Campus green initiative

Students begin digging the garden.

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How does a garden, food, and Lake Forest College all relate? A beautiful and innovative embargo towards improving the school’s community will now take place in the form of a garden. Food represents our culture, tradition, and relationships. By using food as a way to relate to one another and to educate ourselves, it can become a uniting source that will lead toward building a better campus relationship. Also, understanding where our food comes from can help us see the big picture in terms of an overall healthy lifestyle.

Building a stronger campus community is the essential idea behind this vegetation operation. While students can contribute their time and clean pants to volunteering for the garden, they can also learn and help teach one another various skills that they will be able to take with them years after they’ve graduated. The ability to personally shape the campus can give students a sense of “ownership,” or connection that they might not have had access to until this point, says Liz Birnbaum, the Environmental Studies Program Coordinator.

As a school, Lake Forest College has been really supportive of both the Environmental Studies Program, largely funded by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation, and it’s green initiative. New classes, such as Biodiversity and Agriculture, which link the knowledge learned in the garden to the classroom, have been recently added, as well as a few others. Jennifer Lindsay of the Office of Residence Life has intentions of partnering with the E.S. initiative and has said, “Residence Life staff sees this project as a great opportunity to bring faculty, staff and students together.” Even Aramark, who provides the college cafeteria’s meals, has some hope of incorporating the garden’s tasty produce into their dishes.

Though as brilliant and exciting as this new garden plan is, LFC cannot take complete credit for its origin. So far there are eight out of fourteen schools in the American Colleges of the Midwest consortium, which already have launched their own gardens or farms. Indeed, community gardens and urban farms, as well the more popular farmer’s markets, have been steadily increasing around the nation.

Though LFC is not a predominate environmentally school, many students have expressed their interest in the environmental issues and groups throughout the campus, as well as the opportunity of working in the garden. An example of such interest is reflective in the Student Government, which voted unanimously in favor of the garden. The administration was even able to bring together the planning within the last fall semester, revealing a very fast acceptance to this new green agenda.

The garden itself, located behind Glen Rowen, will be about 4,624 sq. ft. and will in part contain two large plots traditionally tilled and 6 smaller beds that will be double dug, to help incorporate more planting space. There will even be one bed dedicated to Spring 2010 seniors, whose biodegradable gowns will create the earth used for those plants. Nada Finn, from Greentown Waukegan community garden, has generously donated 7,000 seeds to the garden including herbs, flowers, berries, and vegetables. Planting will begin sometime between mid and end of May. The garden will help embrace the college community by allowing students “to receive out-of-classroom experiences that complement and deepen their education” (Five Year Plan for Lake Forest College). It will also hopefully promote further interest concerning environmental incentives and programs either on campus or beyond. Upcoming volunteering opportunities are available April 28th and 29th for the “Digging on Reading” days, which encourage students studying for finals to take a break and stop by the garden for an hour to help with the initial dig.

Enjoy the sketch of the garden.

Front page illustration provided by Liz Birnbaum

Photo provided by Liz Birnbaum

News Briefs:

4/22-Yoga from 6-7:15 pm in Buchanan Hall
4/22-2010 NFL Draft from 6:30-10:30 pm in the MSC
4/22- A Better Life Movie Screening and Panel Discussion at 7:30 pm in the McCormick Auditorium
4/22-Chicago Latino Film Festival Movie: Leo’s Room at 9-11 pm in the McCormick Auditorium
4/23-Spring Leadership Awards from 4-6 pm in the MSC
4/23-Railroad Conference from 5:30-9 pm in the Calvin Durand Lounge
4/24-Railroad Conference from 8:30 am-7 pm
4/24-Life Science Seminar Series “Targeting the Disguised Command Centers in Brain Cancer’ from 11 am-12 pm
4/24-Southapolooza ’10 from 11 am-3 pm on the South Campus Quad
4/24-Softball vs. Knox College at 1 pm on the Softball Field
4/24-10th Annual NeuroFrontiers Workshop Lenti on the Brain: Strategies for reducing amyloid-beta pathology in Alzheimer Disease at 4:30 pm in Johnson 200
4/24 - The Vagina Monologues from 7-9 pm in the McCormick Auditorium
4/24-LU Carnaval ACP from 10 pm -2 am in the MSC
4/25-Railroad Conference from 9 am -1 pm
4/25-Softball vs. Grinnell College at 1 pm on the softball field
4/25-Men’s Tennis vs. Ripon College at 3:30 pm on the tennis courts
4/27-LAST DAY OF CLASSES
4/27-Softball vs. North Central College at 3:30 pm on the softball field
4/27-Play Date Study Break from 5:30-8:30 pm in the MSC
4/29-Yoga from 6-7:15 pm in Buchanan Hall
Commencement Honors

