

A DC-Free Semester

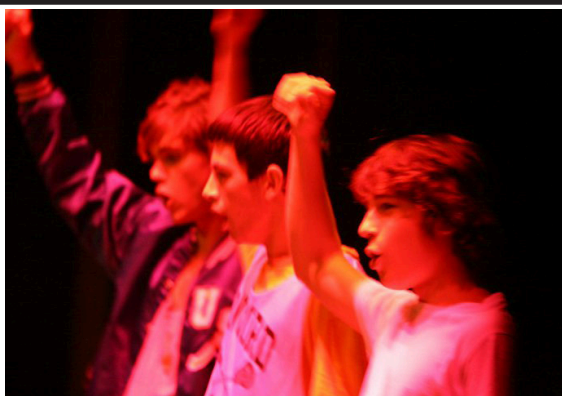
by Pauly Daniel '12

What does it say about the Concord Academy community when we can go almost a semester without a single Disciplinary Committee (DC) hearing? It means that “students are looking out for each other,” said Academic Dean John Drew. According to Dean of Students David Rost, since 2001, an average of approximately 18 students have faced a DC each year. It is remarkable, therefore, that no students have sat before a DC thus far, especially since the number of disciplined students has trended upwards in recent years.

When asked about why there have been no DCs, Rost said, “I wish I knew.” He said

Student leadership has played an important role in this DC-free semester as well, setting a beneficial precedent for the younger students. “I think that if you have good leadership at a school people kind of keep an eye out for each other,” Drew said. “There has been good student leadership so far.” Rost stated, “People had certain expectations for the leadership this year, and maybe they’re trying to prove people wrong. They are taking seriously the challenge to lead the school in a healthy and productive way.”

The lack of academic DCs also resonates well in the community. However, according to Drew, “It’s not unusual to go a semester without an academic DC, [but] obviously I’m really glad we haven’t had one.” Drew believes that when an infraction



Left: The boyband, “Little Big Horn,” entertains the audience with a dance routine.



Right: The Casey Barth tribute band performs. Photos by Henry Kim '11.

Senior Coffeehouse Changes Flavor

by Lola Ogundipe '12

Every fall, the senior class has the privilege of putting on a show for the entire Concord Academy community: Senior Coffeehouse. In previous years, Coffeehouse has featured risqué acts like “Icy Hot,” and the “Sexy Dance” among others. While these provocative performances have been absent from Coffeehouse for the past two years, many will be surprised to learn that they were never part of the original show when Coffeehouse began thirty years ago.

According to Ben Stumpf, a CA alum and current faculty member, “In the late ’80s, seniors had an event called the Senior Play, which was a way for the seniors to put on a final show before they graduated.” He said that it was a mixture of singing, dancing and CA-related jokes that amused faculty and students alike. In 1992, the Senior Play changed to Coffeehouse, but only in name. Over time, however, “the acts became less clever and more about ridiculing people, which took away the original spirit and tone of Coffeehouse,” said faculty member Chris Rowe, who has directed three Coffeehouses. Dean of Students David Rost agreed explaining, “It’s easier to make fun of someone than make up something creative.”

Many faculty members commented on their horrific experiences at Coffeehouse. Jeff Desjarlais, Director of Health and Wellness, recalled one act in which girls were auctioned off; David Rost remembers girls brushing their teeth and spitting into a cup with the last girl drinking the saliva. “Many teachers

felt uncomfortable, and that’s why a lot of adults didn’t go,” Desjarlais said.

The primary catalyst for changes to Coffeehouse though, was negative student reaction. Desjarlais said, “Many students went to the counseling center feeling victimized and humiliated, especially in 2008. So the Counseling Center wrote a letter to all the three deans explaining that coffeehouse was an emotional health issue.” Additionally, Desjarlais said that many of the acts from years past would now be considered hazing under new state legislation about bullying.

When Coffeehouse came under review a few years ago, the faculty modified their initial decision to eliminate the tradition. Instead, they decided to give the Class of 2010 a chance to return the show to its roots, and the results were successful. Many faculty members applauded the shape Coffeehouse has taken over the past two years. “This year’s senior class and last year’s seniors deserve a huge amount of credit for this success,” Rowe said.

Students expressed mixed reactions to the recent changes to Coffeehouse. Laurena Fasllia '11 said, “Senior Coffeehouse is a rite of passage and it is unfair that teachers are regulating what seniors are doing.” Dani Girdwood '11 took a more positive view of the recent changes: “The rules and guidelines that the senior class faced, both this year and last year, actually forced us to be more creative,” she said. Similarly, Ashley Brock '12 said, “With all the restrictions put on the senior class, they put on some well-played skits.”

Exams Examined

by Kate Nussenbaum '11

Exam week: for some, it is an anxiety-producing four-day headache; for others, it is the most relaxing week of the year, with only one or two two-hour tests each day. Regardless of these differences, a final exam is a rite of passage at Concord Academy, one that accounts for 10 - 25% of one’s grade. But what exactly are exams intended to accomplish?

Academic Dean John Drew said, “I have heard faculty explain the goals of exams in a whole range of ways: that they’re good preparation for the future, that they provide a chance to synthesize the ideas that have been coming up all semester, that they’re a chance for younger students to rally and improve their performance at the end of a semester.” He added that since CA teachers often assess students in nontraditional ways, exams ensure that all students have “some practice at a more traditional form of assessment, especially in an era where standardized testing is so important in the college process.”

Many students believe that the value of an exam is subject dependent. Sofia

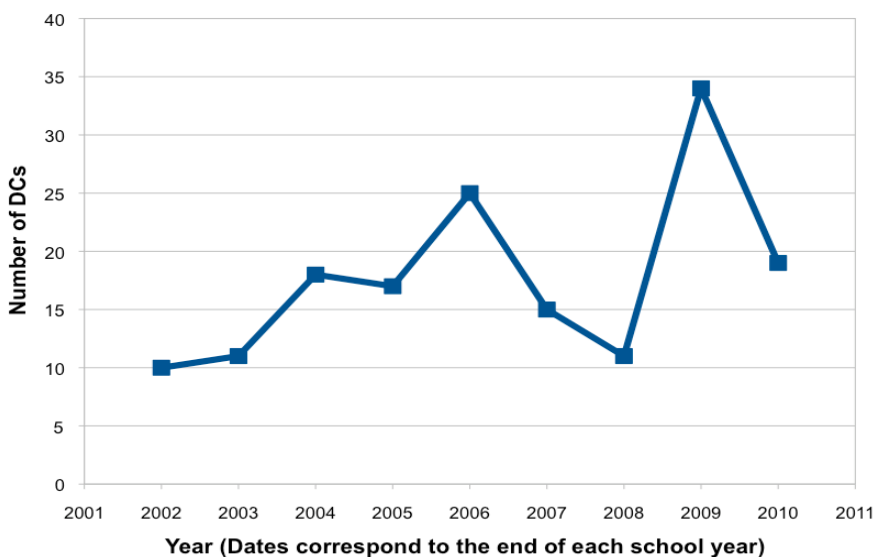
Lapides-Wilson '12 said, “For English, an exam is kind of unnecessary, but for math, physics, or history, it’s a nice way to pull all the loose ends together and really make sure you have a thorough understanding of the subject. I remember the information more if I take a final.” Sara Makiya '12 agreed. “In English, you might as well just write an in-class essay, but in subjects like math, I think it’s important to have finals,” she said.

