

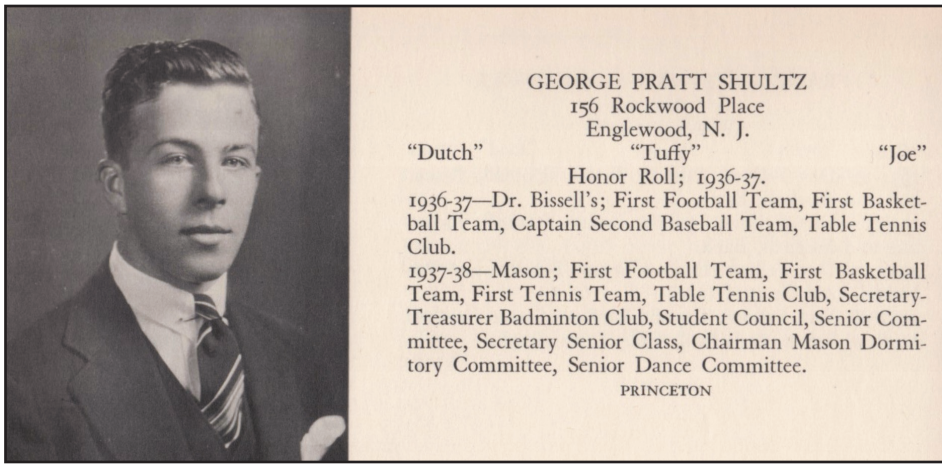
# The Loomis Chaffee Log

Issue CV No. 2

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March 12, 2021

## Remembering Secretary George P. Shultz '38



Courtesy of Emily Khym '23

Secretary Shultz's yearbook picture with all the activities he was involved in during his four years at Loomis Chaffee.

By EMILY KHYM '23  
Staff Writer

George P. Shultz, a member of the Loomis Chaffee class of 1938 who served as a former Director of the United States Office of Management and Budget and the former Secretary of State under President Ronald Reagan, passed away on February 6, 2021. One of only two people to hold four different cabinet-level positions during his career in public service, Secretary Shultz left an extensive legacy in America's history books. Due to his notable works in both the worlds of government and business, Shultz had been awarded numerous awards such as the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Secretary Shultz was a highly involved member of the Loomis community who was on the honor roll and participated in the first football team, first basketball team, student council, Mason Dormitory Committee, and many more activities.

In response to his death, a few members of the Shultz Fellowship expressed their sadness regarding his passing, but also a gratitude for the legacy he left on both the Island and the United States.

"I feel very lucky that we were able to congratulate Secretary Shultz on his 100th birthday and I hope that our discussions will continue his legacy by creating informed citizens. I'm really grateful that we will be able to remember him and honor the improvements America has made with the help of Secretary Shultz," Kate Shymkiv '22 said.

Other students cited the immense impact that Shultz has had on American politics.

"George Shultz was a truly unique figure in American politics. The sheer magnitude of his influence, and the multitude of his political roles, with a record four different

cabinet positions under three presidents, discerns him as one of the most successful politicians in American history. His passing, therefore, deserves a special recognition not only in Washington, but also here, in Windsor, CT where the seeds of his esteemed career were planted," John Howley '21 said.



Photo by LC Communications

Secretary Shultz during his visit back to the Island in 2017.

"For any student with political aspirations at Loomis Chaffee, having such a monumental figure in our alumni directory is an inspirational reminder that the education, experience, and enrichment we receive on the Island can inform impactful leadership. Therefore, as we reflect on Shultz's effect on the country and our community, we will undoubtedly remember him as an example of what we could all become: global leaders," John continued.

Secretary George P. Shultz has left his mark not only on the world, but also at Loomis. By remembering his legacy and continuing the Shultz Fellowship program, Loomis students will maintain Shultz's influence for generations to come.

## Vector Marketing: Scam or Opportunity?

By HARRY KNIGHT '21  
News Editor

A SMS alert buzzed its way onto my phone screen, distracting me from my family's dinner table debate.

"Hi Harry! My name is Hayden T. I work with Matt Tombaugh, and you got highly recommended to me for a position that I am looking to fill," the text read. My eyes drifted down Hayden's text, and caught the words "...entry level sales and service position... speak with our customers and answer any questions they have...\$20 base pay..." These enticing words sucked me away from dinner.

Attracted by the thought of making money over winter break, I wrote Hayden back, starting my interview process and subsequently entering my position working for Vector Marketing as a Cutco sales representative. During my interview, Hayden made it clear that as a student at Loomis Chaffee, I was in good company as his division in Memphis, Tennessee alone has worked with about nine other Loomis students.

In the weeks that followed, I attended a few hours of training where I learned the best way to get references from people on my initial list of sales targets and how to close sales on the biggest set of knives pos-

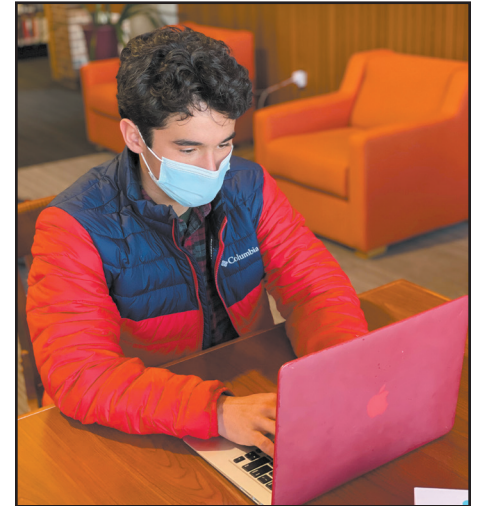


Photo by Luke Struthers '21

Alejandro Rincón '21, an ex-employee of vector marketing selling Cutco knives to customers.

sible.

With each phone call that I made asking to give a Cutco Demo, I crossed off one name on my list of contacts; a list composed of family members (ranging from my parents to distant cousins), family friends, and parents of friends.

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## LC Wrestling Discontinued

By JULIAN HERNANDEZ '21 and RILEY MEADE '22  
Sports Editors

On Tuesday, February 16, 2021, the announcement went out to the students involved in the program and their parents that this would be the final season of wrestling at Loomis Chaffee. This decision was not made lightly by the Board of Trustees and the school, but was ultimately seen as necessary in order to, "meet the goals established in our 10-year athletics strategic plan."

In her letter to Loomis wrestlers and their parents, Head of School Sheila Culbert, provided insight on a factor leading to this deci-

sion: the increasingly regional nature of the sport.

"While there are still regions of the country where high school wrestling thrives, New England is not one. Here on the Island, attracting wrestlers to Loomis and fielding a full roster of wrestlers during the season [has] become increasingly difficult," Dr. Culbert said.

That region, where wrestling still thrives, is and has long been the Midwest. There is a consensus that the best college wrestling programs of all time are at the likes of Penn State, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma State, and Ohio State, just to name a few.

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Photo by Stephanie Zhang '21

Pedro Arellano '21 looks back upon past generations of Loomis Chaffee wrestlers.

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# School Breaks Ground on New Performing Arts Complex



Photo by Stephanie Zhang '21

By **ARTHUR F. BEAUGEARD '24**  
Contributor

Throughout the day, many students are intrigued by the drilling and thumping echoing from the now-decrepit NEO Theater. The NEO, named after former English and theater instructor Norris Ely Orchard, is currently undergoing an ambitious, 14 to 15 million dollar renovation and expansion which is set for an early 2022 completion. After the renovation is completed, the NEO will be incorporated into the new performing arts complex which will be named the John D. & Alexandra C. Nichols Center for Theater and Dance.

"The NEO Theater is undergoing a massive transformation to become part of our performing arts program, it's a combination of all our arts here – dance, music, and theater. [We are also] totally revamping the main stage and adding a black box theater," Mr. David McCamish, the Theater Director, said.

Outside of bringing all the aspects of the performing arts under one roof, the construction project will also include a complete overhaul of the main stage and the seating area. The lobby will also be enlarged and gain bathrooms to accommodate the crowds who come to see the numerous shows staged on campus.

All of these changes will drastically increase the building's size.

"The stage will be approximately the same size, while the seating capacity will be increased to 199. And the black box theater will be an additional performance space, with a little bit of a smaller seating area. There will also be a full-sized dance studio," Mr. McCamish said.

With the stage and dance studio being adjacent to each other, access for performers will be much more convenient, while the expanded seating and lobby will be more comfortable for audiences.

"We've had many shows where the line was outside the NEO, people couldn't get in. This'll be an opportunity for more of the Loomis community – both here on campus and from afar – to come and see our shows," Mr. McCamish said.

The renovations are not just highly anticipated by the theater and dance faculty but are also extremely exciting for many of

the eager theater students who look forward to performing in the space once renovations are complete.

"The renovations will facilitate a growing interest in theater around campus, and I believe it's a step in the right direction," Brigham Cooper '24 said.

Unfortunately, the current seniors in the drama program, many of whom have dedicated their time at Loomis Chaffee to the arts, will graduate before the new performance complex is completed.

Although the seniors will not have the opportunity to utilize the new space, their consistent dedication to the program has been one of the driving factors that led to the eventual decision to renovate Loomis' performance spaces.



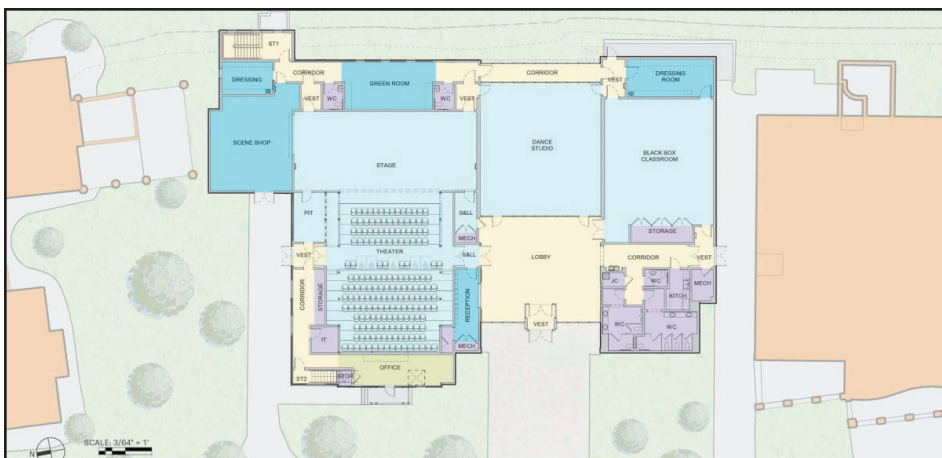
Courtesy of Tom Zhang '21

**Lana Breheny '21 and Tom Zhang '21 performing in The Addams Family Winter Musical.**

"The seniors are thrilled that, because of their hard work, they helped to make this happen. Every class of actors and performers and dancers and musicians that have come through there, all of their hard work and their drive to do the best work possible with the facility we have, I think, has made this possible," Mr. McCamish said.

In general, the students are quite excited about what this means for the future of performing arts at Loomis and how it will attract future applicants with a strong interest in theater and dance.

"I remember going to see The Addams Family last winter because my brother was in it. I loved every second of it, and I believe that night I decided I wanted to come here," Brigham said.



Courtesy of the Loomis Chaffee Website

**The floor plan of the John D. and Alexander C. Nichols Center for Theater and Dance.**

**The Norris Ely Orchard Theater (NEO) undergoes construction.**



Courtesy of the Loomis Chaffee Website

**The new and renovated plan for the John D. and Alexander C. Nichols Center for Theater and Dance.**

## Contact Tracing Pilot Program Launches on the Island

By **CHARLOTTE MILLMAN '24**  
Contributor

In an effort to better protect students and track the success of our community's social distancing practices, a contact tracing program is soon going to be implemented around campus. This change will be facilitated by the use of dongles and spearheaded by Loomis Chaffee's Problem-Solving for the Common Good class, taught by Director of Innovation Mr. Scott MacClintic '82.

