**Newly enforced 12 hour per week working limit surprises and confuses returning students**

*The Business Office’s decision to enforce the policy this year has spurred all sorts of reactions.*

**Politics**

This fall, the Business Office will begin to enforce a policy that limits students to working no more than 12 hours per week on-campus jobs. Although this policy has been in existence for years, College officials decided last spring that it was time to comply with the official student handbook—a decision that has resulted in much confusion and frustration among students.

“We have always tried to enforce [the policy], but this year we have a stronger need to because we have an increase of work study eligible students on campus,” said Charles Whitfield, payroll and student employment manager of the College.

In other words, the Business Office is taking measures to make sure they have enough money in the budget to pay student employees.

“My thought was a very out-of-the-blue decision,” April Tosado ’16 said. “Everything was very disorganized...which caused major confusion in every party involved.”

Student complaints and concerns include receiving inconsistent information from the Business Office about the policy and its enforcement, reports of timecards for second and third on-campus jobs disappearing from the my.lakeforest.edu system, and lack of communication to student supervisors.

Additionally, students who quit their second on-campus jobs to comply with the change are now learning that they have the chance to appeal this limit, adding to their frustration.

**Arts and Entertainment**

**Professor of art’s sculpture project travels to Colorado**

*Professor Tracy Taylor created a Plexiglas sculpture based off of the 1857 Mountains Meadows massacre.*

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Inspired by laser cutting technology and mirrored Plexiglas, Professor of the Arts Tracy Taylor created a sculpture to reflect upon the September 1857 Mountain Meadows massacre, which occurred in Utah.

Taylor previously worked as a digital arts teacher for Native American middle school children. She recreated the art of storytelling through computer animation on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota for the past few years, where she was inspired to create a piece that represented the massacre.

Taylor created the idea of a mirrored Plexiglas topographical map of the massacre site that reflected colored light and the photos captured at the meadow during her visit.

Her visit was met with an approaching storm, which represents the essence of the calm before the storm, or the peaceful moments before a disaster ensues, like the massacre in this case.

In order to create the vision, Taylor needed help from various artists over the years. Most recently, Melissa Guadarrama ’14 aided Taylor this past summer in the packing and shipping process.

Taylor is the co-founder of Gear Up with Alice, a trip that she and students take to the South Dakota Pine Ridge Reservation in the summer to teach computer design skills.

Taylor learned about the Mountain Meadows massacre from her previous background research on massacres in United States history.

Continued on Page 2
frustration and confusion. RAs were the first to learn about the new enforcement of the policy, because they came back to campus a few weeks earlier than the rest of the students to attend training. During training, some RAs who held on-campus jobs received an email from the Business Office informing them of this decision while other RAs who also held on-campus jobs say they did not receive any email or communication from the Business Office.

RAs also have complained to the Office of Residence Life that they’re confused because their 14-hour work week requirement directly contradicts College policy. Additionally, many are frustrated that they went ahead and quit their additional on-campus job to comply with the policy just to learn later that they could have filed an appeal to possibly keep it.

Responding to RA concerns, Stacy Oliver, the associate director of residence life, invited students to a meeting to learn why their other on-campus jobs were important to them. Director of Residence Life Andrew Pollom and most of the residence directors also attended the meeting and assured students that they would share their concerns with College officials.

The meeting resulted in the adoption of an appeals process for all students that became confusing in and of itself—and that came too late for students who had already given up their positions.

The appeal process initially required students to write a letter explaining their position to Dean of Students Rob Flo) and College Treasurer Lori Sundberg. That has changed. Now, students must complete a student employment appeal form that can be found in Whitfield’s office.

“The form will allow students to write—in their own words—why they should and why they have a need to work more than 12-14 hours. This will allow students to say their feelings directly. We will look at what their rationale is among other factors. We are also currently working on making the form accessible online,” Whitfield said.

As for the question about whether an RA’s 14-hour work week will be affected, that is still unclear. Sundberg did say about the policy, however, that “the limit is spoken as 12-14 hours per week.”

