

The Cistercian Informer

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Newsline

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL: Rockets
Learn how the third-formers filled the forest with lost rockets



IN NEST: Summer Plans
Figure out the best way to waste your 93 days of freedom



IN NEWS: Boots on the Border
Decide if sending troops to our border is a wise choice



IN ARTS: Summer Movie Preview
Plan which of this summer's endless sequels you want to see



Online

"Farewell, Cistercian"
By Jake FitzGerald, '18

"Stanley Cup Finals"
By Patrick Geary, '20

"NBA Finals"
By Anthony Peterman, '20

"TrackNation 2018"
By Alex Smith, '21

The North Korean Quagmire

Winston Hartnett, '20,
who loves the Supreme Leader

Oppenheimer mused, as a brilliant fireball engulfed the bleached sands of New Mexico, "Now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds." Notwithstanding Oppenheimer's foreboding, the United States' weapons of mass destruction deployment has ironically prevented numerous wars through deterrence. This 20th, now 21st, century concept of deterrence has shaped in profound ways the new world order that has formed since the collapse of the Soviet Union. With every addition of members into the exclusive "nuclear arms club," however, a fundamental concern always lingers: proliferation, a domino-effect nuclear arms race, and the consequential need to enforce nuclear responsibility.

In the disquiet that followed the first North Korean nuclear tests in 2006, the terms proliferation and deterrence floated in academic circles, policy forums, and news cycles



regularly and were debated extensively in campaigns and colleges around our country.

The United States and much of the world have an interest in maintaining the status quo, preventing a domino effect of nuclearization with the belief that South Korea will also develop the bomb if

North Korea does, followed by Japan, then Indonesia, until in the words of satirist Tom Lehrer "Alabama's got the bomb." In practice, preventing proliferation is an active diplomatic task, made especially difficult by North Korea's supreme isolation.

Continued on Page 5

Robotics Runs the World

Davis Jackson, '20,
who is the Better Marshall

Thousands of students had worked for six long, grueling, and busy weeks to prepare a robot for the FIRST Robotics Competition. Our Fusion Corps worked night and day to develop a mighty robot, "Marvin" that could complete every task of the game. Finally, it had come time to compete in the regular season tournaments. We fought valiantly, participating in the fourth seed alliance in the local Dallas tournament, only to lose in the quarterfinals against the fifth seed. However, the team returned to tournament play in Lubbock with vengeance and joined a powerful defensive alliance that made it all the way to finals; even though we lost, we still qualified for the World Championship.

And so, several weeks later, the team journeyed down to Houston to take on the world.

The convention center in downtown Houston hosted 408 teams, split into six divisions, playing on separate fields. Tens of thousands of spectators gathered to witness the teams battle each other in mind, spirit, and tech. Fusion Corps played in the Hopper division, which also included the two best teams in the season so far: 148 Robowranglers and 254 Cheesy Poofs.

Over two days and ten qualification matches, Marvin earned a record of six wins and four losses, temporarily receiving the highest score of the day. But Marvin ran into many problems along the way, including failures in his autonomous code, despite the fact that we were consistently improving it. Even with multiple setbacks, Marvin ultimately earned the rank of nineteenth in a division of sixty-eight teams. There was not much time for us to enjoy the festivities within the long days; however, we were able to visit the Tech Challenge and LEGO League fields, which

Continued on Page 4

IT'S BACK!

The old style is back and it's here to stay! *The Informer* staff is dedicated to producing more issues in this format, but we need your help to make that happen. We want your articles, pictures, and input. Come by during an activities period and share your ideas with us! We want your feedback, and we need your skills in order to make the paper exceed the quality of this issue. Help us turn *The Informer* into the best student newspaper in the Dallas area!

Follow us on:
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and stay up to date this summer!

Middle School

From Hawk to Eagle

*Vincent Micheli, '23,
who forgot that ESD is also
the Eagles*

On February 3rd, I held my Eagle Project at Cistercian. I led a group that planted trees and spread mulch in the large area with the hill in front of the weight room and also on the strip of land before driving up toward the upper parking lot.

I started talking with the school in the fall and we made all of the plans in the months leading up to the project day. Anyone who has done an Eagle project knows that the plan must be detailed and requires that everything is thought out beforehand. Mr. Parker was great to work with, and he helped with all my questions. I was super excited when five trees and two truckloads of mulch were delivered the day of the project.

The two huge piles of mulch were a little intimidating, and after hitting the clay with the first efforts of shoveling a hole for a tree, we realized that five holes might take longer than we

thought. However, with the help of sixty-three volunteers throughout the day, and the use of a hand auger and tractor, we were able to finish the project on time.