Mr. MacClintic's class is working with Dr. Sten Vermund, Dean of the Yale School of Public Health, to bring a contact tracing pilot program to students, faculty, and staff at Loomis in order to assist with Loomis' current quarantine protocols after a positive COVID result and simultaneously act as participants in the new scientific study.

"Contact tracing is an old technique that people use when there are infectious diseases. The whole idea is to figure out how to contain the disease," Ms. Mary Liscinsky, COVID-19 Coordinator, said.

This contact tracing pilot program relies on participants to wear a dongle—a small, pocket-sized electronic piece of hardware—that tracks the proximity of wearers. These dongles are expected to be given out at the beginning of Spring Term 1.

Some students, including Elizabeth Purdy '24, were worried about how the dongle actually works.

"I didn't know much about it when I first received the email, but I thought it was a little scary. I assumed that it would track me which seemed weird," Elizabeth said.

Mr. MacClintic expected this question and quickly explained that the dongle is not a tracking device.

"It doesn't know an individual's location. All it knows is that 'this dongle was in close proximity to this dongle over the last 48

hours for a total of 17 minutes," Mr. MacClintic said.

In addition, all of the data in the dongle is encrypted, and the data is only unencrypted when someone tests positive. The then unencrypted information will be able to more accurately determine who might have been exposed to COVID-19.

"It would be good to use the dongles because if Dean Liscinsky were to ask who you've been in contact with, you aren't going to remember everyone," Sam Tishler '23, a student in the Manufacturing, Problem Solving, and Entrepreneurship class, said.

These dongles will be an important technological advancement to contact tracing here at Loomis because they will allow for more accurate data on who needs to be sent home; therefore, fewer students and staff will have to participate in unnecessary quarantines.

"If we have data through something like the dongle, I would be able to make a better informed decision about who should be quarantined," Ms. Liscinsky said.

Student's families have the ability to opt-out of the program. However, even though the dongles do not need a certain number of people to work, it is important that a fair amount of them are carried around campus in order for the program to actually be effective.

"The more people that carry them, the more useful they will be," Mr. MacClintic said.

At the end of each day, the only thing students will need to do is open the app that can be downloaded on their smartphones. When opened, the app will allow all of the data to be synced into the system, creating a safer Loomis community.



# Class of 2020 to Wait Until 2025 for Reunion

By GAVIN ANDERSON '22, RYAN FORTANI '22, HARRY KNIGHT '21  
Staff Writer, News Editor, News Editor

It didn't take long for the news of Head of School Dr. Sheila Culbert's letter regarding the class of 2020's Commencement cancellation to reach the eyes and ears of Loomis Chaffee's student body. During their Senior Spring, the Class of 2020 was promised by Dr. Culbert that they would receive an on campus Commencement the following year, after the coronavirus pandemic was expected to end. However, due to the continuation of both social distancing protocols and the pandemic as a whole, the Class of 2020's Commencement has been cancelled indefinitely and they are now expected to only see each other again during their 5 year reunion in 2025.

Disheartened by the cancellation of their Commencement and unsettled by some of the specifics that had come with it, several members of the Class of 2020 shared their shock, confusion, and disappointment on social media.

"Disappointed" is precisely how Neala Sweeney '20, a now-freshman at Georgetown, described the realization. "Most of the 2020s anticipated it," she said, acknowledging that a long-overdue reunion for her classmates was impossible this year.

"It sucks," fellow Georgetown freshman Minjun Jung '20 said.

The year 2025 seems "arbitrary," since, when they finally see each other, members of the Class of 2020 will be "24 years old and out of college," Neala said.

Although many of Min and Neala's peers were disappointed as well, others voiced their understanding of the cancellation and had come to anticipate it before Dr. Culbert's email. Many did, however, join the Georgetown freshman in wondering why the 5-year reunion was determined as the optimal date for the grade's next chance to see each other.

"Oh well, I'm really not surprised. It was obvious it's not going to happen this year. I'm just not entirely sure why we need to wait until 2025 if we can potentially have a reunion earlier. If everything is safe, corona-wise, why can't we have that reunion earlier? I'm gonna be out of college in 2025 lol," Margarita Demkina '20, an engineering student at Columbia University, said.

"I believe that the Head of School had to

make a really hard decision; the class of 2021 had an entirely abnormal year, whereas the class of 2020 still had the fall and winter to enjoy. I really want to see the class of 2021 be celebrated and understand that our Commencement needs to be delayed," Megan Lam '20, a freshman at Tufts University, added.

"What is the point of Commencement? It is a nice way to have a proper end to my high school career and begin a proper transition to college and adulthood. Now, not having [Commencement], doesn't mean my transition to college and adulthood stopped, nor should it have. So having a Commencement at any other time would have been underwhelming because it wouldn't have felt salient or mattered as much since it wouldn't have happened at the right time in our lives. I would much rather have the class of 2021 have a proper Commencement because they will need it more," Aarman Pannu '20, a freshman at the University of Chicago, said.

"I understand that there's very little that can be realistically done because of the impending graduations for the class of 2021 and following classes," Makayla McPherson '20, a freshman at Brown University, said.

It's also a concern that Loomis Chaffee's international student body might have trouble reconvening over long distances. "Loomis emphasizes the importance of a tight knit community," Neala said, noting the importance of close student relationships on The Island and expressing her opinion that they are still crucial after graduation.

At the same time, other members of the Class of 2020 seemed to have already moved on from their time on the Island and are focused on their new adventures.

"People have already moved on. Everyone has moved on. Either, you are in college and made a new set of friends, had new college experiences, or are making due with online classes—it doesn't feel as salient or important as it did before college, back when there was nothing "better" out there," Aarman said.

At the same time, the multitude of traditional events that the Class of 2020 was deprived of has led graduates to also voice their frustration in not having a Commencement to culminate their already hollow Loomis experience. Neala voiced her frustration in the school's "lack of commitment" to her class; this postponement is the third major event to get essentially canceled.

Senior on the island, John Howley, said that the situation is "terrible" but that "though it's a tough situation, Loomis is ultimately obeying the law." He understands the decision this year; as COVID is still playing a significant role in the day-to-day operations on the island, it would be impossible to have

a large gathering in the near future.

But, it seems like what the class of 2020 has an issue with is not the cancellation this year, but the extensive postponement. Neala stated that she is prepared to fight for "the earliest possible time we can all be back together safely."



Photo from the Loomis Chaffee Log

The class of 2020 at the opening dance.



Photo from the Loomis Chaffee Log

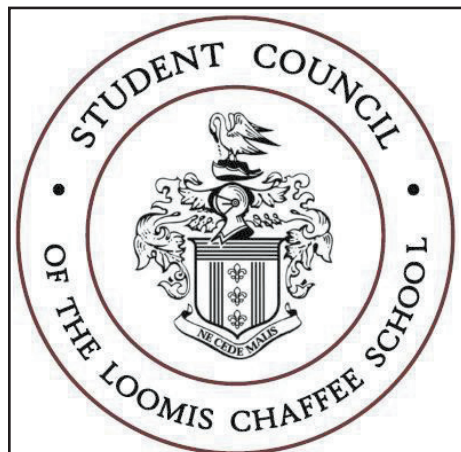
Members of the class of 2020 at the January 2020 winter formal.



Photo from the Loomis Chaffee Log

Members of the class of 2020 on the senior path during the first day of school for the 2019-2020 school year.

# Student Council Pushes for Student Representation



Courtesy of the Student Council

The Student Council logo.

By JAIME ZOU '23 and AMY SONG '23  
Contributors

Passed by the Student Council in early January, the proposal to increase student representation on faculty committees now awaits an all-faculty vote after a full year of consistent progress.

Since the start of the previous school

year, Student Council members have designated a task group to evaluate the effectiveness in implementing student interests into the Loomis Chaffee community as a whole.

"I became president this year and it was definitely something I wanted to carry on with," Aidan Gilles '21, Student Council President, said. He announced that the proposal passed the Student Council vote in a "formal setting" at the start of Winter Term I. After "a lot of discussions and a lot of meetings," the proposal can now be presented to faculty at the next faculty meeting.

As of February 22, the proposal has been presented to the Head's Administrative Team (HAT). The Student Council received responses "eager to see the basic sentiment of the proposal implemented for next year," said Mr. Andrew Matlack, Dean of Faculty, who helped advise the task group in this initiative.

As for next steps, once the academic office has taken any final actions necessary, the initiative for student representation will soon be up for a long-awaited presentation before the faculty.

Regarding the characterization of school organizations, Aidan explained that there are two groups of committees that the ad-

ministration and faculty oversee in the running of the school.

At Loomis, there are "ad hoc" committees formed at the start of the school year. They can be credited with the steady advance in important installments such as Flagg's all-gender housing or the advisor program, both instituted in recent years. Then there are long-standing committees that run the curriculum, calendar, dorm life, and other general aspects regarding student life.

The Student Council's goals focus on adding student perspective to these committees— one of which is pushing for the ad hoc committees to be open to all-student participation. Student council plans on allowing students to claim seats in certain long-standing committees as well.

Mr. Matlack said, "I was able to give the task force some historical context on student representation on committees," Mr. Matlack said. "I also shared the pertinent sections on standing faculty committees at Loomis from the Academic Guide and the Faculty Council."

Much of Student Council's preliminaries leading up to this accomplishment were established alongside administration. "Student governance has a long history and legacy at Loomis, Chaffee, and Loomis Chaffee," Mr. Matlack said. "I was able to give the task force some historical context on student representation on committees. I also shared the pertinent sections on standing faculty committees at Loomis from the Academic Guide and the Faculty Council." An important final step entailed "working

with Mr. Matlack and the academic deans as to how they were going to maneuver the faculty vote," Aidan said.

There were several causes to this push for student voices that the student council deemed necessary. Student Council representative Rebecca Fowler '23 described one concern being that committees "hold a lot of power when making decisions on student life."

Beyond that, Aidan shared that student complaints toward announcements like the major advisor change two years ago were mainly due to a lack of information.

Aidan described all-gender housing, a significant development in Loomis' boarding life, as another example. Despite student perspectives being sought out, a majority of decisions had still been made by faculty, remaining undisclosed until already finalized.

"I felt like it could have benefited from more than just a few surveys sent out to the student body," Aidan said.

Developing ways to increase student involvement in committee meetings became the solution to these issues. "The more representation we have, the more students will be happy," Rebecca said. "It's always good to have a student opinion because these decisions are going to be affecting us the most."

Students sitting on the task group can additionally "benefit from a powerful educational experience," gaining a chance to "learn about compromise and see first-hand how difficult decisions are made" while advocating for the student body's best interest, Mr. Matlack said.





Mr. Fred Seebeck smiling while coaching the LC swim team.

# Fred Seebeck Awarded Mentoring Prize

By **Chloe Chen '22**  
Staff Writer

This year, recently retired Mr. Fred Seebeck was awarded the inaugural Lena M. Chen Faculty Prize for Mentoring, which is awarded annually to a faculty member who has tremendously influenced students' lives outside and inside the classroom. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Mr. Seebeck has not been able to come to campus and formally receive the award, but regardless, it is still an honor.

Also fondly known as "Seeb", Mr. Seebeck has participated in almost all spheres of campus life and held many positions throughout his tenure here at Loomis Chaffee. He was mainly known as the Varsity Boys Swimming & Diving Head Coach, a Varsity Boys Water Polo assistant coach, and an adored English teacher.

Countless students have interacted with this continuously admired figure of the Loomis community. In fact, many were not surprised that Seeb was the one receiving the Mentoring Prize.

