One of the service
Camden for the second
5th through 8th, I went to
change you. Earlier
impossible to make a last
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much xmuch more.
real Camden, the city that
be a service trip to one
outside it appears to
It's hard for me to describe
many more times as I can.
and I intend on going as
have only been to Camden
and be myself, the real
leave everything behind
across the Delaware River
in STEM. We're still work
and games through coding
and created our own stories
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raib's Code and Sumerian
print under a microscope in
es. We have looked at news
us still could not figure out
with a dress code fashion
Loyola School—complete
learned the ins and outs of
last rays of summer sun.
A New Jersey city
-though.

The Blazer
SO YOU SAY YOU LOVE THE POOR... NAME THEM
A CITY OF LOVE AND HOPE, CAMDEN IS STILL GREATLY IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE
By ELI VASILJEVIĆ '21

BY AMELIA MAGE '21

A New Jersey city across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, Cam-
den is a place where I can leave everything behind and
true me. Although I have only been to Camden
twice, I consider it to be
to home away from home
and I intend on going as
many more times as I can.

Last year, as a Fresh-
man, I signed up with
hopes of making a change,
quite a vague intention,
but that was really all
expected me to do.

The reality is it is
nearly impossible to make a last-
ness and effective change in
just a few days, however it is
possible to let Camden
change you. Earlier
this month, from October 5th
through 8th, I went to
Camden for the second
time. It was truly an expe-
rience I will never forget.

One of the service sites
we volunteered at was a
residence for people with
disabilities in wheelchairs,
called the Inglis House.
While I was there I was
lucky enough to connect
with almost all of the resi-
dents. In particular I grew
close with a man named Ty.
One of the most boub-
ly and charismatic people
I have ever met. He po-
\l1
itely asked if one of us
would mind helping him
out with his artwork—I
volunteered. I proceeded
to help him with what I
thought was only a simple
task or favor, but, to him,
it seemed to mean the
world. Shortly after helping him
out, he brought all of us
to see his artwork.

We walked into his
room and it was filled with
artwork from the ceilings
all the way down to
the floor. Now this was not
just any mediocre artwork,
neatly done and well
from this world. They were
true breathtaking to look
at. He used so much detail
and told us the meaning
behind each drawing.

His next sentence broke
my heart. After showing us
photos of himself when he
was younger, before he
developed MS, Ty called
himself a monster and not
a human. It was a moment
I will never forget.

One of the highlights of
that day was an event we
got to go to and we had a
time.

The first month of
school has flown by. It feels
like just yesterday we were
soaking up the precious
last rays of summer sun.

We kicked off our school
year with a two-day Fresh-
men Orientation where we
learned the ins and outs

by Grace Cripps '22,
Saffa Pastor '22,
and Kate Spellman '22

the cafetera would be

show put on by the

brilliant, bored, and

at first of all

ones that, on the first day
of school, I thought that the
cafetera would be similar
to a haunted house. People
snatching chairs as fast as a
bat. People being exclusive
like zombies when they are
eating brains. Everyone was
totally overreacting.

Perhaps you had some of
great friends. Everyone is
so nice and

At some point in time
you find yourself standing
in the cafeteria

...in the Commons or playing

I will never forget.

Although he was not
able to use his hands to
pact the way he
never gave up. Ty was a
saint example of Cam-
eden's. He had to deal with
so many problems, and not

the silly problems that we
might think of,
serious, devastating
health issues. And still he
ever gave up, just like Cam-
eden. He had to deal with
so many problems, and not


Many students, when
presented with the word
"Camden," will wax ver-
ous on the dangers and
poverty of this particular
New Jersey metropolitan
area. While these problems
are real, most do not care to
try to fix these instabilities
or the devastating poverty.
This same mentality is ap-
plicable to the entire world.
It is all well and good when
you are talking about how miser-
able your life is, but what about
this? Many, many more people
in the world today. It is all
well and good when you are
afraid of failure,

Our last day was what
many students will
never forget. The day
ended with us enjoying
in the Commons or playing

It's hard for me to describe
myself a monster and not
a human. It was a moment
I will never forget.

We kicked off our school
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with a dress code fashion.

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Students working to clean the Camden Shipyard and Maritime
Museum. Photo courtesy of Ms. Morano, Director of Christian Service at Loyola.