The project was a great experience. I learned that leading a project takes a lot of planning and patience. I tried to think of questions before getting to the project day, so that I could make sure that everyone knew what they needed to do when they needed to do it.

Part of the requirement for the Eagle project is that the Scout cannot do any of the work. They have to organize, coordinate, and lead the project. The biggest lesson that I learned through this was that a leader can only accomplish a big project with the help of others; I would never have been able to complete my project without all of the great help of so many of my classmates, troop members, parents, and neighbors. I really appreciate everyone who helped me!

A lot of people think that as soon as a Scout finishes his Eagle project, he becomes an Eagle Scout, but that isn't the case. Making Eagle Scout means that the Scout has completed 325 different re-

quirements and gone through the prior ranks: Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life. Each of the Ranks require a list of different achievements, but the Eagle Rank requires the achievement of 13 Eagle merit badges, 8 elective merit badges, troop leadership positions for a minimum of 16 months, and at least 16 hours on different service projects (not including the many hours spent on the Eagle Scout project).

Once all of the requirements are completed, all of the Eagle paperwork has to be submitted. You have to fill out an application with the dates and details of all of the requirements, write an ambition statement (basically a short, two-page paper), get all of the leaders sign-off on the project plan workbook, and complete the Scoutmaster Conference. After that, everything is turned into the Council and they set up an Eagle Board of Review. The Board includes three to



Photo By Vincent Micheli

six people who read the materials you have turned in and then interview the Scout. At the end of the Review, they decide if the Scout will be approved for Eagle and they sign the application. I was approved for Eagle Rank on March 22.

The original application with all of the signatures has to be turned into the Council and they get additional signatures and send it to the National Council who reviews everything and signs all of the paperwork. It normally takes 3 to 6 weeks for the Troop to get an Eagle Packet back. My Eagle Packet was given to my Scoutmaster on April 4th, so thanks to all of the help at Cistercian, I am now a full-fledged Eagle Scout!



Photo By Br. Raphael

*Noah Fohlmsbee, '23,
who will join SpaceY*

This year's series of Third Form rocket launches was an amazing spectacle! Many excellent rockets were created, fired, and recovered, with only a small minority getting lost in the branches of a tree, the depths of the Trinity, or becoming out of sight forever behind the old rusty train-tracks. Some particularly unlucky rockets even exploded midair, spewing their ashy remains all over the Hidden Field. Another two very unlucky

dates of the launches were randomly scattered across the months of March and April, due to extensive rain delay and breaks. We did eventually finish them though, and Nicholas Ringdahl noted that "The best part about the rocket project was finally seeing them fly off in the sky."

Building the rocket, for me personally, was a rather enjoyable experience. I got to work with my dad to create a shiny gold and silver model, the Estes Expedition. I'm sure it was also very enjoyable for others, but many people, including myself, decided it would somehow be a good idea to wait until the last couple of days to build their rockets. This led to a stressful and potentially dangerous heap of

The Rocket Launches

rockets had a parachute malfunction and crashed into the parking lot. But, other than those, all the rockets worked perfectly, creating a radiant show for our eyes. The actual

mumbo-jumbo when assembling the rocket. But some didn't even have an option. Over half of our form was out with the flu during this time, which made it very hard to get the rocket in on time. Tarun Senthil Kumar said that "At first I thought it would be hard for me to make the rocket, but it only took little amounts of work at different times and precise spray painting." Albert Parmenter agreed that it required very precise painting, and went on to say that "painting it was not easy, but it was worth it when I saw mine fly through the air."

During the launches we were allowed to use our mobile devices to record video, which may not have been the best idea. While it did allow us to get tons of awesome slow-motion shots of the rockets soaring to the heavens, it also allowed for some more illicit ways to pass the time. With the new release of Fortnite mobile and other distracting apps, it was fairly easy to get sidetracked...

Some of the more enjoyable launches were the rocket races. For those, two rockets would be lined up on a launch pad and soar through the sky to see which one

was faster and able to reach a higher altitude. Recovering the rockets was also a very fun experience. Sending groups of children into the woods to look for recently launched rockets worked (surprisingly) well. We had lots of fun exploring and our mission success rate was (slightly) above fifty percent. There were only a few accidents, one student fell into a huge mud pile when looking for another student's lost rocket. That rocket was recovered, but at a cost. Luckily, everything turned out fine and the rest of the day was pretty normal.