"When I saw the Instagram post, I was not surprised at all. Seeb deserves to be the first recipient of this award because he embodies what an amazing mentor, coach, and teacher should be like," said Pilar Wingle '22, one of Seeb's former English students and member of the varsity girls swimming and diving team.

Andy Cao '21, member of the varsity boys swimming and diving team, remembers a similar feeling.

"I was very happy, yet very much not surprised, to hear Seeb won the Mentoring Prize. He has made such a large impact on the Loomis Chaffee community, and he has been an integral part of

"When I think of a mentor who helped me throughout my time on the Island, I immediately think of Seeb. He deserves that

award because he embodies the encouragement of a coach and the kindness of a friend (all with a sprinkle of humorous sarcasm). Seeb is definitely someone who you hope to be like," Andy said.

"Seeb always had a puzzle in his classroom on the desk and before class everyone around the Harkness table would be fitting in pieces and discussing the puzzle. He really encouraged us as freshmen to work together and be comfortable with one another. Not only did the puzzles bring us together, which goes to show how he cares for his students," recalled Pilar.

Perhaps the person most surprised when they found out that Seeb had been the one to receive the Mentoring award was Seeb himself.

"Honestly, I was totally blindsided when Dr. Culbert called me in December. I'm not sure what I said to her at the time, but I was grateful and surprised to receive the award, particularly since I am now retired. But I am obviously honored with the accolades, especially as my ultimate motivation every day of my Loomis career was to do all the good

I could for all the people I could as often as possible," he said.

Seeb also shared a personal connection to the Chens, the namesake of the prize.

"If you take a look at our record board in the pool, you will see Michael Chen's, Lena's brother's name, up there," Seeb said. "He was not only one of the fastest sprinters I ever coached, but one of the most humble, talented, dedicated student athletes I ever worked with. I've known his parents ever



Mr. Seebeck with Kelly Eng '20, Neala Sweeney '20, and Virginia Wolfe '20, members of the swim team.

what makes Loomis a home for so many people," Andy said.

Both recalled Seeb as a teacher, mentor, advisor, coach, natural leader, and influential figure in their time at Loomis.

since he attended Loomis, and he and I have stayed in touch to this very day. In the context of receiving the award, knowing the Chens as well as I do makes it even more meaningful to me."

# Vector Marketing: Scam or Opportunity?

By **Harry Knight '21**  
News Section Editor

Continued from front page

Although I made a few hundred dollars during my time with Cutco and sold over \$3,000 worth of knives, a nagging feeling grew within me with each sale that I made. The feeling revealed itself to be guilt as I would wake up each morning after a dream centered around a cold-sweat-inducing sales call.

Reflecting on my guilt, I realized that it stemmed from two key facts of working for Vector Marketing: the first being that my customer base was composed entirely of my own acquaintances and the second being my local manager's continued pressure to have access to my contacts so that "I" could refer as many of my peers as possible.

Given that Cutco's success relies entirely on the social networks of its teenage sales representatives—both in whom they hire and whom they sell to—I began to question the ethicality of their approach.

Similar to my own experience, Alejandro Rincón '21 was also referred through Vector Marketing's request of their student sales representatives to give out their friends' phone numbers and other personal contact information.

Despite the company's enticing promises of "no weekly quotas" and a "flexible schedule" that works while you are at school, I found that the reality of the job was not all that. Much like myself, Alejandro was promised a schedule completely dictated by his own availability and remembers that he "pushed back because [of the flexibility he] was promised" when he first accepted the sales position.

Similarly, while my introduction to Cutco with Hayden promised that I would only need to make a sale every three weeks, I soon found out that the Cutco training script left out some key pieces of information.

While it wouldn't be the end of the world if I had a no-sale week, I was expect-

ed to schedule at least three different Cutco Demos each week, completely upending the idea of working entirely on my own schedule.

Having started working for Vector in the beginning of this past June, Alejandro quit just months later in September because of his busier school schedule.

Much like Alejandro, Alex Darrah '21 also began working for Cutco in June of 2020 after being recommended to the position by a member of the Loomis Chaffee class of 2019; however, she did not quit when school started up again this year. Taking advantage of this year's less rigorous course schedule, Alex has racked up over \$20,000 in career sales and is one of the leaders in her division.

Although she sees herself continuing to work for Cutco this summer because of the experience and money that she is able to make, fitting a job working for Vector Marketing into her busier college schedule is less certain. "Once I get to college, I do not think I will be able to continue working as my schedule with classes and field hockey will require most of my time," Alex reflects. "I do not see this as a long-term job for me as I am hoping to gain internships throughout college, however during breaks and such it will always be nice to have the option of reaching out to my boss and selling a few more products."

As I look at the different experiences that Alejandro, Alex, and I have had throughout our terms working for Vector Marketing, one thing becomes clear: the job is what you make of it. Ultimately, from a personal standpoint, I failed at one key aspect of working for Vector. I consistently shied away from pressuring my family members and family friends into giving me more contacts to reach out to. Because of this, I watched my list slowly dwindle with each week's required Demos while students such as Alex have continued to thrive as she grows her list of contacts and embraces the duality of her role as a Cutco sales representative and Loomis Chaffee student-athlete.

# Michele Martinez-Campbell '80 : A Career in Writing

By **Ashley Valdez Rodriguez '23**  
Contributor

Earlier last month, award-winning mystery novelist and Loomis Chaffee alumna Michele Martinez Campbell '80 came back to Loomis Chaffee virtually to discuss her experience as a professional writer. In the Zoom webinar, she provided insights into the modern day publishing industry and life as an published author.

"I have been quite successful as what I'd call a working author, meaning that even though I'm not James Patterson or J.K. Rowling, I have managed to get published eight times and I have another book coming out in 2022," Campbell explained as she introduced herself to the webinar's attendants.

During her time as a Loomis Chaffee student, Campbell was co-editor in chief of the Log, a committed history and English student, and an aspiring journalist. How-

ever, as is the case for many entering college, she decided to pursue a different path.

"I took literature classes constantly and read a ton and loved that, probably loved it even more but I just didn't necessarily see myself having that career from the get go — I was always really into politics, current events, government and knew I wanted to go to law school," Campbell explained in regards to her legal career.

Her novels, "It's Always the Husband", "The Wife Who Knew Too Much", and "A Stranger On The Beach," feature the extensive knowledge of criminal law she acquired as a federal prosecutor.

"Not all endeavors are rewarded equally. It's very difficult to make a living as an author. Find careers or work that are meaningful to you that is what I call writing adjacent," Campbell said in regard to the financial stability of a writing career.

Campbell further explained that she spends most of her time teaching criminal and constitutional law, while also finding time for her passion of writing. She suggests aspiring writers pursue publishing, teaching, and law as a primary financial income, while maintaining writing as a hobby.

"When people say they want to write I think often they do imagine themselves as the giant bestseller who's making all this money. That's kind of like being on the football team and imagining yourself as Tom Brady. Or being in a production at the NEO and imagining yourself as Brad Pitt. Maybe there's a way for you to find work in those fields that's meaningful and makes a living without betting the house on becoming the one who's going to be the multimillion best-selling author," Campbell said.



A photo of Michele Martinez-Campbell '80.



# All-Gender Housing in Flagg Thrives



Photo by Olivia Zoga '21

RAs Olivia Zoga '21 (left) and Tom Zhang '21 (right).

By CALVIN PAN '23  
Contributor

In its inaugural year, the all-gender housing unit on the third floor of Flagg Hall is, by all accounts, a vibrant yet comfortable living space, similar in many ways to every other dorm on the Island.

Before the start of Fall Term II, many residents of the dorm were anxious about the prospect of living in such a new environment, not knowing what to expect upon moving into it.

"I think a lot of people were sort of ner-

vous about going into it, especially with the different rules that'd have to come into play... and what that'd be like in a larger dorm setting," said Olivia Zoga '21, the residential assistant (RA) on the floor.

However, those anxieties almost immediately dissipated on move-in day for most, with the students citing the positive environment created between the students and faculty who lived in the dorm.

"It's a really nice space that gives people... a good environment that they do feel comfortable in," said Jasper Gitlitz '22, a resident of the floor.

"It's been pretty good. I like it!" Bowen Bernardin '21, another resident, said.

The dorm's inclusive atmosphere has in large part satisfied its residents, many of whom cited a desire to get away from traditional gender norms as one of the main reasons why they decided to make the switch to an all-gender environment.

"I wanted an environment... free from your classical norms of boys' dorms being loud and rowdy, which I was definitely able to find in this dorm," Bowen said.

To better foster this environment of acceptance and to accommodate the needs of all its residents, the dorm has made some minor rule changes.

"For example, when we take a shower, we have to change within the shower itself, and there are some other small rules that are different," Jasper said.

For a week or so in Fall Term II, the dorm's program also uniquely focused on the themes of gender and inclusivity, holding a seminar-esque session on issues relating to the wider LGBT+ community as a whole. However, those sessions and any similar programming have since been stopped.

"Tom [Zhang], the other RA on the floor, Ms. Garvin, and I kind of just sat down and really thought about what we wanted this floor to be, and ultimately, just concluded that it should just exist as housing, normal housing... for people who just want to live in a dorm that isn't a boys' dorm or a girls' dorm," Olivia said.

Residents of the floor agreed that the living arrangement is not that distinct from any other on campus.

"At the end of the day, we're just a group of people, who live together as part of a community, much like any other dorm on campus, and that's that," Jasper said.

However, even though the dorm environment itself is practically identical to others, students within the dorm still have some concerns about the program as a whole. One common issue mentioned by many was the application process, which some decried as not transparent enough and even unnecessary.

"I get why they want an interview process, especially in the first year, but at the same time it's very limiting, since we don't know who gets in out of the people that apply... and we don't know how they

make those decisions," Jasper said.

"It just doesn't really make sense. Why do we have to prove that we... belong in a dorm that's supposed to be inclusive?" Bowen said.

Nevertheless, the all-gender housing unit's environment still makes it a great living space for many.

"I'd rate it a solid 9, maybe a 10," Jasper said.

"A solid 10," Bowen said.

"A 10," Olivia said.

*At the end of the day, we're just a group of people, who live together as part of a community, much like any other dorm on campus.*

# Stock Market Game Brings Financial Literacy Initiatives

By Brett Donshik '21  
Staff Writer

During the cold winter months, almost 200 Loomis Chaffee students and faculty members took to the markets, starting with \$1,000,000, and participated in the third annual Stock Market Game, culminating in a massive victory by Chase Thomson '21 who had accrued over 7.5 million dollars.

This year, the game took place amid the Reddit r/WallStreetBets GameStop scandal, which had a profound impact on the strategy of the game.

"Because of GameStop's volatility, I knew it would be a hot stock to trade," Chase said. "Since the value of the stock was overinflated and not backed by the performance of the company, I knew it was a bubble that was eventually going to pop. I went all in taking a short position and waited for the eventual drop of the stock to catapult my portfolio millions ahead into first place."

Economics teacher and Stock Market Game organizer Mr. Matthew DeNunzio, however, does not believe that the GameStop scandal played a particularly unusual role in the game when you look at the volatility of the market's in recent years.

"You can say [GameStop] didn't [affect the game]. It was obviously a massive factor when you had one stock that was up at \$400 and then back down at \$40 moving at 10x a day due to massive influences. I would say this is nothing new. We saw this with Bitcoin a couple years ago. We're seeing it with a lot of other crypto currencies. I think there's this sort of millennial spirit to kind of ride the wave of influencers or of something countercultural that creates those bubbles," Mr. DeNunzio said.

Mr. DeNunzio believes such bubbles can be problematic, which is why he has stressed the implementation of financial literacy initiatives across campus in the recent months. The stock market game has served as a starting point for other programs such as the financial literacy TAG meeting.

