



The Centipede

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A Senior Reflects on Orientation and First Days

by Harry Breault '16

“Who am I going to meet here?” I asked myself as I contemplated Concord Academy’s emerald late-summer glory. This was a solid question that would receive an immediate answer, because I knew almost nobody when I treaded my ratty sneakers into Orientation. I even stumbled through the name game, choosing to call myself “Halifax Harry” because I couldn’t think of anything else that started with “H.” I know that I ended up meeting people and enjoying myself, but the fact that I can’t remember who they were or much of what we did suggests the obvious: Orientation barely lives on in memory, and thus it can’t be a make-or-break moment to determine the rest of your life! So, here’s your first assignment: stand still and breathe deeply. You’re going to be fine.

I recognize that Orientation feels a little like waiting for a hurricane: the weather might be sublime today, but you still know that some lady named Sandy is destroying Atlantic City and wants to hang out with you on Tuesday morning. It’s normal to be nervous, but I promise that it’s unnecessary. I speak from experience: CA is nothing like Hurricane Sandy, and your first day will not be a stormy disaster.



Orientation 2014
Photo courtesy of David Rost

My beginning at CA turned out to be quite mild. I switched my classes around a little, did some homework, and lazed my way around Intramural Tennis. It was the life, and I settled in.

The work did get harder, but my friendships grew deeper at the same time. I was unafraid to lean on people for help, and I was loved and supported when I needed it. I adored my teachers and my classes. I even figured out how best to utilize the Stu-Fac—and learned the acronyms, too. In the town of Concord, I discovered great ice cream, then better cheese, and then *coffee*. In fact, I even discovered that I don’t recommend the fried eggplant with pasta at New London’s Pizza. It’s an exercise in inflated expectations.

I have been here for three years. Through conversations and silences, successes and failures, I’ve discovered a lot about myself. My struggles have filtered through many people—from my sainted advisor to my friends—until through still-unsolved challenges, CA has become an indispensable second home to me. I believe that you will feel that too—and I speak for everyone when I say that we’re always there to help you. Most important of all, we’re glad to have you here.

The 10 Commandments of the Commuter Rail

by Isabel Cushing '17

Riding the train to school can be daunting, especially if you don’t have much experience with public transportation. However, taking the commuter rail to Concord Academy is actually really straightforward and, more importantly, lots of fun. It is nothing to be nervous about. Whether you are going to ride the train to and from school every day or are a boarder who wants to travel to visit friends or relatives in Boston, it is useful to understand how the train works. In my opinion, here are the ten most important things to know for a smooth, painless train experience -- some insider tips from a veteran train student.

1. Get to the train early. Trust me, I’m speaking from personal experience -- it is not fun to run with a 30 pound backpack to the platform just as your train is pulling away, especially (as is often the case) when there’s not another one for at least an hour. Make sure you leave enough time to get there in the mornings, taking into account traffic and other unexpected events. When leaving CA to go home, it is just as important to leave extra time. The walk to the train takes eight minutes on average, five if you speed-walk and maybe three if you sprint, so leave with at least ten minutes before the train is scheduled to arrive. It can be nice to walk there with twenty or thirty minutes -- plenty of extra time -- and grab an ice cream, a slice of pizza, or a hot drink at any of the shops right next to the train station.

2. Dress warmly, especially during the winter. It can get really cold in New England. I am one of those people who hates to wear a coat, not to mention other winter accessories, but I have found myself regretting my bare-minimum winter clothes policy when I’m standing outside, waiting for the train in the freezing cold weather. On those (hopefully

rare) occasions when the train is late, you can find yourself standing on the platform for over half an hour. I would advise a hat and gloves, as well as a scarf on particularly cold days.

3. Try to avoid using the bathrooms on the train, if you can. The train restrooms are claustrophobic, smelly, and just all-around gross. Of course, in an emergency it’s good to have the bathrooms available, and you can always use them if necessary, but they are definitely less than ideal.

4. When a friend or even a CA student you don’t know that well forgets money for the train, help them out. What goes around comes around, and I guarantee that someday you’ll be the grateful one when another kind soul pays for you.

5. If you have a smartphone, download the “T On Time” application! It costs a few dollars, but in my opinion it is worth the price. The

app lets you know when trains are running on time and when they are late, and provides helpful alerts regarding breakdowns or weather delays.

6. Don’t count on getting your homework done on the train. It’s tempting to leave your math problems or your English reading for the next morning when you’re exhausted and overwhelmed with homework, but in reality it is hard to successfully complete work on the train. The train car is noisy and full of excited chatter, so you might find that you want to give up on your assignment and have fun with your friends instead. If you find yourself exhausted and working late into the night, my advice is to go to sleep. You can wake up early in the morning and finish your work when you are refreshed, as long as you make sure to finish it before you have to leave home for the train. If you still can’t complete everything, just be honest with your teachers. Most likely, they’ll understand.

7. When the train breaks down or is seriously delayed, which hopefully will be a rare occurrence this year, we all help each other out in organizing carpools home. As I said earlier, remember that if you are generous and help others get home, the karma will come back to you in a good way. We train kids are a community, and we help each other.

8. Eat breakfast at home, or bring something to-go and eat it on the train. You won’t have time to eat at school before chapel or announcements, and the morning can be long and unbearable if you’re hungry, especially on days when you have late lunch.

9. Pay attention on the way home to make sure you don’t miss your stop! In the mornings, all the CA students get off in Concord, so it’s pretty much impossible to forget to get off, but it’s not quite as simple in the afternoon. Everyone goes home at different times, and furthermore, we all get off at different stops, so be sure to listen carefully for the announcer and watch out the window to keep track of which stops you have passed. I missed my stop on the late train home once, and trust me, having to deal with an unfamiliar station and trying to get a ride from disgruntled parents is not fun -- I was so flustered, I couldn’t even find my way out of the Porter Square platform to the street!

10. Don’t worry about who you’re going to sit with, especially during the first few weeks. You’ll probably know some other train kids from Orientation who you can sit with, and even if you don’t, go up to someone and ask to sit down. You’ll get to know everyone better if you’re not afraid to put yourself out there and sit with a student you don’t know. I, for one, would be happy to meet a new student this way. I’ve had some wonderful train rides and conversations with people I didn’t know before I sat down.