Overall the launches were very successful, and the rocket recovery rates were very high. Even with some of their rockets going up in flames or disappearing in the forest, everyone had tons of fun and students like Nate Stecklein agreed that "it was an uplifting experience; we went outside during school and we improved in physics at the same time." It was a great experience and I hope the incoming Third Formers will have a just as good of an experience, although they should probably play less Fornite Mobile during their launches than we did.

BY THE NUMBERS



Number of Funny "By the Numbers" this Year

0

Number of Points Track & Field Got at SPC

> 1

Number of Good Cistercian Publications

1:Reflections

Number of Finals People Will Study Enough For

0

Number of Dead Avengers

2 MANY

Summer Plans

Charles Tredway, '21, who is a Mad Man

Ah, summer. We dream about you and your greatness every day during the experience we call school. However, when you do come around, chances are that we're not quite sure how to spend the time. Like the great legendary heroes Phineas and Ferb did over their 104-day break, we must come up with fantastic ideas to fill our time during this break. I have found three archetypes, if you will, in which all students can be categorized:

1) *The Lazy Fellow*. This human being has decided that he is going to sit down on his couch, bed, chair, or whatever seating device he has run into, and he is going to take the largest chill pill known to mankind. The only reason why he would get off of his lazy glutes is to grab food, to change the remote batteries, to turn on the TV if the batteries don't work, or to move to a

different couch because he wants variety.

2) *The Mad-Man*. This homo sapien decided one morning that he was going to run around the whole Earth twice, go to the store shirtless while wearing heelies, toilet-paper a random house twice a day, and go to every sushi restaurant to ride the sushi bar conveyor belt. Basically, he is the kind of guy you would find at a football game wearing nothing but his team's merchandise while yelling about how much the other teams stinks. To all of you first and second formers out there, I implore you, PLEASE do not be this guy!

3) *The Wise Guy*. Now, when I say, "Wise Guy," I am not talking about that guy in the classroom who thinks he knows everything when he, in fact, knows a whole lot of nothing. No, I am talking about an actual wise dude. He



Photo By Bengt Nyman

would hang out with friends, indoors and outdoors. He would also chillax inside his house for a few days of the week to, in a sense, "cool down." He would also try and get a job, so he can have something productive to do, even if it sounds boring as can be. Luckily for this guy, he is the lifeguard at a pretty relaxing pool with the best co-workers around.

These three examples should give everybody the intel needed to have a phenomenal summer. All jokes aside, the goal this summer is for y'all to enjoy yourselves, so please, just make the best of your break.

Inaugural Address



Tom Worth, '19, who is worth reading

Dear avid Informer readership, Americans at large, as well as whomever else the following may concern:

I would like to formally extend my heartfelt thanks to the voting body which has elected me President of the Student Council.

Thank you.

Additionally, it must again be addressed that I was by no means exclusively deserving of

election, and the other candidates' efforts merit as much congratulation as do mine for the investment that they put into their campaigns. One need not look further than the margin of the results for proof of this: had a single voter gone the other way, I would not have had a majority. This statistic has served to ensure that I maintain all humility throughout this election, as well as to remind me to stay "on my toes" (as they say) for the duration of my incumbency.

In this same spirit, I will remember the willingness to work that I claimed and promised in my speech. It is something deeply rooted in my character, not subject to change, and on these grounds, I further promise you that no effort on my behalf will be left unspent: a smooth and

successful year by all measures will be my foremost abiding goal for the impending calendar year. Some specific points of excitement include a potential new winter dance and the all-but-assured glorious return of the world-renowned DJ Andre 7.

In restatement, I am honored beyond expression to have so worthy an object of my effort as our school and its community. In recognition of the untold hours voluntarily surrendered for the good of me and all other Cistercian students by former and current faculty, staff, monks, and parents, I would like to offer the coming year's work as an attempt at repayment already doomed to fall short. In this service which alone can express my gratefulness for the honor of this new responsibility, I hope and trust that all good possible will be returned to the inexhaustible source of benevolence from which we all have drawn in these pivotal years of our lives.

The Nest

Robotics Worlds (cont'd)

....showed us another side of the Robotics world. We then would strategize at night, preparing for both friends and foes and planning our appeals for the alliances of the top robots'. On the second night, the team made a mock draft of how we expected alliance selection to go. We placed ourselves in the most likely spot to be chosen. But we could never have predicted what came next.

As the teams arrived to the convention center early Saturday morning, music was playing on the fields and everyone was in a festive spirit. The team added to this festive mood by singing such rousing tunes as the French National Anthem, and "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Awards were handed out, and alliance selection finally commenced. The first seed chose the most obvious team, followed by the second seed team having another expected choice. The third seed also followed suit, and everything seemed to be going as expected. Then, the fourth seed team announced their pick for alliance partner. They were graciously denied.