The decision to enforce the policy this year was “not seen as a change” to Sundberg, Dumas, Whitfield, and the rest of the Business Office, Sundberg said. In fact, Business Office staff say they were surprised by the initial confusion of the decision to enforce the policy at the beginning of the academic year.

“In the spring of 2014, there was a student employment meeting where we invited all supervisors to discuss student employment. We did mention that we would be implementing the limits on the number of hours,” said Whitfield, who also noted “not everyone attended that [meeting].”

Sundberg also noted that turnover in that staff, specifically in the Office of Residence Life, might have contributed to some of the confusion.
Supreme Court refuses to hear appeals on five same-sex marriage

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On Monday, Oct. 6, the U.S. Supreme Court refused the appeals from Indiana, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin that were attempting to overturn the rulings of allowing same-sex marriage in those states. This refusal could also impact six more states—Colorado, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kansas, West Virginia, and Wyoming—due to the fact that the same circuit appeals court struck down these restrictions.

The number of states that would have allowed same-sex marriage would have jumped from 19 to 24.

Throughout the history of the United States, the interpretation of the Constitution and the liberties of which it provides citizens has been tried again and again. In recent years, the debate over same-sex marriage has been different from past challenges that have tried and put into question what freedoms the American people are given.

Because of their refusal to address these cases, the Supreme Court is abiding by “stare decisis” and allowing the decisions and rulings of the appeals courts to stand thus far. Because of this, already a federal appeals court on Tuesday struck down current prohibitions of gay marriage in Idaho and Nevada. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals came to the decision that the bans in Idaho and Nevada violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment toward homosexuals and their right to marry.

Many were disappointed that they were not given the opportunity to receive a definitive ruling from the Supreme Court on the issue, such as Utah Gov. Gary Herbert who was “disappointed” that there is no “finality” on same-sex marriage. But while the Supreme Court has ruled not to have these same-sex marriage cases on their docket just yet, does this mean they will never make a final decision on the matter.

As Assistant Professor of Politics Debra Levis, Chair of Legal Studies at Lake Forest College, said: “Once a majority of the country embraces same-sex marriage, the U.S. Supreme Court may be more inclined to rule once and for all on the matter. Until then, it is taking its time and allowing the country to come to terms with the issue.” Professor Levis also brought to light the fact that this is not the first time the Supreme Court has withheld ruling on certain controversial subjects right away while pivotal actions and opinions are still being formed.

The Loving v. Virginia case is a prime example of the Supreme Court waiting to make a final decision on a debatable subject. The high court did not strike down laws banning interracial marriage until 1967 with their ruling on this case, when 34 states were already allowing interracial marriage even with opposition still existing in the American population. By prolonging their ruling, the Supreme Court allows the country time to adjust to the subject matter at hand.

Through their decision to not yet address the subject of gay marriage, the Supreme Court is allowing the country to give their feedback and ruling on gay marriage through the states and their decisions on the matter.

“The Court speaks today by its ‘inaction’ to not take an appeal of the lower court rulings and let the decisions stand,” Levis said.

Nebraska school finds new ways to elucidate gender inclusiveness

Irving Middle School one of first schools to implement, address a policy to push gender neutrality

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In Lincoln, Neb., last week, Irving Middle School decided on a new policy to push gender neutrality across its students. The policy, labeled “12 easy steps on the way to gender inclusiveness,” provides teachers with a guide on how to address hostility toward those who are insensitive to genderless and bi-gendered people.

The handout, which was given to each teacher, outlines how a teacher can go about being sensitive to the difficulties of gender-neutrality and being a hermaphrodite. Step one stipulates that teachers should “avoid asking kids to line up as boys or girls or separating them by gender,” and should use tools, like personal preferences, to separate the class.

Personal preferences, according to the sheet, include whether a student likes milk or juice, and dogs or cats. It also advises the teachers to ask themselves, “Will this configuration create a gendered space?” Step two says that teachers should not use phrases such as “boys and girls,” or “you guys,” but use instead “hey campers,” or “calling all readers.” It even says to “create a classroom name, and then ask all of the ‘purple penguins’ to meet at the rug.”

Step three is about helping students choose a preferred name, or pronoun. Step four talks about “having visual images reinforcing gender inclusion: pictures of people who don’t fit gender norms, signs that “strike out” sayings like “all boys...” or “all girls...” or “All Genderers Welcome” door hangars.

