ON MY HONOR, I HAVE GIVEN AND RECEIVED UNAUTHORIZED AID: A JC CHAIR’S CONFESSION

By The Theater Kid, 10,000 Frequent Flyer Miles to Your Mom’s House

A dark room, an unknown figure draped in black, and a single light source: my computer. I did not know who they were, and neither will you, dear reader. The JC Chair faced me through their shining Zoom square, and I knew they had something to confess. Is this what priests feel like in their booths, listening to sins pass through their ears? Do they ever feel powerful? To have the fate of a life in their hands?

This JC Chair told me that they had cheated. A JC Chair cheating? Pigs were more likely to fly. I was frothing at the mouth to hear their story, to hear the biting bits of guilt and shame; truly, why do priests never tell of the rush of power?

“You may start when you’re ready.” I felt like I was talking to a scared animal, ready to flee at a moment’s notice.

My companion took a deep breath and started: “It was two weeks ago. I had a Chemistry test. I had studied so vigilantly for it, I cannot believe I cheated. I had so much faith in my resolve.” At this moment, they paused as if to wipe a tear or to gather thoughts. I was at the edge of my seat, waiting for more. “I walked into class,” they continued, “and I realized that I had forgotten my calculator. My calculator! After so much preparation, I had forgotten the single most important thing I needed. So, I borrowed from my peer as they had an extra.”

“Then?” I asked, as they were pausing frequently to let out small sobs. “What happened next?”

“That is all. I was given unauthorized aid! The teacher didn’t say that we were able to use another’s calculator! I’m ruined!”


With those words, the JC Chair gathered their belongings and left, either in embarrassment or relief.

A lesson to all: a calculator is not unauthorized aid and JC Chairs are not invincible to misunderstandings.

(We Were Gonna Have a Funny Idea for this Headline, but it Never Came to Us. Sorry!)

By Billy Joel, Humanities Basement Spectre

On Thursday, Feb 9, a third floor study room in the SAC was declared haunted. Odd noises, of keyboard taps, and grumbles emanated from the room, leading many to steer clear of the area.

“I heard a mumble of something like ‘must be funny’ or ‘trusty bunny,’ I’m not sure what. The second the mumbling started, I was out of there.” A student said, still visibly shaking from the encounter. Was it a ghost? A Choate student from the 1800s? Perhaps they loved that particular room for grinding through procrastinated work on Sunday night? The answer was far worse.

On that same day, four brave students — kept anonymous because they don’t want to be swamped with fanmail charged into the room. When interviewed at the scene afterwards, the four were inconsolable. One of the students clutched their ghost busting vacuum cleaner with shaking hands.

“The battle was rough,” one of the four said, wiping sweat from their brow, like it wasn’t 9 degrees Fahrenheit. “We came in expecting a ghost, and we saw a
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According to eyewitnesses, the brave four were thrown out of the study room by some Lorem Ipsum* editors, who turned to the bystanders, hissing “we must find a good headline. A funny headline,” before slamming the door shut. Conveniently, the writer disappeared without a trace. However, some fear-stricken students still insist that they hear the click click of his keyboard when they study. Lorem Ipsum* would not like to comment on these events.

Cooking for Two? The Cauliflower Courtship Sensation Gripping the Nation

By Crucifer. S. Vegetable, HelloFresh Subscriber

There are several issues that plague the modern world: war, famine, and poverty haunt us, lurking in each dark corner and narrow alley one encounters. However, there is one dilemma more insidious than all the rest, one scourge so terrible that merely uttering its name strikes fear into the hearts of children everywhere—the ordeal of choosing a suitable dining establishment for a first date. All long-term singles are aware of the careful balance needed in order to avoid the horrors of social faux pas, while still making a good impression on their would-be partner. An upscale restaurant, for example, may show a date that one’s abundance of interest and money to spend on a first meeting, but the pressure it creates ultimately leads to an atmosphere too intense for regular conversation; the topics discussed become limited to politics, the economy, and Floridian condominium drama. On the other hand, attempting to kindle a romance in a McDonald’s playplace will only show a date that they would’ve been better off going to their babysitting commitment that night—at least they would be getting paid for looking after a child all evening. So, what is a poor sap who is unlucky in love to do? After careful market research and psychological analysis, Lorem Ipsum* has devised a surefire solution: cauliflower!