Each year, a large portion of CA students ride the train to school. Boarders utilize the commuter rail as well for trips into Boston and elsewhere.

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What to Eat in Concord

What to Do in Concord

by Lorenzo Lampietti '16

Although Concord Academy students love to complain about our supposed lack of food options, we are in fact truly lucky to have so many different places available to eat around town.

One staple of many CA students' diets is coffee. The three most common options for coffee around Concord are Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, and Haute Coffee (or there's our very own cafeteria coffee if a walk off campus is too much effort or too time-consuming). Starbucks has very good hot coffees and lattes. They also have the widest selection of teas available and an excellent rewards program. However, they are quite expensive and charge more for soy or coconut milk (unfavorable for students with lactose intolerance). Dunkin Donuts has inconsistent service depending on who's working, but specializes in iced drinks and Coolattas of various flavors. The coffee is very cheap, and they have doughnuts, which is a definite plus. Finally, there's Haute, which is the most café-like atmosphere around Concord. It's the most expensive but has a great vibe and good, fresh food. They support local enterprises and have specialty blends of coffee, although their sizes are often smaller than those of the other two locations. For those who don't know much about coffee, people tend to choose Starbucks for hot coffee, Dunks for iced coffee, and Haute for the best coffee.

There are also many food options around Concord. Main Street Café has lots of menu options, specializing mostly in sandwiches and salads. They serve three meals a day and have a small burrito place in the back (which is the only Mexican place in Concord). Main Street also serves a variety of delicious smoothies, and has the best bakery-type food around. (However, if you want a cookie, definitely pop over to Sally Ann's Food Shop to grab one of their many excellent options.) The main downside to Main Street is the price, as most of their options are fairly expensive. Another excellent sandwich place is the Cheese Shop, located across the street

from the Post Office. Their options are also fairly expensive, in part because they support local businesses. They also have excellent customer service, which is displayed when they make your food on the counter right in front of you. The best place for brunch in Concord is Helen's Restaurant. It is very popular, and therefore often quite crowded, but deservedly so. Helen's also serves a wide variety of menu options throughout the rest of the day. The main downside, however, is that they only take cash. Two lesser known but equally delectable options are the far-flung but exotic Farfalle, an Italian market, and the closer and more popular La Provence, a French restaurant. Both serve deli-style options along with prepared meals.

The pizza debate is mainly centered around three restaurants: Sorrentos, Comellas, and New London. Sorrento's has excellent thin crust pizza with that classic Italian feel to it. They also have many delicious specialty pizzas. It is slightly more expensive, but the service is quick. Remember that they always give you double the number of slices that you ordered! Comella's has fairly slow service, but serves the cheapest cheese pizza in town. They also have a wide array of amazing pastas available. Finally, New London's serves the thickest, cheesiest pizza in Concord. They specialize more in subs and fried foods, are super casual, and have very quick service. It is somewhat expensive, but has very large portion sizes, and what I would call the most delicious food in Concord, to compensate for it.

Lastly, there's Chang An's, the only Asian restaurant in town. They serve good Chinese food, have very quick service, and offer a \$10 lunch buffet until 3 o'clock every day. It is probably the farthest walk from CA, but is almost never crowded.

Concord's food options provide a tasty break from schoolwork and your daily routine. Taking a walk on a sunny afternoon to grab sandwiches with a friend is truly a wonderful and relaxing way to spend time. When the weather permits, and even when it doesn't, make sure to enjoy what the town has to offer!

by Somerset Gall '16

Concord Academy's campus offers plenty of opportunities to keep busy. Students can spend free time on the Quad during the warmer months or in the Upper and Lower Stu-Fac when the weather grows colder. The Student Health and Athletic Center hosts a well-stocked gym for those who wish to workout. Open campus provides further activities for students. One of the main benefits of a campus located within Concord center is the availability of food beyond that of the Stu-Fac.

Concord boasts a wide array of restaurants, from the classier Cheese Shop, Main Street Cafe, Helen's, or La Provence to the more casual, including the two main pizzerias, Comello's and Sorrento's. For lighter alternatives, grab a coffee or a snack at Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, or Sally Ann's. A staple of some students' diets is snacks from Haute, a coffee shop tucked in in Concord Center with delicious pastries and sandwiches as well. Bedford Farms, located right next to the train, is a must try for the ice cream lover. While Concord provides many the opportunity for eating, it provides exercise opportunities as well. The yoga studio On the Mat is just a short walk from CA and provides

accessible classes for students. CA offers a yoga class program for a winter sport, as well. While not on extended campus, for a fun extended venture, Walden Pond is a great early fall and spring resource. Whether you walk, run or drive there, Walden Pond is the perfect place to cool off after a hot day full of classes. Closer to campus, the Sudbury River offers the possibility of canoeing trip for a peaceful excursion on the water.

Sometimes having no destination at all is the best way to enjoy Concord. Take a walk or a run around the center, perhaps towards the Moriarty Athletic Campus to watch a game or just for the view. When quiet studying needs to be done, the Concord Free Public Library, just across the street from Concord Academy, offers a cool, calm environment for students. Furthermore, if a book is not available at CA's library, the Concord Free Public Library is sure to either have the book or be able to order it through the Minuteman Network. A resource for when options are limited in Concord, the commuter rail offers students the ability to venture into neighboring towns. Between campus, extended campus, and the commuter rail's range, students always have opportunities to find something to do in and around Concord.



Pictured to the left is Helen's and to the right, Main Streets Cafe. Some students frequent these restaurants after school, or during frees or weekends.
Photo by Molly D'Arcy



CA Lifesavers

Are you nervous about starting high school or transitioning to a new place? Do you have the bugs and jitters that every new student experiences? Transitioning into a new high school can be difficult, even overwhelming, but knowing a few things about Concord Academy can lessen your anxieties and help you to settle in easily. Getting familiar with CA's environment and atmosphere can encourage you take advantage of the various opportunities that it has to offer. At the end of the day, we all want to make your CA experience awesome!