Step five addresses that teachers may have to use gender references at some point, but should say “boy, girl, neither, or both.” Then, when they are asked why, they should use this moment to teach students that their classroom celebrates and recognizes the gender diversity of every student. Step six encourages teachers to ask students why they are using gender references in a binary manner, and instruct that they think a little differently. In step seven, teachers are told to “look for examples in the media that reinforce gender stereotypes or binary models of gender. When with others, call it out and interrogate it.”

Step eight tells teachers to observe hostile attitudes with tolerance, and use it as a teaching moment. In step nine, children learn “specific language that empowers them to be proud of who they are, or to defend others who are being mistreated.” Step 10 says that teachers should “help students recognize ‘all or nothing’ language by helping them understand the difference between patterns and rules, using phrases such as ‘that may be true for some people, but not all people.’” Further, it says to avoid using the word “normal” to define any behaviors. Step 11 stipulates that teachers should “share personal anecdotes from your own life that reflect gender inclusiveness.” Finally, step 12 encourages teachers to enlighten students on their own biases and experiences with gender.

Lincoln Superintendent Steve Joel told KLIN Radio’s “Drive Time Lincoln” show that he was happy and pleased with the training materials, because the school districts want all children to be happy and feel welcome, which promotes activity in the classroom, according to news sources. This is an effort to prevent bullying, and endorse equality among all students, in order to help students overcome traumatic times and learn to respect each other. If the guidelines will be introduced into the curriculum, it will be discussed, as the Irving school board is convening on Oct. 14.
Tibetan Monks: their visit through pictures

From October 1 to October 4 Lake Forest College played host to six Tibetan Monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery, one of the “great three” Gelukpa universities of Tibet. The monks participated in a panel discussion on October 1 and a Tibetan Cultural Pageant on October 2, but the highlight of their visit was the sand mandala. This mandala is made up of geometric shapes and symbols to promote compassion and peace. It starts with the meticulous drawing of the geometric figures and symbols and then begins to fill in each section with a particular colored sand. Each color sand are colors that can be found in nature.

At the end of the four days, the monks host a closing ceremony where the mandala is destroyed and some is taken to a body of water and deposited. It is believed that the water is then going to carry “the healing blessing to the ocean, from there it spreads throughout the world planetary healing.”

This is the mandala’s creation and destruction in pictures.

Free Art Institute access for Lake Forest Students

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“What should we do this weekend?” is probably a question very familiar to you. But the answer is hard to come by, particularly because, as college students, we are always thinking about money. I have a solution, my Lake Forester friends, the Art Institute of Chicago! Why? Because, it has been named by TripAdvisor, a popular travel website, as the top museum in the world, as college and the museum partnership between the college and the museum is free.

This means that any Lake Forest College student can have access to the museum for free. This is a great opportunity for all students to immerse themselves in the immense exhibits and galleries of the museum. From prints to textiles, the museum has it all; the art institute houses over 70,000 works of art. It is a labyrinth of art that you can easily get lost in for multiple days. If you are planning on going to the museum any time this month, there are some exciting exhibits that will be opening soon.

On October 11, 2014 through January 4, 2015, the museum will host an exhibit on Ghosts and Demons in Japanese Prints, and after October 13, the Magritte exhibit will close. This past month, on September 25, the Art Institute invited Lake Forest College students, faculty, friends, and family to join them in a private tour and an Artist Talk. The visiting artist, Duane Michaels, was playful with the audience and interviewers, particularly in discussing his personal experience with famous surrealist René Magritte.

After the talk, those who signed up ahead of time were given a personal tour of the institute; others viewed Magritte’s masterpieces such as The Lovers or The Son of Man.

The Lake Forest College Night at the Art Institute of Chicago was a success, and is representative of the cultural and academic enrichment that the new partnership between the college and the museum will provide.

To gain entrance to the museum for free, you must have your student I.D. The museum is open daily from 10:30A.M. to 5P.M., and on Thursdays, it is open until 8P.M. I implore all of my peers to visit the museum in all its culture and glory. Chicago is just a train ride away, and the experience is worth it, not to mention, it is free.
Don’t come back with ebola, please!

