



# THE LOYOLA NEWS

LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWS SOURCE

*You were not born a winner, and you were not born a loser.  
You are what you make yourself be. Lou Holtz*

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## The Loyola News is heading in a digital direction: visit us at <http://vweb.loyola.ca/loyolanews>

The year 2009 seems to be a period of changes, a period of evolution. Along with the election of Barack Obama, among other things, the Loyola News is also evolving. Despite our precious success over the years, we have decided that we too need to adapt. Technology is changing, people are changing and so are we.

One of the first things you will notice is the overall feel of paper. It has been decided that although current news is important, we feel the need to make people think. What you will find while you leaf through these pages are articles on issues that

are relevant to us, the student body. It is our hope that discussions ensue after reading because, of course, that is our mission. Yet we are not totally abandoning current news. Up to date stats on all Loyola sports teams will be posted on our website as well as interviews, current events and hopefully some film.

To make up for last terms slow down, the staff and I have decided to print a hard copy issue every two weeks. If you have an idea or issue you would like to suggest, or if you've just recently discovered your inner journalist, then stop by any Loyola News meeting.. Stay



tuned to the morning bulletin for information pertaining to our next meeting or check out our website.

Benjamin La Schiazza  
Editor-in-Chief

**A Life**

Sometimes death  
Hurts  
Walks away  
Never asks  
The unexpected  
To understand  
What it can't  
A sudden end  
To young creation  
A Life  
We remember

Dedicated to Adriano  
Tassone'02  
By Peter Racine

Peter Racine

## Democratic Joust: a tale of four fellows



**New co-presidents Dillon Griffin (left) and Joseph Szymborski.**

Thursday, April 23rd: An auditorium filled with Loyola students listens in anticipation as two groups of two young men each debate for the most enviable positions in student government for the coming year. After

much effort, toiling, and the inevitable counting of ballots, on Friday morning, two new Co-Presidents had been chosen.

Dillon Griffin and Joseph Szymborski, collectively known as the "DJ" presented their platform in a manner they must have considered mirrored their humorous zeal. Stealing the hearts of a great number of the student body, they presented their hopes and ideas with flair. Perhaps it

was this, combined with a myriad of other qualities, that gained them the position of Loyola's Student Co-Presidents for 2009 to 2010.

On the other hand, Patrick Fusarini and Matthew Bartalone, with the tag of "PMP" provided a campaign with heart, and some definite nods to their Italian heritage. Prior to the election, during a short interview with the Loyola News, Matthew

*(Continued on page 2)*

## The Climate Crisis is underrated



### By Laurent Cousineau

In the media, we've heard a lot about the economic crisis, but we

don't hear too often about the climate crisis. Most of you guys believe that climate change (or global warming) is not such a big deal and that all it is going to cause is shorter winters and a better summer. Also, quite a few of you guys believe that

global warming is a myth or that scientists are still debating whether or not it is reality.

Here is a fact: there has been an international consensus on global warming. In other words, all scientists agree on the reality of global warming and there is no longer any debate about it. However, slightly more than 50% of media (not sponsored or approved by a scientific organisation) state that there still is controversy over the issue. "*We simply must do everything we can in our power to slow down global warming before it is too late. The science is clear. The global warming debate is over.*" - Arnold Schwarzenegger

Decades ago, scientists have warned that there will be more hurricanes as well as stronger ones if we continue to send off CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. As Al Gore stated in "An Inconvenient Truth", these scientists who spread out the inconvenient

truth were persecuted and ridiculed. The media never covered their story and the public never listened to their warnings. Let's ponder on that thought for a few more seconds. In 2005, didn't the US hit an all-time record for the amount of hurricanes?

When hurricane Katrina swept through Florida it was only category one but it then traveled through warm waters (I believe it was in the Gulf of Mexico which contained really high temperatures that day) and it rapidly transformed into a category 5 hurricane. What's even more interesting is that scientists have warned the government to strengthen the levies but... why should they listen to them right? By the way, before the Americans sent their troops to Iraq, the CIA warned that the invasion would cause military uprisings but that's a story for another day. "What changed in the United States with Hurricane

Katrina was a feeling that we have entered a period of consequences." - Al Gore

Now that you probably got the idea that the climate crisis is a little more serious than you once believed, here are a few more facts that may shock you: In 2003, occurred one of the hottest summers in Europe and in it, was a heat wave in which for many people, will be very hard to forget. In total, 35,000 people died as a result of the heat wave. From May 9 to May 15 2002, more than 1000 people in India died as temperatures went up to 49 degrees Celsius. In May 2003, there has been a heat wave that has killed more than 1,200 people in India, with temperatures up to 50 degrees Celsius.

*"We are upsetting the atmosphere upon which all life depends. In the late 80s when I began to take climate change seriously, we referred to global warming as a "slow-motion ca-*

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## Democratic Joust, continued from Page 1

*(Continued from page 1)*

spoke of finding inspiration in the words of President Barack Obama, of the United States. PMP wanted to work through a campaign with the theme of "Change" for Loyola, that is, changing what needs to be changed, but certainly maintaining what needs to stay. Their platform was well thought out, and their debate executed thoroughly. They have every reason to be proud of all the effort and time that must have been put into their campaign. Of course, it is critical to note that Patrick and Matthew will still be serving as the official Leaders of the Opposition for the coming school

year.

