which was translated into a dozen languages and was a finalist for the Books for a Better Life award, Dr. Chen is a former columnist for and now a contributor to the New York Times.

The Virginia Quarterly Review, The New York Times Sunday Magazine, The Washington Post, The New York Times Book Review, Prevention, and Self have

published Dr. Chen's writing, and she has also been nominated for a National Magazine Award, received The Virginia Quarterly Review Staige D. Blackford Prize for Nonfiction, and was a finalist for UCLA's Kirkwood Prize for best fiction writing.

When asked how loss among patients and their families in her professional life helps prepare her for personal loss, Dr. Chen articulated the importance of being kind to yourself, and the fact that each person has their own approach to grieving.

"I think about the founders of the school, and the huge loss that they had. It's important to take inspiration from our founders and realize that sometimes in the depths of sadness, generosity can often be a form of healing," Dr. Chen noted.

Dr. Chen recognizes the class of 2020's major losses this spring and observes that "young people now, especially the seniors, are like the soldiers that fought in World War II and Vietnam; you gave up something for us to fight this war—something really important. It's moving."

Dr. Chen is impressed by the resilience of the class of 2020; in her opinion, their supportive attitude and their caring represents the "Best Self and the Common Good" in action.

"We talk about being our best selves, but I think that also applies to being our best to ourselves. You cannot give to the common good unless you yourself are strong" Dr. Chen said.

Dr. Chen noted that "commencement is supposed to mark the start of something, but it also marks the end of an era. It's the last time that you'll all be together as a class. In the long term, it's a beautiful way to mark the periods of your life."

Dr. Chen is one of very few female, non-white Commencement speakers at Loomis Chaffee, and she follows five consecutive years of white male Commencement speakers.

"I guess it's an honor," she said. "I think that's wonderful and totally in-line with the school having grown... I'm thrilled to be part of that change."

Dr. Chen applauds the Class of 2020 and is eager to speak at Commencement, saying, "When I think about what's going to inspire me for the Commencement address, I think it's going to be all of you."

A Farewell to Longtime Faculty

MS. RUTH DUELL

By **LILES WALL '20**
Contributor

Continued from front

You'd be hard-pressed to find Ms. Duell sitting down or taking a break. She is always talking to someone, teaching a class, or lending a helping hand to a student. Her plans for retirement seem to give her a break from the fast-paced lifestyle she's led on campus.

When asked about her plans, Ms. Duell responded, "None, on purpose! I have lots of ideas, but it's kind of like having a baby – you have no idea what it will be like until after the baby comes. I am going to stay in Columbia, CT, where I live. I'll do more service work – travel, kids, grandkids – I will let it unfold as it is meant to. If there's one thing this time has taught us all, it's that planning doesn't always work out!" With some extra free time on her hands, she is looking forward to relaxing as much as she can and living a more go-with-the-flow lifestyle.

Ms. Duell may be leaving Loomis, but Loomis will never leave her. Having worked at Loomis for almost three decades, she holds close to her heart the relationships she has made with students and faculty. She plans on staying connected to the school "through friends – faculty, former students, staff."

Having been a student in Ms. Duell's psychology and freshman seminar classes, I can attest that she is a teacher who truly cares about her students and forms relationships with them on a personal level. Therefore, it was no surprise that she told me she would

miss her students most: "I have loved getting to know and share in the lives of young men and women over these many years!"

In her 29 years on the Island, Ms. Duell has accumulated a wealth of memories. Ms. Duell is someone who always loves embarking on adventures with her students.

She fondly remembers "delivering Holiday Help boxes to the Town Hall the first year that we thought it up – it was so exciting to see students get behind this brand-new idea of anonymous giving, and the notes we got from recipients were amazing too!"

In addition, she loved "bringing students to an AIDS hospice in Hartford... [taking] trips to Carmon Funeral Home, to Osborn Prison, to Mary's Place, [and] touring graveyards in Windsor and Hartford."

Ms. Duell hopes that students will make the most out of their Loomis experience by "tak[ing] time to get to know all kinds of people here – kids, faculty, administrators and their assistants, dining hall, athletics, housekeeping, IT, mailroom people." Ms. Duell says that "these are the folks who make LC what it is. You will learn from them!"

She notes that the pandemic has illuminated what makes the Loomis experience so special and wants students to take full advantage of their time on campus.

"As we all know, given our current situation, LC is SO much more than classes, sports and other students," she said. "Get to know them and show that you care. Listen to them, there's wisdom and some very cool stories! Giving anyone, adult or student, respect and compassion is what living fully is all about."

MR. FRED SEEBECK

By **MIN JUN JUNG '20**
Contributor

Continued from front

Seeb's says he will miss coaching the swim and water polo teams most of all. He explained that all of the time he spends in the pool represents "so much more than just a coaching job." Seeb's says the sense of community fostered in athletics is also found in Loomis academic life as well. He notes that teaching CL Satire has been "a blast" and that he'll miss "just living with people and just being ourselves around ourselves."

The two centerpieces of Mr. Seeb's classroom regalia, the bow tie and the Red Sox paraphernalia, have become iconic through the ages. Seeb's traces the origins of his bow tie collection to when he first became a Red Sox fan in the 1990s (contrary to popular belief, Seeb's is not a lifelong fan!). He says his Red Sox bow tie is among his favorites, as well as two that were gifted to him by the water polo team in the fall. His bow-tie rivalry with Scando (a.k.a. Mr. Jeff Scanlon '79) is a subtle spectacle. However, Seeb's hasn't worn a bow tie this term as a "little reminder to [him]self that life is different."

Regarding the timing of the COVID-19 crisis in his final year, Seeb's said, "Well, first of all, I say 'lucky me' that I'm healthy, my family and friends are healthy, and I still have my job." He says he's grateful he "can actually see [his students'] faces, but it's so sad to be here and isolated like everybody else."

He feels especially sorry for the seniors, who "are graduating without a big celebration and without crossing the big finish line, the literal finish line." He says he's sad to see the seniors go without being able to "walk down" with them at their Commencement ceremony.

For the seniors, he offers some parting advice: "As soon as you can in college, find a mentor. Find an adult who is really important and respected on campus, and build a relationship for the practical reason of getting a job reference and for the much more im-

portant reason of having a person to lean on if you need to." He encourages seniors to "do [their] very best to match [their] vocation in life with [their] avocation." He explains that the "most fulfilling part of [his] life has been the opportunity to do something [he] love[s] every day." He maintains that his career at Loomis has been "great experience for [him] and a lot of people that work don't say that."

After Loomis, Seeb's plans to keep himself busy. Seeb's is interested in taking some classes, like a "whole semester on William Faulkner and all of his works." He also intends to work for two local organizations near his home close to Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island: Save the Bay and Salt Pond Coalition, which aim to preserve wildlife in the waters along Rhode Island's southern coast. In addition, he plans on volunteering for the VA and travelling.

Seeb's parting message for students: "Cherish your friends and family. I'll miss my life here very much, and I'll be back and visiting."



Photo by Fred Seeb's

Seeb's, who has temporarily exchanged his bow ties for face masks, is looking forward to retiring to his house near Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island.

LC Says Goodbye to Six Teachers

By JEAN SHIN '20
Features Editor



Photo by Amy Ellis

Beth Helfrich

How long have you been teaching at Loomis Chaffee?
My family and I have lived at Loomis for four years, but this was my first year back in the classroom.

What positions do you fill at Loomis?
I am the dorm head of Carter Hall, and I teach English 010 and 020.

What is your favorite memory at Loomis?
The sunrise over the meadows; every morning is different, and every morning feels like a gift.

What are your plans for the next year?
We are moving back to my hometown of Davidson, NC, so my number one plan is to soak up time with my parents, even if it has to be at a distance. We'll be getting the kids settled into a new house and school.

Any last comments or advice?
Only deep gratitude for everyone who made our four years at Loomis so memorable and special. I feel a little bit like a senior as I reflect on how the days were sometimes impossibly long and the years were impossibly short.

Tim Helfrich '96

How long have you been teaching at Loomis Chaffee?
I am completing my fourth year at Loomis.

What positions do you fill at Loomis?
Currently I am the director of the Community Work Program, the boys varsity soccer head coach, the co-director of the innovation trimester, and an English teacher. I also work in Carter Hall.

What is your favorite memory at Loomis?
Wow, there are so many, especially when considering those I made as a student here in the mid-'90s. Winning the New England championship in 2017 with a double-overtime goal on a freezing cold day at NMH was an incredible experience. Launching the I-Tri with Mrs. Solomon last year was also extremely energizing and fun. But I also just love being on campus with my family, teaching around the Harkness table, and heading down to the meadows every afternoon in the fall. Oh, and Fac Brat Halloween!

What are your plans for the next year?
I will be returning to Davidson, NC to jump back in full time to a business I have owned since 2003, Summit Coffee.

Any last comments or advice?
Always keep an eye out for the chance to try new things and gain new experiences. Go to as many athletics competitions, and theater, dance, and music performances as you can. Shop local.