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The United States government is pulling all stops to ensure that its citizens stay safe from the deadly virus, Ebola.

Many cases of the virus have been identified in different parts of the world and because of this there are many precautions that are being taken both here in the U.S. and in West Africa.

From now on, every person will have his or her temperature taken via a “non-contact thermometer” at the airport when leaving West Africa.

The airport screening will follow these new procedures to ensure everyone’s safety. First Travelers from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone will be escorted by to an area of the airport set aside for screening. After that the Terminal Center for Disease Control and Prevention staff will observe them for signs of illness, ask them a series of health and exposure questions and provide health information for Ebola and reminders to monitor themselves for symptoms.

Trained medical staff will take their temperature with a non-contact thermometer. Next if the travelers have fever or symptoms, or the health questionnaire reveals possible Ebola exposure, they will be evaluated by a CDC quarantine station public health officer. The public health officer will again take a temperature reading and make a public health assessment.

Travelers who after this assessment are determined to require further evaluation or monitoring will be referred to the appropriate public health authority. If the traveler shows no symptoms at all then they will be given information to self monitor themselves and log their daily temperature and give their contact information.

The U.S Department of Homeland Security have also set up these “non-contact thermometers” in five major American airports. These airports are New York’s JFK International Airport, Washington-Dulles, Newark, Chicago-O’Hare and Atlanta International Airports.

CDC director Tom Frieden announced “We believe these new measures will further protect the health of Americans, understanding that nothing we can do will get us to absolute zero risk until we end the Ebola epidemic in West Africa”. 94 percent of travelers that come from West African countries like Liberia and Guinea come through these five airports so we can stop them before they get in contact with other people said Frieden.

All of these precautions are being taken in the United States because of the passing of Thomas Duncan, a Texas man who was the first diagnosed person in the United States with the deadly disease. Homeland security hopes that these new measures will help in keeping Americans safe.

First year studies class attends Chicago play

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Last Thursday night, I saw Arthur Miller’s play, ‘All My Sons’ performed at the Raven Theater. I attended the play with my First Years Studies class, American Playwrights in Chicago. Miller is known as a playwright who can effectively speak for, and to, an audience.

The play centers on the conflict between family loyalty and societal justice, as portrayed by the drama of the Keller family. Through the use of intricately planned yet simple set designs, the Raven Theater brilliantly captured the post war mood of the 1940s.

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Joann Montemurro, who portrayed Kate Keller, was entirely believable as a mother who had lost one of her sons in the war, but remains convinced he is alive. She delivered her lines in a realistic and stubborn way, which evoked a sense of normalcy.

Matthew Klingler, who portrayed Chris Keller, was unable to capture the essence of his character. He was not mature enough to portray a war veteran, rather, he conveyed a man who seemed utterly unburdened; his movements were too grand and erratic. However, the cast remained able to work as a unit in delivering Miller’s story; they moved around the stage with fluidity and chemistry. Overall, the production was very well done and effective in telling the story of a family whose lies and actions eventually come between them. Due to the fact that I read the play in class, and attended the play with my class, I was acutely aware of what was happening in front of me, and its myriad intricacies. However, I am confident that the play will be as emotionally influential to all who see it.

Deep yellow leaves, and rose petals all sprawled tree branches, night, the set designer of a storm the previous day. To produce the effects by the details of the mood of the 1940s. Captured the post war Raven Theater brilliantly. The actors’ performances ranged from wonderful to a questionable detraction from the play’s environment.

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Study shows people gravitate toward sad music

Music induces pleasant emotions, argues that these songs encompass both the felt emotions of the listener and the perceived emotions the listener has of the song. This study isolates these emotions into the two categories and discusses how they relate to each other.

The psychologists who ran the study had 44 participants who were each played a series of songs and then asked how they felt while listening. The psychologists who conducted this study played the participants excerpts from a variety of songs alternating between major and minor keys.

Sad music—you know the kind I’m talking about, right? The kind of music that tears at your heartstrings and resonates deep enough for it to become engrained in your soul for an eternity.