MARGARET COHN
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On Saturday, May 8th, the 132nd Commencement of Lake Forest College will take place at 10:45 am at Ravinia Park. The commencement will feature multiple noteworthy speakers.

Daniel Gross, the main speaker, is a financial journalist, columnist, book writer and senior editor at Newsweek. Gross’ career focus is on economics, a topic that is relevant to every American. His writings cover topics such as economic and tax policy, the links between business and politics, the rise of the investor class, and business history.

In addition to Gross, Dr. Darlene Clark Hine, Board of Trustees, Professor of African American Studies, Professor of History and Chair of the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University, will speak. Dr. Hine has published multiple books and essays, including Black Women in White, which has won multiple awards. Dr. Hine will be given the honor of being Doctor of Letters.

Award-winning playwright and past artist-in-residence at Lake Forest College, Rebecca Gilman, has been produced at the Goodman Theatre, Royal Court Theatre, Lincoln Center Theater, Joseph Papp Public Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, and Manhattan Class Company. Ms. Gilman was named a finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for her play, The Glory of Living. Gilman will be the honorary Doctor of Literature.

The late Grace Groner ’31 will also be honored. Groner recently passed, leaving $7 million to Lake Forest College to create scholarships for study abroad. The gift she left was the largest scholarship gift the school has received. Her generosity has been featured in the Chicago Tribune, ABC World News Tonight with Diane Sawyer, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and other major news outlets. Groner will be given the posthumous honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities.
Our Editor-in-Chief Speaks

Fellow Foresters,

I would like to thank the student body for all of your support and patience in this difficult transition period of The Stentor. I would also like to remind all Lake Forest College students of the importance of student-run press here on campus.

This year The Stentor has covered important issues including the Arahmark firings, the color turquoise and the great egg debate.

The Stentor seeks to inform the common student of the goings on of campus on a weekly basis. However, we depend on student involvement in order to have far-reaching coverage.

I leave The Stentor in the capable hands of Zakea Boeger and Andrew Van Herik, two seasoned veterans that will rely upon your involvement as responsible and caring students at Lake Forest College.

Everyone here at The Stentor would like to request that all students take an active interest in the continued publication of the newspaper, which will cease to exist without student involvement.

We put out every Thursday. Will you?

In the illustrious words of Winston Churchill,

“A man does what he must - in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures - and that is the basis of all human morality.”

Annie Cooper

Opinion: An informal introduction to the vulgar brilliance of Cracked.com

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Haven’t heard of Cracked.com? You’re in for a ride. It’s basically a blog… I don’t like blogging, but this is amazing. It’s rude, intelligent, politically incorrect (but goddamn they mock everyone), hysterical, and all of it is true. I love the lists. What are these lists about? Oh...everything.

6 Spectacularly Bad Ideas From History’s Greatest Geniuses. The 5 Creepiest Unsolved Crimes Nobody Can Explain. 6 Soldiers Who Survived Shit That Would Kill a Terminator...search the site (or read on) for more. You’ll find something, because the range of topics is astounding.

I decided compile my own list: 5 Articles That Get Me Every Time.

5. 12 ‘Sexy’ Ads That Will Give You Nightmares. This is visual; it’s unfortunate you can’t see the images I see. I’ll describe some goodies. Toddler, pouty-lipped and female; hair is curled; eyes are blue; lipstick and mascara present. Oh, and she’s givin’ you the sex-eye. Unsettling. Top picture: boy, little toy car on the floor. Bottom picture: same car, same boy...except his face is buried in the crotch of an old man in a chair. Hitler. Doggy-style. Stop me when you feel uncomfortable.