During the first week of school, you will have the opportunity to make changes to your schedule. During this "drop/add period," you have the flexibility to drop classes if your schedule is getting too hard to manage or to add classes that you are interested in. You can also tinker with your schedule to fit in different things or to move between levels of classes. This way, with the guidance of your advisor, you can be confident about taking classes that are the right fit for you.

A typical CA school day begins at 8:30 AM with a Chapel talk on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, or Announcements on Mondays and Thursdays. During Chapel, the entire CA community gathers to listen to a member of the senior class talk about really anything. Although giving a Chapel is not required or expected, most students take advantage of the opportunity to tell their unique story to the community, and Chapel talks are often considered one of CA's most cherished traditions. Announcements take place in the P.A.C (Performing Arts Center). Students enter to their designated seats in their grade sections and are informed about any upcoming events. The "announcements" themselves can concern anything from sports games, club meetings, and information from student council to funny skits and presentations. Announcements are a lively and exciting way to start the day and give you an opportunity to be silly, as they begin and end with music blasting from the speakers.

In the middle of the school day is every-

one's time for nourishment....lunch! Depending on your classroom, your lunch block can vary between 11:35 and 12:50. CA lunches are divided into three blocks: early lunch (11:35-12:05), middle lunch (12:05-12:20), and late lunch (12:20-12:50). If middle lunch seems short, don't worry! It is only for those students who already have lunch block free, and in reality these students can eat at any time during the entire lunch period. Once you get to the cafeteria, you will have various lunch options to choose from, ranging from a soup or salad to the hot lunches provided by the kitchen staff. You can make yourself a panini, wrap, or even your own fried rice! And, of course, you can satisfy your sweet tooth with an assortment of desserts like cheesecakes, sugar cookies, and ice cream. If you want a break, you can always choose to dine at one of Concord's many eateries, provided they are on extended campus. (Read Lorenzo Lampietti's article on "Where To Eat In Concord")

At the end of the day, most students head

to their sports practices. As students weave their way through this hustle and bustle, you might notice that bags are piled on top of each other and sometimes spread haphazardly across the floor. At CA, students are able to leave their belongings anywhere and know that they will find them untouched and unmoved when they come back. This freedom creates a bond within the community that is known as 'Common Trust.' Having this trust enables students to feel comfortable and at home at CA.

Another thing you might notice is that students address most teachers at CA by their first names, with the exceptions of Mr. Howe and Ms. Gray. (Don't worry—they're not mean, and they won't get mad at you if you accidentally call them by their first names!) Doing this breaks down the student-teacher divide, and students can more easily learn from teachers when they are unafraid of them.

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Operations Undertakes Summer Renovations



The Operations team reworked Aloian Circle and other parts of the school over the summer.
Photo courtesy of Ben Carmichael.

by Sofie Jones '18

As this past school year drew to a close and students cleared out for the summer, the Operations Staff began work to ensure that Concord Academy’s campus would be ready for the upcoming year.

This summer’s biggest projects included a reworking of Aloian Circle, improvements to the IT office, and the installation of new sewage pipes.

Six year-round workers and twenty-two summer workers have been on campus this summer, working to complete the projects before school begins. In addition to their work on larger and more noticeable projects, they completed approximately a dozen smaller projects. These projects were often suggested by department chairs or other members of the CA community.

Aloian Circle, the primary drop-off and pick-up spot for students, has been updated to better serve students and parents during busy hours. A curb has also been added and the asphalt path leading onto the Quad has been narrowed to suggest that it should not be driven on.

In addition, the old cement sidewalks have been changed to brick and two new sidewalks have been added on both sides of traffic to create a safer walk to campus. Director of Operations Don Kingman said that these changes have made the area safer

by separating pedestrian students from the busy traffic flow. In addition, softer lighting and a new fence have been added.

There have also been changes in front of the boarding houses, such as a continuation of the new fence along the front of Haines House. The walkway to Haines House has been updated to a new granite pathway.

Improvements to the basement rooms in Phelps House and Admadjaja House have been in the works this summer. Previously dark rooms have gotten larger window wells, providing more light.

Construction will also extend to the Main School Building, where a new sewage line was installed from the Performing Arts Center to the Chapel. This new pipe will replace the rotted one, which contributed to the evacuation of the Main School Building during the last few weeks of the 2014-2015 school year.

Improvements to the IT Department office have also been completed, resulting in a new communal space that Kingman believes will benefit both staff and students. The space in the Maintenance Barn now has couches and a more productive and open design.

Although Kingman is anticipating that his team will be “racing, racing till the very end” to have it all done, the Operations Staff is confident that they will have it all finished before students stream back to campus to start the school year.

Universiade The Next Generation of Olympians

by Eugene Lee '18

This past summer, South Korea hosted the Universiade, a worldwide sporting event where athletes contend for 883 medals across twenty-one sporting events. Although this sounds quite similar to the Olympics, there is a crucial difference: Unlike the Olympics, the Universiade is a competition between university students -- pure amateurs in their sports -- from all over the world. This year, Gwangju hosted 12,885 student athletes from 143 different countries. This biannual competition was one of the largest international sporting events of 2015, but many people, including me, had never heard of it.

The games were proposed in 1891 by the International University Sports Federation, (FISU) which intended to create a series of sporting events for students in rotating host capital cities. Paris, France hosted the first Universiade in 1923, and ninety-two years later, the student athletes still compete with

the same fervor for their sports and pride for their countries. The event is also a chance for students to enjoy a feast of global cuisine. This year’s Games was one of the year’s most vibrant and diverse sporting events, especially given the setting in the multi-cultural city of Gwangju.

The Universiade began on July 3rd and lasted for twelve days. Several events were highly anticipated, including track and field and swimming. The track was dominated by Russia, which went home with twenty-nine medals. The swimming events were dominated by the United States, which won a total of 34 medals. In the end, South Korea was the victor of the medal tally with 47 gold medals, followed by Russia and China, which placed second and third respectively with 34 gold medals each. The United States placed fifth, ahead of both France and Italy.