"To be successful in the stock market game is not really what it takes to be successful in the real world. You have to take big positions and big bets and massive shorting. The interest in it is what can spur the conversation about the long run. That TAG was all about, What is diversification? Why is diversification important? What are the different financial instruments you can invest in? How much do you think about allocating towards savings versus equities

versus fixed incomes? And that game, and the competition that it produced, is a good juxtaposition to what the Stock Market Game does," Mr. DeNunzio said.

Another new feature of this year's games was alumni involvement. Periodically, alumni created videos appeared in the Daily Bulletin with the intent to educate current students on the Stock Market and other Financial Literacy topics.

"To have an alum come back and say: What is an ETF? Why should you think about an ETF? What do you think about a price to earnings ratio and why is that important? Some of that technical analysis you don't get from the stock market game, but if students are interested, they'll watch it and learn more," Mr. DeNunzio said.

Mr. DeNunzio hopes that, for both the winners and losers, the stock market game will provide a new interest in both financial literacy and economics as a whole, as those who made major mistakes will look to learn about how to improve if they try in the real world, and those who found success will take to the real markets, knowing what may or may not work for them. Second place winner Luke Struthers '21 is someone who's success has jumpstarted an interest in the real market.

"My friends and I look forward to every January. While our success has varied greatly, it's been a great experience for all of us. After a month of calling at 3:45 and discussing potential trades and late gainers, the stock market game helped me immensely in how I plan to invest in the future. After being introduced to the game sophomore year

and begrudgingly taking the runner up spot to my close friend and constant competitor, Chase, I've definitely come to consider finance and the stock market as a potential area for me to pursue a career in," Luke said.



Graphic by Stephanie Zhang '21

## Alumni Spotlight: Natalie Chan '05

By Justin Wu '22  
Contributor

Founder and CEO of OWN Academy, Natalie Chan '05 has helped thousands of students to explore their true passions and take their futures into their own hands.

"We are building a global community of young people who want to be changemakers, to support schools in a way that they can extend their curriculums for students to achieve their goals."

In her time at Loomis Chaffee, Chan was on the varsity swimming team for four years and a member of the JV tennis team. She went on to attend the University of Southern California, majoring in industrial and systems engineering. Today, she has become one of the most prominent figures in Asia—representing Hong Kong in the upcoming World Economic Forum for the second year in a row, and recently selected by Cartier as 1 of 24 most influential women in the social impact business.

Chan says that her business, OWN Academy, aims "to empower young people to be change makers and problem solvers of the future."

In the spirit of achieving this ambitious goal, Chan pioneered OWN Future Fair (OFF)—a free career exploration event. The two-day event hopes to bring students together with industry professionals, in which managers from Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and other prestigious companies got the opportunity to share their personal stories—and provide the next generation with critical advice to succeed in the real world.

OFF's goal is to "provide access to quality education regardless of students' socioeco-

nomic background," Chan said.

In conjunction with OFF, Chan developed the OWN student ambassador program, which provides teens a "real world experience of working with a company that helps develop themselves and their fellow students." The program represents a "greater platform to disseminate your voice and opinions," where students get to "interview top professionals" and provide their input on OWN Academy's upcoming projects.

In light of her achievements, Chan has credited Loomis as playing a pivotal role in shaping her career. Amongst other enriching memories such as her undying affection for campus desserts, or her deathly encounter with squirrels, Chan credits the skills she acquired at Loomis in the eventual building of her successful brand.

"The confidence that Loomis gave me through the different opportunities from being a varsity team leader, to being encouraged to speak up, really helped me develop a critical mindset of always finding ways to improve and take risks," Chan said.

If you're interested in joining the OWN Ambassador Program, please contact justinc\_wu@loomis.org



# Director of “The Social Dilemma” Jeff Orlowski Speaks at LC

By CJ Bukowski '23, Sandro Mocciole '23  
Contributors

Last year, the documentary *The Social Dilemma* put a spotlight on the controversial ethics surrounding the current social media business model.

In response to the documentary's rising relevancy, on Monday, February 22, Loomis Chaffee welcomed the director of *The Social Dilemma* and two-time Emmy winner Jeff Orlowski in an hourlong webinar. The event was anchored by Dean of Student Life Jessica Matzkin and Director of Innovation Mr. Scott MacClintic '82, as over 170 students and parents alike made up the audience.

“It was interesting just hearing Mr. Orlowski talk because ... he has been researching [the ethics of social media] and has been involved in this process for around three years,” Ignacio Feged '23 said.

“I'm used to a certain extent how ... my data ... is being sold in forms of advertisements, but I didn't know how predatory nor how intense it was ... in a lot of ways, it really is not ethical and should probably be reformed,” Ignacio said.

The current business model of most social media companies thrives through the use of advertisements. As shown through the film, this form of monetization hinges on collecting our data, and eventually predicting our behavior. The ramifications of this practice have had drastic, real-world consequences.

One of these observed repercussions is increased polarization. By customizing users' feeds to agree with their political views, social media fosters distrust and adversity, even promoting conspiracy theories. “I can't help but think that the events of January 6th at the capitol ... were a by-product of that polarization that is occurring using social media,” Mr. MacClintic said.

Another ramification exists in the psychological toll. “I have, in most of my professional career, been a school counselor and have seen firsthand the impact on the emotional well-being of adolescence that social media can have,” Dean Matzkin said.

“When ... someone feels excluded, left out, or is seeking gratification—and they're not getting it from social media—it can have

a pretty big impact on their own self confidence and self worth,” Dean Matzkin said.

With current Loomis students growing up in the midst of the digital age, these problems will only become more pertinent.

“It's a topic that is incredibly germane to the community that we live in, namely of students, because they are the thing that is being mined,” Mr. MacClintic said.

Beyond Loomis, the societal path forward appears to be rather ambiguous. While the film clearly outlined the scope of the problem, it recognized that the varying solutions are not fully fleshed out.

“The problem is that we need help from our government to make change and I'm not quite sure the current politicians are ready to deny big business, big tech,” Dean Matzkin said, “there needs to be a social movement.”

While extensive governmental change may seem daunting, the webinar promoted several community-based solutions that can create positive change.

“As the movie says ... there is no easy solution, and I think the webinar helped in saying that there are [many] kinds of steps that we as individuals, as a community, as a society, and as a country can take,” Feged said.

For individuals, a simple solution lies in turning off notifications for apps financed through advertisement revenue and user engagement. This decision could reduce the ability of algorithms to dominate our attention and add more balance to

our lives.

“[Turning off many of my notifications] was very liberating,” Mr. MacClintic said.

Regarding community, Mr. Orlowski described a more drastic change that has been slowly gaining traction: transitioning to social media apps that respect your privacy.

“I use DuckDuckGo as my search engine,” Dean Matzkin said.

“Get your core group of friends ... band together and try something different. Explore an alternative,” Mr. MacClintic suggests, “your generation is most likely going to be the one to come out with a better ... product ... But that will only happen if people are incensed enough that what we have is wrong.”

*It's a topic that is incredibly germane to the community that we live in, namely students.*



Photo by Sandro Mocciole '23

A phone with an unopened Snapchat notification, beckoning to be opened, sits on the desk.



Photo by Stephanie Zhang '21

Pedro Arellano '21 and Cooper Donovan '22 sit down in the Student Center for a game of chess.

## Checkmate: Chess Gains Popularity at Loomis Chaffee



Photo by Sam Tishler '23

Jacob Berman '23 and Jacob Oakley '23 playing chess in the Student Center as Carter Bukowski '23, Ethan Leshem '23, and Thomas Denaro '24 watch.

By Samantha Tishler '23  
Staff Writer

Following the recent release of the Netflix series “*The Queen's Gambit*,” chess has made increasing appearances on campus. During Winter Term I, John Riley '22 decided to start a virtual chess club.

“I wanted to play with some people at this school instead of just playing online,” John said.

The members used Lichess, an online chess platform that allows for watching and playing games. Students and faculty with varying levels of experience participated in weekly matches over Zoom.

The Zoom meetings were originally hosted and led by John Riley. As John becomes busier, Mathematics Faculty member Mr. Abraham Schulte will take over the role.

“It's one thing to go [online] and play with strangers, and that's fine, but it's another thing entirely to really know who you are playing against and be able to talk about the game as you're playing it,” Mr. Schulte said.

Once students arrived on campus for Winter Term II, the newfound interest in chess translated to its increasing frequency as a Student Center activity.

Through chess matches, students could bond over a common interest and learn together. Mattie Wright '23 had some previ-

ous knowledge of chess but became increasingly invested in the game over this past term.

“Everyone is really willing to play with you, especially if you're new. Even people sitting around you will always chime in and let you know what move you might want to do...It can be kind of competitive, but in a good way,” Mattie said.

The wait for an open chessboard has steadily risen as more students look to join into the Student Center chess sessions, and many have again opted for virtual games. In lieu of the standard chess game, students began to play four-player chess on Chess.com.

While traditional chess continues in the Student Center, Loomis students have also embraced online platforms. This intellectual game of strategy and patience has become a great way for students of all experience levels to entertain themselves during these strange times.



# Save the Sound Presentation Sees Success

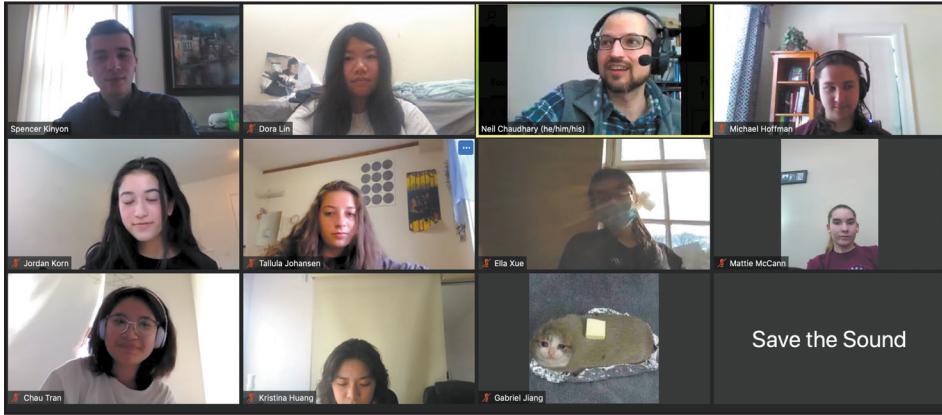


Photo by Dora Lin '23

**Loomis Chaffee Climate Action (LCCA) using their voice to discuss how to take action against the local climate emergency.**

By **DORA LIN '23**  
Contributor

On February 24th, 2021, the Loomis Chaffee Climate Action (LCCA) successfully hosted an event with a local environmental organization: Save the Sound.

The Loomis Chaffee Climate Action is a club dedicated to taking political action around climate change. In 2019, the group hosted a follow-up to the Hartford climate strike that involved over 100 Loomis students. This year, LCCA is splitting into task

groups for local and federal level lobbying meetings. Some organizations that they are partnered with include the local chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, a national grassroots lobbying organization, and Save the Sound.

Personally, I was recently involved in a presentation to the Hartford city council about a climate emergency declaration. It was a great experience—I had lived in Hartford for 5 years with my host family and absolutely love the city, so I truly enjoyed collaborating with my peers for a cause I'm

very passionate about. My home in Fuzhou, China, was very environmentally-friendly, and it was very moving to see that my new homes—Hartford and Loomis Chaffee—both share this value.

Save the Sound is an organization targeting climate change, saving endangered lands, restoring ecosystems, legal action, and more. In the LCCA webinar, topics such as how a bill becomes a law in CT, how to write and deliver public testimony, steps to emailing elected officials, and more were introduced to students through detailed slides and explanations by staff at Save the Sound. Many students found this information to be very helpful.