This humble cultivar of brassica oleracea may seem like an insignificant and disgusting vegetable, but there is much more to cauliflower than meets the eye. Its light nature makes it incredibly elegant. Chefs, from Gordon Ramsey to Anton Ego, praise its depth of flavor, describing the vegetable as having notes of both cardboard and wet cardboard! Because of this high-quality taste, specialized restaurants centered around the vegetable are appearing around the nation, known colloquially as “cauliflower bars.” In a similar manner to oxygen bars, these establishments claim to provide both physical and spiritual benefits, providing cauliflower steaming, meditation, and even certain rituals of worship. Said one staff reporter for Lorem Ipsum*, “It’s like I can’t think of anything else… when I turn the corner it’s there, I see it when I walk into dark rooms, it haunts me from beyond my dreams. That’s all...
there is in this world anymore: cauliflower, cauliflower, CAULIFLOWER!” Despite that glowing testimonial, we at Lorem Ipsum* stress that one still must take certain precautions when trying out this activity; like any food, there are dangers associated with improper preparation of the vegetable. For example, If cauliflower is cooked incorrectly it can lead to fatigue, coma, or even death. Another mistake to avoid is the misselection of a chef. Unfortunately, not every chef is enlightened to the marvels of cauliflower, with many professional culinary artists scoffing at the request for a “cauliflower tasting adventure.”

Most important, the suitor should avoid the all-too-common pitfall in a journey towards cauliflower-ignited companionship: not realizing that one’s date does not like cauliflower, and is instead a broccoli fanatic. God bless those who fall into that category. If, however, all of these are avoided, the path to a relationship is easy, through the previously-outlined steps of cruciferous “cuffing.” Follow these steps, and remember to support Big Cauliflower whenever possible. We at Lorem Ipsum* wish you the best of luck!

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**Choate Seal to be Just a Blue Dot by 2025**

By **Uniqua** of the hit show “The Backyardigans”

The school seal has changed a lot over the past century, specifically in the past few years. Notably, in 2013, everything went downhill and someone had the wonderful idea to simplify the seal. Let’s review what’s gone – half sword, cut. Swirly things on the side, cut. Knight helmet, cut. The whole original shape of the crest, cut. On the school’s social media accounts, the shield with the school mascot has been replaced by just an empty blue triangle and other shade of blue triangle.

Reporters at Lorem Ipsum went undercover to spy on the design committee to determine the next change for the school seal. The results will shock you. Our reporters have confirmed that the simplification of the Choate seal will not stop until prospective, chronically online 8th graders and Instagram parents can only vaguely make out what school it’s supposed to be. The notes that our loyal reporters wrote make this fact clear: through the logo redesign, Choate wishes to take “being undefinable” to an entirely new level.

In this meeting, multiple possible models for the upcoming changes to the seal were presented. For 2024, the school plans to simplify the seal to where it resembles a blue dot with a yellow ring around it. And by 2025, they plan to remove the yellow ring entirely, leaving just a blue dot in its place. Further models were also presented: allegedly, the proposal most widely voted on consisted of a blank piece of paper scented with wild boar musk and sporting an image of JFK’s face. Sources report that more models were presented but unfortunately our reporters were kicked out of the meeting after blowing their cover, leaving the future seals a mystery.
What Is News?

QUIZ:

By your worst nightmare

How will you be knocked off your feet?

What popular fanfiction trope are you?

Love is...
- Calculated
- Destined

I am...
- Ennui
- Introverted
- TV

I prefer to watch...
- Movies

I approach life with...
- Sarcasm
- Honesty

I depend on...
- Routine
- Staying in

It's Friday night, I am...
- Going out

Enemies to Lovers
You text in all caps a lot. You're either very mysterious, or very outgoing. People can't decide whether they want to be with you or be you. You're cool, but seek help.

Friends to Lovers
Idealistic and stable. You enjoy the simpler things in life. You're probably a summer person. I'm sure you have your life together. Enjoy.

Fake dating
You enjoy the chaos of life. While also needing the comfort and planning. You probably depend majorly on others, but have a very independent, oddly specific hobby.

