

The Cistercian Informer

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Middle School

Middle School Swimming

By Alex Dabbous, '22, who just keeps swimming

In Middle School, there was a group of students who wanted to have a swim team, quickly creating a buzz that spread to the parents, who then made the dream possible. The kids were then told they needed to get an LA Fitness membership and appropriate materials, and they would be ready to be on the team.

The start of this project was rather rocky. The times for practices at LA Fitness in Irving were from 6:30 am to 7:45 am, which made out for a truly painful 7 hour school day. This was also very troublesome for those on the team that lived far away, which was the majority of the team. The other problem was the pool, which was eerie and poorly maintained; the second a tiny splash would be made, the water would start foaming. However, the team soon got used to the pool and things began going smoothly. Soon it was time for our first meet, and the new kids on the team who had never gone to a swim meet were starting to get frightened, but they survived the horror.

Our team outlasted every last team even though we only had 14 swimmers. Not long after, we had our second meet and demolished the competition in our Christmas event. When we got back after the Christmas break, we received great news, and learned that we would get to move to other pools. We now had practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday

mornings would be from 6:30-7:45 at the Four Seasons and on Thursday afternoons at Northlake College from 4:00-5:00. After returning to school, we invested our time in just training for our Finals meet. All of our practices were dedicated to dives and trying to beat our original times.

When it came time for the finals, everyone was anticipating what would happen, and it was truly a nervous time for Middle School. However, everything turned out well; our team had so many golds and silvers that we didn't know what to do with them. When the end of the meet arrived, we were all doubting ourselves, but we achieved first place and won by 75 points. Now that the season is over, the team is wondering what will become of it next year. All and all, this was an incredibly successful first year, and we'd be glad to have more students join next year.



Photo by Fr. Greg

Valentine's Dance

By Jackson Summers, '22, who was able to keep his shirt on for a total of thirty minutes

Form IV is a year full of new opportunities, especially in the social department. Besides Junior Assembly, one of the greatest experiences our class has had was the Hockaday Valentine's Dance which consisted of students from only Hockaday, Cistercian, and Saint Mark's, unlike JA, which has people

from a few other schools. Most of the students in my class attended and from what I can tell, we all had a wonderful time. (My favorite part was being able to see all of my classmates who are usually sweaty, stinky, and dressed in rags which have not been cleaned in decades get cleaned up).

In many ways, it was very different from Junior Assembly. Because of the fewer number of students, the setting was a bit more intimate but only slightly less chaotic. My belief is that this dance is designed to give students an idea of what dances will be like in High School. High School dances such as Winter Formal and Homecoming offer a more personal social setting. At a dance like this, students are given the opportunity to both dance and have fun, and also talk and get to know each other.

To sum it up, if you are one of my classmates who has trouble enjoying themselves at most of our dances, have hope that the dances in high school will be more like the Valentine's dance at Hockaday.

The Nest

The Cistercian Awards

By Saish Satyal, '21, who should get an award for the number of articles he writes

Welcome to the Cistercian Teacher Awards! This is a highly renowned awards ceremony, and the winners of these awards are highly envied. There were many contenders for these prestigious honors, but only a few could take home the trophy:

Best Homecoming Dance Moves:

Fr. Philip takes it away with the Indian Lungi Dance. He performed it for us in class once. It brought tears to everyone's eyes, and it ended with a standing ovation. If someone has a different idea of what happened, they aren't a writer for *the Informer*, so they don't control history.

Best Dance Moves in General: This one will have to go to Fr. Lawrence. He crushed a student in a dance-off at the Freshman Mixer. I won't say who for the sake of his dignity, but it's not like I have any dignity left after being beaten so badly.

Fastest Person on the English

Department: Winning much kleos, Mr. Spence speeds into first. If you see him zooming around the school, presumably late for a Student Council meeting, be sure to get out of the way. His speed rivals Atalanta of Arcadia.

Most Relatable Quote: This award goes to Fr. Lawrence for the quote "That takes effort, so we're not

gonna do that," which he said to us during a Form Masters class.

Best Informer Editor: Well, it certainly isn't Ben Woods, I'll tell you that.

Best Homecoming Costume: This award goes to Fr. Gregory for his magnificent jester costume. As a bonus, he gave people Snickers and spoke French! However, we must mention Mr. Spence as the runner-up. He shaved his ever-present beard for his costume.