Photo courtesy of LC Strategic Communications and Marketing

Sebastiaan Blickman

How long have you been teaching at Loomis Chaffee?
I have been at Loomis Chaffee for three years.

What positions do you fill at Loomis?
I teach World History and Spanish, coach varsity boys soccer and swimming, and live in Batchelder Dorm.

What is your favorite memory at Loomis?
We won a New England championship in soccer and multiple Founders championships in swimming... I was welcomed to the Batch family with open arms... We started a Bible study on campus to learn about and reflect on religion. But for me, it's the Batch Christmas caroling, the fist pumps after finishing a set of 18s in the pool, the beautiful team goal... the "ohhhh" or smile on a student's face when they found a connection in World History, and the close relationships with so many in the LC community.

What are your plans for the next year?
I'll be moving to Greenwich Country Day School, where I will be teaching ninth grade history and coaching the soccer and swimming programs.

Any last comments or advice?
To the dining hall and cleaning staff, and physical plant, thank you so much for everything you do... To my colleagues, thank you for inspiring me every day and allowing me the opportunity to learn, and, most importantly, to the students who made me look forward to every moment of my job, thank you. If there's any advice, it would be to find a class, a major, an interest, or a job that doesn't feel like work.



Photo courtesy of Ge Song

Ge Song

How long have you been teaching at Loomis Chaffee?
I have been teaching [at LC] for one year.

What positions do you fill at Loomis?
I am a Mandarin teacher and a dorm affiliate for Richmond. I am also a coach for club basketball.

What is your favorite memory at Loomis?
There are too many memories at Loomis, but the ones I will cherish the most are the memories that make me feel that Loomis Chaffee is a family... Before Christmas, we had a party in Richmond. The girls were making ornaments. There was Christmas music in the background, and they were decorating the Christmas tree. It was a nice moment because it felt like a family... Another similar memory was that in my classroom, before Lunar New Year, we watched the Lunar New Year gala show, and we ate snacks while making and sending each other red envelopes. That was also another nice family moment.

What are your plans for the next year?
I am going to California with my husband. I will be teaching Mandarin at the Cate School.

Any last comments or advice?
First of all, reach out to your teachers. All the teachers here chose this job because we really enjoy working with kids. Never be afraid to reach out to a teacher with any questions or difficulties. Another piece of advice is try the Thai restaurant close to campus [Siam Corner Kitchen]! It's really good. My favorite dish is the drunken noodle.



Photo courtesy of Michael Chung

Michael Chung

How long have you been teaching at Loomis Chaffee?
Two years, as one of the "Penn fellows" [in the University of Pennsylvania's Independent School Teaching Residency master's program].

What positions do you fill at Loomis?
I teach Computer Science and Advanced Algebra II, work in Ammidon, and help in the Quantitative Resource Center.

What is your favorite memory at Loomis?
One of my favorite memories was the Ammidon Christmas party in 2018, during which we held a gift exchange that included the dorm faculty. I still felt very new to Loomis at the time, and I was touched by the outpouring of love and kindness that took place.

What are your plans for the next year?
I'll be moving to Brooklyn, NY, in the fall to teach computer science at the Berkeley Carroll School!

Any last comments or advice?
Loomis is a really special place, and I'm deeply grateful to have begun my teaching journey here. Many thanks to the faculty and students who have made these two years so fulfilling, and who have trusted me with friendship, mentorship, advisee-ship, and engagement in class – it means more than you know. Keep working hard, keep having fun, be nice to your teachers, and stay curious!



Photo courtesy of Andrea Rodas

Andrea Rodas

How long have you been teaching at Loomis Chaffee?
Two years as a Penn fellow [in the University of Pennsylvania's Independent School Teaching Residency master's program].

What positions do you fill at Loomis?
I've taught French 3 and 4 [and] Spanish 2. I've also been a dorm parent in Howe Hall for two years. [I've been] an Assistant Coach for the debate team and for Club Soccer.

What is your favorite memory at Loomis?
My favorite memories at Loomis are the little everyday things that showcase the welcoming community. Saying hello to my students and colleagues in different languages as we walk to and from classes, seeing the moments of "Aha!" on students' faces after learning a new concept, talking about the latest Bachelor episode in the dorm.

What are your plans for the next year?
Next year I will be moving back to New York City with my cat, Mara, and my fiancé, Téo, and I'll be teaching Spanish at the Master's School.

Any last comments or advice?
The LC mission of being your best self and serving the common good is one that I wish more people in this world subscribed to. Let's all continue to be our best selves.

Senior Projects Continue During Remote Learning

By KELLY XUE '21
Features Editor

The Senior Projects program has continued this spring amid the COVID-19 pandemic. While the number of projects has greatly diminished, as many projects were not able to be carried out given the challenges posed by distance learning, two projects remain.

A longstanding Loomis tradition for over 20 years, the Senior Projects program offers students an opportunity to rigorously explore a topic of their choice. Senior students submit topic proposals in the winter term for approval, and selected students are excused from the last two weeks of classes, during which they complete their projects.

This spring, Ambrozine Daring '20 and Benjamin Lawrence '20 will create a graphic novel portraying their experiences in the college application process.

They plan to collaborate with six other senior students, as well as visual arts teacher Mr. Mark Zunino and English teacher Dr. Will Eggers.

"We decided on creating a graphic novel about the college process as a way for us to reflect on not only our senior year but also our entire high school career," Ambrozine said, "to reflect on a vital process in the next chapter of our lives, as well as something for younger grades to look at and to think about as they travel their own journey of the college process."

"We hope to overlap both digital and physical art into an expressive visual portrayal of emotions," she said.

Before starting their project, Ambro-

zine and Benjamin made some alterations to their original plan to accommodate the shift to remote learning. They had initially anticipated creating three to four books documenting their college application experience but instead decided to concentrate their efforts on one graphic novel. In addition, they have decided to digitize their project to make their work more accessible online.

Steele Citrone '20 and Grace Kulas '20 are creating an interactive computer game alongside English and computer science teacher Mr. Matthew Johnson, as well as science teacher Mr. Neil Chaudhary '05.

Steele detailed their project design process. "Back on the Island, we planned to have an interactive escape room that players would be able to play on campus; however, the lack of a physical space moved our game into the digital realm," he said.

They will use the game design software Unreal Engine to create an end product "akin to [video games] Stanley Parable or What Remains of Edith Finch," Steele said. "Our project would focus on the narrative aspects of gaming as the unique medium gives way to choice-based storytelling."

As the majority of their work can be completed digitally, the transition to distance learning has been relatively smooth. The group continues to stay connected through Zoom meetings.

"We hope to open the Loomis Chaffee community's mind to the narrative power of games with our project and, of course, to have fun!" Steele said.

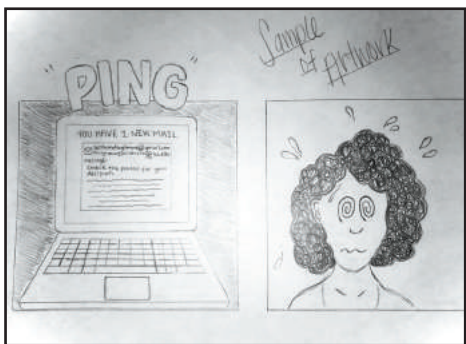


Photo by Ambrozine Daring '20
Ambrozine Daring and Ben Lawrence are working on a graphic novel about the college application process.

New Dorm Heads Chosen for the 2020-2021 School Year

By KRISHNAPRIYA RAJARAM '21
Web Director

Each year brings about something new, whether it be new students flocking to the Island or changes in the roles held around campus. While they may seem easy to forget, changes, such as the ones for dorm heads, have a profound impact on campus. This year, Loomis Chaffee will have new dorm heads, but will also miss some old ones who have helped the community grow throughout the year.

The dorm heads for next year will include Mr. Mark Zunino for Harman, Ms. Linda Hathorn for Carter, and Ms. Courtney Jackson for Howe. These positions were originally held by Mrs. Liz Leyden, Mrs. Beth Helfrich, and Mrs. Lori Caligiuri respectively.

According to Jessica Matzkin, Dean of the class of 2021, "All three of them have been living in those dorms so their transitions to dorm headship should be smooth."

Another change is that Ms. Emily Garvin will be in charge of the 3rd floor of Flagg dorm, which is being converted into an all-gender housing space for students.

These changes hold a lot of promise for next year, but the impact of these people, who will no longer serve as dorm heads, will never be forgotten.

"My decision to leave the dorm was a tough one, as I have so much enjoyed my work there and it has been my family's home for many years. Given the current renovations, we needed to vacate our apartment completely for half of the spring and the summer, so it seemed like the right time for us to transition to a faculty house on campus." Mrs. Caligiuri said.

While it is true that their fellow students will miss them a lot, they will also miss many

aspects of the dorm life.

"What I think I'll miss most are the informal conversations that would happen in the hallway on a lazy Sunday afternoon or in the common room at late check-in when the girls were crowded around the table eating snack. Those special moments of laughter and friendship are things that I often remember about the kids long after they graduate," Mrs. Caligiuri said.