Joseph Szymborski, following the election, was also gracious enough to answer some questions for the Loyola News, which is covered in the separate article "Interview with Half of a DJ." To note here, however, one of the most interesting parts of the interview consists of the fact that Dillon and Joseph's endeavour to become Co-Presidents had been a dream begun in secondary one. Their election was the culmination of four years of dreaming, and Joseph concludes with an important statement: "In the end, this victory is shared by all those who supported and voted for us, but just as it is for those who didn't, as we will aim

to serve the entire student body to the best of our ability. It is truly an honour and I look forward to seeing the changes that will come with next year."

With all of the interesting and fun things put on each platform, it is also important to note, however, just what a privilege it is to have the ability (and it can be argued, right) to democratically elect the heads of student government. Father Brennan's speech prior to the addresses by each team was not only interesting and well thought out, but awakening in a sense as well. Just as he said, there are so many areas of the world where democracy is suppressed, and freedom of expression hardly

allowed. With his experiences in mind, it is easier to realise just what a special event the student elections truly were.

So, with all said and done, Loyola High School once again has two new Co-Presidents. Joseph and Dillon seem eager and ready to start their term, and with a full plate of clubs and activities to work on, they will no doubt have their hands full. Many, however, might still wonder how the future is looking with the "DJ" as Co-Presidents. It's quite simple, really: Definitely Joyous.

By Mark Weissfelner  
Go to Page 5 for Weissfelner's interview with Joseph Szymborski

## New Teacher Feature: Ms. Nadeau

Name: Michèle Nadeau  
 Interests: Reading, traveling, swimming, tennis, skiing  
 Post-secondary education: translation and law degrees  
 Former job(s): legal translator and revisor  
 Favorite book: *Kamouraska* by Anne Hébert (French) and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (English)  
 Favorite movie: The Sound of Music!  
 Favorite place you have visited: Scotland (during my honeymoon!)  
 Family members: Husband Réginald Soubry, son Bernard (17), daughters Dominique (15), Élisabeth (12) and Madeleine (10)

**You are a new teacher at Loyola. Do you enjoy your work?**

I love it! I like to laugh a lot and you just never know what each day will bring.

**What is your impression of the school and the students?**

I used to come to Loyola dances when I was young and

even then, I liked the school. There is a sense of family and community which you don't always find in other institutions. Respect and caring are two very important values to me and the students at Loyola exhibit these wonderfully.

**What courses do you teach?**

Français langue maternelle (Sec. III), français langue seconde (Sec. V), Histoire du Canada (Sec. III)

**What other activities are you involved in at the school?**

Junior and Senior French Public Speaking, CultureFest (a.k.a. Multicultural Evening), Ultimate Lime Light player, running around with Madame Lacasse (!)

**What type of philosophy do you have pertaining to teaching and how you interact with adolescents?**

I really believe that children learn by example and so I strive to be as positive and enthusiastic as I can when I come into the classroom. I also believe that teaching is not just about "getting results", but about an

individual's growth. Motivating an adolescent to be the best that he can be at this time in his life is quite the challenge. However, a good sense of humor is definitely an asset in this quest!

**Many teachers have commented that you are a positive influence in the classroom.**

**What is your outlook on your job and in life?**

I am very lucky to be doing the things that I have always wanted to do and so I'm very grateful to God for what he has given me. Being the mother of four children (ranging in ages from 10 to 17) certainly keeps me grounded! I don't sweat the small stuff so much anymore. My philosophy is simple: with an overflowing laundry room, as long as everyone can find something clean to wear, we're having a good day!

**You were recently involved in the Multicultural Night. What role did you have and can you explain the reason for such an event?**

I was basically the coordinator



**Ms. Nadeau (above, at left) and Ms. Adams at the 2007 Loyola-Ed Meagher Winter Sports Tournament.**

of the three events that took place, namely the mass, the dinner and the talent show. The purpose of this evening is to have Loyola families from various cultures come together and share an evening as a community. All proceeds from this event go to a charity chosen by the boys in the committee.

**Was it a success this year?**

It was a tremendous success due to the help of many students, staff and parents.

**Do you plan on making this a yearly event?**

Absolutely, and I hope many more people will come next year.

## The Tolerance Caravan comes to Loyola



**By Chris Foster**

From February 16-18, you may have noticed a display in the Bishops' Atrium. You may have even been curi-

ous enough to see what was going on and why it was there or you went with your class with a teacher. The display is part of caravan that travels across Quebec high schools educating students about prejudice and discrimination.

The caravan is part of

the Quebec organization called Foundation Tolerance. They started in 1996 as a solely French organization with the goal of helping increase the acceptance of the Jewish community in French Quebec. This in the wake of former PQ leader Jacques Parizeau's anti-Semitic remarks and the international year of tolerance in 1995.

The organization since then has expanded its program to educate youth in all forms of discrimination as well as to educate students about rights under the Canadian and Quebec charter of rights and freedoms. The organization also became bilingual

in 2007 with the caravan traveling to both English and French Quebec schools. In 2008 they started to focus on secondary 1 and 2's as well while before their program had been aimed mostly at senior students.

The caravan monitors Meaghan and Jerusha were asked why they had come to Loyola. "Primarily to educate youth about prejudice and discrimination but also to encourage youth to say no to discrimination and to show that they can make a difference. We've gotten great participation from the students here at Loyola; the students have always been engaged and interested which has

allowed for a lot of good debate. They have been respectful of us and of each other when conflicting opinions were involved. It has been a pleasure to be here these last few days."

Many of you may be surprised to learn that age discrimination is also considered discrimination by of the charter of rights and freedoms and was a topic of discussion for at the display. I encourage any student who wasn't able to visit the display last week to go to the group's website at [www.fondationtolerance.com](http://www.fondationtolerance.com).