Best True/False Section: This award goes to Mr. Mehen for his truly glorious True/False tests that always destroy my grade, and especially for his daily True/False quizzes which Ben guesses on and gets 100's while I study and get 60's (and sometimes 10's).

Best Beard In School: While Mr. Blackwell's beard is nice, Dr. Rinaldi's takes the cake. In fact, one of our sources says he combs his beard to keep it so well groomed. He saw this during a Biology class when Dr. Rinaldi thought the class wasn't watching. We have concealed this student's identity. He stated that he doesn't want a marker flying towards him when he least expects it.

Most Soul-Crushing Tests (So Far): While I consider all tests to be



Photo by Mr. Gregg

soul-crushing, especially those in math, Fr. Lawrence's tests narrowly get the victory. I still have nightmares about our First Form Math Final.

Most Blatant Disregard for Chair

Rules: While this person isn't a teacher, his disregard for the rules is astonishing. Most people would think it goes to Ben Woods for constantly forgetting the rule, but it actually goes to Michael Wilson. I won't say what he does, but you should be on the lookout for his shenanigans.

MVP (Most Valuable Penances):

Dr. Newcomb takes this award. While he didn't actually give out this penance, we all took his threat very seriously. An unnamed boy was leaning back in his chair and almost got a 200 line penance of the phrase "I will not lean back in my chair."

The Nest

Awards (cont'd)

Most Jaw-Dropping Ability: We're going to disregard Mr. Blackwell's backflip, and instead give this award to Fr. Philip for his amazing ability to eat everything, ranging from homework to penances.

Most Likely to Give Students Diabetes: There are two clear frontrunners in this category: Dr. Rinaldi and Madame Obels-Robinson. However, Madame wins this contest by a very narrow margin. Both of them have candy in their office, but Madame has even more candy. Many freshmen have gone to her office to ask a fake question and get some candy. In fact, one group has formed a "French Gang" to go to ask for candy regularly.

Best Office: The contestants for this category are Mr. Humphries and Dr. Rinaldi. Mr. Humphries has lots of airplanes and models, while Dr. Rinaldi has FUNKO Pops of superheroes. In this contest, Dr. Rinaldi wins. While his figures tie him with Mr. Humphries, his secret weapon, candy, pushed him over the edge to the finish line.

Best Throwing Accuracy: Mr. Spence and Mr. Parker were close on this one, but Mr. Parker eventually gains the prize. His ability to throw markers at sleeping students is uncanny. I would accuse him of hacking or using cheat codes, but unfortunately, this is the real world and those don't really exist.

Explaining Grades

By Saish Satyal, '21, who only had 6 nervous breakdowns this week

Well, the end of the quarter is approaching and everyone is starting to panic because their grades are probably pretty bad. Luckily, I have a lot of experience in telling my parents about my bad grades. Here's a few ways to dull the pain of your parents disappointed stares:

LIE

Tell them you have your grades, but don't actually show them the card. If you have a 3.20, tell them that you have a 3.75, but don't let your parents see your real grades. If you do that, you're screwed. This method also works if you need to hide a girlfriend from your parents for some strange reason.

PLAY HIDE AND SEEK

Tell them that you left your report card somewhere at school and try to delay your inevitable doom. If all goes well, your parents will forget about your trashy grades and you will live another day. If they don't, you're also screwed.

SACRIFICES

Appease your parents with other good actions so that they are happy before they see your grades. Do things like making them breakfast, cleaning the dishes, and taking care of your brother. When the time comes, they might just let you live.

MANIPULATION

Only tell your parents the bad grades you get back during the



Photo by amboo who?

quarter. That way, when they get your report card, they will hopefully be pleasantly surprised. NOTE: This will probably backfire on you, and make things worse.

ACT OUT

Tell your parents you're running away or you got in serious trouble so that when you reveal that you are kidding, they will be very relieved. Then, give them your grades and flee. Ideally they will be too happy to actually notice your bad grades and you will get off scot-free.

CHANGE YOUR GRADES

Basically, you use White Out and then you change your grade. It probably won't work, but at this point, you have nothing to lose. You're reading an article in the school newspaper about how to tell your parents your grades. There is nothing left.