The fourth seed announced

another pick since they had been declined, but this second team declined as well. The fans in the arena let out a gasp. Finally the fourth seed announced their pick for the third time. But they were graciously denied by yet a third team. The crowd went crazy--this was certainly not expected. And in the end, unfortunately, our Fusion Corps was not picked. AJ Sklar was very disappointed in this, saying "I had to wake up at *five o'clock in the morning*, and then we weren't even picked."

However, the playoffs finished up as expected, with the first seed alliance winning outright. They went on to play the winners of the five other divisions and defeated every one of them. This round-robin event known as the Einstein field determined the two alliances who would be battling for the championship in Minute Maid Park. Every team traveled over to the baseball field and filled the stands. We witnessed the Tech Challenge championship as well, even watching as the announcer crowned the wrong alliance as winner of the match (they eventually won the title). The Hopper and Carver division alli-

ance winners fought for the FRC crown, and the Hopper division, Fusion Corps' division, went two wins to none to claim the title of world champion.

In the end, our team was slightly disappointed, yet we were ecstatic to have even been at the world championship. We worked hard and fought hard in all of our tournaments. We never gave up in the face of setbacks and difficulties, and we did our best on the world's biggest stage. And as the theme for next year's game was announced as "Destination: Deep Space" in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing, we said goodbye to 2018.

Although the season has ended, there are many things our team needs to accomplish before the beginning of next season. New members must be trained, and the business team is busy again getting



Photo By AJ Sklar

funding for the team. The team is expanding its community outreach by exploring new robotics projects and even hosting a summer school camp at Cistercian. Most importantly, as we look back on the past two seasons, we will celebrate how far we have come and constantly find ways to improve our team so that one day we may be the world champions.

In the mean time, if you have any questions about our team, our story, our members, or FIRST robotics in general, please talk to me, Samuel Wilcox, or anyone in your class who is on the team.



Photo By the Photoshop Club

The Informer staff and their feline leader would like to clarify that any and all grammar mistakes in the questions are a fault of the questioner – NOT the questionee.

What is your favorite kind of dog?

Submitted by Cash Lechler
I'm sorry, but I do not have a favorite kind of garbage.

PUBG or Fortnite?

Submitted by a Bajillion People
Be more original next time. Seriously. Over 50% of my questions consisted of a comparison between these two games. But it's long past time to settle this debate once and for all. The best battle royale game is... *drumroll please*... Minecraft Hunger Games.

What is your favorite food that all cats should like?

Submitted by
"Prefers to remain anonymous for social security purposes"

The blood of my enemies. But only with a sufficient amount of catnip sprinkled on top.

Why is math so hard?

Submitted by the Kid with Bad Handwriting
Math is only as hard as you make it to be. So pretty dang hard for everybody then.

Why do we not have half-days every Friday?

Submitted by that same kid with bad handwriting (get with the program, son)
We don't have half-days every Friday because the school is against you. In fact, the world is against you. The world is a place of injustice, no matter how hard you

Ask Kattdaddy!

struggle, some dreams never come true. The cosmos has stacked its cards against you and cheated you in every way. But don't stop dreaming, and never stop believing.

What do you think of your job?

Submitted by Employer Dad
My job is a dream come true. I spend my time advising little younglings like you what to do with your life, knowing that you'll mess it up anyway. It's great.

Are you depressed?

Submitted by John Stigall
No, I'm not depressed. I'm Kattdaddy!

Who wins a fight: A gnome or a unicorn?

Submitted by Nate Stecklein
Gnomebody wins. Sorry if that joke was a bit unicorny.

What school did you go to?

Submitted by the kid who wasted an entire sheet of paper for these six words
The Academy for Gifted Felines. Never heard of it? I guess you're not a gifted feline then.

Would Duke have beaten Villanova?

Submitted by Tarun Senthil Kumar
Probably not, Villanova has a great chess team.

Is Black Panther the best movie ever?

Submitted by Tarun Senthil Kumar
Many may think that the *Black Panther* misspelling is on the Informer staff. Those people clearly didn't read the disclaimer at the top. I don't know. I've never seen *Black Panther*. But I did enjoy *Black Panther*.

O mighty Kattdaddy, what do you think about the baseball team of Cistercian?

Submitted by the kid with enormous handwriting
I think that they're very good at doing the thing with the ball. We are very effective at getting points and we continue to get better and better at doing the thing with the ball.

What are your thoughts on cat stereotypes?