For decades the public has been at the edge of their seats listening to some of the most lyrically “sad” songs of their time. From the raw emotion of Etta James singing of her dark past, to the power behind Adele singing of a lost love, these highly emotional songs have found a way into the hearts of people around the world.

The big question here is, why? Why do people gravitate to songs that bring them to tears the moment they press play?

Musicologists and psychologists have examined the cause of this for decades. The feeling of overwelling sadness that is brought on by songs reads like a love letter to the listener.

The study itself also discusses the pieces written in minor keys and what kind of emotions these songs bring about. In the musical world, we generally associate minor keys with sadness and even sadder emotions. Interestingly, the study found that when participants were asked to rate 62 emotion-related words on a scale of 0-4, they felt emotion did not correspond with perceived emotion. Simply put: the participants felt a deeper range of emotions than what they perceived.

This is also just one psychological study among many that discusses the idea of why people gravitate toward songs that make them feel sad.

When asked why listening to sad music is appealing, Nissa Anderson ’15 said, “I was raised on the blues, so sad music makes me nostalgic.”

There may very well be a variety of different reasons as to why people decide to listen to sad music, from feelings of nostalgia to even heartbreak.

People around the world have been buying sad songs for decades with these artists topping the charts with songs that are overflowing with grief and sadness.

Contemporarily, the summer hit “Stay With Me” by Sam Smith is a song about a man who finds himself rattled with heartbreak over a one-night stand.

English singer-songwriter Adele said that the inspiration to her single “Someone Like You” is about feeling as if the love of her life slipped past her, married, and when she found him years later she was still alone.

Do people love to feel sad? Are we drawn to some human instinct that finds feeling sad comforting? Ask yourself why you are really listening to that sad song next time it comes up on iTunes or Pandora.

Current generation should attend more live concerts

I once had a conversation with someone that I consider to be one of the best conversations I have ever had. I asked a question about how tragic and misfortune it is for someone in my generation to never truly be able to witness a specific band from many years ago in its prime.

Yes, there are audio and video recordings, but the idea that a person can never see them live on stage when they were at their absolute best is quite heartbreaking. It had occurred to me that I would never be able experience Fleetwood Mac during The Dance tour or be able to see Styx when Dennis De Young was still a part of the group.

It feels like you’re missing a huge part of history simply based on the fact that you were born just a little too late. The person with whom I was speaking did agree with me on this point but also mentioned that no matter what time period you are from, music can be a trigger for some of your greatest memories.

When you hear a song from, say 15 years ago, it can not only bring you right back to that time and place, but it can resurface the emotions you were feeling at that moment.

What I find amazing about this is that the same song can link two different people from two different generations. I’ll use my family as an example: when I hear Queen’s “We Will Rock You,” I remember pre-
Diwan ‘16 and Gonzaelz ‘16 garner Homecoming titles

Diwan completes LFC royalty sweep; Gonzalez continues win streak from high school

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Pulkit Diwan ‘16 and Lysette Gonzalez ‘16 set the tone for Lake Forest College Homecoming 2014 when they were crowned Homecoming King and Queen respectively at the annual Homecoming Pep Rally at the campus’s Sports and Recreation Center.

Attaining school royalty status, however, is nothing new for the two Forester juniors. Diwan was crowned Jim Forester at LFC Winterfest just seven months ago, while Gonzalez has been belle of the ball before when she was named Prom Queen at Vernon Hills High School (in Vernon Hills, Ill.) in 2012.

Despite their previous victories, Diwan and Gonzalez both expressed that they relished their Homecoming wins significantly more. “I think being in college, it feels even crazier and more unbelievable [to win]. College is just bigger and in a way harder to make yourself known because everyone has different majors and schedules,” Gonzalez said.

“Getting crowned Prom Queen in high school was so amazing, but getting crowned Homecoming Queen in college was just even more surprising,” said Gonzalez, president of the campus’s Christian group, Intervarsity.

Diwan has enjoyed these past several months of crowning glory. He is the first student to win Jim Forester and Homecoming King in the same calendar year since Christopher Banville ‘14 completed the rare feat back in 2012. “It’s great! I believe I am having a dream run at the college. I feel pampered by the community, but I guess sometimes it is a good thing. I have kept the sashes and scarf very safely in my room as I am a little possessive of the accomplishments now,” said Diwan, the secretary of student government at LFC.