Even though these transitions will be sad for some, there is a lot to look forward to as the new dorm heads for next year have many exciting plans.

"The thing that I am most looking forward to next year in Howe is fostering a sense of community," Ms. Jackson said.

She also added, "The other thing I hope to do is have Howe be a kind of learning community in addition to a living community. My graduate school work was in issues around diversity, equity, and inclusion, with focuses on gender, sexuality, and race, and I also teach a summer class on sustainability. I would love to bring those things into the lived experience in Howe through formal activities, informal and optional conversations, movie nights, and other forms of programming."

In addition to hoping to see everyone on campus in the coming fall, Ms. Hathorn also looks forward to her role as a dorm head.

What I'm really excited to do is keep working with the boys in this great place where they're learning their independence and how to be self-reliant and just supporting them in that journey." Ms. Hathorn said.

The community has changed a lot this year, and there will be more next year, and the year after. "While it feels like a huge loss to see them move on from dorm life, we feel confident about this change in leadership." Dean Matzkin said.



Photo by Jessica Hsieh '08

Ammidon Hall, led by dorm head Mrs. Jaci Cardwell, will house only sophomores next year to accommodate the changes in enrollment numbers.

Changes Planned for Ammidon and Flagg Halls

By RYAN FORTANI '22
Contributor

Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, Loomis Chaffee's residential life program will undergo two distinct, substantial changes: Ammidon Hall will become a sophomore girls dorm, and Flagg Hall will add an all-gender floor.

Ammidon and Flagg Halls were both built in 1965 and stand side by side facing the Grubbs Quadrangle. In the recent past, Flagg and Ammidon have served as upperclassmen boys and girls dorms, respectively. Flagg, however, also includes several sophomore residents in addition to juniors and seniors.

This year, Loomis' administration, in consultation with the residential life team, decided to make changes to both dormitories. Mrs. Lori Caligiuri, interim dean of the class of 2023, is managing the Ammidon shift, while Mr. Nick Barker, dean of the senior class, is working with the all-gender dorm group.

Like several of our peer institutions, Loomis has considered the implementation of an all-gender dorm for several years.

"The school began investigating the need for all-gender housing two years ago through faculty committee work," said Mrs. Caligiuri.

After recognizing the necessity for an all-gender residential space from student surveys carried out by the school, Loomis has committed to providing this option to its students. However, another challenge emerges as the school grapples with determining where and how the all-gender residence would be like.

"The committee investigated different housing on campus and made a determination for Flagg third floor," Mrs. Caligiuri said.

Flagg's third floor was recognized as the leading option for the all-gender residence because of the number of singles on the floor and its ability to create a balance between the third-floor residents' privacy and inclusion with the rest of the dorm. Furthermore, the third floor had space for the school to construct separate stalls in the bathroom for additional privacy.

The incorporation of an all-gender option has been welcomed by students on campus and a number of students have been rallying for its creation for several years.

"Students have been campaigning for [an all-gender dorm] since at least my freshmen year and probably before that. It's obviously kind of a niche thing since not everyone re-

ally needs or even wants all-gender housing, but it's definitely a great improvement for those who need it...[ultimately], I'm very excited to help support the first year this [plan] is implemented," said Olivia Zoga '21, who will serve as the Residential Assistant for the all-gender floor.

The second major change to Loomis's dormitory program was rather unexpected. The school announced that Ammidon Hall will house sophomore girls for the 2020-2021 academic year due to changes in enrollment and an influx of incoming new boarding girls to the Island.

"When we looked at our number of underclassmen girls this year, we saw that the total put us nearly 30 over what we could fit in Cutler, Longman, Richmond," Mrs. Caligiuri said.

Rather than splitting the sophomore girls up into upperclassmen dorms, however, the school decided to place them in Ammidon since it was the right size to accommodate the increased underclassmen boarding girl population. Additionally, the residential life team thinks this change would also benefit the sophomore girls.

"Living together with other sophomores will provide our students with shared experiences that we believe will be supportive and enriching," Mrs. Caligiuri said.

This transformation of Ammidon's future residents means that the dorm will now house prefects instead of RAs for the incoming sophomore girls. This plan will allow the dorm leaders to work with one another in creating and executing activities that are specifically relevant for sophomores. At the same time, however, it does lead to a decrease in female RA positions available for next year.

"The prefect team was recently selected, and Mrs. Cardwell is looking forward to working with those leaders to plan activities for the dorm," Mrs. Caligiuri said.

While Ammidon's new role as a sophomore girls dorm may be necessary, it is an abrupt and unexpected change for current Ammidon residents.

"I respect the school's decision...but I wish we were informed ahead of time," Clara Chen '21, Ammidon resident, said. "The news was very abrupt, and until now, there hasn't been any notice from the faculty members about this topic. After [we have] bonded with the students and teachers who live there, it's very disheartening that we won't be able to live in Ammidon next year, especially since we never got to formally say goodbye due to remote learning."



Photo by Jessica Hsieh '08

Flagg Hall, led by dorm head Mr. Elliott Dial, will host LC's first gender-neutral housing arrangement on the third floor. Ms. Emily Garvin will serve as the floor's resident faculty member, and Olivia Zoga '21 will serve as the RA.

Profile of LC's Newly Admitted Students

Graphics by **ETHAN LEVINBOOK '20**
Editor in Chief

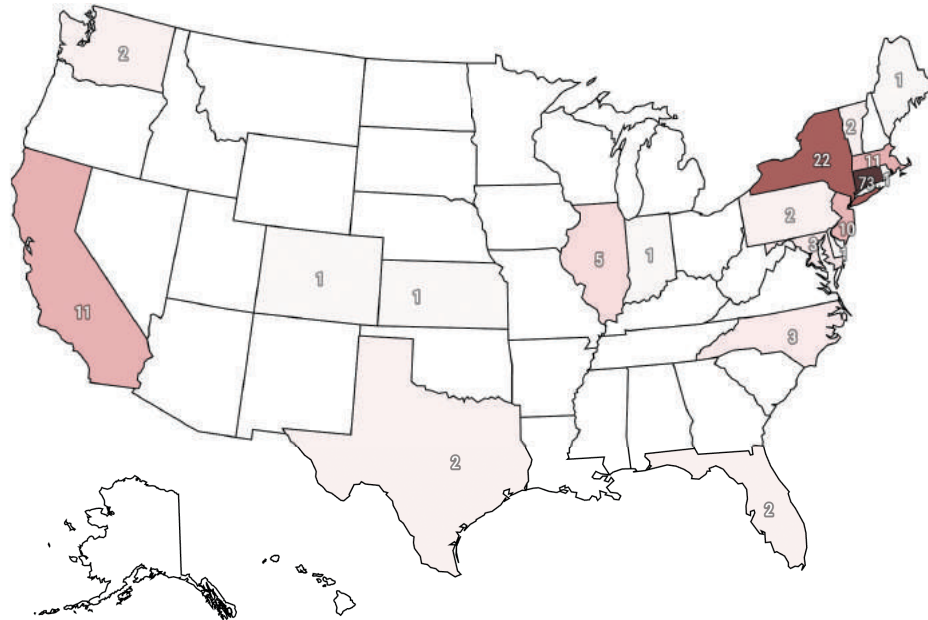
Compiled by **JENNY PAN '22**
Graphics Manager

1,860
completed applications to Loomis Chaffee – a school record

21%
LC's record-low 2020-2021 acceptance rate

61
Zoom meetings held on virtual revisit days

ADMITTED STUDENTS: DOMESTIC GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