By Chris Foster

## The Train: not just for the Westies



**By Joseph Alacchi**

The train is used by around half the students at our school. But what about the other half? If

you're part of the other half, you probably take the bus and metro to school in the morning. I wouldn't be surprised if you make fun of the train too. Most people think that the train is for losers like me who live in the suburbs, like the Westies, the people who live in Laval and beyond. What most people don't understand is that the train is not just some inconvenient, slow, infrequent system for suburbanites. The AMT has done a good job at creating a train network whose purpose is not solely to ferry people who live in the middle of nowhere and work in the middle of somewhere. The system is a complement to the

frequent and popular busses and metro. This is even more true for Loyola students because our school is right next to the train.

There are three morning arrivals that can be used to get to school even if you don't live in the West Island or Laval. These are the 8:02 arrival from Lucien-L' Allier, the 8:05 from Candiac, and the 8:08 from Saint-Jérôme. These trains provide useful connections that can save you time if you currently commute by bus or metro.

The 8:02 arrival from Lucien-L' Allier is already being used in this purpose by a number of students. The train departs from Vendôme (that's right, the metro station) at 7:56. Whereas you want to be on-board a 105 bus at 7:50, or 7:55 at the latest, the train leaves at 7:56 and leaves you plenty of time to get ready for class, grab breakfast, or do some homework.

The 8:05 arrival from Candiac is very useful to those who live in Western Lasalle or in Lachine. The train departs from LaSalle train station at 7:56. The station is located on Highlands near Boulevard LaSalle and is served by bus 110. If you live in the area or along the route of the 110, you should definitely consider this commuting option.

The 8:08 arrival from Saint-Jérôme is possibly the most useful of the three arrivals for those who traditionally commute by bus or metro. This is the train that I take in the morning, though I live on the North Shore. There are three on-island stops. Bois-de-Boulogne is located on Henri-Bourassa near the Bois-de-Boulogne CEGEP. The train leaves there at 7:45. If you live in Ahuntsic, or in certain areas of Saint-Laurent and Cartierville, this departure can save you time. The station is



served by busses 135, 164, 171, and 180.

The stop at Chabanel station at 7:47 (Chabanel/Meilleur) is not that useful but is served by busses 54, 135, 146, and 179.

The most useful station served by the 8:08 arrival is Parc (on the blue line of the metro). The train leaves here at 7:54. That is quite late. Consider this: If you take the bus to school from Vendôme metro, you have to be there by 7:50, or 7:55 at the latest. However, you can arrive at Parc metro as late as 7:50 and still make it to school on time. Any-

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## Library news: looking for input and a new Warriors' read book

The library has begun planning for next year. We are looking for input and ideas from students on what YOU would like to see in the library when you come back to school in August.

Sec. 1 students, are there books you have read this year that you think would be good for next year's new sec. 1 students? Sec. 5 students have you been frustrated by not finding anything in the library that you want to read? Sec. 2, 3 & 4 - have you read something that you have really enjoyed this year that you think other students would like? If so, drop by and put your suggestions in the library suggestion box.

Also, The Warriors Read Student Committee has selected *A Long Way Gone* as the second annual *One Book-One Community* title. More information is available on our website.

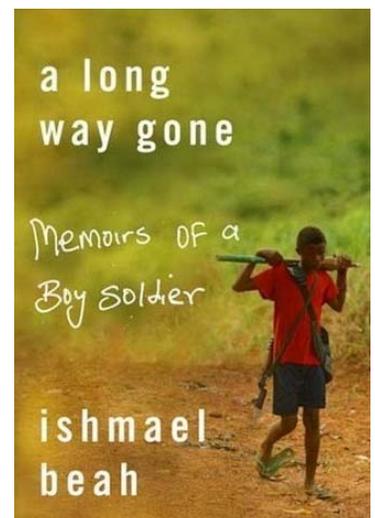
**I WANT YOUR INPUT**



A gripping story of a child's journey through hell and back. There may be as many as 300,000 child soldiers, hopped-up on drugs and wielding AK-47s, in more than fifty conflicts around the world. Ishmael Beah used to be one of them. He is one of the first to tell his story in his own words.

In *A LONG WAY GONE*, Beah, now twenty-six years old, tells a riveting story. At the age of twelve, he fled attacking rebels and wandered a land rendered unrecognizable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. Eventually released by the army and sent to a UNICEF rehabilitation center, he struggled to regain his humanity and to reenter

the world of civilians, who viewed him with fear and suspicion. This is, at last, a story of redemption and hope.



## Interview with half of DJ: a question-answer period with Joseph Szymborski



By Mark  
Weissfelner

Joseph Szymborski graciously granted the Loyola News an exclusive interview, regarding his feelings prior to and during the election, as well as his thoughts for the future.

### 1. How does it feel (being the head of "Student Government")?

"It's been a long standing aspiration for me to become co-president with Dillon. As a matter of fact, Dillon ran for president and I for Vice-President in Secondary One and (we were both) elected. People remarked (that) we had made a great team, and ever since then we had planned to run for co-presidents. We realized that our personalities contrasted well with each other.

In secondary three, Ben and Jeremy ran for co-presidents and both Dillon and I had been class presidents. I remember how we were both in awe with their casual yet ambitious platform. So, I guess what I'm trying to say is that it felt like four years of anticipation has brought both Dillon and I to the same place as many of our heroes were."

### 2. What was it like being on stage, delivering your platform and message?

"Dillon and I are familiar with the stage (in fact, 3/4 of the candidates for co-presidency were in Theatre Arts)\*, although we both agreed that this was somewhat different. (...)

I believe that what we said mattered to the audience and that we were feasible while ambitious. As a result, it was hard to rebut against our platform (as it was for us to rebut against that of "PMP"). Half-way through, I

realized that both Dillon and I were talking to the entire student body and staff. That moment was one of sheer electric excitement."