English Department Head Liz Bedell explained that all underclassmen and those upperclassmen in literature courses will take exams this fall “because many college courses involve hourlies, midterms, or final exams as principle assessments, and those are usually unprepared written essays.” She explained that the practice a fall exam offers is important, especially because juniors and seniors do not take English exams in the spring.

Amy Kumpel, who teaches physics and math, explained that math exams have a more immediate purpose. “The way the math

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Disciplinary Committees Per School Year



students are still operating under the “legacy” of previous DCs; he explained, “We went through a rough patch, and those involved are saying ‘I need to make healthy choices’ and those not involved are saying ‘I don’t want to tempt them’.”

This disciplinary “rough patch” Rost spoke of refers in particular to the 2008-2009 year, during which nearly twice the average number of students faced disciplinary action. The following year, once again an above-average number of students faced such discipline. Almost all of these DCs were the result of violation of the school’s drug and alcohol policy. Many students who were “DCed” then got placed on random drug-testing. Such testing discourages future infractions: few students want to be kicked out, and even fewer want to be kicked out after a failed drug test.

While a DC has the most significant impact on the student/s in question, the experience also affects those not directly involved. Rost said that DCs “obviously impact the individual the most, and then that person’s friends.” In this way, students whose friend gets suspended or expelled as an outcome of a disciplinary case may be inclined to steer away from the path that friend took.

of an academic policy occurs, like plagiarism or cheating, it is not due to a lack of comprehension of the rules. Instead, he said, “A lot of students imagine themselves to be really cornered by their work, and that they are the only one who feels this way when really, everybody shares the same circumstance.” Drew said that especially in difficult situations “[it’s not] a sign of weakness to ask for help.” He said that in some instances “[the students] were willing to take the risk of cheating because they didn’t want to ask for help. That’s so sad.” As for advice, Drew said that he recommends “not leaving everything to the last minute and not imagining that you are the only person in this situation.”

According to Rost, the period from December to February is when social DCs are most prevalent. Similarly, when asked about when academic DC’s most often occur Drew said, “Oh, right about now. More generally, at the ends of semesters.”

Overall, Rost said that CA is “in a healthier place than the past two years.” Still, he noted what he perceives as a shift in aspects of the social scene that will influence future discipline: “More and more it’s going to be cyber stuff, outside the normal sex, drugs, and rock and roll.”

Special Feature Inside:

WickedLeeks

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Exams

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sequence goes from class to class, you really need to make sure that all of those math skills you learned are right on your fingertips, ready to go for the next class. That type of quick recall is best assessed in a test setting.” She also said that the final serves as a “tool to evaluate student learning.” Teachers of year courses, she explained, can use exams to evaluate what holes they need to fill during the spring semester.

Drew said he sees exams mainly as a way of preparing students for the next level of education, but he added, “Synthesizing information is a good lesson even beyond college.” English teacher Sandy Stott agreed. He said that speaking with several CA alums who are now in college has led him to believe that the trend, at least at some colleges, is away from exams. He said if exams don’t directly prepare students for college, “Then the question becomes is the pulling of information together required for an exam a useful skill? I tend to think it is. Being able to take knowledge gained over time and render it in some way that makes sense to other people is a skill that I think is important.”

Kumpel said that exams also challenge students to perform under pressure, another useful life skill. “There are always going to be big ‘tests’ in life,” she said. “Not that you’re going to be sitting down in a big room with three hundred people, but for example, when I interviewed for this job, I had to walk in and teach a class.” Learning how to handle

the anxiety that tests often create is “not a bad experience to go through.”

Some students, however, still oppose the exam format. Johnny Murchison ’12 said, “Once I take an exam, it’s so stressful that I just forget everything afterwards. There are better ways of assessing your understanding of material, like a final project or a final essay. Exams just stress everybody out.” Grace Blewer ’11 agreed: “Final exams don’t help me understand the material better.”

Students can rest assured though, that in all likelihood, their exams will not affect many of their term grades. Stott predicts that the final will affect the grades of 5 – 10% of his students, while Kumpel said that maybe 30-35% of her students’ grades will be affected, and in many of these cases the final will prove beneficial. She said though that “usually the kids who have a B going into the final get a B on the final.” Drew, reflecting on his experiences teaching science, said, “I’ve tried so many different formats and I’m amazed at how students essentially cluster right around the performance level they’ve been at all semester.” He added that, “There are the people that really do put it all together and have a ‘eureka’ moment during an exam.” And, he said, “If the exam is asking for synthesis, which is a little bit more difficult than anything they’ve done all semester, and they still perform at the same level, then that means they’ve accomplished something.”

A New Arena

by Kathleen Cachel ’12

Concord Academy has recently started to make headway in the development of the property formerly known as Arena Farms.

The school purchased 11.6 acres of the property in 2007 and an additional two acres in 2008. The foreseeable uses for the property include an athletic complex with additional fields. The current plan proposes eight tennis courts and three multi-purpose fields. One field will be able to double as both a field hockey field and a baseball diamond. The other two fields will be used for lacrosse and soccer.

There will also be some type of building on site. The purpose of the structure is still under debate, but Director of Operations Don Kingman said it will serve as a simple protective cover-up for game spectators, and will also have bathrooms, a training room and storage.

The predicted expense of the project is five million dollars. An additional two million dollar endowment is also necessary to fund the future maintenance and upkeep of the property. At the current time, Concord Academy has slightly over half of the necessary funds for the project. The Class of 2011 Senior Class Gift will also go towards the property; this gift is projected to bring in one million dollars. In addition to funding, necessary permits need to be secured before the project can begin. Assuming all necessary funding and permissions are acquired, the ground breaking may be as early as 2011, and Kingman predicts the entire construction of the project will take around four to five months to complete.

Although the basic vision of the property has been developed, Kingman said, “We still have so many details to figure out. We are working on the transportation. Is there going to be a shuttle? Is extended campus going to increase its boundaries? How much parking will there be? How are we going to integrate it into the school? These are all things we still need to figure out.”

The school has started to focus on one detail in particular: a new name for the property. On Tuesday November 30, Associate Head for Enrollment and Planning Pam Safford, Acting Director of Athletics Jenny Brennan, Director of Operations Don Kingman, and Director of Advancement Kathleen Kelly met with Student Council and Athletic Council to discuss the criteria and receive student suggestions for the property’s name. Student Council then solicited the rest of the student body for suggestions. Many submitted acronyms are in keeping with the names of many of CA’s current buildings; some liked the idea of a more basic title like, “The Farm.” No name has been selected yet.

One of the benefits of developing a separate location for CA is that it opens up so many possibilities on main campus. “We basically have a checkerboard,” said Kingman. “We could rip up the tennis courts and build a new PAC (Performing Arts Center) there, while still having a working PAC. Then we could move a dining room into the area the PAC occupies. Then turn the Stu-fac into a campus center. The possibilities are endless.”

Currently the school is focused on starting and completing the work on the Arena Farms property itself, beginning what it hopes will be many exciting opportunities for the future.

Deck the Halls: Holiday Spirit at CA

by Adam Pfander ’12

The holiday season, that time of celebration when so many special events are packed into a small window, is in full swing, and Concord, Massachusetts is not immune to its charms. Main Street twinkles with festive lights; Starbucks cups don a new, more celebratory exterior. And despite CA students’

lack of energy and time, thanks to rapidly approaching exams, the holiday spirit has even found its way into the

Concord Academy “bubble;” the halls are decked and carols can be heard playing out of the Stu-Fac kitchen’s radio.