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Nine Students Participate in InSPIRE Program

by Alex Berry '17

While spending hours in air-conditioned rooms and fluorescent lighting may not be everyone’s idea of a perfect summer, it certainly has its perks. For the eight rising seniors (Nina Callahan, Tommy Girdwood, Andy Jin, John Koury, Maya Lubeck-Schricker, June Sass, Julia Shea, and Pasha Sonkin) and one rising junior (Linc Berkley) who participated in the Concord Academy InSPIRE program (Interested Students Pursuing Internship Research Opportunities), a portion of their summers was spent interning in labs throughout the Harvard, MIT, Tufts campuses.

“In its [CA InSPIRE’s] first year, one student was placed in an internship,” said Concord Academy science teacher Amy Kumpel, who has been leading the program since the beginning “Since then, the program has grown, and in the summer of 2015, the InSPIRE program placed nine students in research internships in the Boston area. A total of 46 students have participated to date.” The *Centipede* caught up with two of the interns, Shea and Berkley, and interviewed them about their summer experiences.

Shea responded to Kumpel’s request for applications to the InSPIRE program in late-January of 2015. On the application, Kumpel asked the students what areas of scientific research interested them. “I put a few different things,” said Shea. “I said that I wanted to do something biology-related. Within that I said I’m really interested in neuroscience [...] and then genetics.”

The only rising junior in the program, Linc Berkley '17, described that multiple science teachers, including Kumpel, had recommended InSPIRE to him based on his passion for science at CA. Berkley took their advice, seeing as it was a “great way to get an internship without having to contact lots of different labs.” While, like Shea, Berkley was also interested in biology and was offered spots in a couple of biological labs, he chose to intern for Dr. Mattais Scheultz in the Tufts Human Robot Interaction Lab.

For Shea, her reason for applying to the InSPIRE program was fairly straightforward. She had an interest in science and a free summer. However, Shea was also intrigued by the prospect of a laboratory-based internship because she had no idea what that entailed. “I have gone on college tours where they say: 95% of our students are involved in research. I kept thinking, “What does that mean?” I feel like research is something that so many people at the graduate and undergraduate level participate in, yet it was so mysterious to me.”

Shea ended up interning at Harvard Medical School’s Department of Genetics Colaiacovo Laboratory, spending most of her time working with Elizabeth Altendorfer (Lisi), a PhD candidate who had been at the lab for a few years. Altendorfer was manipulating the site of “crossing over” in a species of microscopic worm, *C. elegans*.

Many upperclassmen might be familiar with the concept of “crossing over” from ninth grade biology, a rite of passage at

CA, as a crucial step in meiosis. During the formation of gametes in sexual organisms, genetic material is exchanged in the chromosomes, which increases the genetic diversity of the offspring.

“In wild type worms, crossing over occurs exclusively at the chromosome arms (terminal thirds of the chromosome),” writes Shea in the CA InSPIRE Wordpress blog. “Lisi is interested in this pattern and examines the meiotic results of DNA that she engineers.” The lab is using a mutant strain of worm whose meiosis does not involve crossing over; Lisi then targets a double strand break (and thus cross-over) in the center of the chromosome using sgRNA and an enzyme. The lab then observes the gametes that result to see whether they are viable.

You might find it difficult to see the practical application of such research, and so did Shea. She admitted that she had a difficult time teasing an answer out of her mentor. Shea managed to find out that “infertility and a lot of genetic disorders relate to chromosome missegregation. If crossing over occurs in the wrong place, like what we’re trying to have happen, the chromatids don’t separate properly.” The hope is that by seeing the affects in smaller, model organisms, human disorders with similar symptoms will receive attention.

For someone who hasn’t taken biology in two years, it is impressive that Shea was able to quickly pick up on the complex gene research of a PhD student.

Berkley’s time in the Human Robot Interaction Lab was largely spent with PhD students as well. Except, Berkley had had much fresher knowledge of coding than Shea had of genetics. He has taken multiple classes in computer science while attending CA, not to mention his work with the CA engineering club, DEMONS, and personal pursuits. Still, “I was definitely out of my comfort zone at some point because going into it it was hard for the graduate student to know what I was capable of,” admitted Berkley. “The first week I would be doing some tasks that seemed to be easy and some tasks that seemed too hard.”

“A lot of what I worked on was programs that take in a general description of an object, like you could say, ‘it’s a cube that has a loop-shaped handle on the top,’ and it would use those instructions to make a specific 3D model-file that could be used in a simulation.” From there, the robots in the lab could “generalize an action from a single human demonstration,” explained Berkley. In the methodology of modelling and coding that Berkley wasn’t familiar with, he learned a great deal from his mentors. “With all of this 3D modelling it had a bunch to do with rotational math that I really didn’t understand before but I figured out quite well by the end.”

Shea was unsure when asked the question: “Would you want to do this kind of research in the future?” Although she said she enjoyed her internship greatly, she did not have much “ownership” over her work. “I could see myself doing some sort of scientific research in the future, and in that case I would probably feel in charge of my experiments,” she said. Berkley seemed more confident that he would want to pursue a path similar to his InSPIRE experience.

With the rising number of InSPIRE applications each year, the program is continuously looking for mentors for these students. If you or someone you know can provide a summer opportunity in the sciences, engineering, or computer science to a qualified Concord Academy student, please contact the InSPIRE program coordinator, Amy Kumpel, at amy_kumpel@concordacademy.org.



Julia Shea '16 spent most her internship working at this lab bench alongside her mentor, Elisabeth Altendorfer.
Photo by Julia Shea

Graffiti is Art, too

by Leo Feininger '16

Among other things, the 2014-2015 school year began with the inception of Concord Academy's street art and graffiti club, known as "The Collective." Currently, the club is co-headed by Alek Lyman '16 and Katrina Wang '17.