Diwan described being nominated as pure joy.

“I was, for obvious reasons, very excited after receiving an email by Bill Dilugokienki asking to accept the nomination and block out some space for Homecoming events. I did not expect it but I am grateful I got it. Fundamentally, I was so excited in the beginning that I forgot to confirm my nomination and all I wrote to Bill was a big happy thank you. That was a little silly of me,” Diwan said.

Gonzalez also was excited by receiving the nomination, let alone winning. “I was really caught off guard at first because I completely forgot there even was a King and Queen for Homecoming. But after that I just felt so honored and was like, ‘Oh my goodness, who the heck even nominated me?’ I was so surprised and excited,” she said.

The thrill of being nominated for Homecoming King and Queen was trumped by the excitement of ultimately winning the titles for Diwan and Gonzalez.

“I just felt so cool. All I could think about was how of all the girls at school, people wanted me to be their Queen for Homecoming. I couldn’t believe it. I was just so happy and really felt the love. And I really like that people kept calling me Queen Lysette. It was awesome,” Gonzalez said.

Diwan’s elation is obvious when discussing his reaction to winning the crown.

“[I felt] ecstatic, happy and all the synonyms one can think of. The moment was precious. It will also remain as one of the ‘best-of’ memories of my college,” he said. “Initially, I felt so overwhelmed that I had received such an honor and then I felt humbled by the people who voted for me. The realization that people like you, accept you as you are and support you is just the best. I actually do not know how to describe it.”

For Gonzalez and Diwan, this year’s LFC Homecoming was, by far, their best to date. “This Homecoming has been the best so far. Being a junior, I know more people around me that allows me to celebrate with a better and bigger company. ‘The more the merrier,’ you know? That’s why I have loved the experience in general. Thanks to all the ones who came out and made it so special,” said Diwan.

Gonzalez couldn’t contain her joy when it came to discussing this year’s Homecoming experience.

“It was amazing,” she said. “One of the clubs I am in got to give out free hot dogs to people and talk to them about their lives. I love meeting new people, so it was one of those nights where I got to meet a lot of people. And it was just fun seeing how excited people got when they found out the hot dogs were free. It was also a ton of fun to be in the parade because I have never been in one before, so that was really neat.”

Although it may be unsurprising to learn of the bliss Diwan and Gonzalez experienced with their crowning achievements this past Homecoming, both were quick to point out there are a couple things that not many people know about in regards to their wins.

Gonzalez pointed out that, despite the thrill she experienced when winning Homecoming Queen, she was also alarmed by the regalia. “The crown is seriously heavy,” she said.

In addition, the win means much more than a glitzy crown or recognition from her peers at Lake Forest College. This is something she will hold dear to her heart for a very long time.

“I also want to thank everyone who nominated me and voted for me to be Queen. I am going to remember this forever and tell my future kids about it,” she said.

For Diwan, the experiences of winning Jim Forester and Homecoming King have been unique. Diwan hails from India, where the idea of Winterfest or Homecoming is foreign.

Diwan admits that it has been difficult for his parents back in India to understand the honor and excitement that comes with being crowned king of Winterfest and Homecoming.

“The funny thing is that I was trying to explain Homecoming Court and the Jim and Jane Forester tradition to my parents. It was quite hard for them to understand because back in India we do not have any such traditions,” he said.

Gonzalez became the third consecutive Illinois native to win Homecoming Queen following in the footsteps of 2013 Homecoming Queen Kelly Callen (Waukegan, Ill.) ‘15 and 2012 Homecoming Queen Lauren Levinson (Northbrook, Ill.) ‘13. Diwan, a member of the Delta Chi fraternity on campus, broke the Homecoming King winning streak of Lambda Chi Alpha. Gonzalez will join Diwan in February to crown his successor for Jim Forester as well as the new Jane Forester.
NFL struggles to send uniform message about stance on domestic abuse

In recent weeks, the news has been saturated with stories concerning player misconduct within the National Football League. Two specific acts of domestic violence by NFL players have dominated the headlines and led to a heated controversy over the league’s management of domestic abuse cases. The first occasion was Baltimore Ravens’ running back Ray Rice, who attacked his former fiancée in an Atlantic City elevator.