Immediately following Thanksgiving break, CA’s campus did not share in the festive overtones of its neighbors up and down Main Street, but that soon changed. Wreaths found their way onto the doors of all CA’s houses; lights appeared on the exterior of the ASL and the Chemistry balcony.

This last addition to CA’s decoration is credited to Head of Boarders Matt Labaudiniere ’11 and the rest of Boarding Council. “We thought it would just be a fun thing for the boarding community to do together,” Labaudiniere said. Indeed, after an initial rainout on December 1st, the boarders came together to string lights across the façade of the ASL. Although the boarding community has not taken part in such decoration for a number of years, Boarding Council decided to resurrect the tradition for the 2010 holiday season. “It made me happy just to see all the

lights up,” Labaudiniere said.

The holiday season has inspired club activity as well. The Jewish Student Organization hosted a Hanukkah party on December 3rd with traditional food and games. Eva Frieden ’11, a co-head of JSO, said, “We host a Hanukkah party every year to share Jewish traditions with the rest of the community and enjoy some good food. For those who don’t



Members of Boarding Council dressed up for the December 4th SHAC student center. Photo courtesy of Alexandra Zeitouni ’11.

know anything about Judaism, it exposes them to a Jewish holiday. And for those who do know about Hanukkah, it’s sometimes nice for Jews,

and not just Christians, to have their holiday shared by all.” And indeed, the small dining room was packed that night, with Jews and non-Jews alike enjoying the festivities.

For some students, the school-provided holiday cheer is not enough, and they have found their own ways to celebrate the season. Wyatt Welles ’14 has erected a small Christmas tree, complete with ornaments and lights, in his room on the first floor of Bradford House. Welles explained, “I enjoy the Christmas spirit. The tree is a symbol of the season.” When asked if that was the end to his decoration, he said he wasn’t sure, but he seemed excited by the possibility of more.

Some believe that the holidays come too early and stay too long, often being over-marketed. But as the end of the semester quickly approaches, the one thing every student has in common is some occasion to mark; even those who don’t observe Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa can surely celebrate the end of exam week.

Consumer Holidays Fail to Consume CA Students

by Ryan Hussey ’13

Black Friday is arguably the most celebrated day in the American consumer economy. The day after Thanksgiving, most stores hold gigantic sales, and, in response, shoppers spend frantically as the holiday season begins. Some stores open at 4 am or earlier, and without fail people congregate before these stores open in hope of being first in and snagging the best deals.

While Black Friday is a national phenomenon, many students at Concord Academy paid it no heed. Often CA students interviewed, only one participated in the sales, and even that individual did not wait in a line throughout the night. The general consensus among CA students is that the early-morning sales are not worth the lost sleep. Bruno Baker ’13 said there are usually “too many crazy people” to makes the sales worth attending.

While Black Friday has existed since the 1960’s, its online equivalent, Cyber Monday, began in 2005. Cyber Monday boasts online sales throughout the Monday after

Thanksgiving, and its popularity has soared in recent years. For many, shopping online on Cyber Monday is a more civilized alternative to the chaos of Black Friday. Despite its appeal, only three of ten CA students surveyed had heard of Cyber Monday. Fittingly, these individuals learned of the sales through digital mediums such as email notifications and Facebook. While the three knew of the potential savings, none participated in the event.

This year, Cyber Monday only narrowly avoided catastrophe when, on the Sunday night before the event, the Comcast Internet service halted. Many customers were outraged, fearing that their digital shopping plans would be ruined. Comcast reported that their outage was unfortunately timed yet completely unrelated to the consumer holiday. However, rumors circulated among disgruntled shoppers that Comcast disrupted their service to perform maintenance to improve performance for the high demands of Cyber Monday. Luckily for shoppers, Internet service resumed before the Monday morning frenzy, although it’s clear that the outage would not have affected many (if any) CA students.

Want to comment on something you read in this issue? *The Centipede* welcomes letters to the editors. No anonymous letters will be printed.

Hanukkah Recipes from Around the World

Compiled by Eitan Tye ’12

Although the eight days of Hanukkah are behind us, there is still time to enjoy these wonderful recipes. Both the potato latkes and sufganyiot (doughnut-like treats) are delicious any time of year. These recipes are from both the United States and Israel, and we have used them in my family for years. The potato latkes are a tradition of my father’s Ashkenazi-Jewish family, while my mother’s Sephardic family in Israel usually focuses more on the sufganiyot. Enjoy!

Potato Latkes (Recipe from American Grandmother’s Community)

- Ingredients:
- 4 or 5 medium potatoes
 - 2 large eggs
 - ¾ cup of matzo meal
 - 1 medium onion
 - Salt and pepper
 - Peanut oil

Directions:
Grate the potatoes and drain them. Add eggs, and blend into potatoes. Add grated onion, salt and pepper. Add matzo meal. Heat oil until hot. Drop 2 tablespoons of potato mixture onto oil and bake each latke until golden brown.

Sufganiyot – Easier Version (Recipe from My Mother’s Israeli Friend)

- Ingredients:
- 3.5 cups of flour
 - 3 teaspoons of baking powder
 - 2 eggs
 - ¾ cup of sugar
 - A pinch of salt
 - 2 cups of buttermilk
 - Few drops of vanilla extract
 - Grated lemon rind
 - Oil

Directions:
Mix the eggs and the sugar, and add the buttermilk. Then add the baking powder, flour, vanilla extract, and the grated lemon. Mix all the ingredients thoroughly. Heat the oil to a high temperature and then fry on medium temperature. Once the sufganiyot are finished you can sprinkle powdered sugar or jelly on them.

Sufganiyot – For the More Ambitious Baker (Recipe from My Grandmother in Israel)

- Ingredients:
- 3 cups of flour
 - 1 package of yeast
 - 1 flat teaspoon of salt
 - 1 egg
 - 1 cup of water

Directions:
Put the flour in a bowl and add the salt and yeast. Mix the ingredients with a dry spoon. In a separate dish scramble the egg and add it to a cup of water. Mix the egg and water gradually into the flour mixture. Knead the dough thoroughly and cover it with plastic wrap, letting it rest for 30 minutes. Put your hand into a small bowl of water to avoid sticking and knead the dough again. Cover the dough and let it rise for 1-2 hours. Knead the dough again, making sure that your hand is wet. Then, take small pieces of the dough and fry them on medium heat. When the sufganiyot are done, you can sprinkle powdered sugar or jelly on top.

Roving Reporter:

Compiled by Steff Spies ’12

What is your favorite holiday tradition?

- Corie Walsh ’12: Decorating our Hanukkah bush and Christmas tree.
Stephen Lin ’12: Playing piano for my family.
Michael Ruscak ’11: Opening presents and decorating the Christmas tree.
Eliza Green ’11: Midnight walks on Christmas Eve.
Evan Turissini ’12: Eating lobster, yeaaaahhhhhhhhhhh.
Chloe Borenstein- Lawee ’13: Going to San Diego with my cousins.
Alex Zou ’13 and Andy Zou ’13: Chinese New Year.
Steff Spies ’12: Every year we watch “Its a Wonderful Life” and my dad imitates Jimmy Stewart, and whenever my sister or I speak he says, “Oh why don’t you just stop bothering people.”
Peter Laipson: Gathering with family and friends for a festive holiday dinner. And eating potato pancakes that are on the thin side, a little greasy, and with onion. Period.
Kyr Gibson ’14: Getting a Christmas tree and advent calendars.
Kathleen Melendey ’14: Decorating gingerbread houses.