HACK INTO THE SCHOOL

Have the FBI agent that is monitoring you hack into the school's servers and change your grades. Hopefully, this agent is loyal to you and not loyal to the law.

PRAY TO YOUR GOD(S)

Honestly, only He can help you now.

The Nest

Ask Kattdaddy!

What are your plans for Spring Break?

The same as every week (I never have school): scratching, eating, napping, visiting a new dimension, etc. You know, just normal feline behavior.

What are you doing on St. Patrick's Day?

Wearing green. Stay pinch-free kids.

Who is your favorite teacher?

I don't have one. I have several beloved wardens, but they're definitely not teachers.

What did you think of Black Panther?

For the first time, cats have been represented in mainstream media. Now all the kittens around the world have someone of the same species to look up to. The themes discussed in the movie are close to my own feline heart. Every day, kittens are scared of the very things meant to protect them. They face persecution by everyone around them - dog and human alike. This movie was a step in the right direction, but much remains to be done.

If you had a "do-over" what would you do over in life?

Nothing. I am perfectly happy with the friends I have and the life I live. If there was even the smallest chance that I wouldn't have met someone in my life, I wouldn't risk it. Part of life is making peace with what you have. The less you start looking back and wondering what you could have done, the better you feel about the future. Unless it was meeting a certain assistant Editor-in-Chief. Just kidding...

What class are you taking for BraveArt?

I will be attending woodworking - I need a new scratching post. They don't make them the same since the termite infestation. I guess I'll have to do it myself.

What kind of cat are you?

The kind that writes articles for *the Informer*. I may not be human, but at least I'm not a lazy bum.



Photo by The Photoshop Club

By The Numbers

of Oscars
Dunkirk
shouldn't have won

3

% of brackets
that will fail this
March Madness

100%

of Days I survived the Super
Size Me Challenge

6

How old is too
old for watching
kids movies

27

of Medals
America won
in the Winter
Olympics

23

Submit your questions to kattdaddyinformer@gmail.com!

The Nest

What To Do for Spring Break

By Saysh Satyal, '21, who isn't going anywhere because he doesn't have his beach body ready yet

Spring Break can't get here fast enough! After 3 months of stress and studying, everyone is ready to kick back, relax, and turn their brains off for an entire week. Unfortunately, this article won't help Spring Break arrive any faster; however, It will help you daydream about what you're going to do over your break while your teachers try in vain to feed you knowledge in your last classes before freedom.

The best thing to do over the break is to sleep. Some students may think that my advice is to get more than 10 hours of sleep every day in order to become healthy and refreshed. While that is good advice, that isn't my advice. My advice is to basically become Sleeping Beauty. After sleeping for a week, you'll be totally ready for the first three hours of school, and then you'll probably be tired again. A great way to do this is to have a witch curse you. Just make sure in your contract that you wake up after a week. My friend did this, but he wasn't paying much attention and got turned into a gremlin. So it obviously has its risks, but I think the experience will make a great story.

Spring Break is also a great time to go do something with your family, but a lot of these things are going to need parental approval. The first thing that comes to mind when I think of Spring Break is a cruise. It's a floating hotel/resort

and it's amazing. The only part of a cruise that isn't fun is the constant fear of death. In my defense, I was 7 and I had heard about the Titanic sinking, so I thought that was going to happen to us. I also thought that sharks could break through the hull of the ship and cause it to sink. So when I went to bed at night, all I could think about was how I was going to die. Other than that, it was a really fun experience.

Another great thing to do over the break would be to go to Colorado. I went there last year and it was beautiful. I didn't go skiing because that's terrifying and I have common sense. I don't want to barrel down a slippery mountain with weird sticks on my feet; that would definitely kill me. I did drive up the side of a couple of mountains and the views were absolutely breathtaking. Again, I was quite terrified because the roads were so narrow and winding. On the first mountain that my dad and I "climbed," it had just rained, so I thought I was going to plummet to my doom. The view made up for all of the troubles that we went through during the trip though. Looking back on it, that trip had a lot of bad things happen. I didn't get to be indoors the whole time, I had really bad stomach problems for most of the time, my brother barfed in the car, and I spent a lot of time being smushed in the back seat. I also got food poisoning. I spent a



Photo by Studiopratisaad0

lot of time on the toilet, BUTT I recovered and am still alive. Get it? No? Oh well. But, I also got to eat a really yummy donut at 14,144 feet. Overall, it was a great experience, even with the setbacks.