The objective of The Collective is to promote, educate, and involve the community with perhaps a more urbanized and modern style of artwork that has depth, variety, and a lot to offer. Another objective is perhaps to bridge the gap between street art and graffiti (terms which, while similar, have very different connotations) in such a way so as to open more people up to the art form. While the ideas of street art and graffiti are essentially the same, I feel that the term "graffiti" has somehow been pushed aside by the more favorable term "street art," to denote more the illegal side of the art form, which many people unfortunately see in a negative light.

Last year, The Collective made its debut at Club Expo. Stationed at a booth featuring large, colorful walls, it was received enthusiastically by many members of the community.

During the following semester, the club



Section of the Collective's inaugural 8'x12' mural designed by Katrina Wang '17, Spring 2015.

Photo by Alek Lyman '16.

was able to complete its first project: the construction of a small art wall, and the painting of the first mural on that wall.

Various individuals from the community, including Drawing and Sculpture teacher Chris Rowe, contributed to this first effort. The end result was a vibrant, cartoon-like image depicting a dragon breathing fire on a city. The mural was based on a sketch contributed by co-head Wang.

I can remember as a freshman and sophomore at CA and thinking "Wouldn't it

be great if there was some sort of public art wall at CA?" I was thrilled to find at the start of my junior year that this idea was going to become a reality.

I would imagine that most of you reading this have probably seen at least a few murals or large art-installations in public spaces before, and in general they tend to be vibrant and attention-grabbing in a positive way. Especially for a high school campus, a mural like that of The Collective is still

sizeable, and stands as an interesting and valuable feature within the community. It may be noteworthy to mention that the mural is actually made up of three large pieces of wood that can be moved around, so it doesn't exactly have a set location.

While The Collective's future is not set in stone, the art wall is likely to remain a vital part of the club. Part of the nature of graffiti, and street art in general, is that it is often temporary, for better or for worse. Murals are often covered by new ones, and the more "controversial" graffiti is often blotted out of existence or covered by other graffiti. With this in mind, the art wall could potentially become a way of featuring different artists on a monthly, or perhaps even a biweekly basis, depending on the level of interest demonstrated by the community.

Other activities could include smaller-scale artwork, community projects, film-screenings, or any number of other things.

Regardless of what happens, co-head Lyman says: "The Collective's planning for an active and exciting upcoming school year." So no matter what, you can definitely expect something fun and interesting from the club this coming year. If you have any questions, Alek and Katrina would be happy to fill you in at Club Expo.

Movie Review: Straight Outta Compton



by Carter Kratkiewicz '16

Even if you know nothing about the rap group N.W.A. or don't particularly like rap music, *Straight Outta Compton* is well worth seeing. This two-and-a-half hour film paints an in-depth portrait of N.W.A., one of the most famous and influential groups in hip hop history. It also provides context for the group's music and actions. There's a solid chance that you'll come out of the film liking their song "F*** tha Police" significantly more than you did beforehand.

The film focuses on the five members of group: Eazy-E, Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, MC Ren, and DJ Yella, and follows their rise to success from the rough streets of Compton, California. The most recognizable names on that list are Dr. Dre, the second richest person in the rap industry, and Ice Cube. Eazy-E is also a huge name in the hip hop community, and the film brings him further into the public spotlight. Interestingly, the characters of DJ Yella and MC Ren are not explored or given much plot significance in the film. They essentially have supporting roles in their own storyline. However, this isn't surprising given that Dr. Dre and Ice Cube were both producers for the film.

The acting in *Straight Outta Compton* is outstanding. Biographical films face a daunting challenge: the actors need to embody the public figures they are portraying so well that the audience doesn't even think about the fact the character is portrayed by an actor. The actors in this film give it their all and make it seem almost effortless. The film's five main characters are not played by famous faces, but by unknown actors who can embody the characters the best. This is very unlike Hollywood, which prefers to shove big names in your face whenever it can. Jason Mitchell plays Eazy-E in a powerful and emotional performance. (I don't want to jump the gun, but he may be an early contender for an Oscar nomination.) O'Shea Jackson Jr. looks like a perfect clone of Ice Cube, which makes sense because he's Ice Cube's son. Jackson's performance brings a lot more to the table than just looks, however. He embodies all of his father's mannerisms—facial expressions, ways of speaking, patterns of walking—to

such a degree that it's actually very difficult to distinguish between the two. Corey Hawkins may not resemble Dr. Dre as much as Jackson resembles Ice Cube, but he also gives a brilliant performance. Dr. Dre shies away from the spotlight and is considered somewhat mysterious; he recently told an interviewer for *Rolling Stone* that he has social anxiety, which contributes to his reclusiveness. Hawkins' performance provides some insight into the life and personality of this intriguing man. Despite the lack of a story surrounding DJ Yella and MC Ren, the two are portrayed excellently by Neil Brown Jr. and Aldis Hodge, respectively.

The notorious Suge Knight is played by R. Marcos Taylor. Knight is a producer and executive with ties to members of N.W.A. as well as to musicians like Tupac Shakur. In the film, you can feel the menace and unpredictability radiate from Taylor just as it does from Suge in real life. So as to not give too much away, I'll leave this quote anonymous, but it seems to sum up most people's feelings on Suge Knight: "...Suge Knight is an evil human being...I should have let him kill him [Suge]. I would have done the world a favor."

Disturbingly enough, the racism and police brutality shown to plague the 1980s and 1990s is still incredibly relevant today. Real footage and news from those times are displayed in the film and seem distressingly familiar. It's almost as if we've seen the same footage very recently. It's been roughly 25 years since the events portrayed in the film and yet the same things happen in 2015, week after week. The film is perfectly timed, released at a moment of outrage regarding racism and police brutality, and brings these issues to the big screen. The message which the film drives home is that police brutality is still a reality.

Straight Outta Compton wildly surpassed my expectations. Director F. Gary Gray takes on a behemoth of a topic, and yet everything fits comfortably into a satisfyingly long film. On the strength of fantastic acting and thought-provoking content, this film truly does justice to an important and compelling story.

The Art that Surrounds Us

by Armando Herreria '16

This past summer, I had the opportunity to live in West Hollywood with the founding principal of a high-profile architecture firm. He was a well-tanned, well-groomed man in his late 60s with an exponentially decreasing amount of hair and an exponentially increasing amount of money. I learned many lessons while living with him and his partner, but the one that has stuck with me the most has been this:

Art is all around us, if only we are willing to see it.