Help Me, Rhonda!

The Centipede advice columnist “Rhonda” helps students navigate the rocky waters of high school. If you need her help, please drop you question in the “Help Me, Rhonda” box in the Upper Stu-Fac.

Rhonda, over winter break I want to impress CA kids by showing off how cool my life away from CA is. What can I do? – In Need of Spirits

Dear Rhonda,
Holiday materialism has got me down. How do I get everyone to understand the true meaning of Christmas without shoving religious crap down their throats? – The Grinch?

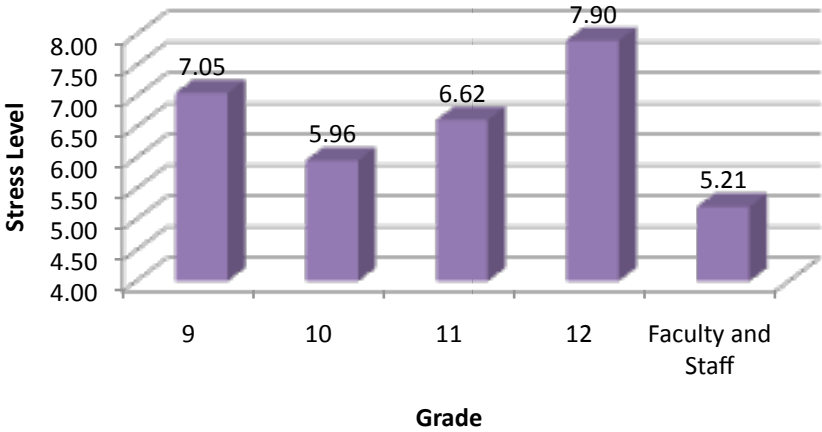
In Need, a while ago kids realized that posting pictures of themselves drinking beer on Facebook opened themselves up to ridicule for being stupid enough to post those pictures. However, these kids obviously still wanted to show off how cool they are, so they started editing the pictures and blurring out the labels on the beer cans they were holding. This way, there was obviously no doubt that they were drinking beer (and, by the transitive property, no doubt that they were cool), but they had at least made a show of trying to hide it. Recently, this trend has spawned a wave of pictures in which kids are just drinking soda, but blur out the cans too, hoping that others will assume that the cans hold beer. And voila, that’s your solution.

Listen up kid, if you don’t want to buy a bunch of useless \$@%& for the holidays, you’re not an American! International students take note; you have not truly experienced American life if you haven’t walked out of a mall with that “I can’t believe I just bought all that pointless stuff” feeling. And if you’re worried that shopping is too “materialistic” to be a fulfilling holiday experience, consider the fact that Santa can simultaneously be found at thousands of malls across the country. One guy in a thousand places at once – that’s a miracle of Christmas if I ever heard one.

The Results are in: November Proves Stressful for Seniors

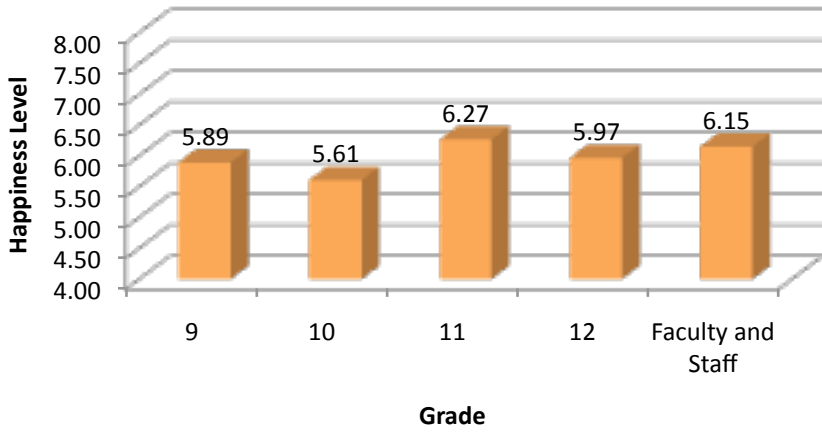
100 students and 33 faculty members were polled about their feelings regarding November. The graphs below show some of the findings.

Average November Stress Levels



On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being “not at all stressed” and 10 being “so stressed I might explode,” the average November stress level was highest for the senior class, at 7.9 Faculty and Staff were less stressed than students, with a 5.21 average stress level.

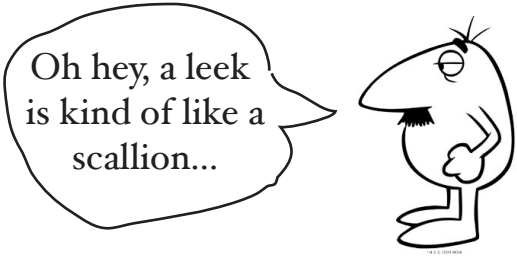
Average November Happiness Levels



On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being “miserable” and 10 being “euphoric,” the average November happiness level was highest for the junior class, at 6.27. The sophomores were the least happy, with a 5.61 average happiness level.

Other findings:

Two students and two members of the faculty and staff reported that they were “not at all stressed.” Eight students said they were “so stressed they might explode.” Four were juniors, and four were seniors. Two students and one faculty member were “euphoric.”

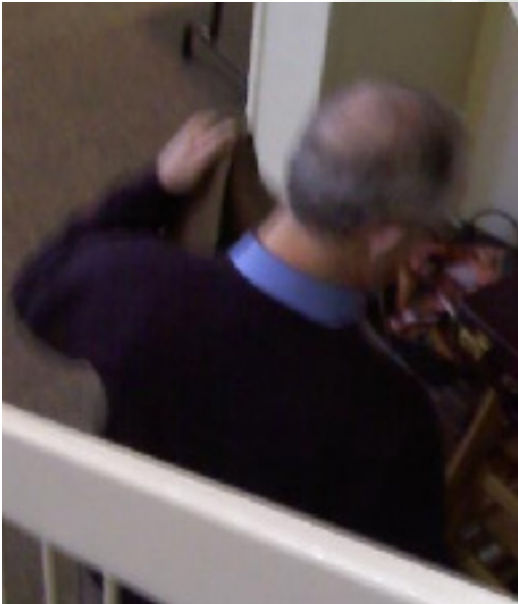


Wicked

“Leeked” information provides

Winter athletic season cancelled by global warming; Jenny Brennan “relieved.”

CA Lost and Found found to have commercial footprint on Internet: DDouglas.com offers “lightly used articles” for sale.



Mr. Howe and his morning muffins.

WickedLeeks finds Howe’s menu for planned biblical breakfast cafe:

WickedLeeks Exclusive:

John Pickle uses hidden cameras in bathrooms to reveal unenviromental paper-towel usage. In process, reveals that he installed hidden cameras in bathrooms.

Photo uncovered from Kate Peltz and Peter Jennings’ trip to NACAC’s Annual Conference



I. **Red Sea Muffins**
The best way to part the waters of your morning

II. **Bamanna Nut Muffins**
Like a morning gift from God

III. **Joseph’s Technicolor Vegetable Omelette**
It was red and yellow and green and brown...

IV. **Patriarch’s Pancakes**
Begat your day the old guy’s way

V. **Burning Bush Hashbrowns**
Well done done well

VI. **Lot’s Lot**
A collection of low-sodium pastries for those trying to cut back on salt

Leeks:

insight into CA's Security risks

Jackie Decareau speaks out: "I don't actually give a %@#\$ who's here."