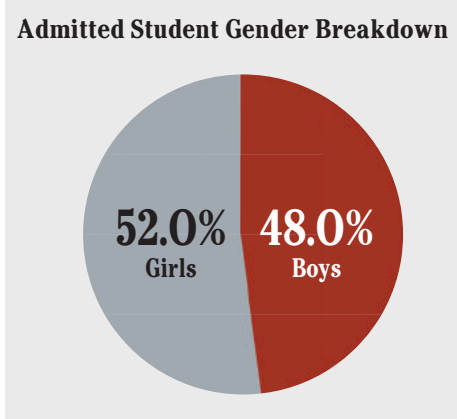


31%
of LC's newly admitted students are domestic students of color

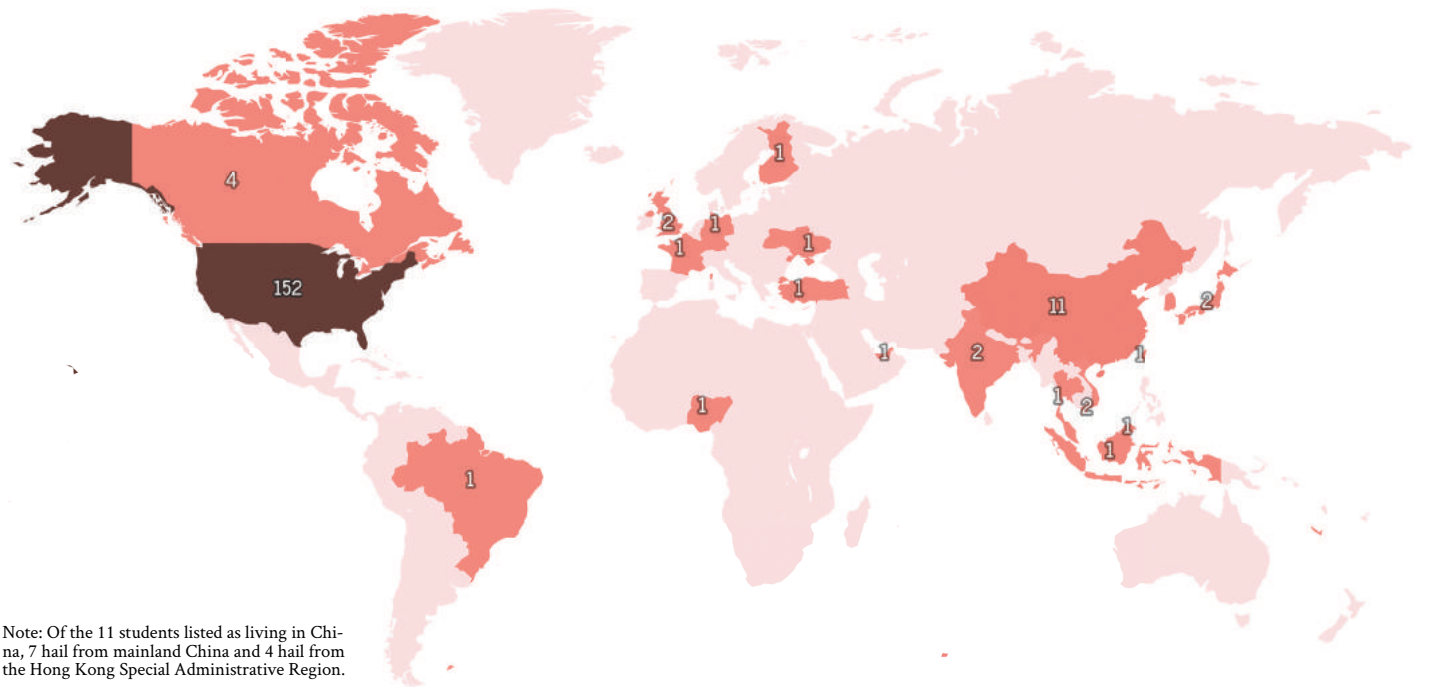
17%
of LC's admitted students are non-US citizens

13
U.S. states represented by LC's newly admitted students

21
countries represented by LC's newly admitted students



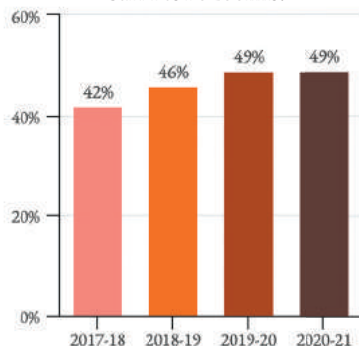
ADMITTED STUDENTS: INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD



Note: Of the 11 students listed as living in China, 7 hail from mainland China and 4 hail from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

Yield Rate, 2017-2021

Percentage of admitted students who #SaidYesToLoomis!



Construction Continues on Howe and Batch, NEO Renovations Delayed

By **RYAN FORTANI '22**
Contributor

Due to national lockdown restrictions in response to the coronavirus, Loomis Chaffee was forced to reevaluate current and upcoming construction projects across the Island. In particular, four major projects were reassessed to determine if they could continue as originally planned: Howe Hall, Batchelder "Batch" Hall, the west colonnade of Grubbs Quadrangle, and the Norris Ely Orchard "NEO" Theater on Ratte Quadrangle. Construction on Howe, Batch, and the colonnade have continued as planned, but the renovation of the NEO has been delayed.

After extensive deliberations following the decision to cancel the rest of the school year due to COVID-19, the school administration decided to continue with the construction on Howe, Batch, and the west colonnade. Due to financial reasons and the need for the dorms to be renovated for the 2020-2021 school year, it would have been difficult to delay the already begun construction in those areas.

"We were worried about [the construction] workers [and] we talked about whether [or not] we should delay. [But] it made sense to continue because we were so far into construction, and we need those dormitories up and running for next year," Head of School Dr. Sheila Culbert said.

Following this decision, the school and the construction team enacted several regulations to ensure the safety of the workers and the school community while renova-

tions continued during this pandemic.

"The construction company that we are working with is very good. They have put into place all sorts of safety regulations and rules. We were concerned that construction would be closed down, [but] it wasn't and it hasn't been yet," Dr. Culbert said.

While the dorm and colonnade renovations will continue, construction on the NEO, a major project that many students, faculty, families, and alumni have been eagerly anticipating, has been delayed.

The NEO was supposed to undergo a major renovation starting this summer. The plans for the new theater were created in conjunction with Robert A. M. Stern Architects, LLP, and the project received its lead gift by donor John D. Nichols '49 and his wife, Alexandra C. Nichols. The Nichols family committed 7.5 million dollars to renovating and growing Loomis' theater and dance programming primarily through this expansion of the NEO.

Unfortunately, since the coronavirus pandemic forced Loomis' administration to send students home, Dr. Culbert made the decision to delay NEO renovations indefinitely.

"The NEO—that was hard...what we have decided to do is we are going to go through [the] permitting [process] with the town and we are going to go through construction documents. From there, we are going to put that project on hold until it is fully funded through donations. So we probably have about 9-10 million there; the project has a 14 million dollar total cost. So once we

have all the money, we will go forward," said Dr. Culbert.

This delay in construction is a disappointment to both newly admitted students and current students.

Aidan Cooper '22, an avid performer in both the fall and winter productions in the NEO this year, explained that he is "super disappointed. If we assume that the construction takes about a year, then for my senior year, I'll have less time in the new space. It seems optimistic that they'll completely rebuild the theater before the 2022 school year if they start later. It's a shame that we won't have that extra time, but I understand

the struggles that everyone is going through and the difficulty of starting the project now amidst the pandemic."

Students were not the only ones to voice their disappointment with this decision. Faculty members also emphasized their dismay over the delay, although all parties recognized the necessity to halt the project for the time being.

"I am also disappointed, of course, but not surprised because it seems perfectly reasonable given what we are going through. I am eager to see the renovation happen for the students," said Ms. Candice Chirgotis, head of the theater and dance department.



Photo by Jessica Hsieh '08

Construction on Batchelder Hall has continued with an addition extending in the direction of the Olcott Athletics Center, paralleling a similar addition to Howe.

COVID-19 Leaves Seniors Stranded at Home: Hometown Stories from the Class of 2020

By VICTORIA CHE '21
Opinions Editor

As public health concerns over COVID-19 continued to rise throughout the course of March break, Loomis Chaffee made the decision on March 16 to move spring term to virtual learning.

For many members of the senior class, this decision came with much disappointment and sadness. While they missed the chance to say a formal goodbye to their high school career, friends and teachers, however, many seniors had the unusual experience of spending the spring with their family in their hometown.

GRACE WOLF '20 APPLETON, WISCONSIN

Grace Wolf '20 lives in Appleton, Wisconsin with her two sisters (including Jessica Wolf '22) and parents. Grace's dad works in Green Bay, where there have been recent outbreaks of COVID-19 in meat packing plants.

"My father is an EMT/Firefighter, and uses full PPE at work but still changes in the garage and brings nothing from work into the house," said Grace.

As a result, her family completely washes down the garage with cleaner once every few days. Both Grace and her mother continue to work at a grocery store, although she has been taking fewer shifts to minimize her exposure.

Apart from that, Grace's family routine has not been too different. She has gone on numerous hikes and drives, and she enjoys the cheap gas prices, which fell to the \$0.80 range for a while.

"In Wisconsin we are surrounded by

parks and land," Grace said. "I love living somewhere not densely filled with people."

Grace has found this spring challenging emotionally, especially as her room is being packed and shipped to her by a stranger.

"I am finally reckoning with never taking classes there again, but knowing that my life has even been erased from my room is hard," Grace said.

ROY LAM '20 SHANGHAI, CHINA

Roy Lam '20 returned to his home in Shanghai, China and has been staying with his family there during the entire spring term. After Shanghai lifted its indoor "mandate," people have been slowly getting back to work and going out.

Roy spends much more time doing housework, reading books, and practicing the cello, and on some afternoons, he goes to a coffee shop near his apartment for a drink.

Roy found the unexpected situation this spring very challenging to accept, knowing that he would be unable to see his friends for months.

"In the first few days after I arrived home, I felt sad, but moreover overwhelmingly empty. I could not help but just wonder what my life would be like, what everything at school, my last term, prom, and graduation would have looked like without the pandemic," Roy said.

Roy feels that it gets harder as the last days for seniors press on, but he appreciates those who have helped him through this emotionally difficult time.

"I tried to find comfort in reading books and talking to my friends. Sometimes, doing those things calms me down and reminds

me that I should cherish all the little things in life, all those around me, and all who have made my life what it is," Roy said.