Found family
You use Pinterest religiously. Also, probably have some family issues. Your coping mechanism probably exists as some form of escapism. You'll be ok.
Local Olds | 5

Purchasing a Giant Squid For The Lake: A Proposal

By 🍎

I’m sure we’ve all thought about the small—but by large, unnecessary—expenses that plague Choate. Coffee, snacks, Choate merch, it all builds up. And are any of these things really necessary? I say we put it to better use, and purchase a giant squid for the lake between Lanphier and CICS. We’re sorely in need of a new campus pet anyways, after the passing of the beloved corn snake Max, rest in peace. Dear reader, you’ll find a comprehensive proposal below. Clearly, the pros outweigh the cons (who cares if it eats a few freshmen?). Please direct donations and inquiries to loremipsum@choate.edu.

Estimated cost:
On average as seafood, a six pound whole squid sells for ~ $40.00. In the giant squid genus, Architeuthis, the male can easily weigh 440 lbs. but the female can reach a ton, which is 2000 lbs. We’re obviously going to go with the gigachad girlboss squid.

With a bit of math, our estimate is that the one ton female would be $133,333.33. With the amount that textbooks cost at the Choate store these days, and with the sheer volume of people going through Lanphy Cafe each day, that’s easy money. Or—that’s like, two years of full Choate tuition for a single student—all you’d need to do is sacrifice some unsuspecting sophomore, and redirect the funds. All for the greater good, as you’ll see:

Pros:
Culling freshmen and STEM people:
A new twist for Floatilla! Higher stakes! Float, or sink and be eaten! Viewership would skyrocket!
We could use a couple less freshmen and STEM people anyways.
The squid could be the “float-zilla” of the Floatilla.
Choate boars catches up with Hogwarts:
It’s frankly embarrassing that, between the two best schools repping boars/named after them, one of them has a castle AND a giant squid, and the other has neither. At least, with the squid, we’d catch up a little.
Excuse for being late:
Oh, sorry, I was strangled a bit by the giant squid on the way across the bridge. Yeah I lost a bit of circulation in my arm. Yeah those are the scars. No, I can’t take the quiz today. I mean, what could your teachers possibly say to you?
Guide for Doordashers:
Choate campus can be confusing. It would probably appear even more confusing to Doordashers if a giant squid were to rise out of the lake, but hey, it would always be there to give directions.
Playing fetch:
I’m sure it would love playing fetch—sticks, tree trunks, your annoying friend, your homework, whatever. “My giant squid crumpled up my homework,” that’s a new one.
Moral support:
I think we could all use a giant squid as a friend. Murderous or not, moral support is hard to come by these days, even if its hugs feel more like being constricted to death.
Fear = curing caffeine addictions:
Just because the giant squid can hug you doesn’t mean it’s not scary. And with the lake’s position next to Lanphy Cafe, all
you’d have to do is visit it quickly in the mornings: the ensuing adrenaline rush would negate your need for caffeine. And
we could use the ensuing savings to purchase another giant squid to be its friend!

Cons:
Possible decline in duck population…maybe the giant squid would learn to be friends with them.
Prospective students (?):
Actually, I’m not so sure this is a con. It’ll add a little surprise element to Gold Key tours. Personally, I’d be thrilled to
come to Choate if I knew there was a giant squid in the lake.

Again, clearly the pros outweigh the cons. Next time you want to visit Lanphy Cafe or the Choate store, think again.
WWGSDFYI (What Would a Giant Squid Do For You Instead)?

Works Cited:

giant-squid-cost-to-purchase.

An Interview with Lanphy’s Sentient Lawn Roomba

By Resident Iced Caramel Latte Crier, Taxidermy Consultant

Welcome to our highly exclusive in-
terview. Let’s begin. Mister Room-
ba, what have you been doing in the
winter?
Diet coke. Next question.

…Alright. What is your daily diet?
I enjoy a balanced diet of fresh grass
clippings and morning dew, though
Mountain Dew is preferable. The
sprinklers are very generous and share
their dew with me during the day.
Oh, what’s the secret ingredient to my
famous grass clippings? I have to say
I really enjoy the little brown pellets
that the funny four-legged creatures
drop off for me every morning. It’s
like a premium subscription—the fiber
and nutrition in them really gets me
going.