Submitted by Luke Pederson
#StopCatAbuse

North Korea (cont'd)

Central however to anti-proliferation and the modern “Korean problem” is the North’s ideology of Juche, an all-consuming economic and political policy of self-reliance for self-preservation, coupled with a Darwinistic worldview held since the North’s inception. North Korea has shown consistently that Juche is applied in every state-sanctioned activity: sending workers abroad whose families are held hostage in order to get foreign currency, kidnapping South Korean film directors, and most importantly, developing nuclear weapons. The North perceives its economic weakness, diplomatic isolation, and military obsolescence as a serious vulnerability, and the strength and stability of South Korea and the United States as an existential threat. Thus, far from an impetuous and irrational dictator, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s earlier disruptive saber-rattling was merely intended to buy time and confuse other leaders until nuclear weapons were fully developed.

The North’s leader Kim Jong-un has, because of various geopolitical developments in the United States and Europe, deter-

mined the perfect time to perform his signature move: a 180° diplomatic reversal. After years of militaristic rhetoric before and after nuclear tests, he suddenly resolved to achieve peace and unity on the peninsula, smiling in front of cameras and signing symbolic documents. While some might say that he is taking steps none of his predecessors did, and that he therefore must be a completely different leader, Kim Jong-un has still not given any solid commitments to Western diplomats or world bodies.

His actions have been mostly “goodwill” diplomatic gestures towards the South or the international community, and most diplomats are highly skeptical that recent events, even including the “historic” meeting between Kim Jong-un and Prime Minister Moon Jae-in on South Korean soil, will radically change the diplomatic status quo. Also, because of their new diplomatic nuclear leverage, North Korea has no further need for foreign hostages to prevent other governments from threatening their national security, which is most likely why they recently decided to release American prisoners.

The North’s track record with respect to international treaties and agreements has remained consistent even with the newly minted Kim Jong-un: give lip service to treaties only until something is demanded or until given concessions expire. It follows then that the North, already relying very little on outside resources, would be unfazed by any consequences of violating treaties, so enforcement of treaties signed with other countries would require extensive and verifiable checks by the international community. In addition, any agreements with the North would have to be crafted with approval of China, one of the North’s sole trading partners and relative allies, an unlikely feat of diplomacy.

North Korea also has taken notice of Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi’s fate at the hands of US-backed rebels. Gaddafi had agreed, as part of an American plan to remove sanctions that crippled the Libyan economy, to destroy his weapons of mass destruction, most notably his nuclear weapons program. Roughly a decade later, he was deposed in a coup during the Arab Spring. A decade before,

North Korea watched Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein share a similar fate after his nuclear expansion was limited by the international community, when he too was deposed in a US-led invasion. All these events, compounded by rising trade tensions, a recently emboldened Russia, and provocations around the globe against the US-led world order have only reinforced Kim Jong-un’s belief that nuclear weapons are sustainable and crucial to the foreign security of his state.

The Korean peninsula this month is abuzz with hope of unification and peace, and there is still a possibility that solid commitments may come out of the planned high-level negotiations between the US and the North. If international diplomats practice a healthy combination of cautious optimism and pragmatism, and remain wary of any too-good-to-be-true deals, real progress will be made. It’s our job as future and current world citizens to see the modern Korean quagmire to the finish line, using the best of our hindsight and foresight, so no Korean generation will ever again grow up separated.

Transparent Backpacks?



Photo By Fabrice Florin

Alex Smith, '21,
who has something to hide

After the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the school district issued its students clear backpacks, when many other schools in the nation had already. Immediate backlash followed with students questioning the change on the internet. The truth is that the attacker was not even a current student. He had been expelled the year before the shooting for “disciplinary reasons.” So will making students wear transparent backpacks be

enough to protect them? Are clear backpacks the proper answer to this problem, or are they just, as one student at Stoneman Douglas put it, “an illusion of security?”

Robert Runnie, the superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, has never faced an issue as significant as this. Despite his inexperience with such matters, he acted quickly after the shooting. He created a new security policy in March to try and protect the students in his district. To get into Stoneman Douglas now, you must go through one of four monitored gates and a metal detector, have your gym bag searched by security guards, carry your student ID on your neck at all times, and wear the aforementioned clear backpacks.