Shocking photo uncovered: Steve Cambria smiling



Bob Koskovich discovered to be using 95% of CA's bandwidth to download episodes of *Gossip Girl*

by Josh Ziegesar '11

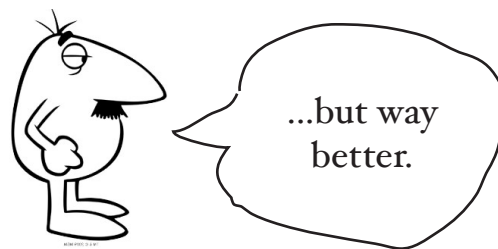
Students have taken a lot of guff about gaming, watching YouTube videos and generally slowing down CA's Internet, but a recent slowdown may have stemmed from another source. A well-placed IT insider divulged to WickedLeeks that his colleague, Director of IT Bob Koskovich, spends a shocking amount of time downloading and watching episodes of the CW's hit show, *Gossip Girl*.

"I think it all started back in October, when he signed one of his emails 'XOXO'," the source divulged. "I know Bob's an affectionate guy, so I first thought nothing of it."

But then, the source said, "Things got even weirder...I noticed that on one of his folders, he had written, 'I heart Chair.' I mean, I knew he liked his chair, but this was extreme. Finally I worked up the guts to ask him about it. I was then subjected to a two-hour summary of the relationship between 'Chuck' and 'Blair.'"

"The real crime's not that he's watching the show," the source explained, although he didn't look convinced. "But one day I walked into his office and he was staring intently at his computer screen, a rare sight. *About time*, I thought. *Maybe something will actually get done around here!* But then I looked more closely. Attractive teenagers in expensive clothing could only mean one thing. When Bob saw me, he tried to play it off as 'testing his new monitor', but I knew what was up...The next day I hacked into his computer and checked his iTunes purchases. Just as I suspected. Not only had he downloaded every episode, but he had the HD versions and he had programmed his iTunes account to come up as 'academic' so it would get bandwidth priority."

When WickedLeeks asked about this, Koskovich was unrepentant: "Observing social interactions, listening to talented actors speak words written by some of our century's greatest writers...what's more academic than that?"



Leaked emails reveal Don Kingman is Santa

by Gnash Brightly '12

There is, apparently, more to Concord Academy Director of Operations Don Kingman's newfound jovial presence than good food and humor. Via a tracer of nighttime e-mails (after the Koskovich-sanctioned midnight cutoff), WickedLeeks has learned that Kingman is the new Santa. An e-mail dated December 12th, 2007 points to one gift as the beginning of Kingman's Santa fetish: "It just feels so good," wrote Kingman about the gift. "Last night, after the kids showed up and sang Christmas carols to me, I just melted. I had to call a snow day the next day." Kingman later wrote, "After years of supervising work jobs, I'd lost the joy of the season, of any season. Even the largest dean couldn't make me laugh anymore. Then, there were 50 kids on my lawn, singing, hoping for a snow day. I knew what Santa must feel like; I wanted to be him. But I wanted to be a new Claus and a

different one, less dependent on the old knowing if you've been bad or good, more my own Santa. I also knew that reaching my Santa goal would take a lot of training, but it would be worth it."

After the recent Claus disappeared during a May 2009 vacation in Hawaii (where Kingman happened to be attending the wedding of his adopted son), the job posting on Icons.com came up "filled." Operations got a new golf cart -- red and very fast -- and hired a dog who'd learned to fly from the campus geese. The budget for "playthings" went through the roof; the storage buildings at the property formerly known as Arena Farms got beefed up security. Kingman grew jolly. CA's burgeoning population of campuskids got their presents early. It all added up.

Said Concord Academy grammarian, Lucille Stott, "It's about time CA understood an independent Claus."

Wicked Leeks obtained this photo, snapped at two a.m. through a Maintenance Barn window. You be the judge.



Wiretaps reveal David Rost as Pepsi Co. majority shareholder.

A Call for Varsity Once Again

by Dan Weiner ’11

In the dark days after the Recession of 2008, the Concord Academy Athletics Department made some difficult choices to stay in the black. One of these decisions was the demotion, in fall 2009, of the Boys squash team from the varsity to the club level. Apart from the cost reduction, the Department believed that at the club level, the team could find more even competition after it staggered to a 7-12 record over the previous two seasons. Now, more than a year after the stripping of the varsity title, I believe it is time for its restoration. I do not claim impartiality in this matter: this is my fourth year on the team and first as co-captain, and I feel a responsibility for the wellbeing of the team. Both Acting Director of Athletics, Jenny Brennan, and Head Squash Coach, Tariq Mohammed, have said that ideally the Boys team would play at the varsity level. With such support, promoting the Boys squash team to varsity status would both improve the experience for its members and benefit CA as a whole.

While the proposition of more even competition at the club level sounded desirable, the 2009 season disproved this theory. The team’s record improved to 7-2, and of the seven wins, six were meets in which the opposing team either won one or none of the seven matches played. In other words, our club team completely overmatched the majority of its opponents. I will admit that annihilating an opponent is quite the ego boost, but more rationally, I know that one-sided matches are useless. Competing against stronger players is ultimately more beneficial for one’s game. This is not to say that the current team would suffer at the varsity level;

this year, the team is deeper than it was at any point during its down period, and we could perform better with most, if not all, of the opponents from those years.

The Department cited the fewer away matches that came with the demotion as both a way to save money and as a boon for the club team.

This year there is one away match, which CA scheduled as a courtesy to the other school; the intention is for the club team to play all home meets. I agree that two-hour

rides up and down the northeast corridor are sometimes too much of an odyssey for high school sports. Yet, squash is one of the most misanthropic of team sports. In practice, whole team interaction is primarily limited to a brisk warm-up at the beginning and an even more frantic set of exercises at the end. While matches pit you against an opponent, even then the goal is to isolate yourself from the other person and focus on the flight of the ball. I miss the camaraderie of the long bus rides and the sense of unity that comes with striding into an opponent’s home court. One of the great joys of team sports is the group

dynamic, and without away matches, that team spirit is diminished.

Twenty-four boys tried out for the team this year, the greatest number in years, and, for a team that carries only twelve players, such a turnout is remarkable. In comparison, the Girls varsity team saw ten try out for

twelve spots. I mention their team not to belittle their turnout or to suggest that they should be less than a varsity team, but rather to underscore the high interest in the community for boys squash. Such interest merits varsity support from the Department. Furthermore, I believe that turnout will be high for years to come, and the resulting selectivity will only further strengthen the team so it can continue to compete at the varsity level.

The promotion would serve not only the players on the team as I have mentioned, but also the future wellbeing of the CA community. Regardless of whether they play squash, many of the prospective applicants to CA seek a school with a strong athletics program. The lack of a varsity team stands out like a sore thumb in an otherwise strong department; it hurts our chances of attract-

ing talented squash players. In this way, the longer we tarry on the club level, the harder it will become to return to a higher level of competition. Strong players are typically talented overall athletes, and they would most likely benefit other teams during the fall or spring seasons.

It is true that the EIL, CA’s athletic league, doesn’t currently have a division for boys squash. Yet, the team was a successful varsity squad for years when the EIL didn’t support a boys squash league, so returning to varsity status doesn’t seem like an issue in this regard. The foundering economy was the original impetus for the demotion to club level. Now, almost two years after the financial collapse, CA is on much better fiscal footing. The primary costs associated with away matches are gas for the CA-owned buses and food for the team. If CA can import half a beach for its Jamaica party volleyball court, I think it can muster some sandwiches for the squash team.