The ABSOLUTE best and healthiest option for this Spring Break is to not sleep at all. Just stay up all night watching movies and stay on the couch all day playing video games. Trust me, when you tell your parents about this plan, they'll love it. Also, the Mountain Dew and Doritos totally won't give you heartburn. You could make a good choice and enjoy a relaxing vacation with friends and family. Going to a cabin in the woods in the middle of Minnesota with your family is also an AMAZING idea. This was one of the few family trips that I had zero problems on.

News

Puerto Rico - It's Still a Problem

By Ethan Ramchandani, '21, who found the Rich Port

Since the disastrous hurricane Maria in September 2017, Puerto Rico has been struggling to get back on its feet. Although some improvement has been made, there are still areas of the island without power and in dire need of aid. Despite the generous support of many people around the world, the small island nation still has a long way to go on their road to recovery.

The major flooding and battering winds have taken power from an overwhelming amount of people on the island, leaving them without contact to the mainland. As of right now approximately 30-40 percent of Puerto Rico has been left without electricity, air conditioning, or clean running water making the conditions far less than ideal. However, not all is lost, a heartwarming video on Facebook shows the faculty and students rejoicing after power returns to their school a little over 3 months after the hurricane hit. This video has helped bring the Puerto Rico problem back into the spotlight.

Still, electricity isn't the most pressing issue for the victims of hurricane Maria. The death toll continues to increase long after the storm has passed; there is a new foe to face: malnourishment. FEMA, making a huge mistake, entrusted a small Atlanta-based contractor with a 156 million dollar deal to send 30 million meals to Puerto Rico. Only 50,000 meals ended up

being sent. This whole deal has become a mess for everyone involved. The small contractor's company has been entrusted with government deals 20 times. However, shops have become open again and there are small distributions of food going out to the public so the situation is definitely improving slowly.

Unfortunately, the death toll in Puerto Rico has been severely underestimated. After the initial storm the count was 64, but after multiple search and rescue missions and further examination of the damage that count has grown to over 1,000, and this comes with many more injured. The surviving Puerto Rican hospitals have been completely overwhelmed with patients. Communications between hospitals was heavily disrupted, giving rise to major problems. Patients are being transferred to other institutions without knowing if those places have the capacity or resources to handle them. The lack of resources and functioning hospitals is only adding to the number of people dead. The United States Naval Hospital Ship, The Comfort, has docked in Puerto Rico but is not being used to its full capacity. Small clinics are unsure of how to send patients to the ship.

Despite the support from the government, president Trump seems as though he doesn't feel sympathetic for the islanders. He



Photo by US Customs

has called hurricane Maria not a real catastrophe like hurricane Katrina. Puerto Ricans, mind you, are American citizens. In the State of the Union Address, a number that can only be given as wishful thinking was claimed by our president. That number was 16. That just isn't true. No condolences were offered for the survivors of the storm who still struggle with getting their lives back on track. Instead he complained about how expensive it is to help Puerto Rico recover. FEMA has described it as the "largest federal response to a natural disaster" ever.

Puerto Rico can use help. We can do our part and donate some money, which would really help. If everyone gives a little time or money, Puerto Rico can recover much faster. Even volunteering at a food bank on a Saturday is something. So to everyone, please give your help to Puerto Rico!

Sports

Varsity Soccer SPC

By Chase Frutos, '21,

This year's Winter Soccer Championship Tournament was held in Houston, Texas from Thursday, February 15th to Saturday the 17th. We had placed fourth in the North Division, so we did not have a bye for the first game of the SPC tournament. Instead, we had a game Thursday night.

Our first game was against St. Stephen's. We went into this game confident in what we had accomplished. Halfway through the first half, Jimmy Garda received the ball in the midfield. He used his speed to get past the first defender. Then, when he was about 18 yards away from the goal, he beat the last defender. He shot the ball, scoring near post and making the score 1-0. We controlled the game for the entire first half, and then the second half began. We struggled to keep possession during this half. St. Stephen's was starting to get more opportunities to shoot the ball. The score remained 1-0 for a long time until we fouled St. Stephen's with no time left in the game. They served a ball into the box and we cleared it as far as we could, winning the game. It was a hard fought game for both teams. We came into the game knowing we could win and we executed well.