### 3. What did you enjoy the most about campaigning?

"The movie we made and that can be still found at [votedj.tk](http://votedj.tk) was a lot of fun to make. We both got to stretch our artistic legs. I think though, the most rewarding part was when people stopped us in the halls and told us how much they liked the movie or one of the posters that really made them laugh or catch their attention."

### 4. Concluding comments:

Campaigning was a truly hard task. As I understand it, PMP had done a remarkable job at campaigning in a minimal but super-effective way that kept us on our feet constantly. Each move they made resorted in us losing another night's sleep. Looking back

on the whole thing makes me think of it as a game of chess where the opposition was elusive and hard to see. Our motivation was the dream that had lasted four years and it turned out that it was enough to push us to the very end. It was a very laborious yet extremely fun and rewarding effort.

In the end, this victory is shared by all those who supported and voted for us, but just as it is for those who didn't, as we will aim to serve the entire student body to the best of our ability. It is truly an honour and I look forward to seeing the changes that will come with next year."

Questions by Mark Weissfelner.

\*Columnist's Note: Joseph Szymborski, Matthew Bartolone and Dillon Griffin are all members of the Theatre Arts class at Loyola.

## Quebec Independence

By Laurent Cousineau

Because of the fact that my last name is French, quite a few over the years asked me if I was a separatist (many assume that I am). I do support the values that the Bloc Quebecois hold in relevance to the environment (which many other parties don't make it a priority). There are currently 122 countries that have ratified or assessed the Kyoto Protocol (in 1992 an international environment treaty occurred and countries would agree to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by a certain date).

Out of all the developed countries in the world, only two have decided to not participate in it: the United States and Australia. Only one developed country in the world has dropped

out of Kyoto: On April 9, 2006, Canada dropped out of Kyoto under Stephen Harper.

Now let's stick to reality and to facts. Quebec is seeking INDEPENDENCE. Many people call it separation in the hopes to make it look bad but in reality, it's Independence. For those of you have a hard time to catch things, when the Americans had their declaration of independence, they were separating from the British Empire. For some reason, it was a great idea for the Americans to seek independence, one of the best moments in all of history in fact! However, when Quebec wants to do the exact same thing, seeking independence, it's stupid (according to many students that I have encountered)... Go figure!

For those of you who still hate "separatists", here are a list of other non-Quebec separatists that you should therefore, also hate. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world by separating India from the British Empire. However, if you replace the word "India" with Quebec, it goes from one of the greatest humanitarian gestures in history to something "stupid".

*"True Independence and freedom can only exist in doing what's right"* – Brigham Young

Here's another shocker: the Dalai Lama, yes the great Dalai Lama who is known as the reincarnation of the Buddha,



supports the idea of Tibet becoming independent (in 1949, China invaded Tibet and in 1959, took full control of it). Therefore, we can conclude that the great Dalai Lama is also a separatist. What's very interesting about this is that the Dalai Lama is known for his wisdom. However, if Tibet was invaded and it now seeks independence, it is a wise choice but if Quebec was invaded (in 1759) and

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# SPORTS AND CLUBS

## The Ultimate in house league: interview with league commissioner Mr. Richard Meagher



Ultimate! Loyola's most popular - and controversial - house league sport is back for a fifth year! An exclusive interview with the commissioner is included here. As well, fans and participants can get league information on-line at our website or on the "Pillar" outside the main office.

### *What was your motivation for starting an Ultimate league?*

One of the many things that makes Loyola a great school is that there is something for everyone. While we have numerous

school rep teams at both the Junior and Senior school level, often the non-star athletes are short changed in terms of opportunities to participate in school sports. With the success of House League Soccer in the Fall and Basketball in the Winter, I saw a need to offer a third sport in the Spring to compliment our House League program. When I was out one evening for a Sunday stroll about 5 years ago, I saw a hundred or so multi-coloured shirts on the Concordia field playing in a university Ultimate league. I had just found the answer to Loyola's third House League sport!

### *Can you explain the league's continued growth and increase in popularity?*

The league started out with 4 teams, and subsequently expanded to 6, then 8, and now 10 teams. The success of the league can no doubt be attributed to the desire to get outside and enjoy the weather as we wrap up a long school year stuck indoors for the past 5 months. Also, the mix of students playing with teachers has proven to be a winning formula - it has really added to the spirit and enthusiasm for the game.

### *What are some of the reasons for what seems to be a very high level of competitiveness and controversy over the past few years in Ultimate.*

There is a high degree of competitiveness within the league, which is not totally abnormal

because when you play any game, you want to try and win. The key is to make sure that you play within the rules, and when you win, you win within the rules and in a respectful manner. Perhaps the greatest challenge in a game like Ultimate is that there is no referee - so it is up to the players to call the fouls, something that doesn't happen in basketball, soccer, hockey, etc... This is a real challenge, but also a real opportunity to experience a sense of growth and maturity. The controversies that do occur, I am optimistic, will subside over time, as players learn to interpret the rules a little better. But more importantly, as players, students and teachers alike take the opportunity to reflect after a game, hopefully they will come to the

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## Bantam Rugby Report



**By Kevin Caporuscio**

April 23, 2009: Selwyn House 18 Loyola 15 (exhibition match)