Finally, there is the matter of honor. This year, the team rightfully alternates early and late practice with the girls team, whereas last year our team always practiced second. The reality is that the club label is less glorious than the shining beacon of varsity. If we put in the same blood, sweat and tears as our female counterparts, we deserve the honor of a varsity emblem on our backs.

The Athletics Department tried to act in the best interest of the Boys squash team and the greater CA community. Yet sometimes, even the best intentions don’t yield the intended results; luckily, their decision is reversible. I believe that the return of Boys varsity squash would strengthen both the team and the school as a whole.



Photo courtesy of dictis.info.com.

Welcome to the Club: A Glimpse of USTA Tennis

by Josh Suneby ’11

If you hear my name or see me in passing, one of the first labels that might come to mind is “tennis player.” This is certainly merited, as playing tennis has been my primary hobby for the past ten years or so. A lot of my life revolves around tennis: twice a week I attend a tournament-training clinic after school, once a week I have a private lesson, and about every other weekend I play a United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournament, which stretches from Friday night to Sunday afternoon depending on how well I do. In other words, I spend most of my free time doing something related to tennis. There are reasons I cherish tennis and the tournament atmosphere: not only are USTA tournaments the sole way to gain true experience as a tennis player, but they also provide me with social connections and some really interesting social insights.

Junior tennis has a strong social aspect that brings people together. Many people I have met at clinics and tournaments make up a large friend group outside of school. It’s a group of friends that I only really get to see on the weekends, yet I feel as strong a personal connection to them as I do with my school friends whom I see five days a week. Every match I play introduces me to a new person, a new possible friendship. In fact, I know approximately one third of my Facebook friends from tennis.

Interestingly, tennis is one of the only competitions where opponents, for the most part, get along really well. I usually find myself talking to my opponent on our way out to the court before the match. During the heat of competition, however, opponents stay focused on the match and generally don’t speak to one another. Then, once the match

is over, opponents usually begin talking to each other again, putting the match in the past; these short conversations start many friendships. There is a chance one of the kids you play against could become your doubles partner, as well as a friend, as is the case with my current doubles partner.

Additionally, tournaments provide a great opportunity for getting girls’ phone numbers. It happens naturally since if you win, you end up hanging around the courts for much of the weekend.

Playing USTA tennis has also allowed me to explore many locales in New England, and if you get really good, the world. I frequently go to spectacularly dismal warehouse-style indoor tennis facilities with neither heating nor AC in far-flung places like Nashua, NH and Longmeadow, MA. How many of you have ever spent a weekend in Longmeadow, MA? In many of these places, you feel blessed if there is toilet paper in the bathroom.

I’ve found that tennis also is a great way to study human behavior – or maybe I should say a great source of entertainment. As I mentioned, tennis players usually talk after the match is over. The exception to this sportsmanlike behavior is when your opponent is so distraught over losing that he stomps off the court—as a child does when he is put in “time out” and told to go to his room—before you even get your racquet back in your bag. But, this sort of drama is more common in the 10, 12, and even 14 & Under sections, where kids tend to spend more energy throwing racquets, moping, and even crying than on actually playing the game of tennis. By the time the 16 and 18 & Unders come around, the child-like racquet throwing and breaking (which I admit I have done...though I stopped abruptly when my

Dad made me pay for my own replacement racquets,) moping, and even crying turn into verbal expressions of frustration. In my day, I have heard a wide range of verbal creativity, ranging from the more common explicit exhortation, “What the @\$# are you doing!” to the rare, absurd exclamation, such as “I am moving like a gorilla!” Hearing some of these crazy antics is hilarious and priceless. You look forward to running into these vocal players just for this reason; they are the tennis equivalents of class clowns.

Surprisingly, watching some tennis parents is just as wacky and hilarious as watching their sons and daughters. I have classified tennis parents into many different categories: the “Pacers” (the ones who are too nervous to sit still and watch); the “Death Starkers” (the ones who don’t speak at all, act as if they are ignoring you, and have their faces against the viewing glass, totally zoned in on their son or daughter like a hawk to its prey); the “Avoiders” (the ones who are too nervous to even watch the match at all and instead read a book, work on their laptops, and sometimes leave the club completely until the match is over); and the “Screamers” (the ones who get so upset after their child misses a shot that you are actually concerned for their kid’s safety.) Some of the screamers are recent immigrants who prefer to scream in their native languages as they urge their future Maria Sharapovas to victory at a level 7 tournament (the lowest level tournament.) Then there are the really mixed-up parents that I kindly call “Hybrids.” The most common “Hybrid” is an emotional train wreck mix somewhere between a Pacer and a Screamer. In any other venue, these parents might be put into solitary confinement.

So there you have it – a snapshot of life in USTA tennis. Welcome to the club.

Fall Athletic Honors

The Centipede congratulates the following fall athletes who received special recognition from the New England Prep School Athletic Council and the Eastern Independent League:

New England All-Stars:

Boys Soccer: Danny Kliger ’11,
Alex Milona ’11
Boys Cross Country:
Arthur Whitehead ’13

EIL All-League:

Boys Cross Country: Toby Bercu ’11,
Adam Pfander ’12, Nick Phillips ’11,
Michael Ruscak ’11
Field Hockey: Andy Eaton ’11
Golf: AJ Casner ’11
Boys Soccer: Josh Glidden ’12,
Alex Milona ’11
Girls Soccer: Sarah Bennett ’11

EIL All-League

Honorable Mentions:

Boys Cross Country:
Dex Blumenthal ’11,
Olek Lato ’11
Field Hockey: Kelsey McDermott ’13
Golf: Matt Deninger ’13
Boys Soccer: David Lander ’13,
Bobby Philps ’11
Girls Soccer: Sarah Eberth ’13

Sparknotes.com: How to Pass English Without Thinking

by Scott Berkley '12

Have you been reading Spark Notes lately? Be honest; it’s not a crime. Though CA English teachers may only allow it as a supplement to improve reading comprehension, time pressures can get in the way of a complete and careful reading, and, more often than I would like, I utilize the website’s summaries. I would argue that this is not as much of a sin as some of our English teachers make it out to be. After all, would you rather be ethical and sound like an idiot, or cut corners and sound at least decently intelligent? I’ll let you make that call.

But Sparknotes.com is a whole different beast from the “Cliff Notes” booklets that propelled our slacking predecessors through high school and college. Most of the items (articles, advice columns, blog entries, etc.) are fairly run-of-the-mill, but not the sort of thing generally found on an academically-oriented site. One headline under “The College Advisor” blog reads, “Ask Kat: No Booze, No Friends?” There are, of course, literary summaries, but it takes a few minutes of digging through reams of college essay tips, laughable expository pieces such as “D’Arcy was a Dirty Hipster,” and comments by people calling themselves “Sparklers” to find anything of academic worth.

But the end of the superfluities is just the beginning of the deeper problems. Not only does the site have chapter summaries for most classic high school texts ranging from *Twelfth Night* to *The Power and the Glory*, it also provides a chapter-by-chapter “analysis” of the books. How pleasant—students don’t even have to draw their own conclusions

any more; they can get them wrapped into a neat little homework-reducing package. As it were, that eloquent, decisive argument coming from your classmate may actually be coming from Spark Notes – and it’s not full-on plagiarism, because “it’s just a basic idea” and “it’s just a class discussion.” Has literature really become that undervalued in our society? Laziness is one thing, but disregard is quite another.