MARAL ASIK '20 LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

A day student from Longmeadow, Massachusetts, Maral Asik '20 has been living in her house with her parents, brother, and dog since the beginning of quarantine. As a result of social distancing restrictions, Maral has been spending a lot more time with her brother and playing sports in her front yard.

"My family spends more time together, since none of us have any reason to miss family dinners now," Maral said.

Maral's family goes grocery shopping much less and has had to plan meals out with the basics they have. While Maral would usually go to a park or have lunch with her hometown friends, she has been unable to do that yet. It took Maral some time to get used to her new routine and accept the unexpected fate of her senior spring.

"There was definitely a rough patch, when the weight of not having prom or graduation combined with sunshine deprivation really got to me, but I'm definitely adjusted now," Maral said.

MIN JUN JUNG '20 CRESSKILL, NEW JERSEY

Min Jun Jung '20 lives in Cresskill, New Jersey, which is about 20 minutes away from New York City. Throughout the course of the outbreak, Min has witnessed some changes in his town. During the first few weeks of lockdown, Cresskill looked desert-

ed and the streets were completely empty.

"However, now that the number of cases is beginning to dwindle down and the weather is getting nicer, there are tons of people who are walking or jogging or biking outside," Min said.

Min has also recognized that more people seem to be strolling around now than during the summer days before the outbreak.

"My town is typically a quiet suburb and it's odd to see so many people out... but also doing so at a distance of six feet," Min said.

MARGARITA DEMKINA '20 MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Margarita Demkina '20 has been living in Moscow, Russia since late March. She has been living under lockdown with classes running from 3:20 - 7:20 P.M. for her on school days.

Still figuring out her schedule, Margarita stays up very late to finish her work and to talk to friends who are still in the U.S. However, she gets to sleep in a lot later, which is a good compensation for her.

"My family is also staying with me in the apartment, all working and studying in separate rooms [so as] not to distract each other," Margarita said.

Margarita's family is "living in different time zones at the same time" but still manages to gather together for an after-dinner tea.

The seniors remain hopeful that in the near future, there will be "a graduation ceremony, a Commencement, for the Class of 2020, on Founders Circle, in front of the Loomis Homestead," just as Dr. Culbert has promised.

The Loomis Chaffee Log

Issue CIV, No. 7

Est. 1915 • 4 Batchelder Road, Windsor, CT

May 24, 2020

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ADVERTISING

To advertise in the Log, please contact the editors-in-chief listed above.

EDITORIAL

What This Issue Means to Us

All of us on the editorial board agree that the Log is something that we will treasure for the rest of our lives. Few people actually know what goes on when we are working on layout on the weekend or the amount of time and effort that it takes us to put the newspaper together. As lead editors, we give up much of what would have been free time to create something meaningful every month. And even though we spend hours and hours in the basement of Palmer Hall, and even though it was often stressful, we are so happy to have been involved in the Log and to have the Log community in our lives.

When we received word that we weren't going back to school, the lead editors exchanged messages about our deep sense of disappointment, how we wished

we had known that we'd already printed our last issue, distributed it to friends in the dining hall, and experienced our last layout weekend in the Palmer basement. We knew that the Log had to remain functional, despite the challenges ahead; it was something that had to continue in whatever way was possible. We editors especially wanted a physical issue to be our last, and we fought so hard for this to happen. We wanted our final issue to be a physical monument to our Log careers and our Loomis experience, a parting gift for the class of 2020. Our legacy is important to us.

We've spent hours and hours with one another, at times when we were sick, when we probably wanted to be somewhere else, when we were sleep-deprived and overwhelmed with stress and homework. There have been coffee runs, uncontrollable laughter, some arguments, some compro-

missing, and a lot of staring at computers trying to figure out how on earth we were going to stretch two articles across two pages.

None of the lead editors signed up to work on the Log staff in order to put that distinction on a college application. None of us signed up because it looked good. We have worked on the Log because we wanted to create something that would last. Something that was bigger than us, and something that maybe, just maybe, would make a difference. Whether it impacted one person or the whole school didn't matter.

So much has been taken from the class of 2020. We've missed varsity seasons, awards

We've created this last issue not only for ourselves but also for the class.

ceremonies, prom, senior traditions, and being with our best friends at the place we love, but we could not give up on the Log.

To anyone who has read the Log, appreciated the layout of a page, completed

a crossword puzzle, read their horoscope, or considered whether they agreed with an Opinions article: thank you. We've created this last issue not only for ourselves but also for the class. All of us on the editorial board would have probably gone insane by now if it weren't for our friends. Part of the reason we're so passionate about the Log is that we are members of a class that excels in every endeavor it takes on: sports, arts, drama and academics. We are doing this for the class of 2020.

If you're reading this and you're not a senior and you're not part of the Log staff, find out when it's layout weekend and take a trip to the Palmer basement on Friday night. It's going to be hot down there, but just bear it for a few minutes. Tell everyone that Portia, Neala, Ethan, Angela, and Michelle sent you. It's not something you want to miss. It's magic down there.

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE

What Is Your Favorite Memory at LC?

Compiled by STEPHANIE ZHANG '21
News Editor



Photo by Emma Tishler '20

ARJUN GROVER '20

My favorite memory at Loomis is winning a baseball Founder's League Championship in my sophomore year.



Photo courtesy of Laine Duncan '20

LAINE DUNCAN '20

Best memory was JV kicks freshman year. Best coaches, the best team, best experience!



Photo courtesy of Isabelle Halsey '20

ISABELLE HALSEY '20

Friday night dinners with my friends in the dining hall. We always sat at the same table (on the upperclassman side and closest to the piano), and we usually stayed at dinner until past 7:00 p.m., or even later. We laughed so loud and had much fun. I loved every minute of those dinners, and I miss them and my friends so much!



Photo courtesy of Anya Sastry '20

ANYA SASTRY '20

I don't think there's one specific moment that is my favorite or that has defined my entire experience. Upon reflection, I think my favorite memories are the in-between moments, the moments that are easily passed over, but become significant when you stop to think. Walking to town on a Saturday afternoon, absolutely dying from laughter with friends in the dining hall... having late-night conversations in the dorm common room, sitting down for my favorite class. Those are the moments I will remember.



Photo courtesy of Christina Stone '20

CHRISTINA STONE '20

My favorite memory at Loomis is winning a second NEPSAC Championship with the girls' varsity soccer team during my sophomore year!

What Will You Miss the Most?



Photo courtesy of Freya Rich '20

FREYA RICH '20

I will miss springtime on the Island and seeing everyone enjoy the beautiful weather, laughing, and smiling on the way to class.



Photo by Sarah Gallagher

MARAL ASIK '20

I'll miss debate practice, my friends, and the dining hall tofu.



Photo by Ambrozine Daring '20

AMBROZINE DARING '20

I'll miss my friends, the people, and the beautiful campus.



Photo courtesy of Chloe Behringer '20

CHLOE BEHRINGER '20

Sitting on the quad and in the dining hall with my friends.



Photo courtesy of Min Jun Jung '20

MIN JUN JUNG '20

Like everybody else, I'll miss the people and the campus. I'll also miss being able to walk into the dining hall and always seeing people I knew. That's a sense of community that's hard to find anywhere else.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Eng '20

KELLY ENG '20

Spending nights with my friends in the room, watching a movie, snacking, doing TikToks, singing, dancing, chatting, sleepovers, having fun in general. I can't find words to describe how grateful I am for Loomis.

SENIORS REFLECT ON



Photo courtesy of Ethan Ito '20

By **ETHAN ITO '20**
Contributor

I've caught myself, especially in the past few weeks, commenting on how there's only x number of weeks left and how crazy it is that my time as a Loomis student is almost up and how it "felt like yesterday" when I first stepped on campus.

I've been lucky to call Loomis home for the past three years. Were they perfect? Probably not. Would I change anything about them? Definitely not. From sophomore year chemistry — where I often made a fool of myself — to senior year multi — where I still frequently make a fool of myself — I've learned a lot.

My first snow day at Loomis, the first I had ever experienced, stands out to me. It was one of the few days where I truly had nothing to do; I went outside and spent the day shivering, laughing, and being a kid. Since I had come from Singapore, winter was a new experience; the white blanket of snow that covered campus was an image outside of anything I had experienced.

That's what Loomis is to me. It exposed me to new opportunities, new people, and new passions. No one forced me to play outside in the snow that day, just like how no one forced me to take the path that I did during my time here. What I was presented with were opportunities — the snowfall — that led me to create experiences that I will

remember forever.

I still remember late-night conversations in the dorms when I probably should have been getting sleep. I still remember the (terrible) feeling of a bucket of ice water being dumped on my head outside the week before winter break. I still remember playing backyard football behind Carter and then getting kicked out for being too loud.

It's moments like those that made Loomis special. Every year that I spent here was filled with lots of learning, lots of memories, and most importantly, lots of extraordinary people. It's an honor to have gone here for three years, and I'm grateful to forever call the Island home.

By **ETHAN LEVINBOOK '20**
Editor-in-Chief

It's 10:30 p.m. on Friday night, and I'm in the basement of Palmer Hall. Every three weeks, my crew of editors, designers, writers, and artists gathers here for "layout weekends" in the "Log Room," the space reserved for Log staff.