This resides with me, because it continues to ring true in daily life.

Every room we enter, every door we walk through, every street we cross was planned creatively, and with some artistic notion in mind, even if the designer didn't necessarily realize it. Every chair, door, and wall was created and set into place not only to serve a functional purpose, but also to create a certain aesthetic. Furniture, accessories, and wallpaper can all be gothic, can all be midcentury, can all be modern.

But interior design and architecture are not the only examples of the art we see every day; album covers, billboards, stickers, and animated movies are just a few other examples in their own unique ways.

So we come to the penultimate question: Does this incessant flood of imagery truly have artistic merit?

Can we really call Kendrick Lamar's latest album cover art? Or that hip shirt from American Apparel? Or that weird lamp sitting in your living room?

I think so.

Because, if art is supposed to elicit specific emotions, then surely a room can have artistic merit: rooms can be cold, or cozy, or homey. And in the same way, surely a shirt or a lamp can have merit as well.

But perspective is a funny thing.

Each and every one of us perceives the world in a different way. Perhaps this is a result of our various lived experiences, or the manner in which we were raised, or the area in which we grew up.

I don't know.

What I do know is this: we all have our own truth.

You can find art in the objects and imagery around you, or you can perceive them as having single, intended purposes, and use them for those purposes only.

What will you do?



Warner Bros. Lobby (left) & Macquarie Headquarters (right), as designed by Beckson Design Associates.

Photo courtesy of <http://www.becksondesign.com>.

Deflategate Controversy Plays On

by Jeremy Liang '16

As the days tick away to the start of the NFL season, fans are brought closer and closer to the climactic finish to the Deflategate controversy. On July 28th, the league remained content with their initial four game suspension of the New England Patriots' star quarterback Tom Brady over involvement in tampering with the gameday footballs, a sentence that many were sure would be reduced. The controversy, which initially seemed like a small accusation against the Patriots, has slowly created real consequences for both Brady and the Patriots organization. Even as they must do battle without the face of their franchise, the Patriots are also docked of their first and fourth round draft picks. At the moment, the loss of these picks seems to be minor compared to Brady's suspension, but the lost selections could prove to be just as big of a hit for the Pats.

Given that very serious punishments were handed out for what many consider to be a fairly minor infraction, many league analysts are left scratching their heads at the decisions of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. Prior to the initial decision, Goodell asked criminal attorney Ted Wells to conduct a private investigation for the NFL, and while Wells concluded that it was "more probable than not" that Brady was "generally aware" of the deflation of his footballs, there seem to be a few too many adverbs in Well's conclusion. Of course, the report had moments that show the quarterback and the Patriots organization in a bad light, such as Brady's refusal to hand over his cell phone, but the punishment still feels a little too harsh for the crime. Many wonder if the deflated footballs really had much of a decisive impact on a 45-7 rout of the Indianapolis Colts.

Obviously, the result of the game is not the point of the penalties against Brady and the Patriots. Cheating is still cheating, and some sort of punishment is necessary. However, the general assumption of many sports analysts was that the suspension length for the Patriots quarterback would be reduced or simply removed. Thus, Goodell's decision to uphold the initial suspension was perhaps even more shocking and controversial than the initial decision. Both Brady and Patriots owner Robert Kraft have publicly announced their discontent and anger with the decision, and it is clear that the bridge linking the league's commissioner and the Patriots organization has not only been burnt, but completely razed. Goodell's jurisdiction seems to be made not out of fairness but out of power, and it is clear that the NFL commissioner is going "all-in" with what's left of his tarnished legacy.

Despite being one of the most powerful men in all of sports, Goodell has lost much of his leverage as a commissioner. Hav-

ing entered the league with an iron-fisted mentality towards protecting the integrity of the sport, the commissioner has become increasingly concerned with the NFL's public reputation. In the social media era, issues like player safety and domestic violence are becoming even more pressing for the league, and Goodell is doing his best not to let the league's perception slip completely through the cracks. In his assessment of the Ray Rice domestic violence scandal (which, admittedly, has very little if not nothing at all to do with Deflategate), Goodell seemed to be making his decisions in call-and-response fashion, adjusting Rice's suspension length twice due to outrage from the general public.

This time however, the public's opinion remains out of view for Goodell as he deals with Deflategate and tries to reclaim control of the NFL. The ruling in Deflategate is very much a power play for the Goodell. Normally, a harsh punishment towards a league superstar would seem absolutely preposterous, as it would inevitably hurt the ratings of the league. This is exactly why Goodell is ruling on Deflategate so harshly. By showing ruthlessness and mercilessness with Brady and the Patriots, Goodell is attempting to gain leverage over the league owners and regain his reputation as a respected, yet feared commissioner.

Of course, the risk of this power play is already very apparent, as angering two of the most powerful men in the NFL in Brady and Kraft is normally not such a good idea. The National Football League Players Association (NFLPA), the body that represents the players of the league, already has an appeal against Goodell's ruling in court right now. Should the NFLPA win, the commissioners' attempt to create leverage would backfire significantly. However, Goodell has probably already anticipated this type of response from the NFLPA, and knowing the great lawyers that work with NFL, it's entirely possible that Goodell has put himself in such a vulnerable position because he knows he can win in court. Finally, with the case between the NFLPA and the NFL being held in New York, where judges have historically ruled in favor of the league, Goodell's reckless play for power might actually work.

According to the NFL game operations manual, use of "a non-approved ball" results in a fine of at least \$25,000. If the Patriots had admitted that they had purposefully used underinflated footballs, even if they really had not, perhaps the \$25,000 fine would be the only consequence. Now, however, the Deflategate Scandal may leave ugly, lasting marks on Brady's Hall of Fame career, which up to this point, was a spotless narrative. In the long run, playing one game with underinflated footballs is not that big of a deal. Genuine damage to Brady's legacy, however, is serious, and would truly be a deflating consequence for Patriots fans everywhere.