(4) 5 Movie Martial Artists That Lost a Deathmatch to Dignity. This is also visual: Most Pathetic Moment Caught on Film provided for your viewing pleasure. Yes, Chuck Norris is #1. Let’s recap the others. #5: Steven Seagal (who makes me ill). I once watched one of his movies withoutbaring AND while being “amazed”.

(3) 10 Great Books To Drugs: Done. Cautionary Tales For Children: ABC book, each one describing an awful fate (“Matilda, Who told lies and was burned to Death.”). Alfie’s Home: This title is almost...comforting.

2. The 5 Most Baffling Sex Scenes in the History of Fanfiction. Oh the whacked-out secrets of the Internet...for each “match,” we have (1) The Scenario, (2) But It Really Gets Creepy When, and the (3) Plausibility Factor. Allow me to give you a...taste: Captain Jean-Luc Picard/Elrond (Lord of the Rings); Frank N. Furter/Highlander; Indiana Jones/Lord Voldemort. Intrigued? Why not? And the “Creepy When” section has excerpts. Yes, it’s worth your time.

(1) 7 Kama Sutra Tips That Will Put You in The Hospital. From a book about pleasure come ideas that should never, ever be tried. Ever. Men, here’s a tip: enlarge your penis with a wasp sting! Ladies, want to make it better for your man? Bite the sides...but remember that at climax, “jaws often...spasm and clamp shut, and can inflict a serious wound.” Your man will never forgive you.

It’s tempting to share the #1, but then you won’t check it yourself. Added bonus: you can read much funnier writers: the glorious staff that is Cracked.com.

Want more? Extended article at thestentor.com
DIY for the scientific amateur, part deux: Holography

ZAKEA BOEGER
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Saturday afternoon marks a sort of in-between time for most Foresters. There’s the time in-between Saturday and Sunday brunch, the potential of some productivity on the weekend in-between nights, and the potential for recovery time in-between Saturday morning and Saturday night. This Saturday afternoon, however, several students spent their in-between time a little differently: making holograms.

About 20 or so students gathered in J-100, some physics (or other science) students and some with no science experience whatsoever, to listen to a presentation by Dr. Tung H. Jeong on the past, present, and future of holography, as well as make some holograms of their own. Dr. Jeong, professor emeritus at Lake Forest College, described his retirement as a period for students and some with no science experience whatsoever, to listen to a presentation by Dr. Tung H. Jeong on the past, present, and future of holography, as well as make some holograms of their own. Dr. Jeong, professor emeritus at Lake Forest College, described his retirement as a period for himself to “teach children how to make holograms,” and he does just so, spending a great deal of his time going to various grade schools for demonstrations and hands-on holography projects.

“So, you should be ashamed of yourselves if you can’t do it,” he joked to us on Saturday. Dr. Jeong wasn’t lying: the supplies necessary for holography could be picked up at any number of local stores, and included such objects as sand, a thick piece of paper (to be used as a shutter), some type of wooden box, several small pieces of glass, a simple laser, and various chemicals along the lines of photo developer solution and a very mild bleach. The exact situation of these items is a bit difficult to describe, which is why I have included a well-crafted diagram.

While we made our own simple holograms using various personal objects (Although I should note that I do not recommend using a foam lobster or other obnoxious animal as make some holograms of their own. Dr. Jeong, professor emeritus at Lake Forest College, described his retirement as a period for himself to “teach children how to make holograms,” and he does just so, spending a great deal of his time going to various grade schools for demonstrations and hands-on holography projects. “So, you should be ashamed of yourselves if you can’t do it,” he joked to us on Saturday. Dr. Jeong wasn’t lying: the supplies necessary for holography could be picked up at any number of local stores, and included such objects as sand, a thick piece of paper (to be used as a shutter), some type of wooden box, several small pieces of glass, a simple laser, and various chemicals along the lines of photo developer solution and a very mild bleach. The exact situation of these items is a bit difficult to describe, which is why I have included a well-crafted diagram.

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Holograms of a mouse nibbling on provisions.