If the summaries aren’t efficient enough, one can now watch video Spark Notes. Talk about instant gratification. And for honest-to-gosh literature written before the 20th century, there is “No Fear” literature—No Fear Shakespeare, for example.

As much as quick comprehension may help speed up the reading, slogging through a text, not quite understanding some passages, and grappling with its strangeness is part of learning. Turning great literature into something a busy teenager can zip through in the pursuit of an A is barbaric at the very least. Take Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*, a book I am reading in English class. Conrad wrote about the Thames River, “We looked at the venerable stream not in the vivid flush of a short day that comes and departs for ever, but in the august light of abiding memories.” Spark Notes posts this line as, “We looked at the river as only sailors could, with respect and affection and with an awareness of its great past.” Not only is the beauty of Conrad’s writing lost, but so too are the intimations of his intricate styling.

In an era of instant everything and easy distractions, let’s not let our books fall victim to the villainy of efficiency and procrastination. That would be, in Conrad’s own words, “a mournful and senseless delusion.”



Yeonpyeong Island under attack on Nov. 23, 2010. Photo courtesy of google images.

An Insider’s View: From the Other Side of the Peninsula

by Henry Kim '11

As we began our usual lunch meeting, the first question my advisor asked was, “So is everything alright back at home?” It was a question I encountered numerous times during the following week.

On November 23rd, North Korean artillery bombarded the Yeonpyeong Island, an island located near the western shore of South Korea. The attack was the first on-land military conflict to target a civilian area since the Korean War itself. The incident was quickly spotlighted in the international society, especially with the United States strongly criticizing North Korea.

As an international student from South Korea, I found it gratifying to see the North Korean attack on the Yeonpeong Island causing so much interest and outrage within America; the existence of a foreign nation that cares so much about the safety of your own country is heartwarming. On the other hand, I cannot help but notice how the American perspective on the issue feels somewhat simplified compared to the South Korean view.

Simply stated, America recognizes North Korea as its enemy. The country poses a threat to international security, and military action is inevitable unless North Korea gives up its nuclear weapons. Though some humanitarian organizations express concern for its starving mass of oppressed people, the anger and frustration caused by North Korea’s military leadership is so great that it dwarfs this sympathy. It has become one of those countries that seem too foreign to be understood.

On the other hand, South Korea views its despotic counterpart through a more sentimental pair of eyes. The Korean peninsula was unified just half a century ago, and almost everyone believes that North and South Korea eventually will become one again; it is like the Korean version of Manifest Destiny. Because many South Koreans have their relatives living in North Korea, we cannot simply look at them as enemies. A popular children’s song chants “our dream is unification, even

in our dreams we dream of unification,” and alongside the Ministry of Defense stands the Ministry of Unification. Thus, when the international community condemns North Korea for its belligerent behavior, it feels as if we, the South Koreans, are watching an unruly brother be chastised for causing problems here and there. Yes, we want North Korea to get punished for its actions, but not to the point where it is lost forever; we hope that one day North Korea will change itself and come back to embrace South Korea. Thus a full military conflict is one of the worst-case scenarios we can think of. Not only will it leave the Korean peninsula in ruins, but it will also deteriorate the North and South Korean relationship making unification more difficult.

Because of these reasons, many South Koreans do not welcome the United States’ militaristic approach to North Korean affairs. Many worry that America’s influence on the Korean Peninsula is only worsening the situation, and is leading us into an unwanted war—as some believe it did sixty years ago. Extremists even argue that the recent North Korean attacks—the sinking of the South Korean warship Cheonan and the bombing of the Yeonpeong Island—were actually actions the United States performed to arouse public hatred towards North Korea. A funny idea, but about eight different news media have argued for North Korean “innocence” and thus subtly suggested an American conspiracy; this seems to suggest that America’s current policy is threatening its popularity in South Korea.

Don’t get the wrong picture—many South Koreans do appreciate the American interest in and protection of the Korean peninsula. Still, for the United States to gain more popularity and trust, it will have to rethink its perception of North Korea, moving it from a bitter enemy to the other half of its South Korean ally. By showing more concern for the eventual unification of the Korean peninsula, or even sharing the “Korean Manifest Destiny,” the United States will no longer be viewed as a nosy neighbor but as a truly trustworthy ally.

Staff Picks

Looking for a book to read over break? The Centipede Staff has some suggestions.

Fiction:

The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood

The beginning of Atwood’s novel is a dizzying; three layers of plots are presented (essentially a story within a story within a story) and the main one seems to move a bit slowly. But as you progress, you’ll gain interest in the novel’s protagonist and her mysterious sister, the events and characters within each story will start to connect, and you won’t be able to stop reading.

- Kate Nussenbaum '11

Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell

Begin and end in the Pacific Journals of Adam Ewing; wonder how you ever got there. In between, visit the near past, the future and, unexpectedly, our world. For me, last summer’s best book.

- Sandy Stott

Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami

This book is perfect for someone who likes science-fiction as well as normal fiction; aspects of each genre are woven together into one seamless story of two separate but intertwined journeys. Many deep messages and philosophical questions are scattered throughout; I found myself thinking about their meanings not only in the context of the novel, but also in the context of my own life. All in all, this book is a quality read and one of my favorites.

- Josh Suneby '11

Non-fiction:

1776 by David McCullough

For all fans of History, McCullough’s 1776 is a must-read. The late summer of 1775 to the early spring of 1777 saw some of the most dramatic changes in the revolutionary war, and thus to the world. Utilizing superb storytelling and striking quotes, McCullough recounts the characters who so affected this monumental time in history. The reader is engaged by each general, officer, and civilian as the dramatic battles of Boston, New York, and Trenton unfold in America. Never before has history been so alive.

- Adam Pfander '12

Read Hard: Five Years of Great Writing from The Believer ed. by Heidi Julavits, Ed Park, Vendela Vida

I grabbed this book (a gift from a parent) as plane-ride fare during winter break last year. As it turned out, it is one of the most interesting collections of articles you will ever find, with pieces ranging from the history of Dungeons and Dragons to race issues in American cities to surfing culture in California. Sure to keep you engaged, regardless of what you normally choose to read.

- Scott Berkley '12

Please recycle *The Centipede*.
(After you read it.)

The Centipede

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The Centipede is the official student newspaper of Concord Academy. The paper welcomes comments from its readers in the form of Letters to the Editor. No anonymous letters will be printed. The Centipede reserves the right to edit all articles for length and content.

Horoscopes

by Nick Phillips ’11

Aries (March 21 – April 19)

Now is the time to start working on your beach body. If you waste the winter months, you’ll be sorry because when summer comes you’ll already have missed the opportunity to build up a sweet six-pack. But then again, since you go to CA, you probably don’t have any romantic interests to impress anyway.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

When choosing whether or not to try something, you might want to weigh your chances of success against your chances of failure, but do not forget what can be gained from failure. Your victories in future battles may depend on defeat in the present one. Of course, a defeat right now could also just be the start of a long losing streak; you never know.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20)

You may have heard Bangs’ new hit single “Meet me on Facebook.” Although Bangs definitely possesses significant musical talent, his advice has less merit than his music. A relationship that begins with a Facebook chat is not destined to end well. On the other hand, some studies suggest that marriages that begin with online relationships are less likely to end in divorce than those that begin in fraternity basements.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22)

It may feel exhilarating to be young and reckless, but the highway is not a place for risk-taking. You will come close to an accident today, but you will be spared. Do not take this as an affirmation of your invincibility, but as a reminder to stay under control. Of course, once you turn eighteen, speeding (as long as it’s less than thirty miles over the limit) will only result in a fine, so there’s really nothing to worry about. Since you go to a fancy preparatory school, your parents will probably just pay the fine for you; you don’t need to worry about them withdrawing the money from your trust fund.