The next day, at 12:00pm we were set to play Episcopal, who came into the tournament with an undefeated record. Episcopal was the favorite to win this tournament, having won the SPC tournament

the past two years. The first half began and we found ourselves struggling to gain possession of the ball. We knew coming into the game that we were not going to be able to maintain possession of the ball for very long, so we decided that our strategy was going to be to defend for as long as possible, and then attack at the very end of the game. Towards the end of the first half they scored a goal putting them up one to zero. We were disappointed that we couldn't shut them out for the first half, but we still had another half to go. Episcopal continued to control the ball for most of the second half, but our strong defense began to frustrate them. We suspect they have not seen this kind of resistance in the South this season. In the middle of the second half, Evan Anderson took a spectacular shot from inside of the box and hit the crossbar and the ball deflected it to Christian Schommer, who then headed it barely over the crossbar! I think Episcopal knew at this point that Cistercian was going to give them a workout. We came so close to tying the game right then and there. Neither team scored in the second half. With seconds left on the clock and everyone in the stands on their feet making noise, we had a corner kick. Caleb, our goalie, ran the entire length of the field to get in the box to try one last time to tie the game. The cross came in and Caleb headed it down. He then fell to the ground and shot

the ball into the back of the net. Coach Walsh began running with joy because we thought we had tied the toughest team in SPC. But then, the referee called a foul on our team for an unknown reason, crushing our hopes of winning the game.

The final day of our tournament was a match against St. John's for fifth place. Sadly, it was the senior's last soccer game for Cistercian, so we started every single senior on the team and we watched with pride as they played the last game of the season. Midway through the first half, Chase received the ball just outside the 18-yard box. He beat the first man with a fake and then shot the ball right over the goalie's head and just under the crossbar, putting us up one to zero. Not long after that, a ball was played to Jimmy who then shot it past the keeper, making it 2-0 by halftime, but we had a rough second half. St. John's was outplaying us. They scored with ten minutes left in the game, making it a close game. Then once again, with seconds on the clock, they played the ball into the box and scored tying the game. Now it was time for penalty kicks to decide who would win the game and take 5th place in SPC. Cistercian had made four out of the five penalty kicks and St. John's had made three of their four penalty kicks. It all came down to the last kick...

Sports

Soccer (cont'd)

If Caleb made the save, we would win the game. The player shot the ball and Caleb dove and saved it. Immediately we all rushed over to Caleb and dog piled on top of him! The emotions of a long hard-fought season seemed to rush out and pour onto the field. This game was an exciting last game for the seniors and for all of us to be a part of. "I've played soccer nearly my whole life, and never once did I think of how it would all end. Standing at midfield, shoulder to shoulder with my teammates, it was as if nothing else in the world mattered except for this one penalty kick. Watching Caleb make that save on the last penalty kick, was better than any ending I could've dreamed of," said Conner McConnell. This is what Cistercian athletics is all about.

Swimming SPC

By John Paul Spak, '19.

On Friday, March 16, the swim team departed Cistercian bound for Conroe, Texas, where they would compete with other schools for the SPC championship. As a member of that team, I can proudly say that we had hoped to resuscitate a dying dynasty that had placed Cistercian in the top 3 for many of the past years. Led by our fearless seahorse of a coach, Jeff Veazey, things looked somewhat promising.

We knew that we would not finish as high as we had in the

past because we had lost a great number of good swimmers, but things didn't look so bad. We were rebuilding, and it still looked possible to achieve 7th or 8th place this year. Unfortunately, this would not play out. By the end of the meet, we found ourselves at the bottom of the pit of misery, AKA dead last.

Despite this, the trip itself was quite memorable. Driven by the honorable Coach Gray in a fashionably out-of-style prison bus, we all underwent a lot of fun team bondage that drew us closer together. We went to Olive Garden for dinner on Friday night, because apparently Olive Garden carries light meals that won't fill up a swimmer too much before a meet. Thankfully, Cistercian graciously paid for our food, provided that it was under ten dollars.