"It is critical for younger generations to understand that they do have a voice. We can leverage our actions to impact governmental policies and to construct a better future. I believe that the Save the Sound presentation in particular conveyed this message well," said Ella Xue '23, a student at the Save the Sound webinar.

"In everyday life, I was mostly exposed to information regarding water and air pollution. But thanks to the Save the Sound webinar, I learned about another type of pollution—sound pollution. The event also helped me gain a deeper understanding into how to address issues I'm very passionate about to the government as well as how to engage

in environmental policy making. Overall, it was a great event and I learned a lot!" said Chau Tran '23, another participant at the presentation.

I have always been very passionate about environmental advocacy, especially because I want to ensure that my children and beyond can enjoy the best environment possible, and I was very happy to see that many of my peers became interested in becoming more active members of LCCA after the event. The slides were very organized and the staff were engaging throughout the webinar, allowing students to stay focused during the presentation.

Overall, LCCA is a very special club with lots of off-campus work that allows the Loomis Chaffee students to connect with local and federal organizations, thus fueling them with an understanding of how much power they truly have as they lobby for change. Believing that all citizens' voices deserve to be represented in government, I really liked how Save the Sound aimed to share the knowledge to students—the younger generation—and help them share their voices. I know I will be applying many things I've learned from the detailed presentation in my future efforts at LCCA.

# A Case for Loosening Dorm Protocols

By **STACEY ZHANG '22**  
Staff Writer

While Loomis Chaffee athletes began contact practices and battled against the Taft Rhinos this past weekend, dorm protocols seem to wander and dwell. LC should evaluate loosening dorm policies to align more closely with other COVID regulations on campus in order to improve the student experience and minimize risk in the most efficient way.

Since this fall, Loomis administration has done a laudable job in closely monitoring and minimizing COVID-19 risks on campus, resulting in a fairly low number of positive cases and a relatively safe environment for faculty, staff, and students.

To create "pod bubbles" and limit contact in the dorm, students are grouped by their floor as a "pod" and are only allowed to stay in others' rooms on the same floor.

As I reminisce the laughs and tears I have had sinking into my friend's beanbag in her room, I realized that this confusion must be voiced: Why can't we go onto different floors when we sit across from each other in the common room? Why am I allowed to travel to Watertown but not to my friend's door frame on the third floor?

Despite the benefits of strict COVID-19 protocols, dorm heads and deans are not oblivious to their impact on dorm dynamic and student experience, especially for the underclassmen. According to Ms. Corman, dorm head of Cutler and member of the Dorm Life committee, allowing students to visit different floors has been a proposal on the table since December.

However, a few of the administration's concerns seem to halt the proposal from coming to fruition.

One major concern is the continued positive cases on campus which, though minimal in number, are detected regularly. The system of dorm pods helps contain this issue by identifying everyone on the same floor with a positive case as close contacts. If we were to allow boarders to go to other floor pods, the school worries about the necessity to send the whole dorm home for quarantine.

We should question this necessity. During the contact tracing process, COVID-19 Coordinator Dean Mary Liscinsky conducts a thorough survey to identify anyone who has recently spent time in proximity with the positive-case student. With the introduction of contact tracing dongles, this process will gain even more accuracy and precision.

Consider two students: one lives a floor above the positive-case student but has barely interacted with them, and another sat a table away from the case in the SNUG. What's to say the first student is more of a close contact than the second one?

*Why can't we go onto different floors when we sit across each other in the common room?*

One unique situation in dorms is the use of shared bathrooms, but this risk can be easily mitigated by forbidding students to go to the bathrooms of different floors. Dorm heads also have the power to take away the privilege of visiting different floors in the event that people are found breaking these limitations.

Positive cases are also poor indicators of the risks involved with loosening dorm rules. With day students and non-residential faculty and staff coming on and off campus, the potential for contracting the virus

is fairly stable. As long as students still play ping-pong in the SNUG, talk about the Physics test in the hallway, or pass the basketball to a teammate, not allowing boarders to visit another floor seems to do little in terms of limiting the spread, and the floor "bubbles" are but droplets freely flowing in a pond.

While certain dorm protocols, such as "no eating in the common room," are instrumental in keeping us safe and align with other COVID-19 regulations on campus, some other dorm protocols demand much sacrifice of student experience for minimum risk reduction.

As a good percent of the school population is back on campus in Spring Term, perhaps it's a good time now to reconsider various dorm protocols, align them with other regulations on campus, and move forward with loosening dorm regulations. With approximately 600 students congregated on the Island in the middle of a pandemic, this will be a game-changer for student experience and an opportunity for us to form new bonds, to reconnect with friends, and to create memories despite all the challenges we are facing.

# Troublesome Times and Topics Make TAG Tiresome

By **LILLIAN CLARK '24**  
Contributor

Thursday Advisory Groups, more commonly known as TAG meetings, have been a regular occurrence this school year. But was this change beneficial? I don't think so.

This school year, there was a shift in the advisory curriculum. Instead of the freshman attending a weekly seminar in the common good, all students now have weekly advisory meetings with topics ranging from elections to gender identity.

However, in this already chaotic year, the meetings take up more time than they should. Between the heavy workload and overall challenges with COVID restrictions, the extra commitment of yet another Zoom meeting and occasional hour-long webinar is not helpful.

While the meetings themselves are beneficial, as discussions about current events and other important topics are necessary, there are not many students who actively participate. This lack of participation has led to an increase in awkwardness and a decrease in interest within each meeting.

So far this year it seems that there is the most amount of student involvement when simpler and non-personal topics are up for debate—topics that don't hit too close to home. So when the first group meeting of the year jumped right into the heavy topics surrounding race, there was a lot of discomfort about being forced to talk about your personal thoughts to a group of people you're not familiar with.

Surely, some concepts are easier to talk about than others. Unfortunately, from the very beginning, the topics thrown at the

freshmen did not fall into the category of "good for new students". The expectation that students would immediately open up about our racial and political identities with a group of other students and teachers we hardly knew was rather unrealistic.

It must be said that there are plenty of benefits to TAG: we started having important conversations about the Black Lives Matter movement, the truth and falsehoods surrounding the election of 2020, global citizenship, and other current and global issues or events. The meetings themselves are also well-intended and good spaces to debrief about important events.

However, there are some major drawbacks like timing and commitment. TAG happens to be scheduled at one of the worst possible times: during the lunch block. This seemingly out-of-the-blue time takes away

possible momentum students have for getting to their work. Not to mention that if you accidentally miss a meeting, it counts as an absence.

Lunch on Thursdays is in the middle of the academic day, which is a great time for students to complete asynchronous class work or get ahead on important projects. The required change of mindset is very impractical for students who are stressed, and it ends up forcing us to do our work later. If the time for TAG was different, perhaps this would be less of an issue.

Everyone expresses different feelings towards TAG, and it affects everyone differently. There are both positive and negative sides to TAG, and it seems that if some changes were made to the time and topics, Thursday Advisory Groups could be better for all parties concerned.



Courtesy of the Loomis Chaffee website

The official Thursday Advisory Groups promotional image on Loomis Chaffee website.



# Katharine Brush Library: Social Hour or Study Hour?



Photo by Olivia Zoga '21

Photo of the Katharine Brush Library, which now serves as a place for Zoom meetings and socialization on campus due to various new protocols this year.

By MAEVE DOWD '23  
Contributor

Loomis Chaffee students strut into the second floor of the Katharine Brush Library with their Canada Goose jackets and North-Face backpacks, either looking for a place to finish asynchronous classwork or a place to make TikToks. The second floor is supposed to be a silent zone, and most of the time, it is. But because of COVID-19, oftentimes students want to spend time up here with friends because they do not have any other place to go.

Although the function of the library has changed due to limited places for student socialization on campus, for the most part, students make good use of the space.

During free blocks and Community Time, students often find themselves extremely bored with nothing to do. Cold weather prevents them from meeting outside, walking to town is prohibited, and the menacing deans will not hesitate to give out Level 1's to boarders who go into other dorms. The Student Center (commonly referred to as the SNUG) is usually crowded and closely monitored by stiff, hostile Loomis interns, barking at students to stay 6 feet apart.

The library is a great way to escape this chaos, and do schoolwork or have a chat with friends. The first floor is designated for

these conversations, but it is small with very limited seating. Students would rather be on the second floor which has beautiful 60s architecture, high ceilings, and an incredible view of the Island.

For the most part, students are aware of others' studying and adhere to the library's rules for the second floor. Chatting is kept at a low-volume. Occasionally, some students are inconsiderate and have copious amounts of loud, mind-numbing conversation in spots outside of the glass study rooms, which can be irritating to those trying to study.

But, under the circumstances, this is somewhat understandable. As the administration limits places to socialize, more and more students will come to the library.

Zoom meetings present another conflict with the library. It is difficult for day students to find a place to go to Zoom meetings, whereas boarders can easily walk to their dorms. Therefore, oftentimes the second floor of KBL is filled with students in online meetings with advisors and teachers.

"With the current set up, the physical culture of the library has changed this year," said Mr. Eric Styles, director of Katharine Brush Library. Hopefully next year the second floor will return to its natural silent state.

that MMSHs would keep roughly the same length, the sessions would need to begin earlier than 7am in order to get students to class on time. Without even considering the time needed to eat breakfast, attending a study hall on Monday morning would cut deeply into a student's sleep.

In a tiring year already full of added stress, the loss of sleep that inevitably accompanies this sort of discipline would have a negative impact on a students' academic performance and mental health. As a school that prides itself on setting its students up for success and maintaining a warm, welcoming community, implementing this change would directly work against the values that we take so much pride in.

Furthermore, it is necessary to examine

# Fixed Office Hours Make Teachers More Accessible

By EDWARD PARK '23  
Staff Writer

With the COVID-19 pandemic requiring all Loomis Chaffee students, at some point during the school year, to resort to learning online via Zoom, the LC faculty now offer online office hours as a resource for students who need extra help outside of class.

The roll out of office hours is one of the many school efforts to provide the ideal learning environment for teachers and students. The office hours are a way for teachers and students to communicate outside of the pressured and sometimes hurried environment of a class. The students who tried out the standardized office hours provided positive feedback, and I believe faculty should continue to offer fixed office hours for the upcoming school years.

Before the establishment of fixed office hours, if a student needed extra help, it was common for the student to seek out a teacher before or after class to schedule an individual meeting for one-on-one help. Personally, I found it difficult to schedule a meeting time that worked for both the teacher and me. I felt that it would be easier if there were designated hours where students can check in with teachers to discuss class materials or related interests.

This year, however, office hours eliminated the need for scheduling a time and date to receive help from teachers. Teachers have their fixed office hours posted on their classroom homepage on the LC student portal. Students simply need to email their teacher to communicate that they will stop by or just join the virtual meeting.

Fixed office hours are very helpful be-

cause students can set aside time for their teachers a few days in advance and are better prepared to ask questions.

With slightly shortened classes this year and a synchronous-asynchronous class rotation cycle daily due to the COVID pandemic, office hours also make up for a lack of student-teacher interactions, which are essential for a student's success.

"Students this year spend around the same time learning from teachers as they do learning by themselves," said Seth Sukboontip '23, "office hours do make up for a lack of student-teacher interactions, by allowing students to ask questions and consolidate knowledge, just like in live class."

Even students who rarely sought out for teacher's help in the past academic year realized the importance and efficacy of office hours.

"I see the value of office hours," said Mateus Kuo '22. "It proves itself in my academic performance and success."

While office hours are a valuable resource to students, it is not without its flaws. For international students who live in different time zones, office hours are usually at inconvenient times, sometimes past midnight.

"I see the value of extra help, but I also do value my sleep," said Justin Wu '22, "even with my teachers offering more than one time and date, office hours are still inconvenient."