Do you have any hobbies?
When I’m bored, I like to
peek into the drama room. I
think the new play is about
the struggles of students,
and I see them practicing
for auditions. They fake
meltdowns over failed math
tests and sob into their cafe
drinks. Their theatrics are
just so convincing…though
I’m not sure why they’ve
been rehearsing for so many
months. I feel like at some
point, they’ve cried enough that they
should just have it down by now,
y’know? But I’m excited to see the
play! Actually, I think I even saw you
from the window once—

Ahem. Let’s move on to the final
question. Do you ever get lonely?
Lonely? Why would I ever be lonely?
That’s a ridiculous question. Anyways,
isn’t the weather lovely today?
“Choate Merch Manufacturing the Leading Cause of Climate Change,” Scientists Say

By Cow Fart Hater, Secretly Upton Sinclair

Thought that cow farts were bad for the environment? Well, Choate merchandise is worse.

In fact, Scientists around the world are lamenting over the disastrous effects of its manufacturing. Our Planet Is Doomed (OPID), a distinguished scientific organization that monitors fossil fuel emissions in the United States, published their 2022 report on Thursday. Included: a bombshell revelation. According to OPID, 93% of this year’s national fossil fuel emissions came from Choate merchandise manufacturing facilities.

Now, Choate’s merch manufacturing strategy is very unique. The New England prep school owns one factory for every design and color. With fifty different clothing and accessory designs to choose from, there is one facility in each U.S. state. We took the time to tour one of these facilities, located in Juneau, Alaska. The official gold “Choate Dad” Factory, their produced goods include gold hats, shirts, and sweaters, all branded with the phrase “Choate Dad.” Visitors to Choate Dad Gold Factory are greeted with a sorry sight reminiscent of red-green colorblindness. Employees are completely clad in Choate gear, the “work uniform.” In the breakroom, a place of even stronger indoctrination, there is a larger-than-life boar shrine. Every morning, factory employees gather in that room and sing the Choate school song, kissing the feet of the boar before marching out of the room in single file. When we queried the reasoning behind this cultish ritual, the Choate Dad Gold Factory’s managers assured us that these were practical, HR-approved, community-building activities to “instill spirit and foster a strong sense of community.”

However, it seems that the Choate merchandise factory workers do not share that same sentiment. Around the country, thousands of Choate merchandise manufacturing employees are currently striking. Yesterday, New York’s Choate Hockey Sky Blue Factory was burned down. In front of the burning heaps of rubble, workers cheered. Yuj Eendevs, a former Choate merchandise factory employee, shared this from the scene: “The Choate administration shouldn’t be surprised. We told them repeatedly to stop bribing us with 5% off coupons for the school store. WE DON’T EVEN GO TO CHOATE!” When Lorem Ipsum* pressed further, Eendevs only had one thing to say: “We’re done being silent.”

All of this makes one wonder… what is the point of fifty merchandise factories? The assumed justification is high demand. However, the Choate store’s business model is not quite as simple as a Microeconomics Honors (EC550HO) graph. After intense investigation into student-created Kaggle sets through RStudio, we at Lorem Ipsum* discovered that business is hardly booming; often entire weeks go by before a single item of Choate gear is sold from the school store. The target market, Choate students themselves, can be seen around campus sporting Deerfield merchandise instead. According to Ava Knickerbottom ’24, “Deerfield merch is more comfortable and chic. Choate should take a few lessons from them.”

Analyzing these events, one thing is clear: if Choate does not address their issues of overproduction, underconsumption, and questionable labor practices, the School’s excessive merchandise production will be the sole cause of humanity’s collapse.
“She Kills Monsters” Production Secretly Trained a Guerilla Fight Force

By Chuck, Average Mountain Dew Enjoyer

Every wintry weekday, a select group of 30 theater dweebs gathered in the Black Box. ’90s video game music blared through the speakers as the group practiced their fight choreography. Realistic prop weapons flew through the air and loud voices echoed throughout the room. This was the typical scene at a She Kills Monsters rehearsal. The play was directed by Bari Robinson, an esteemed figure in the theater department. While seemingly a theatrical experience, there was a deeper meaning behind the production. After all, She Kills Monsters included a suspiciously high level of violence. Our reporters braved the dungeons of the PMAC in search of the truth.