Leo (July 23 – August 22)

A romantic opportunity will present itself today. You may be afraid to make the first move, but if you wait you will lose the opportunity completely. The only wrong decision here is indecision. The only exception is if you are a senior girl trying to muster up the courage to ask out a faculty member. If this is the case, you should probably put off the decision until you realize how far out of your league he is.

Virgo (August 23 – September 22)

The stars are not aligned in your favor today; it may be better not to take any risks, and cut your losses. However, if you take a chance and are successful, the pride of victory will feel even stronger. There’s a greater chance though that you will fail, in which case the pain of defeat will feel even worse, because you’ll know that it was a stupid risk to take in the first place.

Libra (September 23 – October 22)

A loss only becomes embarrassing if you take it too seriously. Instead, take a light-hearted view of the situation. If you remain positive in the face of failure, nobody will make fun of you. Except Steve Cambria.

Scorpio (October 23 – November 21)

You will be tempted to use Photoshop to pretend that you have had romantic encounters with celebrities or earned prestigious awards. It might seem cool for a little while, but sooner or later, like the boy who cried wolf, your stories may lose some credibility. If you just have an insatiable craving to use Photoshop, try to Photoshop a wrinkle or a strand of gray hair onto a picture of Chris Rowe’s age-defying face.

Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21)

The members of the CA boy band are all extremely attractive, talented young men (yes, they generally lack facial hair or other markers of physical maturity, but that’s not the point). You may think that one of them

Editorial: The Time for Coffeehouse

by Kate Nussenbaum ’11

Seniors constantly complain about changed traditions, especially with regards to Coffeehouse, but one change might be welcome: moving it from November to a later month, like February.

David Rost said that Coffeehouse has been a fall event since before his first year here. This timing has its benefits: seniors get to start off the year bonding and demonstrating our awesomeness to the underclassmen, and freshmen in particular get an early glimpse at the humorous and creative side of the CA student body. I remember attending Coffeehouse my freshman fall; at that point I had barely interacted with upperclassmen, let alone seniors, so they still seemed like mysterious, old, and inexplicably cool beings (Oh, how little I knew.) Watching them perform ridiculous antics on stage was thrilling, and I will admit, had it been later in the year, I probably would have been slightly less intimidated and slightly less in awe of what seemed like their impenetrable auras of confidence and wit.

But November 19th, the date of this year’s Coffeehouse, was less than ideal. Sixty-five percent of the senior class applied early to college, and most students had applications due on either November 1st or November 15th. For most seniors, the idea of biting off even more work to do in that time, regardless of how much fun it would be, was less than appealing. That meant that many creative seniors chose not to participate in Coffeehouse. While I think the class was still able to put on a great show (and this is coming from a completely unbiased perspective,) rehearsing and planning didn’t feel like the class-bonding activity it was supposed to. It felt more like a showcase for a few students’ wit and talent than a huge team-effort, a display of seniors as individuals instead of the senior class as a whole, and that, to me, was disappointing. Senior Coffeehouse should be like FroshProject in the sense that everyone participates for the fun of it. Unfortunately, given the timing, it was impossible for many people to participate, and it was harder for

those who did participate to have fun.

In addition to falling right after the early application deadlines, the Friday of Coffeehouse also fell right before the week-end preceding Thanksgiving break. That meant most seniors were flooded with major assignments. Coffeehouse is not a major time commitment; Chris Rowe reminded our class over and over again, it always comes together at the last minute without hours spent rehearsing. But that said, the week of coffeehouse gets crazy. Students are busy editing films, finalizing dance routines, improving scripts, and it’s hard to enjoy doing those things when one has a math test and a history paper due the next day. And because November is such a busy month with Thanksgiving break, a fun school event is not as needed to break up the monotony of the routine.

November is also challenging because not that much of the school year has happened yet; there haven’t been many assemblies, school events, or club activities, and this makes coming up with material to mock difficult. Happenings from the year before don’t provide good comedic material because new students won’t get any of the references, and they are often too far from returning students’ minds to be funny.

For these reasons, I propose that Coffeehouse be moved to February. While schoolwork would certainly still occupy the lives of many seniors, we would not have to deal with the stress of college applications on top of it. Coffeehouse would be more enjoyable for seniors in February, and the community would benefit from a fun night in an otherwise dull and dreary month. Bonding in the fall is nice, but February is when the senior class really needs to come together so we can enter the final months of our tenure at CA with a feeling of pride and togetherness. And sure, seniors wouldn’t be as mysterious, but watching known beings perform can be even more exciting.

Coffeehouse should be energizing; it should not be a reason to down even more caffeine. But I fear that, if it remains in November, that is exactly what it will be for years to come.

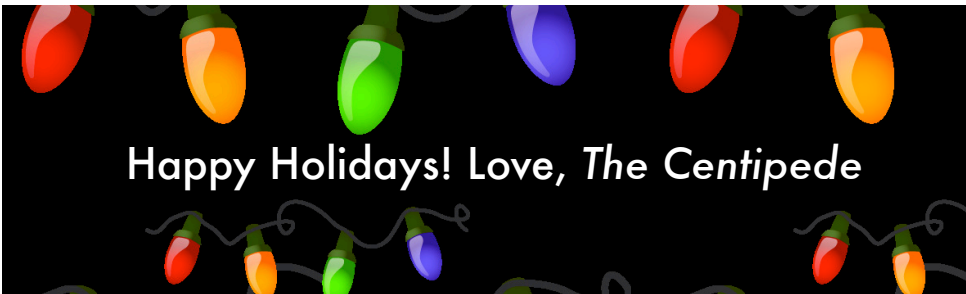


Image courtesy of jameslimousine.com.

would make a great partner for a winter break fling, but be wary of competition. After performing all around the world, these boysmen practically have groupies for every day of the year, so getting with one of them might be difficult right now. But even if you do have your mind set on dating a rock-star, all is not lost – rumor has it that their choreographer is available.

Capricorn (December 22 – January 19)

Your birthday will be here before you know it. As a CA student, you might think that an appropriate birthday celebration would include pulling a “Night of Champions” and staying up all night writing long papers and research projects. Despite the respect you would earn from your peers, you shouldn’t try it. You would come in to school the next day looking really tired and hung-over, and since it was your birthday David Rost would suspect you had been at a party where alcohol was served. Whether or not you view our current streak of four D.C.-free months as a good thing, you probably don’t want to be the one to break it.

Aquarius (January 20 – February 18)

Confidence is your greatest weapon. Whatever you may lack in skill can be made up for by being blatantly headstrong. Some people might interpret this self-assured attitude as arrogance, but they just don’t understand. Pay them no heed, haters gonna hate.

Pisces (February 19 – March 20)

With exams around the corner, you can be forgiven for getting caught up with your work, forgetting to change your clothes, maybe even not showering. What is not acceptable, however, is spending more time with Dan Sanford than with your real friends. No matter how much you love science, you don’t want to have any more chemistry with Mr. Sanford than is academically required. That would be unforgivable (and possibly DC-able).