Despite understanding the inconvenience of office hours for some students, I urge students to try out this great new resource at some point this year. However, for those of you who are still unconvinced, keep in mind that office hours are always at your fingertips.



Photo by Edward Park '23

Photo of Edward Park attending Mr. Dowe's office hours. This year, office hours assisted students to seek help more easily and made up for the lack of student-teacher interactions this year.

# Monday Morning Study Halls: Harmful and Ineffective

By NICHOLAS JI '22  
Staff Writer

In recent weeks, Loomis Chaffee has presented Monday Morning Study Halls (MMSHs) as a new alternative to Saturday Night Study Halls (SNSHs). These sorts of work periods are issued for relatively minor disciplinary infractions such as a certain number of unexcused absences, too many missed breakfast check-ins (in normal years), or absences from convocations or class meetings. However, the time change to these study halls will be harmful to the student body and undermines the whole purpose of discipline in the first place.

In previous years, SNSHs have been made up of two 90-minute sessions. Assuming

the fundamental purpose of disciplining students who break school rules. Loomis is a self-described "second chance school," giving students a chance to recognize their errors and reform their behavior. MMSHs would have the exact opposite effect and reinforce the rule-breaking habits rather than change them.

If a student perceives the morning study halls to be unfair or directly working against their personal aspirations, especially if they trust the school to have their best interests in mind, it can very easily lead to disdain for administration and established school rules.

Instead of being a constructive reminder to be respectful in keeping obligations, MMSHs could easily be seen as nothing more than punishment for the sake of pun-

ishment. As a result, transgression of the rules may very well continue, and the failures of disciplinary policies may lead students to reoffend, trapping them in a cycle of punishment.

For these reasons, the school administration should scrap MMSHs, which seems more poorly scheduled than the SNSH schedule. While the importance of being a good, respectful citizen within the community cannot be overlooked, punishments that are a detriment to students by harming their ability to learn fails to remain consistent with our institutions' values as well as its larger mission in serving the common good.



# Who's the Real G.O.A.T?



Photo by Julie Chung '21

Graphic of Tom Brady, who possesses a record-breaking record of 264-69.

By SAMMY ROSS '22  
Contributor

The most recent major league championship, Super Bowl LV featured the most marquee quarterback matchups in recent history. The highly debated G.O.A.T, Tom Brady, vs the newest young face of the NFL, Patrick Mahomes. The reigning Super Bowl champion Chiefs vs the hometown Buccaneers, the first in NFL history that a home team hosted the superbowl.

The last time the two met, in Tampa Bay earlier in the season, the Chiefs won 27-24. However, many feel like it was not that close because they scored most of their points in "garbage time."

But this game was special; it was one for the books.

The Buccaneers fueled by an electrifying

performance from Brady and Co., took the game easily winning: 31-9. Tom Brady's stat line consisted of an outstanding 73 completion percentage for 201 yards and 3 touchdowns. This was Brady's seventh Superbowl breaking the record for any player and even any franchise.

Tom Brady has an outstanding hall of fame resume after being selected 199th overall in 2000. He holds many quarterback records including the all-time passing record with 79,204 and the completion record with 6778. On top of that, he has the most games started with 344 and most pro bowls at 14.

Never having lost a season, he stands at a record-breaking record of 264-69. His 10 superbowl appearances is also more than any other franchise's all-time appearances.

Many students on the island are Brady

fans and shared their passionate takes about his career.

"Tom Brady is the GOAT of all sports, I believe he has done something that no other human being on the planet has done, he has won seven Super bowls... He's won more than any other person in sports history," Oliver Vulliez '23 said.

"Thomas Edward Patrick Brady JR is without doubt the greatest athlete of our generation. The championships speak for themselves," said Nate Amaro '22. Nate is a long time fan of Brady.

Another Junior not as fond of Brady, gave a different take. "The argument for Brady being the goat of all sports is nonexistent, Jordan is. The GOAT for me is when someone combines championship pedigree winning with influence on their respective sport. Jordan's influence on basketball, his shoe brand, and his character made him a worldwide superstar. Brady does not have

the influence that Jordan ever did," said Mason Chang '22.

Whether you like Brady or not his numerous accolades and accomplishments can not be denied. A testimony to his resume has been a viral picture posted online comparing the two halves of Brady's career. Even if Tom Brady played for half the years of his entire career, he would be named a first ballot hall of famer, a very exclusive club for some of football's greatest players.

A list made by NBCSN Boston after Brady's New England departure listed all of TB12s records. A few of them are regular season wins by a starting QB 219; 17 division titles; 30 playoff wins; 41 playoff games started; 73 playoff touchdown passes; 11388 playoff yards; 5 super bowl MVPs; 2838 super bowl passing yards; 58 game winning drives including the playoffs; 505 passing yards in a single Super Bowl and many more.

## LC Wrestling Discontinued



Courtesy of John Cunningham

The LC Wrestling team huddling before matches.

By RILEY MEADE '21 & JULIAN HERNANDEZ '21  
Sports Editors

Continued from front page

These programs and many others like it, in terms of relative location, have dominated the sport for years and it is no secret that their talent is home grown. However, wrestling at Loomis has no shortage of committed and talented wrestlers, and those who have dedicated their years to it on the Island are extremely disappointed to see the program being terminated.

Dominic Rossetti '21 is one of those people. He has wrestled for Loomis for the past four years, finished thirds at nationals, and will be continuing his wrestling career at Columbia University next year.

"When Ms. Cabot sat us down on the bleachers and told us what was happening, it was an emotional moment for me. I gave my everything to the program for four years and it's a very sad thing for me not to have a next generation of Loomis wrestlers coming up," Dom said.

Multiple other seniors on the team were shocked by the news. Leaders of the team Pedro Arellano '21, Kennedy Anderson '21, and Thierno Diallo '21 all gave their insight on the situation.

"We were told that the sport wasn't popular enough but all the students were blindsided by the decision and to our knowledge, none of the faculty did either," Pedro said.

"I feel like we could have got more members to join the team, but I did not know of the decision until I read Dr. Culbert's email," Thierno said.

"All we know is that the involvement in the sport is declining," Kennedy added.

However, the decision has not changed students' mindsets heading into the final stretch of this year.

"Despite the decision, I'm still going to love wrestling. I still think it builds character like no other sport and the experiences that I've had in the wrestling room for the last years do not compare to any experiences I've gone through in any sport," Pedro said.

"Even though this was my first year on the wrestling team, I fell in love with the people, the culture and even after the decision was made, my teammates and I still go to practice everyday with great energy. We still have fun, play games, workout and go hard. Even though we don't have a season this year or in the foreseeable future, everybody on the team still puts in effort and time and maintains good spirits. That's what I really love about this team," Thierno said.

The seniors remain hopeful that in the future, wrestling can still exist on the Island.

"I hope that wrestling could at least be a club sport so that coaches could still teach wrestlers skills and others who came to Loomis who want to compete or play club," Kennedy commented.

"I am sad that future students won't have the chance to go through the wrestling experience. Wrestling allowed me to grow as a person and even though the program is gone, I hope that students still have the chance to enjoy [the experience] even if it's a club sport in the future," Pedro said.

In many ways wrestling on the Island is the embodiment of "Ne Cede Malis." All the way from Mexico City, four year senior Pedro Arellano has found a home in the program, four year senior Domenic Rossetti has fostered his passion for wrestling at Loomis, female senior Kennedy Anderson has broken records and inspired her peers, and newcomers to the program like senior Thierno Diallo have been welcomed with warm arms. This program has left its mark in Loomis history and in the last years has remained strong through COVID-19, lower engagement, and other adversity.



Photo by Andy Cao '21

The Loomis Chaffee wrestling team practicing during the 2020-2021 school year Winter Term, before its discontinuation.

## The Loomis Chaffee Log

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The Loomis Chaffee Log is the official student newspaper of the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, CT. We can be found online at [www.thelclog.org](http://www.thelclog.org), and we can be contacted via email at [log@loomis.org](mailto:log@loomis.org). Letters to the editor and op-ed 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.

### ADVERTISING

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CORRECTION: In our last issue, a portion of an article written by Ryan Fortani '22 was incorrectly published under Jordan Korn '22.



# Malicious Software Strips Students of Livelihood

By WILL HOWLEY '23  
Staff Writer

Picture this: it's 9 p.m. on a school night, and you are swamped with homework and are on the verge of dropping out (Bill Gates being your justification). You look out your window to reflect on your sorrows as if you were in this year's Oscar bait movie.

But then you see it: a sweet white substance falling from the heavens in ample amounts: a beacon of light in your meaningless life. You break into your happy dance; surely there is going to be a snow day tomorrow, where you can chill out and stop the snowballing of your mental health. You can practically taste the hot cocoa and marshmallows on your tongue.

And then you receive the email. "Classes will be online tomorrow." How could the universe be so cruel? Naturally, you start sobbing uncontrollably.

Is this what the administration wants? Rooms upon rooms of crying children, their hopes and dreams crushed by the technological advancements of the horrible society we live in?

I don't think so. What are we, animals? Animals don't have to go to online school. They go out and play when it snows, scampering through the forests to demonstrate their freedom. Therefore, without snow



Graphic by Stephanie Zhang '21

days, we are essentially made to be less than animals. Is that the message Loomis wants to send to its students?

Furthermore, snow is the universe's way of giving us a break. If we were meant to have school through a snowstorm, then why are the roads icy and the power dicey? Explain that. In a snowstorm, it is simply unnatural for kids to have any form of intellectual stimulation. If we don't go out and build igloos, make snow angels, and have snowball fights, we are not doing what the universe wants us to do.

Again, I ask you, are we not humans?

# Gourmet with Gavin

## 4 Ways COVID-19 Has Changed Eating on the Island



Graphic by Julie Chung '21

By GAVIN ANDERSON '22  
Staff Writer

The ever-hungry Loomis Chaffee students have returned for the final three "mini-mesters" of the school year, and adjusting from eating at home to eating on campus has revealed some unique variations in how students consume their food.

### 1. MEAL TIMES

Also affected by COVID-19, the Loomis schedule, now featuring Asynchronous school days, has drastically changed when students attend classes with many pelicans not having their first in-person course until 12:55 p.m. Due to this adjustment, breakfast, lunch, and dinner are consistently attended later in the day than in previous years.

### 2. PLEXIGLASS DIVIDERS

Returning from the fall term, the Dining Hall and Student Center's plexiglass dividers are still present, allowing students to eat with their friends (despite the fact that people can't actually hear each other). The dividers have also spurred creative nicknames because of their odd disposition, like "the egg cartons" or "voting booths."

### 3. LOSS OF THE PANINI PRESS AND TOASTER

When students descended on the dining hall in early September, they were met with the unfortunate reality that toasters and panini-presses were deemed not COVID safe and had thus been removed from their coveted spot in the corner of the servery. The creative build-your-own-sandwich option is gone, and Loomis students now await the day that it will make its return.

### 4. ICE WATER IN PLASTIC CONTAINERS

This unexpected and unorthodox perk of COVID dining is a school-wide hit, as people love the convenience of being able to grab ice water on the go. Making appearances in study sessions and team practices, the ice water served in a plastic cup is undeniably the most significant benefit of the new dining experience.

# A (Totally Accurate) Summation of NASA's Journeys to Mars

By JANUS YUEN '21 & ISABELLA JIANG '22  
Columnist, Contributor

Long ago, on a planet far, far away, NASA deployed Sojourner as mankind's first step (roll?) on Mars. It was the dawn of a new era of exploration, of discovery, and of pushing our limits as a country, as a species, and as a planet—and that's exactly what they achieved.