Several students have reacted negatively to these backpacks, seeing them as a band-aid on the issue and not an actual solution. Some have stated that they are an invasion of privacy, jokingly saying

that it allows your friends to see things you don't want to share with them, like gum or a phone charger. But this is a good point: people bring things to school that they don't necessarily want other people to see, and that's not because they have a gun. Freshmen Lauren Hogg tweeted that her new backpack was “almost as transparent as the NRA’s agenda” and sarcastically said that she feels “sooo safe now.” Students have also started to decorate their backpacks with tags and stickers depicting statements like “Protect Students, Not Guns,” “We Want Real Change,” and “\$1.05,” referring to the confirmed amount of donations Florida senator Marco Rubio has accepted from the NRA, divided by the number of students in Florida. Students are not happy with this change, and they do not feel any safer, yet people keep insisting that this change is a good enough way to fix the issue.

It has also been pointed out that on the day of the attack, the security guard (who was armed with a gun at the time) ran away and hid instead of defending the school. Although the shooter was carrying a vastly superior weapon,

one naturally thinks: would fewer people have been killed if the security guard had done his duty and defended the students he was hired to protect? If so, schools must be sure that they have hired the right people to protect their campuses and train them properly on what to do in an active shooting situation.

No matter their views, students have had the same reaction: some of their classmate's lives were taken by an intruder on their own campus, and now changes must be made in some way. The shooter had stopped going to school; so will the benefit of issuing clear backpacks outweigh the cost by really helping to stop future shootings?

I believe that clear backpacks are not that change Americans need. Keep the metal detectors, as they are essentially doing the same job without invading every students’ privacy, but lose the transparent backpacks. It's a student's right to hide a pack of gum from their greedy friends, and forcing them to wear clear backpacks and saying that they will solve security problems is a very blanket statement to make.

Boots on the Border

*Horton Richard, '21,
who wants a WallGate*

On April 3rd, President Trump announced his plan to secure the United States/Mexico border with the United States military until construction of the border wall could be completed. He tweeted that "We are sealing up our Southern Border. The people of our great country want Safety and Security," which was followed by some questioning from reporters and other political leaders. When asked to go into further detail on when this might go into effect or the extent to which it would be enforced, he said that he would be attending a meeting with Secretary of Defense James Mattis and others to figure this out; nevertheless, he only gave a vague estimation of when that might happen.

This isn't the first time that a plan like this has been thought up, and if it should go through, it wouldn't be the first time that it happened either. During both the Bush and Obama administrations,

troops were sent to the border to help re-secure and guard the area, with Bush sending 6,000 troops and Obama sending 1,000 troops. Trump has stated that he plans to have as many as 4,000 troops guarding the border, about halfway between his predecessors.

Many border state governors applauded Trump's decision and sent troops to aid in the effort immediately, with governors of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona (all Republican) sending support. Several hundred troops have arrived so far, and the president plans to have that number grow.

The Democratic governor of California, Jerry Brown, had been, until recently, the only border state governor to refuse to send troops to help the cause, but on April 11th he finally accepted federal funding for 400 personnel. However, he made it quite clear that those soldiers would be present to help deal with issues of smuggling, drug trafficking, and arms dealing, not to capture people simply seeking to immigrate to America for a better life or to help construct a border wall. Despite maintaining a clear position against Trump's policies, Trump praised

Brown's decision as a smart move for the safety of our country, although he may just be glad to see even a small change from the state's usual disagreeing policies.

I've never been a supporter of Trump and haven't held many of his policies or actions in high regard. However, I think that this would be a perfectly reasonable course of action to deal with the illegal immigration issue. It does hinge on many important factors, such as how much military force Trump is planning on using and how the troops will be instructed to deal with attempts to cross the border; but if Trump is reasonable, this may be a perfectly acceptable change.

Of course, that's where I find issue with this idea: Trump is known for overdoing just about everything. My hopes for this plan is that a reasonable amount of troops are sent to the border to deter illegal immigration and that rea-



Photo By Anthony Albright

sonable consequences will be given to those desperate enough to try anyway. I could easily see Trump turning this into a project using far more resources than necessary with policies that could lead to escalated tensions. However, until I'm given a more concrete reason to believe that this action will take a turn for the worse, I don't feel like it deserves to be heavily frowned upon. And so I believe that it's the best course for all of us to keep a cautious but accepting eye on the situation.

Agree? Disagree? Visit our website and give us your opinion!



Photo By Matthew Brunch

*Ethan Ramchandani, '21,
who is unpronounceable*

General confusion has erupted after the US, UK, and France approved an airstrike on Syria as a response to an alleged gas attack on a Syrian rebel held city by Bashar al-Assad. Syrian citizens in Douma were taken off guard when the chemical attack took place. The latest death toll has shown several dozens of people dead and the number continues to rise. Reports show that the chemical used was chlorine, and the main effects of this

gas are shortness of breath and foaming of the mouth. But there are other adverse effects as well. The motives of the Syrian government for such an atrocity is grim and depressing. By killing their own civilians and breaking international law, they are effectively showing that the citizens of Syria are at the government's mercy. Many of the casualties were children. Another reasonable motive for the attack could be to retake Damascus from the rebels. However, they won't even take the blame when confronted by the international community.