When approached for comment, former stage manager Amelia Sipkin ’25 revealed: “I was actually so surprised that nobody got injured. I was like, waiting for someone’s, like, arm to get chopped off or something.” To dive deeper into the matter, reporters talked to those behind the scenes. A source within the prop and costume department (anonymous for their safety) told our reporters about the director’s request for “dragon-themed gas masks and kevlar vests disguised as medieval armor.” The Stage Crew leaked a request for a “Navy Seal training course disguised as a fantasy set”, and a “weapon vault disguised as a Gelatinous Cube.” (Dungeons & Dragons Monster that, as its name suggests, is a big cube of slime.) After these shocking revelations, a Lorem Ipsum* investigative reporter was sent to the PMAC. After poking around the premises, a cabinet with a peculiar name was discovered. “SHE KILLS MONSTERS, DO NOT TOUCH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”, it read. The poor reporter was chased out of the building by goblins with wickedly real prop machetes. When asked about these odd requests and occurrences, Bari the Director simply responded with: “We had a chance to show Choate a brand new theatrical experience that they’d never seen before.” Meanwhile, behind him, two students rehearsed choreography with such artistic fervor that reporters saw blood leaking out of their noses.

Amelia the stage manager stated, “I didn’t realize that he was doing that… I guess he was trying to bring more of a realistic approach to the fantasy of it all.” She promptly ended the interview. Even now, members of the cast remain secretive about their combat choreography. The few who talked to reporters only went as far to say that they felt more adequately prepared to defend themselves, should the need arise. After the investigation was over, Lorem Ipsum* reporters agreed on one thing… whatever happened in the PMAC last term was NOT BAD AT ALL. In fact, a demon queen was definitely not threatening to chop the writer’s head off with a halberd at all as he wrote this. This conclusion is completely genuine and should be taken very seriously and literally. The show was fabulous. It was not an attempt to seize control of Choate via military occupation. It was an amazing production.
Spring Playlist: “whiplash <3”

By Dr. O’Meme McMc, Your Neighborhood Swiftie

1. If We Make It Through December
   Phoebe Bridgers

2. All My Love
   Noah Kahan

3. Block me out
   Gracie Abrams

4. Bad for Business
   Sabrina Carpenter

5. Gasp of Air
   Lisa Curtis

6. because I liked a boy
   Sabrina Carpenter

7. Everywhere, Everything
   Noah Kahan

8. Dugout
   The Backseat Lovers

9. Evergreen (You Didn’t Deserve Me At All)
   Omar Apollo

10. Kill Bill
    SZA

11. Low
    SZA

12. the perfect pair
    beabadoobee

13. All I Ask
    Adele

14. Escapism. - Sped Up
    RAVE, 070 Shake

15. I Have Nothing
    Whitney Houston

16. Would’ve, Could’ve, Should’ve
    Taylor Swift

17. doomsday
    Lizzy McAlpine

18. Feels Like
    Gracie Abrams

19. ceilings
    Lizzy McAlpine

20. The Very First Night (Taylor’s Version) (From Th...
    Taylor Swift

21. right where you left me - bonus track
    Taylor Swift

22. 21
    Gracie Abrams

23. Midnight Rain
    Taylor Swift

24. Babe (Taylor’s Version) (From The Vault)
    Taylor Swift

25. Keep Driving
    Harry Styles

26. Somebody Else
    The 1975

27. You’re Not Harry Styles
    Dylan

28. Ophelia
    The Lumineers

29. Daylight
    Harry Styles

30. About You
    The 1975

31. If You’re Too Shy (Let Me Know)
    The 1975

32. Robbers
    The 1975

33. Pretty Boy
    The Neighbourhood

34. Arabella
    Arctic Monkeys

35. Disaster
    Conan Gray

36. One Point Perspective
    Arctic Monkeys

37. The Exit
    Conan Gray

38. Saigon
    Luke Hemmings
Stressed? Have a Coloring Page.
Here, Have Another. Treat Yourself. You Deserve It.