During these three days, Friday night through Sunday night, we track down missing articles and writers-gone-AWOL, design the Log on InDesign, and run around campus to record last-minute interviews and to take last-minute photographs. As the only day-student lead editor, I always come prepared with Starbucks, the elixir of editorial productivity, and we are always stocked with Dunkin' Donuts by the dozen, courtesy of Ms. Hsieh. Together we listen to music, brainstorm pithy headlines, pore

over articles, nit-pick graphics and diction. It's a labor of love. We've perfected the art of speed-writing; give us an hour, an idea, and a few Boston creams, the panacea for writer's block and editor's frustration, and we'll give you an article fit for print.

As I conclude four years' involvement with the Log, I look back on even the most stressful of layout nights fondly. Indeed they are tri-weekly summits of artists and writers; they are excuses to spend hours on end with my talented peers, who have helped me grow as an editor, friend, and creative. I've been humbled by unexpected artistic abilities, and I've listened to more K-pop than I could have ever imagined. The Log room may be dimly lit, frigid in December, and suffocatingly hot in the Spring, but truly, it is home.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought great and unexpected change to these lay-

out nights. They are now held on Zoom, and, admittedly, they lack their characteristic intoxicating air of excitement and anticipation. COVID-19 has rent asunder our long-cherished hopes for senior spring; the members of the class of 2020 have missed out both on their last few months as Loomis Chaffee students and on the milestones that had once lain ahead: prom, spring fest, graduation, and, for Log editors, three more issues' worth of collaboration, camaraderie, and creativity. But we Log editors were not ready to say goodbye. The Log community is incredibly resilient; though displaced from our Log room, we've carried forth the spirit of collaboration, community, and teamwork to salvage some normalcy and produce one final physical issue, a testament to our passion for journalism, our perseverance, and our commitment to the publication and to each other.



Photo courtesy of Ethan Levinbook '20

By **GABRIELE KOZIK '20**
Contributor



Photo by Janine Kozik

When I decided to transfer to Loomis Chaffee, I was nervous and overwhelmed. Soon after I arrived on our beautiful campus, I was welcomed to the community by so many students and faculty with open arms. Since coming to LC, I have met so many people from around the world who have changed my viewpoint on life completely.

Compared to my previous experience, Loomis is extremely diverse and has allowed me to open my eyes to many issues I never considered before. I have met so many

amazing friends, faculty and teachers from different backgrounds who have changed my life forever. Loomis has been the best decision of my life, and I wouldn't change it for the world.

I had the amazing opportunity to contribute to LC history when the LC Varsity Volleyball team won the Class A New England Championship in 2018 for the first time in school history. This is my favorite memory of my time at Loomis, and I am so lucky to have been a part of it. As a new student, volleyball was a great way to make friends and meet fellow athletes. Because of the volleyball program, I will continue playing

volleyball at the collegiate level. My great experience in the fall of my first year at LC led me to play water polo for the first time in my life! With the help of my teammates and coaches, I learned a whole new sport (kind of) and made so many memories. Water polo allowed me to grow close to many girls from different graduating classes, and it drew me closer to some of my best friends.

My family was beyond supportive during this massive change in my life, and I couldn't ask for a better support system. Shout out to my Fire Island girls, the nook, LCVB and LCWPO for making Loomis a memorable and fun place to spend my high school years.

By **ALLY VELASQUEZ '20**
Social Media Manager

When I first stepped foot on the Island I never imagined that a place so foreign to me would become home, but it did. Over my four years at Loomis different places around campus have come to define who I am today.

My first year on campus, I lived in Carter Hall. The Carter girls and faculty became my family. Every night after study hall I looked forward to bathroom dance parties and dreaded getting caught out of bed by Mrs. Ma after lights out. My favorite moments were after study hall when all the freshmen would pile onto the blue couch in the common room to hear the faculty and prefects give announcements. The girls on that couch became my best friends and sisters. Every time I walk by Carter I get remind-

ed of the first family I became a part of at Loomis. Being a Carter girl is a part of my identity and is one of the best things Loomis has given me.

My junior year, I became a Richmond prefect. Living in Richmond was an amazing and fulfilling experience. I got the opportunity to grow not only as a leader, but also as a person. The best part about living in the dorm was that I got to form an incredible bond with freshmen that I now consider my younger sisters. Although they could be incredibly annoying and loud at times, I needed their joyfulness and light during my junior year. I learned so much from them and I hope they learned just as much from me.

Nearing the end of my time at Loomis the dining hall became another important place on campus to me. The dining hall is about

more than just food. Whether we are playing tug of war matches with a giant gummy worm or trying to catch apples with forks, the dining hall holds some of my favorite memories. I always look forward to texts asking to go to the "dh." It is a place where I've laughed so hard I couldn't breathe but also a place I've shamelessly shed tears. I am really going to miss daily dinners with some of my favorite people.

As I finish my fourth year at Loomis I realize that as much as I may complain about the dining hall food, the workload, or the constant construction, I wouldn't want to change anything about Loomis. The lifelong friends, amazing faculty, incredible memories, and even the annoying inconveniences are all a part of the Loomis experience. I am beyond grateful that I was lucky enough to live life on the Island.



Photo by Prestige Photography

THEIR LC EXPERIENCE

By **SADIE GARDNER '20**
Contributor

Preseason in the fall of 2016 felt like the scariest moment of my life. I moved in with four long years ahead of me, hopped up on excitement and nerves. I said goodbye to my parents, and freshman year raced by.

I had no idea how quickly Loomis Chaffee would become my home. I don't remember specifically making friends or at what point those friends turned into family, but I'm so lucky they did. I struggle to say things about Loomis that don't sound cliché, because they are, in fact, the truth. For the rest of my time on the Island some days crawled by, but sud-

denly I was a senior. I found a new scariest moment. I remembered how I looked with awe at the seniors my freshman year, and I tried to understand that the class of 2023 looked at me the same way. I did not feel old enough to be a senior, and I wasn't ready to say goodbye to Loomis just yet. How unfortunate that I had to say farewell too soon to a place I love so much.

I cannot pluck out one event that defines or encompasses my time at Loomis; rather I now reflect and realize the importance and luxury of the small, everyday moments. The wonderful times walking outside and seeing my friends lounging on the quad, giggling in class, procrastinating in the dining hall,

watching movies in the dorm, made my high school experience special. But so did crying over a bad grade, being vulnerable with my peers and teachers, getting questions wrong, fighting with the people I love most, missing home. Four years at Loomis Chaffee shaped me more than I could've imagined. I dedicate my experience to my friends who now know me better than I know myself and make me smile each in their own unique way. Loomis Chaffee provided me with teachers and advisors that turned into confidantes; they watched out for me when I didn't even realize it. Thank goodness I took that leap of faith in eighth grade. I had no idea how worthwhile it would be.



Photo courtesy of Sadie Gardner '20

By **PORTIA INZONE '20**
Managing Editor



Photo courtesy of Portia Inzone '20

I feel guilty for grieving the loss of senior spring to the coronavirus — a kind of shame that neglects my humanity, retelling me that people are dying, and I will survive without three final months at Loomis Chaffee. I'm stuck at the crossroads of moral and relativism, pitying myself before turning on the news and watching the global death toll creep up on three hundred thousand.

The juxtaposition of my pre-quarantine and quarantine lives is a strange reality, a rapid transition from fretting over the long line for Angela's omelettes to wondering how many more lonely weeks stand between me and my best friends, eight having already lapsed.

There is no denying that life on the Island is quite insular, our largest problems being a math problem set, checking into the dorm on time, or that much-needed, late-night

pizza arriving before study hall ends. Our lives were consumed by what now seems so superficial, but man would I do anything for the superficial once more.

I remember my first SNUG cookie in the old campus center, a moment of sensory bliss. I remember my first nights in Richmond Hall, sitting next to three, unfamiliar girls who would soon become my best friends. I remember my first failed test, an unmatched anxiety brought on by the infamous Advanced Chemistry (which I later dropped). I remember my first-day-of-school outfit, my first Friday night gallivanting on the turf, my first run around the Loop, my first baseball game, my first PSO-sponsored spring color run.

But what I don't remember are my lasts. I don't remember my last-day-of-school outfit, my last Friday night gallivanting on the turf, my last run around the Loop. I was saving my lasts for May 2020, a time now crippled by the coronavirus and forcing our

stays at home.

As much as I long for the sweet spring days on the Island, the beautiful greenery making my terrible allergies seem not-so-bad, I wish more for those last memories that every graduated senior relishes.

Yet I feel guilty for wanting this sense of closure on my time at Loomis Chaffee, when essential workers are sacrificing their lives on the frontlines of this wicked virus. I feel guilty for putting such a high premium on the last months of my high school experience, wishing I had treated every day on the Island as if it were my last.

Still, I must remind myself that there is no perfect ending in times like these, and that it is ok to grieve. I only hope that I can trade my guilt for gratefulness, as I am eternally grateful for almost four wonderful years at Loomis Chaffee, and a lifetime of memories that I will relish — senior spring or not.