The best part of the trip, however, was the trip to the mall after dinner. This trip is the iconic moment for most Cistercian swimmers' SPC experience, and this year was no different. We used our time thoughtfully as we explored many new and interesting stores, including a Build-a-Bear Workshop. We decided to get a special gift for the great Jeff, and therefore many of us partook in creating a special stuffed animal tailored exactly towards Jeff's likings. Even though not all of the members were responsible for this act of sincere gratitude, as some swimmers preferred to stay back at their rooms locked in their bathrooms, the gift truly represent-

ed our team as a whole and in the words of Jeff, it is something he will never forget.

After that, we all returned to the hotel where two freshmen were given the honorable task of brewing our totally FDA approved energy drink (Jeff calls it Booty Juice, we call it Booty Sweat). We even got an artist among us to decorate the lid of the cooler in which the energy drink lay to better uplift the spirits of the team.

Unfortunately this meet marked our having to say goodbye to a few people, namely our captain, Jacob Bartz, as well as other seniors Matthew Hess and Evan Bird plus our spiritual leader. He took his mighty position on top of the lockers at North Lake Community College. Bod as he was called was recently killed when someone stole him from his rightful place and threw him away, leaving only a candle behind. (Note: this is not a person.)

To cap it all off, we engaged in yet another swimming tradition: Buc-ee's. Following our meet, on the bus ride back to Cistercian, we all got the opportunity to gorge ourselves on all the junk food we had to abstain from the previous night, and most of us followed suit. On the bus ride, we were able to enjoy the works of great artists such as Dr. Chuck Tingle, making the experience even more surreal. All in all, it was an experience that will never be forgotten, even if it wasn't really a success.

The Arts

"Pray For Me"

By Ayden Kowalski, '21, who wants to go to Wakanda during Spring Break

"Pray For Me," the final track of the *Black Panther* album, is an electronic track of great emotional depth, setting desperate pleas of both fear and optimism against a staggering beat. Like the other singles from the album, it combines the soft beauty of pop with intricate lyricism and ideas; this one, like *All the Stars*, has a radio-pop edge rather than the rap hit ascetic of *King's Dead*. Its performers happen to be two of the greatest in modern music: otherworldly vocalist the Weeknd and G.O.A.T.-contender Kendrick Lamar. The Weeknd opens this relay, carrying the baton flawlessly through the first verse and chorus. He casts himself as a solitary Black Panther on the edge of numbness by the end of the first verse, at risk of losing the compassion that made him a great king. The chorus finds the Weeknd pleading to a mysterious "you" for liberation and freedom, someone who would pray for him and someone for whom he would die. While the subject seems to be at first the movie's love interest, the self-confident warrior Nakia, a closer analysis suggests that the savior Black Panther craves in this song is not his singular lover, but his native Wakanda.

As the Weeknd fades out, Kendrick Lamar appears and glides over the beat. He slides perfectly between the styles of his lines (his more spacious delivery of "I'm

trying to fight back tears/Flood on my doorsteps" turning swiftly to "Shooters on top of the building, government aid ain't relief" is one example), splatter painting pictures of disaster with blood puddles, snipers, hurricanes, and references to 9/11, and in it, telling himself, Black Panther, and an undisclosed "you" that the hero sought is within. This line is an incredibly powerful rousing call not only to the Wakandans, but to everybody who identifies with them.

The ending few lines of Lamar's verse bring back the unmistakable feelings and textures of the *Heart Part 4*. Something is deeply wrong with this world, and the apocalypse is not far now. His final declaration of self-sacrifice ties deeper into this: he is willing to die for his faith here, casting Black Panther as a character much like him. And with that final insight, Kendrick withdraws into the wings of the stage again, letting the Weeknd plunge back into his optimistic uncertainty and unleash glitchy vocals screaming what appears to be "alone" on both sides of the stereo, while an additional melody arises to give even more depth to the music than the background vocals can provide.

At this point, the third verse slows, finding the Weeknd singing his gorgeous chorus over synth chords, his voice echoing into a gloomy night sky, slurring the ifs in



Photo by Interscope Records

his lines like his voice is breaking out of something, giving a heavier emotional weight to this final round. And then, just as a final pre-chorus would be expected, Kendrick Lamar suddenly swoops in singing over multiple layers of himself, and he sounds phenomenal. He is living by himself and his own rule in case his faith turns out to be a fairy tale, and the pop formality of his monologue makes it hit even harder. And with Kendrick's unexpected and sweeping outro over, the synths vanish back into the darkness, leaving the Weeknd howling alone, the staggering beat finally slamming into the guardrail and tumbling into the abyss. The last chugs of the fading beat turn into a programmed three-second silence, and with that, this haunting song dissipates, leaving its beat to pound in the listener's head, the words of the song wedged somewhere deep within.