As soon as Selwyn kicked the ball off to Loyola, our boys were working hard. They pushed and fought their way to a 10-0 lead over Selwyn at the half. Selwyn quickly came back and scored, leaving Loyola with only a five point lead. However, it was at this point that Loyola showed

that the leadership of some of the veteran injured players was missing (Nakhoul, head) (McQueen, knee). Loyola started to lose momentum and fast, with Selwyn scoring twice more leaving Loyola down 18-10. But our boys stayed strong and fought back. A rookie (David Mangoni) made an amazing pass to Nick Rossi. Once Rossi got the ball he turned his legs on and went flying past nearly every single player of the opposing team and scored. It was all down to the kick for the extra points. This would determine whether Loyola tied or lost the game. However, Rossi the usual kicker

had injured his foot the night before the game and could not kick. So it was on the shoulders of rookie Anthony Gualdieri who had never kicked a ball before. He ran on to the ball and kicked it sending it right over a Selwyn player almost decapitating him and wide of the target. It was a heart breaking loss for the boys even though it was only an exhibition game. However even though a bit down, the boys are looking for to their season which will hopefully lead to a GMAA Championship!

April 30, 2009: Selwyn House 18 Loyola 8

As the game started everything was going well. However Loyola was called for a penalty and was forced to move back 10 meters. As they were doing so Selwyn's scrumhalf picked up the ball and ran to the outside to score a try, which marked the end of the first quarter. Loyola responded in the second by getting in the end zone; however they could not place the ball down so no points were scored. This seemed to have motivated the team so they began on ploughing through Selwyn like trucks, which led to a score by Patrick McQueen. However in the second half Loyola began to take

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## Reach for the Top team almost gets to the summit

On the afternoon of April 29, Loyola's Reach for the Top team gloriously defeated Royal West to achieve second place among Quebec teams. Under the skilled guidance of Mr. Enright in training and with the help of new recruit Nicolas Glaudemans, Loyola could finally say that it had a fighting team, a privilege lost after a whole generation of "Reachers" graduated in 2007.

There was a tension in the air at Dawson College Wednesday afternoon as the first game of the Quebec semifinals was played. Loyola versus Royal West. Losing this game means the end of the Reach for the Top season. Loyola won thanks in part to questions coming up in the team's areas of expertise like

chemistry, math, geography, poetry, and Ancient Rome. The speed at which Joseph Alacchi can work out the math questions was unparalleled even among the CEGEP students. Gabriel "Sorbus" Crevier-Sorbo and Nicolas Glaudemans' knowledge of Ancient Roman history scored the team a number of points. John "Chip" Limeburner was able to recognize a line from the poem Jabberwocky correctly, winning a team scramble. This granted the team three questions that only Loyola could answer, all about the poem Jabberwocky. These "lucky breaks" combined with pure skill, intelligence, experience, and greatness allowed Loyola to win by a large margin.

Marianopolis had

defeated Dawson in the second game of the semifinals by only a small margin. Unfortunately, Loyola lost a fairly close final game, but MARIANOPOLIS IS A CEGEP. The best players from all the high school teams go to Marianopolis! The Marianopolis team had three second-year-CEGEP students and one first-year while Loyola had only one Secondary 5 student and three Secondary 4 students. Edward Zhang of Marianopolis, (ex-Royal West player) is one of their star players and the only rookie. He scored big for Marianopolis following a streak of questions on Asian History, his specialty.

Two to three years of extra experience both on and off the buzzer helps a lot with this game. Most of the ques-

tions asked are general trivia which cannot be studied for. The only way for a player to get a question in Reach for the Top is if the player encountered the piece of information while living an everyday life. Maybe he's read about it, maybe he's talked about it with somebody else, or maybe he's seen it on TV. As you get older, you get smarter, at least trivia-wise. That is Loyola's and all the Quebec high schools' disadvantage. Because Reach for the Top is intended for Canadian high school age students, CEGEPs are allowed to compete since they have a Grade 12, the last year of high school in practically all of Canada.

With one of Loyola's star players, Nicolas Glaudemans, graduating this year and

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## Searching for the Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)

By Mr. Plimer, Moderator for the Loyola Birders

Every 4 years, a strange thing happens in the southern parts of Canada. We are invaded by Boreal Owls! As its name suggests, this rare species of owl is usually found in the boreal forests of northern Canada, Alaska, Russia, Sweden, Finland, and Norway. Seventy five percent of their diet is made up of voles and when their population's crash, Boreals shut up shop and move south in search of alternative sources. 2009 is an invasion year in Quebec and everyone is talking about it.....well



at least me and a few of my bird watching friends are, anyhow.

A couple of birds have been seen on the island of Montreal this winter, but they haven't stuck around for more than a day or two. Places where the Boreal Owl's close relative, the Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*), consistently turn up have been searched high and low. One could investigate the conifers and cedars in places like Bois Papineau and Parc National des Îles-de-Boucherville obsessively for days on end and come up empty handed. Or you could travel to a "hot spot" to

dramatically increase your chances of seeing one of these beauties. That is what I did this January when a group of us took a road trip to Amherst Island in Ontario.

Amherst Island is 10 km south of Kingston and is serviced by a ferry that runs all year round. There are no gas stations on the island and it is primarily an agricultural setting. In its western corner, however, there remain significant stands of conifers and fir trees, combined with open fields, and this provides the perfect habitat for many species of owl, including the Boreal. Also, to make it easy to find, it has been appropriately named Owl Woods.

I'd been keeping an eye on what was happening at



**The Boreal Owl**

Owl Woods via the Ontario Birds chat forum. On bird forums like these, people post their most recent and interesting sightings so that other birders can seek them out if they wish. Owl woods gets mentioned often and there had been regular sightings of between 1 and 4 Boreal Owls in the weeks leading up to our search, so we arrived with a cer-

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Classical Spring Break Trip

As the third part of the year was closing, there was much excitement for some students. These twelve classics students were about to embark on a trip to the birthplace of western civilization, Greece. This exclusive trip, which was only offered only to secondary 3 and 4 classics students, comprised of a nine-day journey through the mainland, the Peloponnese, as well as 3 islands.