By **CHLOE BEHRINGER '20**
Contributor

I left my home to come to board at Loomis Chaffee at the ripe age of 15. While I love Loomis and its community with all of my heart, there were many times along the way when I questioned my choice to go to prep school, to live away from my parents, to leave my friends and the school that I was comfortable at, and to change my routine fundamentally.

I'd be lying if I said I was always certain that I took the right path, that I was happier in Windsor, Connecticut than I could have been staying on Long Island. However, as I spent more time eating in the dining

hall and talking a little too loudly with my friends (mostly my fault), as I took up more roles in the community, as I went out of my way to talk to more faculty members, the more I began to lose myself in the amazing parts of Loomis. I stood up in front of people at karaoke/open mic nights and embarrassingly sang; I screamed loudly at hockey and basketball games; I spent countless hours pointlessly sitting in both the dining gym and the Scanlan center.

And while Loomis has taught me so much in the classroom, and its athletics have brought me both victory and heartache, some of my favorite parts of Loomis have been these little moments spent doing essentially nothing with my best friends.

I now sit at home, craving these moments with the people that I love, knowing that they might be gone forever.

But it's okay— I can look back on these times before COVID-19 fondly and know that those moments may be gone, but those people will stay with me forever. My experience at Loomis expands far beyond what I can consolidate into a 400-word reflection, and I wouldn't trade my time on the Island for anything.

Those doubts from sophomore year are far gone; I am now unable to imagine my high school experience without the amazing friends and faculty that guided me along the way.



Photo courtesy of Chloe Behringer '20

By **RYAN JONES '20**
Opinions Editor



Photo courtesy of Ryan Jones '20

I have never been very good at goodbyes.

I don't consider myself a very sentimental person, nor am I much of a crier, nor do I collect little keepsakes or mementos that can be strung into some perfect parting gift or video retrospective set to a bittersweet song. No, rather my attempts at bidding farewell are often an exercise in clumsiness, hugging some tear-soaked face to my shoulder as I try in vain to craft the perfect adieu. Instead, I'll just crack some dumb joke, offer a cursory wave, continue on my merry way.

On the last day of middle school, for example, I camped out in the bathroom for a rather long time, avoiding the melee of confused nostalgia gathering in the school's auditorium. Once, while leaving a sleep-away camp, I ducked below the car windshield to avoid the gazes of my on-looking compatriots. I wanted to reciprocate their loving goodbye, but, as a lifelong perfectionist, I quickly grew frustrated by my inability to

find the consummate ending, the exact right words to cap off three years or two weeks or a near-lifetime of memories. I imagined Hollywood-level perfection, music and applause swelling as the final scene faded to black. "I love you," "I'll miss you," or "you mean the world to me" just never seemed like enough.

My first failures at Loomis Chaffee came swiftly — ass-kicking cross country workouts, awkward first encounters, and a smattering of less-than-stellar biology tests. Then came the heartbreakers: sudden injuries, unreciprocated crushes, half-stammered class announcements, and a seemingly never-ending series of incomprehensible math problems. Unsuccessful applications, Saturday night study halls, back-breaking essays that were still just a "good effort" or "a great start." I have spent a great share of my time at Loomis tripping, flailing, recollecting loose limbs and dusting muddied knees... only to lather, rinse, repeat. And it has been glorious.

When I first became a Pelican, Loomis'

motto — *Ne Cede Malis* (or yield not to misfortunes, for those of us who took four years of Spanish) — didn't mean much to me, at its surface just a nifty little tagline you might find on some bumper sticker or motivational throw pillow.

But I have recently come to believe there is a bit of subtext we're all missing. It is not a command, nor even a challenge — it is a promise. For every barrier that seems insurmountable, every mountain too high and river too wide, there is a community behind you that will wipe away the dirt, tend your wounds, and cheer you on as you try, try, try again.

I am not, nor will I ever be, perfect — a fact Loomis quickly did me the service of proving. So, to the friends, teachers, coaches, advisors, and anyone else who helped keep me afloat when treading water seemed impossible, I offer back to you the fruits of your labor: this completely uncinematic, unexceptional, perfectly imperfect goodbye:

I love you. I'll miss you. And you mean the world to me.

Hollywood with Halsey

Percy Jackson and the Price of Adaptation

By NATALIE HALSEY '20
Columnist

When I was a wee little freshman, at any moment and at any point, I was probably thinking about Percy Jackson and the Olympians. In middle school, I would obsessively read every single scrap of new content my personal god-author Rick Riordan released, from short tweets to the sequel series "The Heroes of Olympus."

I would doodle demigods in my notebooks and poke around the internet for fan theories and videos. But despite this fixation, I never touched any of the film adaptations. "The Lightning Thief" (2010) was cursed material," fans said.

My favorite activity during isolation so far has been re-reading my old favorites. Of course, I had to pick up my old pal "The Lightning Thief" (2005). I had been through almost three years of Loomis Chaffee English; I couldn't wait to rip into its juvenile triteness. I liked it much more than I expected.

While Riordan's work is not perfect by any stretch of the imagination and certainly made for an audience of my nieces and nephews (ages 0-12) rather than myself, I found myself using my close reading skills honed by hours of English Seminar classes and long nights of annotation. And it was great! I loved finding parallels to actual Greek mythology, following character arcs and reaching for strange metaphors.

When I was a wee little freshman, at any moment and at any point, I was probably thinking about Percy Jackson and the Olympians.

In the years since I left middle school, I have turned my focus to (duh) film. As I finished my reread (oh my god, I can't believe I missed this motif, I wonder how this flaw will play out, etc), I thought, how bad could that movie really be?

I did not have high expectations for this movie. I had read Rick Riordan's reactions; I had seen the vitriol spewed by older fans. But I had at least expected a movie. What I got was a cold, corporate product, describable by a single word: soulless.

There are several problems with adapting beloved books for the big screen. First of all, film is primarily a visual medium, and as such, much of a novel's tone and feel must appear not as dialogue or exposition, but instead as visual cues and cinematography.

The role of the director, cinematographer, and production designer must then be finding a creative way to depict the novel's setting in a way that is both recognizable and unique. Director Chris Columbus knows how to do this; the first "Harry Potter" movie, which he directed, was chock full of wonder, magic, and mystery.

"Percy Jackson and the Olympians: the Lightning Thief" (2010) has none of that: no detail work, no spark, no interesting camera work, and no awe-inspiring vistas. Instead, it presents an incredibly boring fantasy world.

When the main trio encounters Medusa, I expect at least a little bit of spicy camera work. This classic monster turns people to stone with her gaze, so maybe the camera will never look her in the eye!

Instead, I was blasted with very, very long shots of Uma Thurman's big eyes and bizarre performance, accompanied by frenetic special effects in the form of her snake hair. The lack of suspense and mystery was enough to make Hitchcock roll in his grave.

For a fantasy story, "The Lightning Thief" has an uninspired production design. None of the sets looks lived in or real. I find the Percy Jackson universe in the books fascinating because of the imaginative ways Riordan injects average locations with Greek magic.

An idyllic summer camp houses pegasi stables, a Los Angeles recording studio's elevator holds the entrance to the Underworld, and the top of the Empire State Building transforms into Mount Olympus, an Ancient Greek overlay on our modern day world. Somehow, this adaptation translated the enchanting universe of Percy Jackson into a stiff, serious affair, complete with English-accented fake posh nonsense.

All the life and humor of the books have been sucked out in one go. And good god, don't even get me started on the

costumes. Why are all these teens wearing long, dark jeans and layered hoodies at the height of summer? Why do all the different demigods dress the same? Where is the flavor??

Despite what J.K. Rowling wants you to believe, novel writing is not the same as screenplay writing. Any subtle characterization has to be left to the actors and directors, and really shouldn't be said out loud. With the differences between screenwriting and novel writing, no matter what, some boiling down of characters was inevitable in adapting Percy Jackson into a movie.

Unfortunately, the screenwriting team chose to boil down each character to the wrong essentials. None of the characters have any sort of spark, and they all feel flat and lifeless - mere puppets in a relentlessly average plot. Motivations are cloudy at best. The most tragic victim of this shoddy writing is the stealthy villain, Luke.

While originally positioning himself as an ally to Percy, Luke eventually reveals himself to be the titular thief. But why? In the books, Luke is revealed to have been working with the "Big Bad Evil Overarching Series Villain" to topple the gods and gain power. The Lightning Thief version Luke just wants to watch the gods burn. I think.

I really wanted to enjoy "The Lightning Thief"'s performances; I loved Logan Lerman in "Perks of Being A Wallflower" (2012) and Alexandria Daddario in "We Have Always Lived in the Castle" (2018). Unfortunately, all the actors seem to be wearing straightjackets.

Percy Jackson transforms from humble, sarcastic, and loyal kid to a paper-doll hero with no personality. Lerman's performance has its moments, but feels confined by the mind-numbingly bad dialogue and cinematography. His face journey when confronted by his demon English teacher was amazingly in character, but that character vanishes after this sequence.