A Vook Review for the Masses

MADEEHA KHAN
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Yes, yes, the future is now. So get with the program and read a hypertext novel! Here I have delicately laid out for you a short review of Toc, intended to create mystery and confusion in your mind, but above all curiosity.

Steve Tomasula’s Toc: A New Media Novel (FC2/University of Alabama Press) is a multi dimensional space in which the reader/listener diverges. Divert! Delight! Delectate! From start to finish this electronic novel is mind-blowing. The birth of twin royal brothers in different time zones, Chronos (time) and Logos (logic), functions as Toc’s metanarrative. The two brothers fall into an eternal fight for the throne, with one declaring he is older because he was born first and the other because he was born at an earlier date. This metanarrative provides a backdrop to several sub-narratives, including the story of a pregnant Vogue model, a woman who climbed a ladder so high she could see the future, a man who dug so deep he could see the past, an inventor of time, the people of time, and the people of not-time. Toc’s pervasive beauty stems from its excellently crafted sub-stories. Each one is woven into the narrative of the history of time and superimposed over elegant imagery of steampunk clockwork, read aloud in gentle waves of narration, or viewed through a “crystal ball.” The delicate and sophisticated aesthetic quality of Toc is guaranteed to impress.

The interactive aspect of Toc is also notable. While not exactly choose-your-own-adventure, Toc does allow for the reader to customize her experience. Both sections, for there are indeed two, allow for choices to be made. The reader/listener/pointer/clicker chooses whether to go right or left, to read water or to watch sand. These choices, while not actually changing the narrative, do influence the order in which the story unravels.

So darling readers of mine, go forth and purchase Toc (or ask to borrow mine) and make your choice: who will win? Chronos? Or Logos?
Seeing the world from beneath a desk

KATIE McLAIN
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My LFC-issued dorm room desk is like most on campus. It’s made of heavy wood, has drawers that refuse to open in humid weather, and it has a large cutout in the middle that is made for accommodating my knees and for capturing food crumbs, old pencils, and lost earrings. But the cubbyhole underneath my desk, as I have recently discovered, is also an efficient hiding spot. And as the end of the school year draws nearer and nearer, I am much more inclined to take shelter under my desk.

I sate for inevitable ignorance. I am merely commenting on how easy it is for us as students at a privileged liberal arts college to forget about what’s happening outside of our little sphere.

We hold fundraisers and campus events to raise awareness of global events, and most of us donate time or money. But at the end of the day, we are given a plentiful supply of food and a comfortable place to live. Most of us are guaranteed some sort of future after graduation. A small donation is all that is required for us to become concerned and charitable citizens. Again, I am not serving as a member of the morality police. I am simply wondering what will break us of our comfortable routine, although a large part of me is afraid to learn the answer to this question.

So perhaps I will start keeping an eye on the news over the summer to compensate for inevitable ignorance next year. But for now, the looming pile of homework is dominating my workspace and the real world’s getting a little too scary. Please excuse me as I hide under my desk.

But when summer comes, I will be thrust back into the real world. I will be yanked out from underneath my desk and forced to confront everything I have conveniently managed to block out since being at college. You know, if I hadn’t taken the time to let my homepage fully load one morning in January, I might not have learned about the earthquake in Haiti until a friend mentioned it to me.

And if I didn’t have a friend currently studying abroad in Europe, I might never have learned about the erupting volcano in Iceland. (I should also note that I only just now found out that volcano is located in Iceland, thanks to a quick Google search. I had no idea otherwise.) But I can’t ignore this sort of stuff so easily once I’m away from campus.

I’m not entirely sure if being a college student is a valid excuse for my lack of awareness, but I suppose it’s just as valid as claiming that I don’t have time to log onto MSNBC.com every morning, or that it’s just easier to pretend like these things aren’t happening.

This is the point where I should classify myself as a hypocrite, because even as I type this article, I am fully aware that it is highly unlikely that I will take more time to research these global matters in the future. But I am not trying to condemn or criticize or serve as a high-minded judge, because I am fully aware that I am just as guilty of this crime, if not more so, because I am aware of my ignorance. I am merely commenting on how easy it is for us as students at a privileged liberal arts college to forget about what’s happening outside of our little sphere.