Although the trip was overshadowed by the popular Italy trip, there was just as much anticipation, if not more for after studying about Greece, these students could go and experience the land in which the ancient Greeks lived. The teachers leading them included Mr. Ketterling and Mr. Elie.

Twenty-four hours following departure, after stops in Toronto and Frankfurt, the jet-lagged boys landed in Athens and met their tour guide Raquel. The first sights of Athens were breathtaking. Modern buildings stood cramped together with the Acropolis in the background. That evening, their

pallets were greeted with mousaka, a dish similar to shepherd's pie with eggplant.

As well, on the trip the Loyola group was accompanied by two French schools, one from Jean-Eudes, and the other from the northern town of Baie Comeau. Despite the shaky start to the relationship between the three groups, friendships were eventually developed nearing the end of the trip.

As we saw sight after sight, the magnificence of this ancient civilization began to show itself from the cyclopean-walled fortresses to the small shrines dotting the modern cities. Possibly the most impressive part was how modern Greeks live alongside the ancient ruins. Everyone grows up with the legends and the mythology, as they did thousands of years ago. Everyone could recount the stories of Homer. Another amazing part was the respect the modern Greeks have for the monuments. Although some graffiti was present everywhere, even on the parlia-



*The twelve "classic" Loyola students with Mr. Ketterling and Mr. Elie outside the Parthenon on the Acropolis of Athens.*

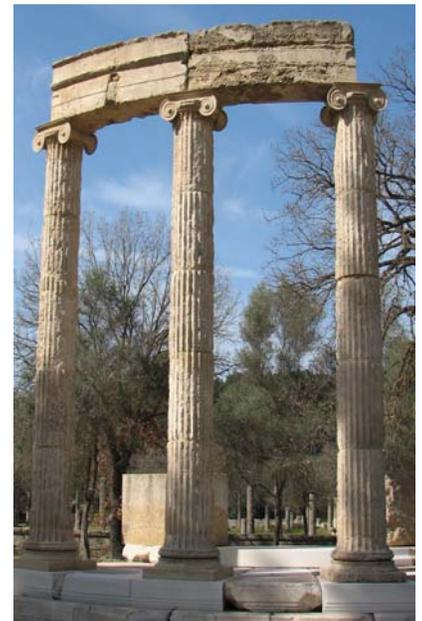
ment buildings, none of the historical ruins were touched. It was just amazing to see how the ancient culture influenced the modern one, from cultural symbols such as the evil eye and the head of Medusa to the numerous festivals.

Places that were visited included the Acropolis, the Oracle at Delphi, and Olympia, just to name a few. Overall, the trip couldn't have been better. Chemistry between the travel-

lers was just right with humour and respect always present. Despite the quality of some hotels, the trip was a success.

"For my first trip out of the country, I couldn't have picked a better destination, nor a better group of people to do it with," remarked one of the travellers on his arrival in Montreal, "I will never forget this experience".

Benjamin La Schiazza



## Boreal Owl, continued from Page 7

(Continued from page 7)

tain level of confidence.

Driving from the ferry to the woods, we turned up some very nice birds. A pair of Common Goldeneye were seen in the open water as we left the ferry, a female American Kestrel was actively hunting from the power lines, Red-tailed Hawks were common and we also scored some great close-up views of Québec's official bird, the Snowy Owl. (The official bird of Ontario is the Common Loon, but it wasn't patriotic enough to show itself on this trip.) On top of this, numerous light and dark phase Rough-legged Hawks were seen roosting and hunting in open areas. These large circumpolar Buteo hawks that nest in the arctic also migrate south when there is a crash in their main food source, lemmings. Big numbers of this species have been turning up this year.

On arriving at Owl Woods, it was apparent from the amount of tracks in the snow that there had been a lot of people visiting that day. At least 10 other birders were in the general vicinity during our 3 hour search and this was pleasing. The more eyes the better for finding Boreal's. Nonetheless, the area was searched and re-searched with no luck. Every person we ran into was asked the same question, "Have you seen any Boreals?" We listened politely as they rattled off all the other species on their list, but we were after one bird only and it was becoming very clear to us that today was not going to be our day.

Before we knew it, the light was fading and time had run out. We admitted defeat but were comfortable in the fact that we (and many others) had searched that corner of the island high and low. If there

were owls to be seen, we would have seen them and this was the case for the 3 Northern Saw-whet, 6 Long-eared and 2 Short-eared Owls viewed throughout the day.

On the drive home the main topic of discussion was why we hadn't turned up a single Boreal when they had been seen in such regularity over the past few weeks. Many theories were bounced around but it wasn't until a post on the Ont-Birds forum a few days later revealed the answer. Before we arrived, a Boreal Owl's carcass was found by some birders, as well as that of a Short-eared and Long-eared Owl (we saw evidence of the Long-eared's demise.) Local birders are reckoning that it's the work of a very hungry Northern Goshawk and as a result, the dead Boreal's friends got on the move again to seek out a more tranquil roosting site. This all happened on the Friday and we

arrived on the Saturday! Sure enough, the following Tuesday, once we were back in Montreal, a new sighting of a single Boreal Owl was reported and that one stuck around for a week.