The presidents of Syria and Russia, Bashar al-Assad and Vladimir V. Putin respectively, deny the attack even occurred when confronted by the United Nations. The minister, Walid al-Moallem, said in Damascus as accounted by the New York Times that they did not use these kinds of weapons against their own people. Not even against

Syrian Chemical Attacks

the rebels. Syrian officials also claim that they don't have any chemical weapons after giving them up in 2013. Their excuse for the casualties? An air raid on an Al-Qaeda base released the deadly chemicals. Many conflicting accounts of the events can be found floating around and it is difficult to find a comprehensive death toll.

President Donald Trump has clearly condemned the attack and even took a jab at former president Barack Obama for his lack of action against Syria during his term in office. Critics of Obama say that he did not enforce his decision in removing the chemical weapons in Syria. Trump responded to these chemical attacks in a tweet he did not get approved by his advisers saying 'Russia vows to shoot down any and all missiles fired at Syria. Get ready Russia, because they will be coming, nice and new and "smart!" You shouldn't be partners with a Gas Killing Animal who kills his people and enjoys it!'

The response of the US, UK, and France was to support an airstrike on chemical weapon facilities. One is located in Damascus and another two were located further

north, west of Homs. Trump intended for these attacks to show that the Syrian president's continual violation of international law will not be tolerated. These attacks came despite president Trump's promise to limit involvement in Syria.

The events of the past couple of months are a new installment in a series of conflicts in Syria. Starting in 2011 there have been a number of controversies from rebel groups to terrorist extremists. This conflict has no foreseeable end and may continue to worsen.

In lieu of the recent attacks this raises the question: Were the US, France, and UK justified in attacking them. There were some innocent lives lost, granted not as many as the gas attack took, but they were innocent nonetheless. However, no diplomatic solution would work since Syria and Russia have been denying the attack. This leaves us between a rock and a hard place. I leave you to ponder the right course of action. Pray for those lives lost in the chemical attack and the U.S. airstrikes and that we may put this behind us soon.

The Arts

Mary Rose: The Apparition

Ayden Kowalski, '21,
who brought the play to life

It's late March, the week after Spring Break. After two months of preparation, it's time for the first full production of *Mary Rose*. All of our procrastinated efforts have led to this night. Saish Satyal is rehearsing his lines, waiting far too long to actually attempt to learn them. He is finally finding his character now: Mr. Morland, a father dealing with the mysterious loss of his daughter. Close to him, yet somehow still far, is his wife, Mrs. Morland, played by Audrey La, a Junior at Ursuline. When asked to comment on how she felt about being in a Cistercian production, Audrey said, "I feel like the whole cast and crew is a huge family and I'm the mom," she laughed, "I'm so proud of them!"

I am not a part of these movements. I sit in plain view behind it all with the other narrators, actively viewing the show, waiting for the right time to read our lines. Despite having scripts on hand,

narrating proved to be a difficulty for certain people, who occasionally would read the wrong lines or refer to a male character as a "she". Besides narrating, my hands are often upon one of two synthesizers. These are not mine, but those of our director, Mr. Magill, the director of the Cistercian school play. His changes to the play and implementation of interesting staging techniques made the show very dynamic and engaging.

It is only four hours later that it's showtime. We eat beforehand, and then run backstage, walking around in the dark trying to set our props in their proper places. Everybody is terrified. We convene one last time in the biology lab, going over our final set of notes. Mr. Magill leads us through, detailing everything from my slow speaking to the deliveries from the lead roles. The conference quickly ends, and we begin to stretch for the last time before the great test. It's beginning to dawn on the cast how unprepared we feel. Cistercian drama veterans Audrey La, Sebastian Currilin, and Evan Bird help us to warm up and stop stressing. We sharpen our tongues, reciting

the location of a lake in Peru, a town in Hawaii, and other miscellaneous and intriguing items, and then sprint down the stairs to go perform...

It went so well! The lines we forgot during our rushed rehearsals finally decided to stick around, for the most part (a few spare things about fields, ghosts, and the Ministry had other intentions). The cues were seamless, with the colored lights finally shining in their full glory, and surprisingly not causing the light board to explode for the second time in a week. The music also landed perfectly, with Alex Banul's beautiful cello cover of Jeff Buckley's "Hallelujah" closing out the show as our lead actress, Mary Schommer, disappeared into the night sky.