A Political Summer to Remember

by John Koury '16

As the Grateful Dead once said, "What a strange trip it's been." For those interested in politics, this summer has been a cavalcade of attractions and sideshows pertaining to nearly every topic one could imagine.

America's foreign policy is one of the hottest topics for debate. Most everyone has an opinion on the international role of the United States. Dominating discussion this summer was the issue of America's relationship with Iran. Since the late 1970s, Iran's military and economic standing has been tightly controlled through trade embargos and political sanctions. Up until this point, the Western world's primary area of concern was Iran's refinement of uranium, a crucial component of the building of nuclear weaponry. Through these aforementioned sanctions and embargos, the US and other world powers hoped that Iran could be bullied into ceasing refinement research. Instead, Iran continued to work towards gaining nuclear weaponry, exercising every possible loophole. This summer, many Americans watched with great consternation as Secretary of State John Kerry negotiated a treaty with Iran to lift the embargo and reopen trade with the Iranian people. The stance of the executive brance revolves around the hope that the younger Iranian generation will evolve towards a more Western mindset, thus making that their old rulers obsolete. On the other hand, a coalition of Republicans and Democrats in Congress are of the opinion that the treaty rewards Iran with financial incentives that will be used to further finance terrorism. The fate of the deal remains undecided.

Another controversial issue was the late-June Supreme Court ruling in which bans on same-sex marriage were ruled unconstitutional. While supporters of the decision declare it a victory for equality and love itself, detractors denounce the decisions as a breach of the preservation of religious freedoms. The decision creates tension with several prevalent ideologies and uncertainty over whether churches will be required to

perform same-sex marriages.

Lastly, this summer has marked the true beginning of the 2016 presidential race. The most significant change and upheaval has occurred within the Republican candidate pool. The Democrats, at this point, have only two major candidates: former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. Clinton, despite having the most name recognition, is plagued by a significant amount of baggage. Her past as a politician is by no means spotless, especially regarding the attacks in Benghazi, Libya, leaving many informed voters reluctant to side with her. The other candidate, Sanders, is the voice of a grassroots movement and is somewhat of an underdog. Though he has been able to win the support of those members of the party base who are bitter toward Clinton, his position as a self-proclaimed socialist may make him somewhat unappealing to some Democrats and those who identify as independent. Recent reports have indicated that Vice President Joe Biden is considering entering the race, in hopes of appealing to voters who are not enthusiastic about either Clinton or Sanders.

For the GOP, with a candidate pool of seventeen, attention has been divided amongst a plethora of eligible politicians. Notably, businessman Donald Trump's tendency to speak his mind and disregard political correctness has turned him into one of the most polarizing candidates. While setting forth plausible policies, as well as having a background as a capable business strategist, his lack of tact has narrowed his appeal. Nonetheless, Trump remains the front-running Republican candidate. Still, other candidates continue to gain ground, notably Florida Senator Marco Rubio, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, and neurosurgeon Ben Carson. At this point, the race for the Republican nomination remains up in the air.

Universade

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Rather than simply promoting sports amongst student athletes, this year's Universiade also sought to encourage an eco-friendly environment. The values of democracy and human rights were also repeatedly emphasized throughout the historic host city. This year, the concept of the Gwangju Universiade was "EPIC," which stands for: "Ecofriendly, Peace, IT, and Culture." The event supported orphanages and assisted students who were in need of financial support. By emphasizing these values, FISU tries to encourage fairness in impressionable student athletes, preparing them for future leadership

roles in international sports.

The 2017 Universiade Games in Taipei, Taiwan promises to confirm once again the value of international athletics. Once more, an incredible mix of cultures will come together for exciting sports events. Hopefully, the world will pay more attention to the event this time around. However, even if the event remains largely underreported, passionate athletes will still be able to learn about other cultures and compete on behalf of their countries, ensuring another spectacular Universiade and the continuation of the tradition for many years to come.



"It's not too early to speculate about the 2016 election."
Photo courtesy of liberapedia.wikia.com

The Centipede

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The *Centipede* is the official student newspaper of Concord Academy. The paper encourages 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.

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The mission of the *Centipede* is to inform, spark curiosity, and generate discussion within the community and beyond. The majority of the content relates to school issues, events, and news, but occasionally writers voice their opinions on politics, sports, and other contentious topics.

New (or returning) students: Are you interested in writing for the *Centipede*?

Email Julia Shea (julia.shea@concordacademy.org) or Harry Breault (harrison.breault@concordaadeemy.org) for more information! No experience necessary and anyone can join!

Lifesavers

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If you're looking for a place to hang out with your friends, CA's Quad is a popular destination, especially during the fall and spring when the weather is more hospitable. On the other hand, if you are looking for a quiet place to study or do homework, your best bet is probably the library. Martha, the librarian, is very resourceful and will be more than willing to help you find information for research projects or papers. You are also free to go to the Concord Public Library across the street if you need additional information. Want help with anything under the sun? Please don't hesitate to reach out to the adults on campus if you have questions or concerns. The most obvious source might be teachers, but you're always welcome to ask Dean of Academics John Drew, Dean of Students

David Rost, Dean of Faculty Jenny Chandler, and Community Life Office mainstays Jackie Decareau and Nancy Howard—they are all truly happy to help you! The Academic Support Center (ASC) is also a great resource if you need academic assistance of any kind. Our Health Center, located in the Student Health and Athletic Center (SHAC), is led by Jeff Desjarlais and our nurses, Eve and Gianna. They are always there to help students with physical injuries or mental health needs. Please know that asking for help carries no stigma at CA. Everyone truly wants you to be safe and happy. Lean on your advisors: they're truly there to guide you and care for you.

But, most importantly, remember not to walk on the senior steps in front of the Chapel lawn, and don't cut across the Quad! Here's to another fantastic year at CA!

Weiner '13 Pursues Journalism Beyond CA

by Julia Shea '16

Charlotte Weiner, former Executive Editor of the *Centipede* and a 2013 graduate of Concord Academy, has taken her interest in journalism to new heights. This upcoming year, as a college junior, Weiner will serve as the Managing Editor of the *Yale Herald*, a weekly known as “Yale’s Most Daring Publication Since 1986.” But, before her junior year starts, Weiner has been up to something else.