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WHY WE SHOULD BE CRUELTY FREE: A CASE AGAINST ANIMAL CRUELTY

BY Caroline Adams ‘21

Last October, in our Junior year, Lola Staff ’19 and I, noticing a lack of STEM-based extracurricular activities at school, approached Mr. Howell to start a robotics team. He enthusiastically agreed to act as our mentor—despite his hectic schedule—and our desire to start the club began to solidify, although a multitude of questions remained. For instance, would we participate in tournaments? Would we become a T между group, an extracurricular activity, with the potential to lead students, including those who are not interested in extracurricular activities, to gain knowledge and appreciation for science and technology? Would we be able to achieve our goals?

The Robotics Club has launched!

BY Molly Marasca ‘19

When talking about the issue of animal testing, a precise and accurate language is necessary. I would like to begin by stating that I do not understand what this issue is an issue that a majority of people are either unaware of or do not care about. The purpose of this article is not to fault anyone for their actions in relation to this issue. Misunderstanding and unawareness are the main opponents when it comes to the issue of animal testing. In this article, I simply wish to enlighten and educate. So, what exactly is animal testing? Animal testing is any experiment conducted in the name of scientific research on a living, breathing animal, which often results in the animal’s distress and suffering. Animals subjected to testing are purposefully harmed, and often killed upon completion of the experiment. Such experimentation is required in the development of many products, from cosmetics to pharmaceuticals. Over one hundred million animals each year are killed in U.S. laboratories alone, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In these laboratories, experimentation includes exposing animals to radiation, forcing animals to inhale toxic gasses, injecting and force feeding animals harmful substances. Animals upon which research is conducted are often bred for the purpose of experimentation. They are denied proper living conditions, often confined to small, cold cages, and forced to live without the companionship of fellows. These animals die regularly as a result of experiments upon them. Laboratories conduct animal experimentation in order to prevent the harm of humans. In theory, this practice ensures the safety of people while still producing effective medications and non-dangerous products. Animal testing, however, has been proven to be ineffective, wasteful, and unnecessarily cruel. Researchers have found that treatments developed on animals rarely are as effective on human test subjects, according to The Journal of the American Medical Journal. Drugs, which are artificially induced in laboratories are never identical to those that naturally occur in human beings. For example, despite the fact that over 85 percent of HIV/AIDS vaccines were successful in monkey studies, not a single one was effective at preventing the disease in human beings. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, nine out of ten experimental drugs fail in clinical studies because we cannot accurately predict how they will behave in people based on laboratory and animal studies. The true reason the researchers and companies test on animals is because it is cheap. It costs far less to test a product in an animal than it does to pay a human to test products on them. In fact, as taxpaying U.S. citizens, our tax dollars go to funding animal testing. Despite the sickening injustice that is animal testing, many countries have virtually no regulation for their protection from distress and suffering. Clearly, tackling this issue on a global, national, or even a state-wide scale is a daunting and arduous process. While that is a goal that I hope we as a society will be able to reach at some point, I would like to end this article by outlining a way that we, as individuals, can fight animal testing.

The easiest way to fight animal testing is simply to be an informed consumer by buying from brands that do not test in animals. Each of us uses some form of personal care item, whether it be deodorant, hairpray, toothpaste, or makeup. While many brands that produce these products test them on animals, plenty do not. It can be difficult at first to change our shopping habits by finding such brands; however, the moral benefits of buying cruelty-free make the struggle more worthwhile. By refusing to buy from companies that treat animals with cruelty, we take a stand against injustice. We acknowledge that the living things with which we share this Earth possess the dignity afforded to all of God’s creation. With an action as simple as changing the brand of deodorant or mascara you buy, you can help take a step toward creating an industry that does not profit from suffering.

Why we should be cruelty free: a case against animal cruelty.

The Blazer

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Loyola School

The Blazer is the official newspaper of Loyola School, produced and published by the students of the school for the Loyola School Community.

President ------------------------- Mr. Tony Oroszlany
Principal----------------------------- Mr. Adam Lewis
Dean of Academics------------------- Mr. James Lyness
Dean of Students--------------------- Mr. Daniel Sullivan

Editor-in-Chief---------------------- Emily Knapp
Production Editor-------------------- Alex DelFranco
Sports Editor------------------------ Aidan Henegar
Moderator-------------------------- Dr. Robert Meade

Students are encouraged to contribute to the school newspaper at any time by sending their articles to: 19eknapp@loyolanyc.org.