The Arts

March & April Movie Preview

By Calvin Step, '20, who really should procrastinate less

A Wrinkle in Time - Disney's adaptation of Madeline L'Engle's classic story updates the story to a more modern setting, and utilizes a great cast and a very successful up-and-coming director, Ava DuVernay. Early reactions have been mixed, but hopefully the movie will at least be fun, and have lots of scenes with Oprah. (March 9th)

Tomb Raider - Video game adaptations are notoriously bad and they also tend to barely make any money. The original *Tomb Raider* was one exception and it actually made money. But that was over ten years ago, and Angelina Jolie was a much bigger movie star than the Alicia Vikander is. The trailers have been unmemorable so far, and the poster makes her look more like a velociraptor than a human, which just keeps this looking a movie that will mostly be ignored. (March 10th)

Sherlock Gnomes - A sequel to everybody's favorite Shakespeare adaptation, *Sherlock Gnomes* is sure to be a lock for several Oscars next year. After all, if *Suicide Squad* can do it, so can Gnomeo and Juliet. (March 23rd)

Ready Player One - I loved the book when I first read it two years ago. But the first looks at this have been...underwhelming. While the more recent trailers have gotten better, the CGI still (especially Wade's avatar Parzival) looks

somewhat underdeveloped, and the likelihood that a good movie can be made out of something that requires so many nostalgia call-backs is very low. They also seem to be changing the events of the book very significantly, and it's still up in the air if these changes are for better or worse. But, this is also a Steven Spielberg movie, so that should still give us hope...right? And kudos for giving the Iron Giant a major role (if you haven't seen *the Iron Giant* do yourself a favor and watch it; it's on Netflix). (March 29th)

A Quiet Place - *Light's Out*, but with sound, and set in some sort of post-apocalyptic land. Directed by Jim from *the Office* and starring both him and his wife...in real life. AKA not Pam. So no, it is not an apocalyptic *Office* reunion, which means we will never get to see Dwight K. Schrute beating zombies with beets. How disappointing. (April 6th)

Truth or Dare - Blumhouse's next new horror film stars Lucy Hale fresh off of *Pretty Little Liars*. I'm not gonna lie; I thought that show ended at least 5 years ago considering I still remember seeing ads for it during ABC Family's Harry Potter marathons when I was 9. But apparently it just ended last year, and she needed a job, so she's starring in this, where a game of truth or dare goes horribly wrong. Blumhouse has proven themselves



Photo by Marvel Studios

to be very skilled at picking horror films to produce, with *Get Out* just winning an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay, but this does not seem to be very promising or unique. And what is with the random CGI faces? I don't know whether I should laugh at them or be scared? I'll be saving my money later this year for their *Halloween* reboot, and I'd suggest you plan on doing the same. (April 13th)

Avengers: Infinity War - After ten years of setup, it all leads to this. Adding the Guardians, Spider-Man, and Black Panther will at least make it feel different than the other *Avengers* movie, and since not many Phase Four movies have been announced and several star's contracts are coming to an end, this does leave the potential for real stakes and actual tension. So now we just have to hope it doesn't end in an hour-long battle with CGI characters...for the third time in a row. (April 27th)

Puzzles

Spring Break

Q Y L Y U T P Q L V C Z S A T
W E T W I A P L D S G J G P S
V U M L Q A V S Y L M V S U L
L V T H Y G X V B E Q U J C E
S T I U S M I W S F H I R S D
S W G N I D R A O B W O N S D
S K D Q R G E S J Z W B M N I
K A R H Y F N H X M B E E D N
I E Z W E W W I R C I A O S G
I R A Q I J V Z R L F C R N K
N B X V V B L N B P V H E O I
G C P V K E P I T I S L T W Z
W G K V D X S A N D I K A R S
Q P X R A X L A N W M W W H S
H D W Z L C H Y E N V K Q V X

BEACH
BREAK
SAND
SKIING
SLEDDING
SNOW
SNOWBOARDING
SPRING
SWIMSUIT
WATER

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