Due to its suitable habitat, Owl Woods acts as a migration trap when birds are forced to move south when food supplies crash. Visiting these obviously increases your chances of success, but it was not the case for us. We went all that way to miss out on our target bird and in birding circles, this is called 'dipping out.' It can be disappointing but I'm a glass-half-full kind of guy. All it means is that I get to go on another birding trip to Amherst again. I know I'll catch-up with Aegolius funereus soon and when I do, it will be a sweet, hard-earned victory.

Check out The Loyola Birders' club on-line at [vweb.loyola.ca/loyolanews](http://vweb.loyola.ca/loyolanews)

## Ultimate, continued from Page 6

(Continued from page 6)

conclusion that they were glad just to have played, win or lose. That, after all, is the overall goal!

### **What changes do you have planned for this season?**

The changes to be implemented this year are intended to increase the amount of time playing, and reduce the amount of time standing around and not running. For instance, in the past, we would waste 3-4 minutes at the beginning deciding who got which end, who threw the Pull, etc... Now, the Home team is posted and will throw the opening Pull, and the Visitors automatically line up at the Sherbrooke Street end zone. Also, the game time

will be posted on the clock, with all 3 games starting at 3:25 sharp and being 27 minutes in duration. A buzzer will sound every three minutes to signal that all players must change, so as to make playing time more balanced and fair to all. There will no longer be a Walk-of-Shame after each point, which again wasted a couple of minutes. After a point, the team scored upon immediately starts play from their goal line. Players should be running more, getting tired faster, and wanting a rest - that is how Ultimate is really played at the higher levels.

## Bantam Rugby, continued from Page 6

bad useless penalties which led to two tries by Selwyn and that was the end of the game.

May 6, 2009: Loyola 35  
L.C.C. 5

Even before the game began you could tell Loyola was out for a win. The passion and enthusiasm was glowing in their eyes. Loyola started off by kicking the ball off to LCC however they quickly recovered and scored a try. As the first two quarters went on Loyola kept on dominating the score board, and at the half they were up 35-0. During the second half Loyola tried to incorporate more tech-

nique into their game, and nearly succeeded several times however they could just not put the ball down in LCC's end zone. During the fourth quarter LCC did manage to score a try, but that's all Loyola would let them get. Final Score Loyola 35, LCC 5.

## Climate Crisis, continued from Page 2

(Continued from page 2)

*astrophe" one we expected to kick in perhaps generations later. Instead, the signs of change have accelerated alarmingly." - David Suzuki*

In the 1960's, Lake Chad was the fourth largest lake in the continent of Africa and one of the largest lakes in the world (comparable to the Great Lakes we have here in Canada). 20 million people depended on that lake from the four surrounding countries: Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria. Now, it is 1/40<sup>th</sup> of its size and this is causing millions of people to have a lack of water and food

(they also depended on the lake for irrigation). It should also be noted that global warming was not the sole factor in the decline of the lake but was a major one.

Hopefully, you will probably realize by now that global warming is a serious issue, is affecting millions of lives and has already killed thousands. If this does not make it an important issue, than what would? The public seems to be more preoccupied with terrorism and 9/11 which lead to 2974 deaths, but here is a point from "An Inconvenient Truth": If Greenland and the southern Antarctic peninsula were to melt, the sea level would rise by

20 feet and the location of the World Trade Center Memorial would be underwater (the World Trade centers themselves would also be). Yes we need to take action against terrorism because of the nearly 3,000 deaths but a heat wave in 2003 lead to 30,000 deaths and an elevation of the sea level by 20 feet would also have destroyed the world trade centers. We need to take the climate crisis more seriously guys.

*"The issue of climate change is one that we ignore at our own peril. There may still be disputes about exactly how much we're contributing to the warming of the earth's atmos-*

*phere and how much is naturally occurring, but what we can be scientifically certain of is that our continued use of fossil fuels is pushing us to a point of no return. And unless we free ourselves from a dependence on these fossil fuels and chart a new course on energy in this country, we are condemning future generations to global catastrophe."*  
- **Barack Obama**

Laurent has posted some links to important environmental information on our website.

## Reach for the Top, continued from Page 7

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joining the Marianopolis team next year, Loyola will have to try really hard (and get really lucky) next year to be able to win the Quebec championship. However, there is always CEGEP to finally get a chance to play on TV at the Canadian finals.

### About the Team:

**Joseph Alacchi** (Team Captain) – Alacchi has been part of Reach for the Top at Loyola for four years. He has played in competition since Secondary 1. Alacchi uses his math skill to answer the math questions quickly and (usually) correctly. He also knows a lot about chemistry, astronomy, and geography. During practice games after school in room 208, he tries to have fun by making



stupid guesses when nobody knows the answer. The universal guess for any question about an author is "Margaret Atwood". It is also his job to decide whose opinion is correct when the team has a chance to confer. He is relatively skilled at determining who really has the correct answer and who only thinks that they do.

**Gabriel "Sorbus" Crevier-Sorbo** – Sorbus has been part of Reach for the Top at Loyola for three years but has only played in competition games for two of those three. Sorbus knows a lot about history (especially about the Ancient Greeks and Romans), geography, music, and French. He is a very skilled player because of his varied interests and areas of expertise. You can tell he knows something when he



starts to (literally) punch and slam the buzzer onto the table. Sorbus has made great progress over his R4TT career from being the shy player who thinks he knows everything about sports to being a valuable member of the team.

### Nicolas Glaudemans

Nick is a new member of Reach for the Top, having joined this year. His natural intelligence and ability to recall facts is what makes him a great player. He knows facts from a variety of subjects. However, his main strong areas are sports, history, and math. (sometimes outspeeding Alacchi) He is also a great guesser. Even if he has no idea what the answer is, he uses his reasoning and his gut to score Loyola a few extra points. Nick is the team's most enthusiastic player and a fine new addition



to the team.