Students should be aware that their contributions, if printed, may be edited to fit the available column space of The Blazer. Content may also be edited to conform to newspaper norms.

The staff of The Blazer holds monthly meetings to plan upcoming issues. Students are strongly advised to attend these meetings to get a sense of what articles need to be written. We are most in need of short, informative articles about school life. Any topic is in need of editorials or other opinion pieces.

Articles of general interest not specifically related to school life will also be considered but will be printed at the discretion of the staff. Such articles include, but are not limited to, movie reviews, book reviews, horoscopes, editorials, and humor. All decisions made by the staff regarding the suitability of an article are final.

Puzzle Column

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Easy

Difficult

Robotics Club Club Has Launched!

The Robotics Club building with Physics Teacher Mr. Howell
Photo courtesy of Mr. McDonnell, Director of Technology at Loyola

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BY Caroline Adams ‘21

Last October, in our Junior year, Lola Staff ’19 and I, noticing a lack of STEM-based extracurricular activities at school, approached Mr. Howell to start a robotics team. He enthusiastically agreed to act as our mentor—despite his hectic schedule—and our desire to start the club began to solidify, although a multitude of questions remained. For instance, would we participate in tournaments? Would we become a team? Would students from Loyola even be interested in the time-consuming activity, which meets at least twice a week after school and has a schedule comparable to that of a varsity sport? Fortunately, our fears were met with the support of the school administration and the addition of our mentor Cara Mulrooney and Technology Director Mr. McDonnell to our leadership team. After extensive research and a visit to a robotics competition, we decided to register for the First Tech Challenge.
At the end of September, around the fourth week of school, Loyola hosted our annual Student Life Day. Following two field trips for each grade on the previous day, the Freshmen through Juniors spent a day exploring different topics and ideas. Although the Seniors were enjoying themselves on their Kairos retreat, the rest of the school came together to grow in a closer environment. The following week we interviewed our Guidance counselors who organized the event. Ms. Griffilan and Ms. McDermott both put a lot of work into making the experience unique and exciting for everyone.

Q: What is Student Life Day?

Griffilan: The idea originated in the early 2000s when Kairos was planned during PSAT week and the seniors would be out of the building. The guidance department wanted to engage the students in a creative way through programming on topics that would not usually be discussed in the classroom. Substance abuse, body image, healthy relationships, and bullying are some examples of topics we have focused on in the past.

Q: What was the theme of the 2018 Student Life Day?

McDermott: The school partnered with the One Love Foundation to discuss healthy relationships through escalation workshops, trained the facilitators through a webinar designed by One Love, and reached out to students and faculty with regards to interest in afternoon activities.

Q: Were you nervous about this topic being unsettling for some students?

McDermott: We think it is important to talk about issues before necessarily person-to-personally dealing with them. It is important to enforce the ideas of consent and healthy choices at a young age. Also, knowing that the workshop focused on all relationships, not just romantic, allowed us to feel more comfortable with the idea.

The student response to One Love was truly extraordinary. After listening to the presentation, the students broke into small groups to reflect and review on the day. Although there is always a chance of some not taking the day seriously or ignoring the bigger picture, almost every group we heard from reported not only an enjoyable reflection but also a flanked with keen observations and motivating discussion. Not only did the students respond well, they learned from the conversations, and left with a greater understanding of how to build healthy relationships in their family and life.

Q: What activities did the day entail?

Griffilan: In the morning, students watched a movie, discussed their views on the movie with mixed grades, participated in a workshop and mentor reflection, and asked questions in the gym with a focus on action.

McDermott: In the afternoon, we had activities set-up including 3v3 basketball, chess, 80s/90s trivia, scavenger hunts, Gaelic football, and dodgeball.

Q: In what ways was Student Life Day a rewarding experience?

McDermott: Seeing students and faculty happy and having fun while at school was very rewarding considering the amount of work Ms. Griffilan and I put into this.

Griffilan: Also, students are more willing to come to us with relationship questions as they now have the vocabulary to have a discussion on such a topic.

Q: If you could have added on/done any aspect of Student Life Day, what would you have done differently?

McDermott: I would have wanted more alumni facilitators and allocate more time to allow students to participate in more activities.

Q: What were your personal favorite segments of Student Life Day?

McDermott: Having people chanting and cheering for fellow students during the dodgeball tournament was my favorite part.