In search of microbial life, Sojourner

it looked up, and the last thing it saw was the image above: a contingent of Martians, green like in our imaginations and wielding advanced military technologies. And beyond them, a horde of them cresting the distant mountains. And then Spirit went silent.

NASA realized right then and there that there would be no use in simply exploring the shifting sands any longer. Its rovers would microscope the ground no longer. NASA was conflicted; they had made not just the tremendous discovery of life be-

Opportunity—that clever boy—was never caught. Instead, it was buried in a dust storm, unaware of the martians' accurate weather report that day. There is no evidence that they ever found it.

But by July 30th, 2020, NASA was ready. Perseverance was ready for takeoff. Masked as a great advancement for further exploration, Perseverance was developed in conjunction with the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard and equipped with state-of-the-art weaponry and defense systems:

- 2x MK14 Enhanced Battle Rifle
- 2x M279 Light Machine Gun
- 4x HK416 Automatic Assault Rifle
- 1x AWM sniper rifle
- 1x M142 HIMARS
- 2x Minuteman-III (LGM-30G) ICBM Missile Silos
- 4x Автома́т Кала́шникова (on loan from Russia)
- 6x N-Strike Elite Accustrike Nerf Blaster
- 1x Annie (Your Texan Neighbor's Shotgun)
- 6x 3-inch M1918 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Gun
- 1x Obi Wan Kenobi's Big Blue Lightsaber
- 32x Poké Ball
- 4x Master Ball
- 16x RUB83R DUCKY (distraction)
- 8x Nuclear Banana Peel (escape instrument)
- 24x Iron Skillet (projectiles)

All the above tools/equipment were equipped for the purpose of deterring any Martian attack on the rover. Yet, NASA was not content with simply building an undefeatable rover; so, they designed the Ingenuity Helicopter (lightly equipped with 4 M197 Gatling Guns and 2 AGM-119 Penguin missiles) to provide the Perseverance with some amount of air support.

NASA hopes to continue to monitor and develop new technologies in order to advance the agenda of human hegemony over the red planet.



Graphic by Isabella Jiang '22 & Janus Yuen '21

was an unparalleled success, surviving and traversing the red rocky terrain for 85 days before going dark. Fueled from the high of success, NASA soon deployed Spirit and Opportunity, twin successors, with bated breaths and higher hopes.

The pair quashed all expectations. Both were programmed with missions lasting 90 days, but lasted far longer, pointing their microscopes at the ground all the time, flipping stones with their pudgy robot fingers, poopity-scooping for signs of microbial life beyond Earth.

But they were looking in the wrong direction. They were lucky.

More than 6 years after Spirit landed, it fell victim to one of the classic blunders: quicksand. As it was swallowed up by the ravenous Martian soil, in its desperation,

yond Earth, but also that of intelligent life. However, they now faced one of the largest threats to mankind.

Immediately, just as the Spirit Rover's undoctored final image began circulating among the inner circles of government, the CIA raided NASA's JPL in Pasadena and blocked the image's release to the general public. Then began a decade of preparations for secret interplanetary warfare. Mars rovers were no longer created as tools for discovery, but rather as instruments of cosmic domination.

Days after Spirit went silent, Opportunity was reprogrammed to perform stealth reconnaissance. Over the next 8 years, it camouflaged by day and travelled by night, seeking out Martian settlements with its little black binoculars.

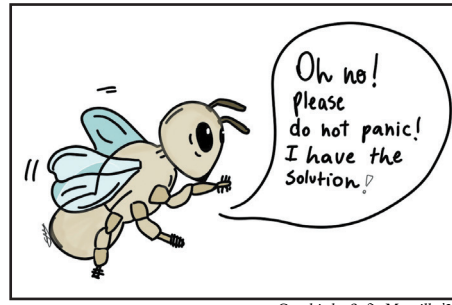


# Vaccine Distribution Proposal

By **ETHAN SONG '24**  
Contributor

Transportation is one of the biggest issues we face in the process of vaccine distribution. Therefore, speed and efficiency have been heavily prioritized by our leading

engineers here at Hebetem Corp. Industries Ltd. where we have developed some truly ingenious solutions. With just \$15.4 billion dollars, we plan to distribute the cure in only two weeks! Below are the details of our plans:  
Wasps:



Graphic by Sofia Mansilla '23

Genetically engineered wasps have been all the rage in the science world. At last, we have finally created (mostly) successfully artificial wasps able to spread the vaccine. Here's how it works.

1. 30 million wasps are kidnapped, each of which has their venom sack replaced with our patented vaccine sack.
2. The genetically-engineered wasps lay their eggs in our facilities, which undergo a brief rapid-growth incubation period. At this time, they will expand up to 10x in size (further testing needed to control growth).
3. While the eggs develop, the original wasps are released in selected areas
4. When the eggs hatch, the larvae are trained on how to safely inject the vaccine in our state-of-the-art wasp education facilities.

5. The wasps are released in one great swarm upon the earth.
6. COVID-19 is eradicated and there is a celebratory party for the remaining wasps.

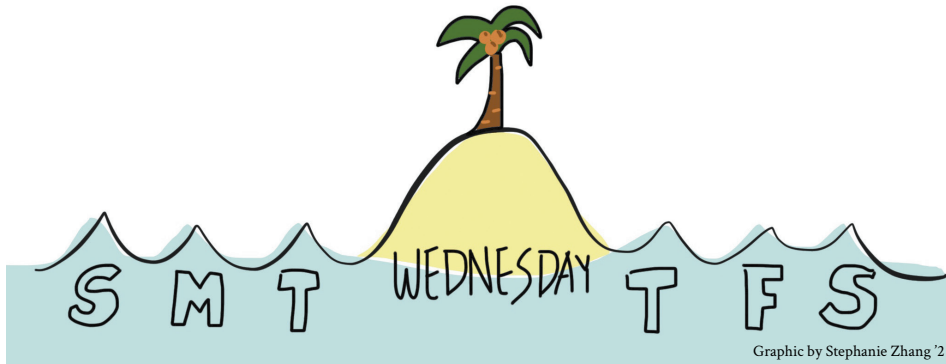
It's as simple as that! That is, if it all goes according to plan. In the slim chance it doesn't, we have another trick up our sleeve.

We have had 28.9 million cases of covid in the United States thus far. Taking inspiration from iconic scientists such as the titular character Johnny Test and Dexter from Dexter's Laboratory, we propose a simple solution involving the transfer of blood from these 28.9 million people to the remaining 300 million citizens.

1. The previously infected are paid \$2,000 to donate one and a quarter liters of their blood.
2. The blood is taken across the country in whatever modes of transportation available with cooling capabilities, such as ice-cream trucks.
3. It is then taken to medical and animal centers
4. Non-infected people receive about thirteen shots of blood per person.

*Note: We are not responsible for any deaths, injuries, visual/auditory hallucinations, or supernatural effects.*

## Plans for Weekend Wednesdays



Graphic by Stephanie Zhang '21

By **NICK DALESSIO '23**  
Contributor

To make up for an absence of March vacation, we now have no classes every other Wednesday. Some may see this free time as an opportunity to do something productive, while others just enjoy the rare occasion of a free 24 hours on a weekday. Let's take a look at some things you can do to fill this free time!

### SLEEP

Yes, this seems crazy on paper, but it could provide a lot of benefits. We've all had the awful feeling of rolling out of bed and sulking to an 8:30 class after procrastinating until 1 a.m. Why not catch up on your sleep? You will definitely feel more refreshed and energized when you return to classes again.

### HOMEWORK & ASYNCHRONOUS WORK

This is basically the opposite of the first idea. Async work is tough to balance with the countless hours of homework assigned

nightly. Instead of scanning your work and uploading it to the dropbox two minutes before class, work ahead.

Sure, you may suffer a self-induced stress coma at some point, but at least you'll be ahead in your classes. Despite all the agony and sorrow this may cause, you will be rewarded with two unoccupied nights and extra free periods during the day.

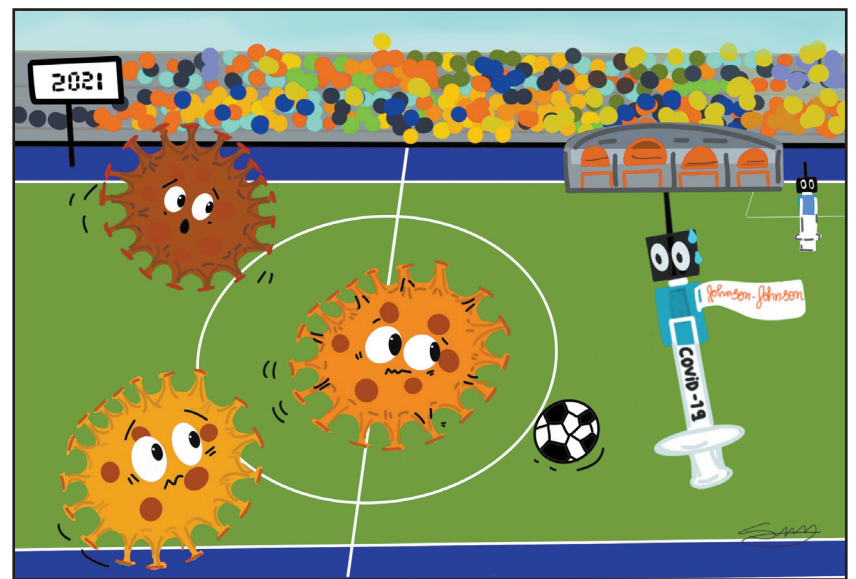
### BREAK A WORLD RECORD

Every day is a new, fresh opportunity to strive for greatness. Nothing satisfies this statement better than the accomplishment of a new World Record. You can easily make your Weekend Wednesday one for the history books. Just imagine the amazing feeling of everyone on the Island acknowledging you as a victor. Picture yourself hanging up that illustrious plaque in your room with your name on it.

The easiest world records to break while stuck at school (or home) include most t-shirts put on in 60 seconds, fastest time drinking 500 mL of water, and fastest time typing the alphabet backward. Shoot your shot and become a legend.

## Pandemic Champions League

By **SOFIA MANSILLA '23**



# Winter Horoscopes

By **MERCURI LAM '24**  
Contributor

### ARIES

Baby, it's cold outside...and you just can't get enough! The world is your canvas, and the newest victim seems to be the snow. From making maple candies (which isn't recommended, FYI, the snow is quite dirty) to the 53 different snowmen you have created around campus, the entire school has fallen victim to your mischievous schemes. Who cares? It's just winter fun.

### TAURUS

The winter has been long and harsh on your bitter soul. Every morning you wake up and shiver in fear of stepping out into the frosty air. But what is life without trial and tribulation? Keep braving the cold and spring will come soon enough.

### GEMINI

From taking two-hour treks along the Farmington River to building the igloo in front of Founders hall, you have dedicated every minute of your time to the great outdoors. Just remember that the project due Monday won't finish itself...