### John "Chip" Limeburner

Chip has played Reach for the Top for two years. While he may not be the most aggressive player or have a specific specialty, he is still an important member of the team. This is because he knows facts from a wide variety of topics. If you have a random question, there's a good chance that Chip will know it. This is extremely useful in Reach for the Top with some of the questions that they ask. He also has a brain for the language arts which helps when they throw a word puzzle at you.



By Joseph Alacchi

## Quebec independence, continued from Page 5

(Continued from page 5)

now seeks independence, it is an unwise choice?

*“You cannot build character and courage by taking away a man’s initiative and independence.”*

### - Abraham Lincoln

Hopefully, you will not realize that maybe Quebec independence is not that bad after all. Now many people will probably say that if Quebec becomes independent (or separates as some people prefer it), the economy is going to go down. There is also a group of people that like to say that if a country goes green; its economy will go down. In both cases, they are myths. Countries that went green such as France, Germany, and the Scandinavian states are all doing very well economically. Also, car companies that are green, primarily Toyota is doing very well in stocks while car companies like GM whose cars are not environ-

mentally friendly, is doing horribly in the stock market and might even risk bankruptcy.

The United States has separated from the British Empire and there were Loyalists (Americans who wanted to remain loyal to England) who feared that the economy would become really bad. In the short term, the US did badly after it received independence but starting over 60 years, it surpassed England economically. If Quebec becomes independent, in the short term, its economy may go down slightly but in the long term, its economy will become a lot stronger (its economy will pick up a lot faster than the Americans who had to fight a war for independence from 1776-1783, who had to fight the war of 1812, and who lost about 10% of its population who moved out of the US).

*“True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence. People who*

*are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made.”*

### Franklin D. Roosevelt

In conclusion, I am not telling you or ordering you (or anyone) to vote and help Quebec in the process of getting its independence; I am telling you facts, the inconvenient truths, and I am telling you that when we vote, it should not be a question of race, it should not be a question of tradition (ex: I’ve voted for the Liberals in the past 20 years and even after the scandals, even after the corruption, I will still vote for them and not even consider the other parties), it should be a question of justice (this includes environmental justice), of morals, and of truth (even the inconvenient ones). Unfortunately, the vast majority of Anglophones do not vote for who they have the most trust in. When Stephen Harper promises something (and which he has broken the promise in question almost

every time), there isn’t a lot of people who trust him but a large population of Anglophones voted for him. When Gilles Duceppe (leader of the Bloc Quebecois) promises that he will help get Quebec independent, everyone believes him. When Gilles Duceppe says that he will regain the seats that we have lost (Quebec is losing power in the federal elections as Harper issued more seats in which none of them came to Quebec but the vast majority of them came to Alberta, which happens to be where Harper comes from), everyone believes him.

When Duceppe promises a greener Quebec, we trust him. That’s the main difference between the Conservatives and the Bloc Quebecois; truth. Sadly though, for some people, that shouldn’t be a consideration.

## The Train, continued from Page 4

(Continued from page 4)

one who currently gets on the metro on the eastern end of the blue line or the northeastern end of the orange line can save a lot of time by heading to Parc rather than to Vendôme. Parc is served by a number of busses. These are the 16 and the 92 from TMR, the 93 from Saint-Michel, and the 535 from Parc-Extension. Anyone from these areas should consider this commuting option.

Unfortunately, these trains are convenient only in the morning. The first afternoon train to Vendôme is at 4:49, the first to LaSalle is at 3:51, and the first to Parc, Chabanel, and Bois-de-Boulogne is at 3:47. Therefore, if you currently com-

mute by bus or metro, you’re probably better off continuing to do so in the afternoon. Of course, you should always consider the option of commuting by train if you’re staying at school late.

Loyola is blessed to be a short walk away from Montréal-Ouest station. It is a shame that many people who could be taking advantage of this are not. I hope that everyone who currently commutes by bus or metro seriously considers incorporating the train into their morning (and evening) commutes.

By Joseph Alacchi

## Kids Help Phone

As a student at Loyola we have access to a large number of counselling services, Mr. Greczkowski, Fr. Rosinski our Chaplain, the various fantastic priests that work at our school, and our great advisers. In addition to all those people, another great web and hone counselling service available is kids help phone.

This year marks Kids Help Phone’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. For the past two decades, Kids Help Phone has been at the forefront in providing help and hope through its phone and web counselling services, earning the respect and trust of kids across Canada. When young people feel like there’s nowhere to turn, when parents, schools and social services are unavailable, closed, backlogged or simply not accessible for any reason, Kids Help Phone is there.

Young people know that when they reach out to Kids Help Phone, any time of the day or night, they’ll be connected with a professional counsellor who can provide immediate, kid-friendly insight, help and direction on a wide variety of issues relevant to youth.

Last year, Kids Help Phone counsellors connected with kids in almost 3,000 Canadian communities more than 2.2 million times. By continuing to reach out to kids in meaningful and innovative ways, Kids Help Phone will remain a trusted part of kids’ lives for many years to come.

To learn how to get involved, please contact Valerie Cohen at (514) 273-7007, ex. 8213 or at [valerie.cohen@kidshelpphone.ca](mailto:valerie.cohen@kidshelpphone.ca)

By Andrew Dixon

## Loyola Through a Lens



For more great pictures of Loyola life by photographer Mr. Jim Newman, be sure to check out our website! Clockwise from left: Science Fair medal winners, History Fair medal winners and Walkathon participants



[www.loyola.ca/loyolanews](http://www.loyola.ca/loyolanews)