Griffilan: Hearing kids were dancing and singing to 80s dance music with Ms. Kusk and Ms. Ferran sounds amazing!

Overall the school agreed that Student Life Day was a major success and we can feel the excitement building for next year!

VENOM: A MOVIE POISONING THE MARVEL UNIVERSE

BY DYLAN BOUQUETTE '20

This has been a great year for superhero movies: from Marvel Studios' Infinity War, to the upcoming Captain Marvel we are certainly having our fill of the good guys. That's why so many were excited to hear about a Venom movie. Audiences were expecting a gritty, intense version of the classic Spiderman villain that would amount to a new take on the world of superheroes. Unfortunately, I would have to say that Venom didn't really follow through with these promises. Venom was delivered as an un-packed movie that, despite having massive potential, never really settled on a theme or plot line. My first and foremost issue with this movie was the characters; they just weren't likable. I expected to be rooting for an anti-hero to save earth and abandon his entire species. This choice seemed so forced as a plot device that I wasn't interested in the conflict even a little bit.

Finally there is the issue of the genre. I've already referred to this movie as a superhero movie, which isn't incorrect but also isn't what you should be expecting when you walk into the theater to watch Venom. It begins like a science fiction movie, as you are introduced to aliens and spaceships. The movie then quickly turns into an action movie with car chases and bullets flying all over the screen. Only in the last 15 minutes would it be identifiable as a superhero movie.

In summation, the movie was not what I was hoping for. There was a lot going on that could've turned into exciting experiences for audiences everywhere but instead just fell flat. Overall, I believe the movie was flawed and did not live up to expectations.
The Varsity Lady Knights Volleyball team is back with some new faces who will help the team during their 2018 fall season! The girls played their fourth game on September 21 against Trevor Day at home. They demonstrated great teamwork by working to form a solid defense. The Lady Knights made sure to successfully communicate with each other, enabling them to play their best. Although our opponents had great serves, the Lady Knights dived for every ball. Sophomores Sophia Griffo, and Regina Potenza, as well as Junior Alex Deramo, were fast on their feet, portraying good dives for the ball. Freshmen Michaela Spero and Nina Talamo were both very powerful on the court exhibiting great setting and spiking. Annette Sbrolla, a Junior, showcased many forceful spikes. Seniors Emily Knapp and Natalie Siorzi played fearlessly and in the third set the two worked together to play the ball off of the net. Natalie saved the ball by setting it up in order for Emily to spike it and earn the team the point. The whole team operated like a well-oiled machine, displaying teamwork in the best way possible.

Fall Harvest

Do you ever wonder what chocolate mint tastes like? How about fresh hot peppers? Have you ever wanted to plucked a carrot straight out of the ground, ready for eating! That is exactly what the Garden Club has been up to, along with much more! The club braved frigid temperatures on October 18, gathering on the rooftop for our first Fall Harvest. Basil, planted last spring, had sprung up little trees over the summer. Uprooting basil "trees" and trimming countless leaves was a tough job, but the Garden Club went at its task with enthusiasm and grace. All summertime plants were harvested to make room for winter crops such as lettuce. Along the way, garden club members learned about herbs, perennial flowers, and purple kales, and brainstormed ways to use the plants we harvested: making pesto sauce from basil, trying fresh mint tea, or even a baking a mint leaf carrot cake! The club is deeply grateful to Alex, who joined us from the Philadelphia-based sustainable urban farming organization, Urban Creators. He has helped the Garden Club to construct, plant, and harvest from Loyola’s rooftop garden. Despite the chilly weather, it was a fantastic first harvest, and the Garden Club is excited for more to come. The club especially looks forward to the planters which Mr. Donacik’s Urban Creators created for the Lady Knights. If you are interested in joining the Garden Club, please contact Ms. Deramo or Coach Janec.

Cross-Country Team follows are based off these ideas—that setting goals, working hard, and challenging yourself are crucial to becoming a better athlete. Cross-country meets typically occur most Thursdays and Saturdays of the season, where Loyola runners compete with runners from other schools in Freshmen races (1.5 miles) or Junior Varsity and Varsity races (3.1 miles). The daily training and weekly meets prepare the runners for Champs, which closes the cross-country season. Loyola is currently holding the status of being a two-year consecutive winner of Champs, and the Cross-Country Team is working toward a third year win. Run Hard! Run Smart! Go Loyola!