### CANCER

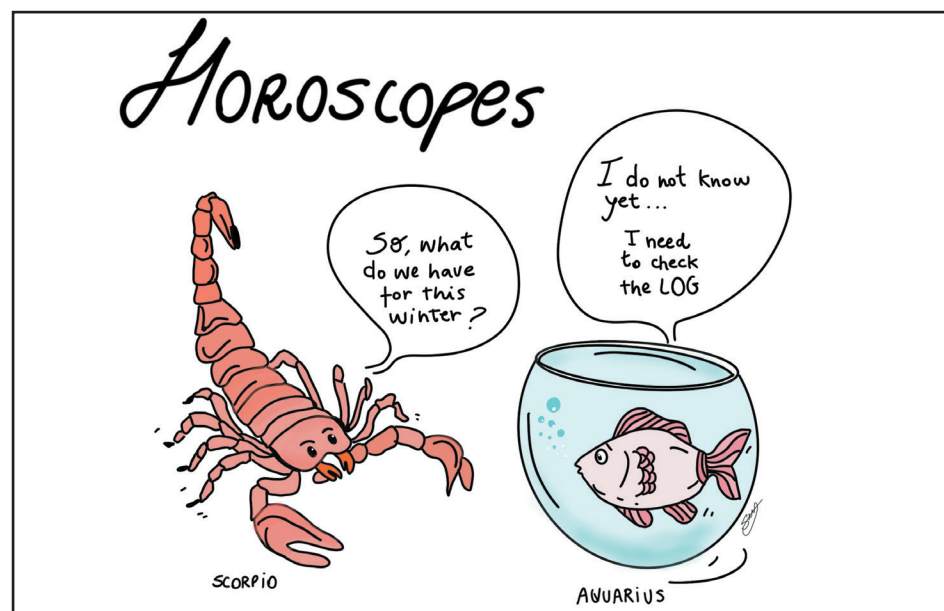
You're often seen disappearing into the woods for hours on end. Your dorm head is worried, but you aren't. It's not like you're doing anything other than painting the serene winter landscape. Just be careful not to stay in the cold for too long, you (and your precious paints) are bound to freeze.

### LEO

You decided that the ice rink is the perfect place to be for some fun recreational time, so you picked up your skates and headed

there. Only problem: you didn't know anything about ice skating other than the anime portrayals you've seen. It's no problem though, right? You'll learn it soon enough (after you fall on your face, of course).

### VIRGO



Graphic by Sofia Mansilla '23

You've taken the assignment of Winter Morning Walks from the 9th grade English async way too seriously, and now you find yourself regretting it all as you walk in the woods alone at 7 a.m. in the morning. The signs of hypothermia do not scare you, for sacrifice is needed for the great words you have written. Are there wolves? Maybe, but Mr. Purdy (or whoever you have) will appreciate the poem.

### LIBRA

You have decided to try your best to enjoy the wintertime vibe before the snow all melts. But you spent so long trying to decide what to do for maximum winter fun that you have not noticed the snow slowly seeping into the ground. Yeah, it's spring now;

### SCORPIO

As the song says, the weather outside is frightful! Because of this, you decide to spend your time in the dorm. But instead of catching up on work, you were caught up on shows instead. Your friends have tried to remind you that study hall isn't meant for Netflix, but you're simply too deep inside the Miraculous fandom to even notice. (If

you know someone like this please do not hesitate to reach out and seek help for them. This is a PSA.)

### SAGITTARIUS

More and more assignments have appeared in your planner, and you have decided it is time for you to take a break and step outside. But the cold air not only made your head hurt but it also forced you to start worrying about the time you're wasting by walking the loop. It's alright to take a day off, you know.

### CAPRICORN

Being from somewhere warm, you have never experienced the delights that snow can bring. Your expressions of shock and awe were amusing to your day student and boarder friends alike. But soon the snow seems to be too much excitement for you, and you end up quivering in the common room. (Don't worry, you'll get used to it.)

### AQUARIUS

Winter is nothing more than a lifestyle for you, and that's why it has not stopped you from your connection with nature. The howling wind was so meaningful to you that you ended up needing to go to the health center after spending so much time in its frigid embrace. (Another PSA: do NOT stand in the snow with only a t-shirt.)

### PISCES

Winter is somber, just like your attitude toward the world. Spending your days reading books by the radiator with your Taurus friend has been good for your icy soul. You may not have had a typical winter experience, but hey, now you've already annotated the books you'll need for next term.



# The Great Vaccine Line of 2021: A Primary Source Analysis



Artwork by Joy Liu '21

By JANUS YUEN '21  
Columnist

Edgar C. Pan is an Assistant Professor of History at Obama University whose research specializes in the history of the “Roaring 2020s” and the Greater Post-Pandemic Era.

I was 15 when I first saw pictures of the Great Vaccine Line: a gargantuan single-file line, formed in the Spring of 2021, that stretched from Santa Monica Beach to Downtown Boston. A massive historical event, hidden under dimmed lights in the unvisited corner of the museum, nearly forgotten. Even then, despite being a puberty-stricken high school freshman who could only think in terms of “dummy thicc” and “massive whoppers,” I was fascinated by the perennial question of why.

Why would millions of people line up for months across the country, lounging in foldable chairs in the deserts of cactus-strewn Arizona, sleeping in tents on the windswept prairies of yeehaw Texas, skipping along through the hell they called Mississippi, waddling through the purgatory they called Alabama, through the eerily silent streets of Baltimore, between the towering skyscrapers of Manhattan—all the way to this sleepy New England city straddling the grey Atlantic coast? Just for a shot in the arm?

The question kept me up at night. It kept me curious. It motivated me to study history in college, and it is the question that brought me to where I am now:

Here, in this nice mahogany chair.  
Here, at this grand wood desk stacked with books  
Here, in this office that exhales history from its shelves as much as it does dust.  
Here, writing an article that seeks to finally answer it all.  
So, let’s begin.

\*\*\*

Historians have long claimed that the Great Vaccine Line formed in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020 as well as the rapid development of vaccines countering it. The incoming Biden administration promised at the start of 2021 that it would distribute 100 million vaccines in its first 100 days, and that by summer, vaccines would be readily available for all adults across the country.

However, due to a series of logistical mishaps, chief among which being the abrupt and permanent shutdown of the chronically underfunded US Postal Service, hundreds of millions of doses ended up in Boston, sparking the formation of the longest single-file

line in history.

However, primary sources, especially SMS correspondences between participants and family members, friends, and coworkers complicate this narrative by presenting a diverse range of individual motivations, desires, and strivings revealing that the Vaccine Line was much more than a historical oddity springing from a logistical disaster but a moment that epitomized the zeitgeist of early '20s post-pandemic America. In this article, we will analyze a string of records, from California to Massachusetts, traversing the line from end to start. With these records we will attempt to fill a gap in the historical understanding of this event from the individual perspective, painting a fuller, more detailed picture of what happened in the Spring of 2021.

Starting at the end of the line in Santa Monica, California, a surfer texted his friend,

4:45 PM

yo, dude. Just got off the beach. There’s this line forming Wanna come?

yo, think its for the vaccine?

yeah dude. Come find me. Haven’t changed

you gonna line up in your speedo?

yeah dude

i see someone tryna flex his summer bod shut up.

At the end of the line, the predominant mood was that of excitement. This was likely due to the demographics of the region. Santa Monica, a prominent beach town in the early half of the century, was filled with young people overfilled with mirth, fresh and sand-caked from the surf.

They had partied their way through the pandemic and the vaccine would be the final nail in the coffin: a return to normalcy, a muzzle on all the party poopers who’d yelled to “keep their mask on,” to “stay 6 feet apart,” and to “remember there’s a pandemic going on.”

The line’s formation to this group, in this region of the country, meant release.

Further east, however, in hard-hit Arizona, people expressed both despair and hope.

To my wife,  
If you ever find this.

For forty days and forty nights, I have wandered in the wilderness. But on the mountains, in the valleys, I have seen His signs. Burning bushes that whisper His words among the sands. Deliverance will come. We will be saved.

Though there be no water here but the bitter Tucson brine,  
though there be no sustenance but the Sagua-

ro’s

wicked thorns, I know He holds me close.  
I know He stands beside me. Have faith. Soon.  
Soon the cactus will bear its scrumptious fruit.  
Soon, the rocks will spit sweet Capri Sun.

Mark. Why are you so dramatic  
We literally drove here from Phoenix yesterday  
Don’t go anywhere. I’ll get you a bottle of water

Read 3:40 PM

Though the phenomenon was not universal, the hardships of the pandemic caused a spiritual awakening across the American Southwest. To the participants of this awakening, the line of people stretching across the desert was a sign. Especially in Arizona, a state struck particularly hard by the coronavirus, the line was seen as a precursor to spiritual deliverance, akin to a Second Coming.

People flocked to Interstate 10, parked their cars in the red desert sands, and climbed onto the highway to join the trek East. Some primary sources, namely Tiktoks, recorded moments of when the line broke out into song, ranging from a spiritual “Take Me Home, Country Roads” to an emotionally charged rendition of “The Hampsterdance Song.”

Already here, at the end of the pandemic, we could see, demonstrated in plain sight, the scale and power of the Southwest Spiritual Awakening that would dominate the American consciousness for a generation, returning to center stage the normative debate between religious and secular elements on America’s relationship to faith.

An infantryman’s letter from Texas, meanwhile, hinted at yet another pivotal force in contemporary history.

Dear Mother,

I expect that you have heard by now the cause and nature of our cross-country expedition. However, for the sake of clarity, I shall supply here a summary. We received our orders by mid-February, and we left our barracks in the Rio Grande valley at noon on February 25th, marching around 27 miles a day across the deserts of Western Texas. 6 days ago, we finally saw the first piece of vegetation that was neither shrub nor cactus: a tree. We took a rest under it, capturing and cooking the dozens of rattlesnakes that attempted to scurry away at our approach. We slept for the first time in 12 days that night, though one of us (thankfully not me) was made to stay up as a watchman. Then we continued to march onwards, into the heart of the Lone Star State. We passed ghost town after ghost town, taking occasional rest in rusted horse stables, until yesterday, when we were rudely awakened by

the simultaneous rumbling approaches of a tornado and a flash flood. These once in a century storms have become the new norm, to the point that I find myself doubting whether we will even make it to Boston by April. Either way, thank you for the package of extra spicy ramen and Charmin Ultra-Soft toilet paper. And don’t you worry. I’ll be home in no time.

Best,  
Freddy

The letter described the dramatic effects of climate change on the American landscape, from the increased frequency of intensified storms—a prominent example being the unusually devastating ice storm of February that same year—to the slow desertification of swathes of western countryside in a second Dust Bowl.

The eyewitness account of the infantryman foreshadowed the later abandonment of settlements across the American breadbasket, the ensuing ecological disaster, and the end of American food independence.

Near the front of the line, in Boston, a couple’s text messages revealed yet a different picture.

5:57 PM

babe, im hungry  
James. I’m literally near the front of the line. Can you wait? Or get it yourself for once?

i just want some chicken nuggies babe  
IM LITERALLY ABOUT TO RECEIVE THE SHOT

but im hungy

budapest is crying

i hate you  
how many pieces

20?  
thanks babe :)

k now wheres the back of this damn line

Delivered

Relatively few people actually traversed the full length of the line from start to finish, and eventually, as the Senate tried and failed to resuscitate the Postal Service, people decided to start passing the vaccines from the front of the line to the back and just have people inoculate themselves.

Yet, by participating in this rare outdoor event, millions unwittingly witnessed the four forces that would drive change across America over the following decades: speedo fashion, spiritual revival, climate change, and of course, instant-gratification consumerism.

By ANDREW PARK '22  
Melange Editor

## Satirical Headlines

Breaking News: Apple’s Newest Line of Rollable MacBooks Announced; “Solid aluminum full-body comes pre-rolled in a nice, long box,” says one critic, “perfect for wrapping up my leftovers”

Breaking News: Authorities shocked to discover dead buried bodies under strange stones in church grounds

Breaking News: Enraged English majors sue Apple for not having an alliterative alias for their new MacOS, suggests “Small Sur” or “Big Bertha” as acceptable alternatives

Breaking News: Depressed London pigeon misses pooping on passerby, declines online interview

Breaking News: Recent study says children eat far more fast food than parents:

“I’ve never eaten a single parent,” says child.

Breaking News: Melange editor breaks down crying after testing positive for FUNNY-19 and realizing he is an asymptomatic carrier; “I always knew he had it in him,” says old man on the street.

Breaking News: Man jumps off the edge of the world to prove the Earth is flat once and for all and is never seen or heard of again