Hotel cameras captured Rice punching his fiancée unconscious and dragging her limp body out of the elevator. The second occasion included Minnesota Vikings’ star player Adrian Peterson. Peterson allegedly used a tree branch to repeatedly strike his young son, leaving severe welts and scars on the child’s body.

NFL scandals involving players’ actions off the field have increasingly become a problem, and generally attract massive media attention due to the high-profile players. Additionally, there has been a general expression of discontent from members of society concerning the National Football’s handling of these incidents. This includes the general complacency of the league to act upon these incidents by imposing sanctions, as well as the severity of the punishment.

Activists have been vocal about their discontent with the NFL and that management’s lack of response to these serious issues is sending the wrong message to society.

Following reports of the Ray Rice scandal, Roger Goodell, commissioner of the NFL, stated: "Domestic violence is not acceptable in the NFL.”

Although domestic abuse cases are violations of the NFL’s “personal conduct policy,” the ultimate decision of punishment has been left up to Goodell. Ray Rice had a media appearance in which he apologized for his actions, although he did not face any legal repercussions for the incident.

Following this, many people expected to see some type of punishment from the NFL. Goodell announced that Rice would be suspended for two games, a minor suspension for a serious issue. Many people were angered by the actions of the Commissioner, who previously voiced the NFL’s serious stance on the issue of domestic violence, while imposing a lesser punishment than what is given to players for substance abuse.

Only after the hotel elevator video was released to the public did the NFL release Rice from the Ravens. This was met with stark criticism as news surfaced that the NFL had said that they had never seen the video before then, although law enforcement had sent the video to the league’s executives earlier that year.

This sparked a heated national discussion on how much information the NFL knew about these incidents and whether they were complacent about acting in the situation.

Similarly, in the case of Peterson many insiders in the NFL are reported to have had a hands-off approach to the issue, diverting punishment due process and the legal system. Peterson is currently going through trial and was only advised to stay away from the team during the proceedings.

The various stances and actions of the NFL have left many people feeling as though the league is not taking seriously the severity of domestic violence in society.

This is troubling to many, as the NFL has a substantial presence in society, and is sending mixed messages to those who look up to professional athletes.

In late August, the NFL announced a new set of rules concerning their policies regarding domestic abuse. The rules set a loose baseline of punishments for domestic abuse incidents—a six-game suspension without pay including other mitigating factors and a lifetime ban for a second offense.

Although it is clear that the NFL is attempting to reform internal policies and practices across the league, have they really done enough? Many are left skeptical about the efforts, wonder if this commitment to upholding tougher standards regarding player conduct will last or whether the league will find a way around the rules.

Lake Forest Men’s tennis team hopes to finish the season strong

John Snider ’16 talks about being an athlete at Lake Forest College, how the tennis team can finish on top in the Midwest Conference Tournament

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The Lake Forest College men’s tennis team has strong hopes of finishing in the top three spots in the Midwest Conference Tournament this spring. During the off-season, the team has been making great strides with much determination to have a break-out season.

John Snider ’16 attributes the success of the team to a talented and focused group of incoming freshman, who bring a lot of energy to the program. In order to reach their goal of a top three finish in the conference tournament, success amongst the team’s doubles matches is key. According to Snider, it is pertinent that the doubles partners mesh well and continue to play with the same energy and focus throughout the whole season. The team continues to work hard in high hopes of having a stellar conference finish this year.

In regards to the athletic environment at Lake Forest College, Snider was impressed by community support at Lake Forest athletic events.

“Athletes are starting to support each other at different events throughout the athletic department,” says Snider. However, he would like to see some changes that would give students access to attend the tennis team’s matches in nearby Lake Bluff.

“I would like to see a shuttle transport students to tennis matches to have more student fans at games since they are in Lake Bluff,” Snider said.

This, he believes, is something the College should look into in order to support the success of the team throughout their upcoming season.