Annabeth Chase goes from intelligent, stubborn and flawed daughter of Athena to a beautiful battle goddess tough girl who can't wait to jump into Percy's arms. Daddario has barely anything to work with from the script, and is boxed into the role of an airheaded dream girl.

Nervous, steadfast satyr Grover Underwood becomes a womanizer played by comedian Brandon T. Jackson, whose one-note performance gets more and more tiring as the film trudges along.

Perhaps the most egregious sin of "The Lightning Thief" is its failure to adapt the original series' tone and theme. What made the Percy Jackson series so popular was its special brand of saucy first person narration via the titular Percy. Chapter titles are sarcastic, jokes are delightfully juvenile, and an irreverent lens scans the entire world.

Furthermore, classical Greek gods and monsters are humorously translated into an American setting. God of the forge and invention Hephaestus broadcasts Olympian television; god of poetry Apollo enjoys spinning up bad haikus; and most importantly (in my costume-obsessed head), all the gods appear in modern clothing aligned with their personalities and aspects.

While I don't want to say that Percy Jackson should be put next to Shakespeare's collected works or Homer's "Odyssey," I do think Percy Jackson matters.

Simply put, it's exciting to see how Rick Riordan interprets Greek mythology for a modern audience, and Percy's narration is both poignant and hilarious. "The Lightning Thief" (2010) has the stiff seriousness of an overzealous librarian. This film isn't told through the eyes of a flippant middle-schooler, but instead through what feels like the eyes of a college freshman who just discovered Ayn Rand.

Part of this tone evidently comes from a decision to market this kids' movie to teenagers and young adults. The main characters are aged up from twelve to sixteen, bizarre sexuality inserts itself into awkward moments, and if the tone were a color, it would be Steel Grey #808080.

Yet despite this change, "The Lightning Thief" does not fully commit to its weighty timbre. Brandon T. Jackson as Grover gives his all in humor to an extent that exhausts rather than exhilarates, and the various comedic bits feel out of place next to costume drama moments with the gods.



Photo courtesy of Natalie Halsey '20

The future writer of Hollywood with Halsey, seen here at age 14 with the Percy Jackson book "The Blood of Olympus."

Bear with me; I'm about to sound real English Seminar-ish about a series written for middle schoolers. The underpinnings of the Percy Jackson series rely on serious themes of neglect, loyalty, hubris, and love. The one lesson Percy Jackson has to learn time and time again is to yield control.

For example, in the first book, he must let his mother take her own path rather than carve it out for her, and in the final book, he must give Luke Castellan one last chance to redeem himself. He accepts that he cannot make choices for his loved ones, and with that acceptance, Percy and his friends and family all live richer lives.

The gods, on the other hand, do not accept this, and as a result, almost get their high and mighty seats toppled. Prophecies are a key part of the series, but more important than the actual wording are the actions characters take in reaction to them.

Does "The Lightning Thief" do anything with any of this? Absolutely not. All themes are dumped in favor of flashy action, all human connection replaced with forced chemistry, and Percy is the most important person in the entire world. "The Lightning Thief" has more in common with the most base and boring Marvel movie than with any of Rick Riordan's work.

I wish "The Lightning Thief" were good. I wish Chris Columbus and all the people behind this film had created the next "Harry Potter," or at least the next "Pirates of the Caribbean." The Percy Jackson series was such an integral part of my childhood that has affected me from my sense of humor to the way I look at the world.

While I don't want to say that Percy Jackson should be put next to Shakespeare's collected works or Homer's "Odyssey," I do think Percy Jackson matters. He matters to kids feeling lonely and afraid, he matters to kids with issues and neuroses, and he definitely mattered to a kid who liked to sit alone with her nose in a book rather than live in the real world where the true monsters roamed.

Instead, here we are with a mediocre movie that I wouldn't make even the most annoying child sit through.

You may be asking yourself: why did Natalie Halsey write about, of all things, the Percy Jackson movie for her last column ever in the Log?

The long answer is that Loomis Chaffee is like the Percy Jackson series. Both essentially shaped me as a person. Both are filled with people I love. Both (I'd like to think) made me a better person. I'm going to miss Loomis Chaffee a lot.

I have learned so much from my teachers and my peers. Without my experiences here, I would not be the writer or the person I am today. I gained critical thinking skills I'm going to use for the rest of my life, even if it's only to over-analyze the Percy Jackson franchise. I've had a really great time writing for the Log, and can't wait to write more about movies in college.

The short answer is that my family was getting sick of hearing about Percy Jackson at the dinner table. Thanks for reading.

Commencement LOGRhythms

By THE LEAD EDITORS

1. The Less I Know the Better by Tame Impala

2. Magic in the Hamptons (feat. Lil Yachty) by Social House

3. Sunday Best by Surfaces

4. Scenes from an Italian Restaurant by Billy Joel

5. In My Room by Frank Ocean

6. Daylight by Matt and Kim

7. Young Forever by JAY-Z

8. Unwritten by Natasha Bedingfield

9. Here's to Never Growing Up by Avril Lavigne

10. Next to You by John Vincent III

11. (Coffee's for Closers) by Fall Out Boy

12. Seventeen by Sjowgren

13. Little Things (with Quinn XCII and Chelsea Cutler) by Louis the Child

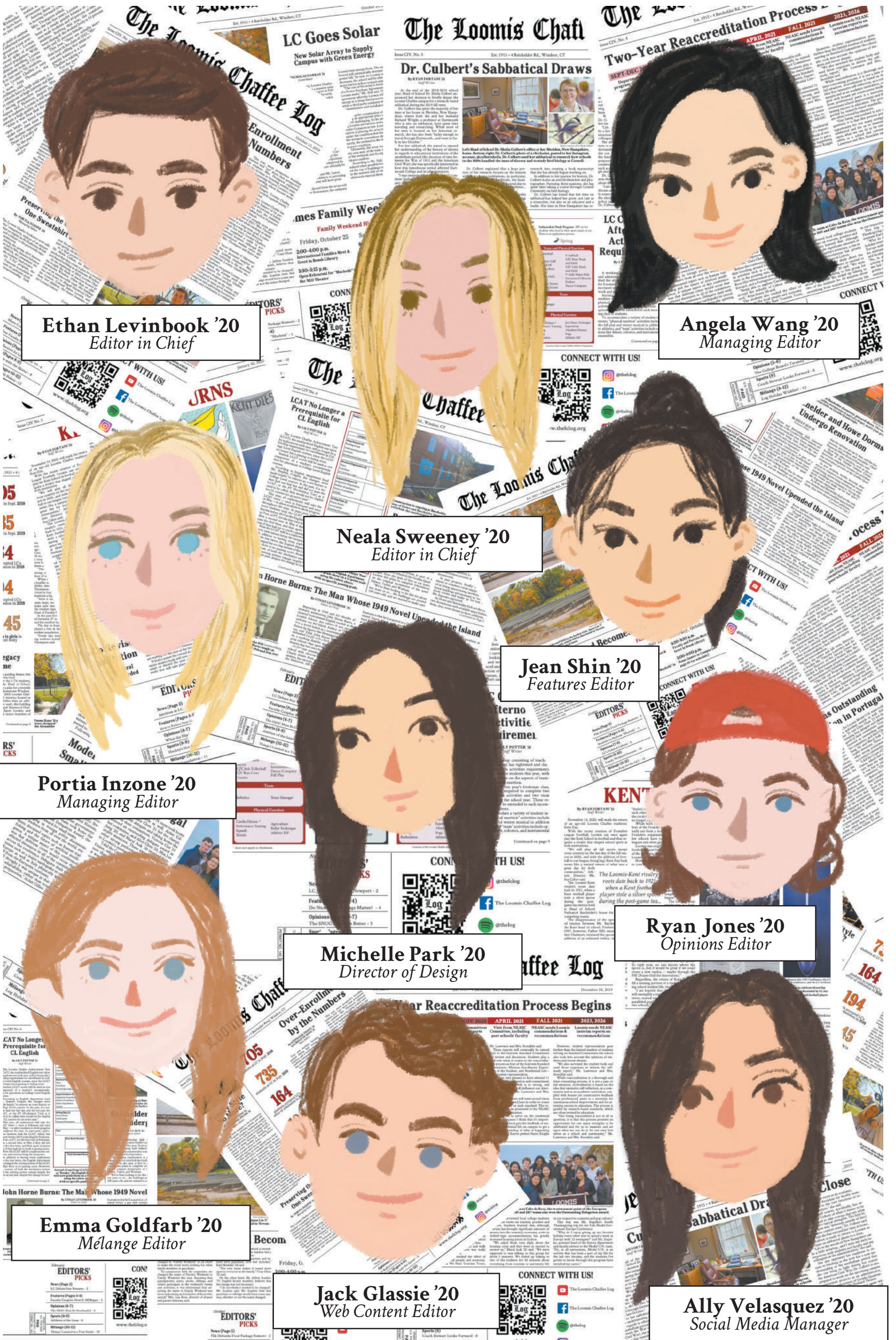
For more playlists, follow us on Spotify by scanning the code below:



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