The success of this show was surprising on many levels. Patrick Geary, in particular, loved "the amount of room we had to change the set and the dialogue. Since we owned the rights to this play, we



Photo By Br. Raphael

didn't have to go exactly by the script." But he was not a fan of how we had "so little time and so much to learn," and that we only had time that to "make it good, not perfect." But despite these setbacks, from the explosive light board to literally not performing the show in its entirety until our first performance in front of an audience, the fact that the show was even coherent was a miracle. We all were screaming out in the victory. Everyone, from my fellow narrators to the cast and crew, was in on the excitement. The cries ranged from "We did it!" to "That wasn't awful!" Everyone went crazy. All in all, it was a stunning underdog victory that I'll never forget.



Photo By Lucasfilm

Calvin Step, '20,
who won't see these movies

Solo - A Star Wars Story - Apparently we need an origin story for Han Solo. Is there any reason for this to exist besides the money? Of course not! Despite being a needless cash grab, it is a *Star Wars* movie with Donald Glover as Lando, and Emilia Clarke as Kira, so I'm gonna give it the benefit of the doubt. But the behind-the-scenes turmoil, such as Ron Howard replacing Phil Lord and Christopher Miller after 80% of the movie was filmed, puts this in the same situation that *Justice League* was in last year. Let's pray

Tag - I found Hawkeye! Turns out he abandoned Velma and the kids on the farm and ran away to play a never-ending game of tag with his high-school friends. That sounds like every man-in-the-middle-of-a-mid-life-crisis' dream come true. (June 15th)

Jurassic World - Fallen Kingdom - After it was announced that any sequels to *Jurassic World* would not be set on an island, set photos began to leak showing that this did, in fact, take place on an island. And once the trailers came out, it began to look exactly like *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, and they also appear to have spelled out every single major plot point. J.A. Bayona is a great director, and the apparent emphasis on making a horror movie should

Summer Movie Preview

it's not that bad. (May 25th)

The Incredibles 2 - I've been waiting for this movie since 2004. It better be much better than *Finding Dory*. (June 15th)

make it interesting, but I'm keeping my expectations really low. (June 22nd)

Ant-Man and the Wasp - Infinity War didn't really explain what happened to Ant-Man after *Civil War*, so now we get an entire movie to fill in that time period! The first was a surprise success, and adding the Wasp should make this one successful as well. But, it will only be truly successful if the entire movie is narrated by Luis. (July 6th)

Skyscraper - Dwayne Johnson does *Die Hard*, except the building is on fire. BUT THERE'S ANOTHER TWIST. He only has one leg. Prepare for a lot of scenes where his prosthetic leg threatens to twist off and send him to his death. (July 13th)

Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again! - Who isn't excited for more random ABBA songs on a Greek island?! Let's hope Pierce Brosnan doesn't get to sing very much. (July 20th)

Mission: Impossible - Fallout - I just want to acknowledge that the only reason this franchise still exists

is because Tom Cruise does his own stunts, and the whole point of one of the trailers was literally to make fun of that. As long as it explains why Henry Cavill has a CGI face in *Justice League*, Tom Cruise will have broken his ankle for a good cause. (July 27th)

Teen Titans Go! To the Movies - This is sure to be the best film of the year, aside from *Sherlock Gnomes* of course. (July 27th)

The Darkest Minds - Rue from *The Hunger Games* gets to hide from Mandy Moore and set stuff on fire. If only she could have done that in the arena...

The Meg - Jason Statham has fought a lot of things in his illustrious career. Gnomes, terrorists, spies, and The Rock. Now he faces his biggest threat yet: a CGI shark. This seems to combine the best aspects of *Jaws*, *The Shallows*, and *Deep Blue Sea* in one giant shark-extravaganza. If you don't mind campy action movies, this should be right up your alley. (August 10th)

Puzzles

FIND AND CROSS OUT THE WORDS LISTED BELOW. THE LETTERS THAT REMAIN WILL REVEAL A SECRET MESSAGE.

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

- AQUATIC
- BRANCHES
- BUBBLE
- BUILDING
- CARPETING
- CARTOON
- CHEESEBURGER
- CHIHUAHUA
- CRESCENT
- DINOSAURS
- DISPENSER
- FLIGHTLESS
- GASOLINE
- GRASS
- IRRITATING
- MOUNTAINS
- OAKTREE
- PURPLE
- SATURN
- SPONGE
- SPOTTED
- STRIPED
- SUNGLASSES
- YELLOW

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Puzzle by Travis Nolan, '20

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