Opinions

Editorial Cartoon
by Irene Ruiz Dacal

Update on fundraising for laid off ARAMARK workers from Latinos Unidos

We just wanted to let everyone know that the fundraiser that was organized by Vicky Ano, Justin Messmore, Alex Monhav, and Miguel Angel Gonzalez for the eight ARAMARK employees who lost their jobs finally came full circle this past week.

At the end of it all we raised $800.00, which was enough to provide each individual with $100.00 a piece. Although it may seem like a small amount, it has brought overwhelming joy to these eight, wonderful people.

After such a devastating loss, both personally and monetarily, these eight individuals are astounded and thankful that there were people who cared enough to make an extra effort just for them. This is the first time that anyone has ever done something so generous for them, and it is this restored faith that has helped ease their search for the next steps in life.

Today, we are all grateful that we could come together and show a little of our gratitude for everything they did for us. As always, there is no amount of money in the world that will ever replace their presence and value at Lake Forest College. Thank you to everyone who contributed and aided in this effort. Your help will never be forgotten.

Vicky Ano ’10
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Parking: The troubles of "West Campus"

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Lake Forest College students have recently discovered a new loophole in the parking system. The residents of Lake Forest may know it as the corner of Washington and College Road, but the students know it as “West Campus.”

Students living off campus have developed their own parking lot that allows them to park near campus without having to pay the $200 parking pass fee charged by the College. Regardless if students need the pass for the full school year or only a month, they still need to pay the full $200. The college does not offer any kind of deal if a student doesn’t need a pass for the full school year. No matter how long the student needs the parking pass, they will need to pay the full fee of $200.

Dick Jones, Lake Forest College senior, says, “The college should provide commuter students with a unique parking pass that allows them to pay for the amount of time they park their cars on campus.” “Students who live on campus drive to class and get to leave their cars parked in the lots 24/7,” says Jones. “Why does a commuter student, who parks his or her car on campus for a total of 10 hours a week, have to pay the same amount as another student, who has their car parked on campus for the full year?” The students are not the only ones who seem to be affected by the College’s parking system. Residences that live near “West Campus” do not like having multiple cars parked out front of their house throughout the entire day. Mimi Kastanza, resident of Lake Forest, says, “It is really hard to pull out of my driveway in the morning.” “There are cars parked outside my house all day and night which makes it extremely inconvenient for not only me, but everybody who drives down Washington Road; the street is too narrow for cars to get through easily when the College students have their cars parked on the street,” Mimi explained. “Lake Forest College needs to do something about this before the police get involved,” she said.

It seems like the administration of Lake Forest College should figure out a way to accommodate their commuter students before the residents of Lake Forest take it into their own hands. Lake Forest College can offer commuter students a unique parking pass and a type system that enables them to pay the college for the amount of time they use the parking lots. The college is losing money by allowing students to park on “West Campus.” The distance from “West Campus” to certain class buildings is equivalent to the distance from the college’s student parking lots to other class buildings.

Students park on “West Campus” to escape the cost.

Photo by Zakea Boeger

Opinions

Ending, Sorting, and Folding My Freshman Year

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The school year is coming to an end. It seems hard to believe. But in a week, the last day of classes will be here, followed by the finals we will all try to rush through, and the days when everyone will clear out of the dorms that we called our homes for eight months.

It seems surreal, but in less than a month my freshman year of college will be done. I am already anticipating the classes, dorm, activities, and friends that I will have next year. But the fact that I will be a sophomore when I return to campus next fall seems more like an idea than a reality.

I’ve been told that the definition of sophomore is apparently a “wise fool.” That definition seems to make sense to me right now. After all, I am looking forward to returning next year with all the lessons learned and unlearned from my freshman year of college and the probably false notion that things might be a little easier than they were these first couple semesters. I certainly did learn study habits, work ethics, independent living, and all the other things people say you figure out your freshman year.

But I could just as easily say I unlearned many of the notions and stereotypes that you gain as you grow up in one place and then leave behind when you go somewhere new. You think or feel about many of them. You have a wealth of cash to spend, but only a vague inclination of where you want to spend it—or any at all if you still haven’t declared a major like me. Albeit, I guess I’ll be finding out what exactly makes someone a “wise fool” soon enough (in just four months).