This past summer, Weiner worked for a nonprofit organization called The GroundTruth Project, whose mission, according to Weiner, is “to inspire the next generation of foreign correspondents reporting on social justice issues.” Founded by Charles Sennott, GroundTruth is a Boston-based offshoot of GlobalPost. As the name suggests, GroundTruth sends its journalists to the ground—the heart of the story—with the aim of reporting with a human touch. “I couldn’t have done my work sitting at a desk in Boston,” Weiner reflected.

Weiner spent one week on her own, driving from location to location in a rental car, and another week in the company of a group from Colorado College. Inspired by a class she took last year on natural resource policy, Weiner proposed the idea of reporting on those personally affected by the diminishing water supply of the Colorado River. Eager to tackle environmental issues, GroundTruth approved her idea.

During her two weeks on the ground in Colorado and Arizona, Weiner met with a former rancher, a river guide and advocate, the CEO of Denver Water, a NASA researcher studying earth science, and an environmental advocate and head of Save the Colorado, among others. With notebook in hand, she educated herself on all aspects of an issue that she had already spent a month researching beforehand. She learned about the politics of water consumption, which center on an age-old agreement allocating water usage rights to seven southwestern states and on

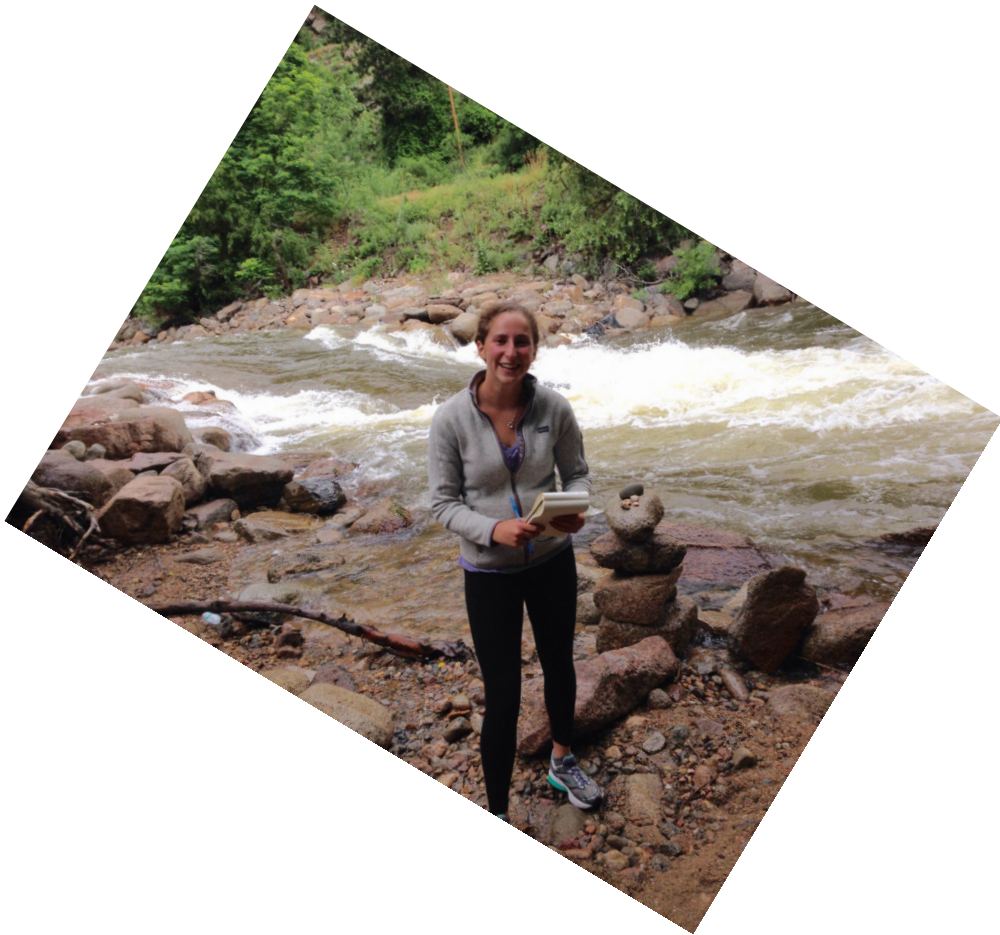
the expanding needs of growing city populations. And, she learned about climate change from those who have experienced its effects firsthand.

After two weeks of gathering perspectives, information, and stories, Weiner headed back home to the keyboard. She compiled her notes and developed two stories – one centered on Gunnison, Colorado., and the other on Page, Arizona. The personal tone of the stories is immediately evident. Intertwined with the meat of the issues are ripe details about the people Weiner met throughout her journey. She also transports her audience to the setting of her stories. As an example, she paints a vivid picture of a ranch in Gunnison as “a carpet of green grass, then hills that rise out of the flat plains, waves of khaki green and brown.” In describing a former rancher named Kathleen Curry, Weiner writes, “Curry wears a baby blue cardigan over a plaid button-up with a small, embroidered pattern of pink flowers near each shoulder. The softness of the outfit belies Curry herself.” The personal tone of the long-form pieces subtly conveys the urgency of the problem.

Weiner attributes some of her interest in journalism and writing in general to CA’s English classes and to her work on the *Centipede*. “I really learned how to write in my English classes at CA,” she said. Although Weiner is undecided about her future, she sees journalism as a “jumping off point.” She said she is considering a career in early child education or teaching.

“Journalism is just an incredible way of learning a ton about a specific area in a short period of time” she concluded.

Author Nelson Algren once said, “A writer does well if in his whole life he can tell the story of one street.” Weiner seemed to accomplish just that, except she told the story of a river rather than a street, and did so within just one summer.



With a fellowship from Yale, Charlotte Weiner '13 interned at GroundTruth and spent two weeks traveling to areas affected by the Colorado drought.
Photo courtesy of Charlotte Weiner