What seems even more foolish to think about, though, is that leaving my freshman year isn’t really that special. I mean, it is special to me right now because it seems like I am getting old and almost running out of time at college. (Yeah, I have three more years, but with how quickly this first year went I can’t count on them lasting too long either). It seems special because it kind of marks the transition from finding a new place, to finding your niche within that place that no longer seems foreign and instead sometimes seems more familiar than the place you left behind.

But in the grand scheme of things, my moving from a freshman to sophomore isn’t that unique. Thousands have done it at this very college before me and thousands will do it after me. In fact, looking around at this dorm that my roommate and I have covered in posters, boards, and post-it notes seems weird with the knowledge that two other girls will be finding out what exactly makes someone a “wise fool” soon enough (in just four months).

And in that light, any part of a college is only a part of a person for four years—and then it’s someone else’s. And that only convinces me more that the years I am spending here had better keep being full of experiences and lessons I somehow keep sorting through and discarding or folding up in a drawer.

Perhaps the comparison to doing laundry seems a little bit of a stretch. But then I sort of feel like that’s what we all do throughout our lives: take the lessons and events that happen, clean the memories for the amount of time required to remove their stains, and then store away and hold on to what we want to keep and discard what is too old and worn out or just isn’t right to hold onto anymore.

My freshman year is really about to end. That sentence still seems a bit overwhelming to me. And while I know it’s nowhere near the weight that a junior or senior must feel as an open future comes closer, it is still the experience I am having at this point in time, just as those about to leave this college for good had at one point as well.

It will be pretty sad leaving college for the summer and saying goodbye to everyone, many for just a few months, but others maybe even for good. The prospect of saying goodbye to this place and these people for a time is almost here. But we’ll all continue the process of taking in the moment and letting it out, I suppose, as so many college kids have done before us and will continue after us, too.

This is the last Stentor issue of my freshman year and simply because it’s the last one, it isn’t quite like all the others I’ve helped with so far. But that is what makes it all so worthwhile in the long run: to make each issue in life unique, whether it’s a paper, a class, an activity, a job, a college, or a summer—even if every issue is published and passed out on a weekly basis.

Have a great four months, everyone!
As the academic year comes to a close and the spring sports season nears its end, the Men’s Tennis team has a lot to be proud of with just two matches remaining in the regular season. Record-breaking has become an obsession for this year’s team, who will lose only one player next year.

The team made history last Sunday after they defeated Elmhurst College, 6-3. The win was the team’s 18th of the season, breaking the previous record of 17, which had been achieved twice before.

Joe Campagna has engraved his name in the Lake Forest Athletics history books by setting the all time record for wins in school tennis history (101), with over 10 more wins coming since and four more potential ones to come this weekend. For Campagna, his final year of wearing the red and black has been a memorable one. “It’s nice to be able to enjoy an individual accomplishment at the end of my career here,” he said in response to being asked how it felt to hold the all time record for wins in a season.

The Foresters weren’t finished yet, as senior Joe Campagna and junior Chris Paterakos sealed the victory at 2nd doubles, resulting in a 5-4 Lake Forest triumph, sending the team’s current record to 19-5 on the year.

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The saying in sports is that records are meant to be broken. While that may be true, the 2010 Men’s Tennis team does not want to make it easy for any team in the future to potentially break the record for wins in a season. Two more matches remain this coming weekend against Wisconsin Lutheran and Ripon College, meaning the team has the chance to finish the season with 21 victories heading into the postseason. As impressive and hard-earned as the record is, there are certain factors beyond the team’s control which call the record into question. The main issue is that of the total number of matches played in a season, which can vary year to year, due in large part to the weather. Last year’s team finished the regular season with an overall record of 9-5, with over six matches being eventually canceled due to the relentless rain that was prevalent last spring. Had the weather not been so cruel to the team last season, perhaps they would have been the ones to set the all-time record for wins in a season. Scheduling is another factor, given that the team doesn’t face the exact same teams year to year.

Nonetheless, the 2010 team deserves a lot of credit for all they’ve accomplished. The season has been a memorable one on both an individual and team level, with hopefully more successes to come.