



The Informer



Cistercian Preparatory School

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April 2015

INTERVIEWING THE PRES: PETER DORN

Immediately after the Presidential election results were announced, we sent out our brave reporter Jack Rau into the frenzied crowd of reporters and classmates in an effort to snag the first interview with the newly elected Peter Dorn.

Jack: So Pete—excuse me, Mr. President, congrats on the new position. The first and most important question of the day, is Coach Taylor related to Coach Burke?

Pres: Is the Pope Catholic?

Jack: White and Gold or Black and Blue?

Pres: Black and Blue

Jack: Okay, now that we have that out of the way, the whole school can't wait to see what you can do with this new power. So what can we expect in the next year?

Pres: I hope to add many new sports fundraisers for the school, some of which include a night capture the flag tournament or a teacher basketball game. Some other ideas of a karaoke contest or a lip sync-off have been brought up as well and are being considered.

Jack: So what song would you lip sync if we had said sync-off?

Pres: Bohemian Rhapsody of course.

Jack: Why did you want to become president in the first place?

Pres: Well, I thought that I knew best what I was doing and what this school needs. I feel that I know the people of this school very well and am open to their suggestions.

Jack: What about that speech you gave? How was that?

Pres: I spent countless hours preparing that speech and was actually quite nervous. But I got through it pretty well.

Jack: Having gone through your campaign successfully, would you have changed your campaign slogan of "Vote for Pedro" to something else?

Pres: Well, the thought of "Vote for Dorn, Don't Watch..... Television" crossed my mind...

Jack: Oh yeah that probably wouldn't have gone down well. How did you think former President Flaherty did?



Pres: I think he did a phenomenal job! He was the best president I've seen in my 3 years of being here. He has made student life better here at Cistercian by adding amenities, experimenting with certain projects, and overall being creative in his work. He truly has set the standard for presidents to come.

Jack: Would you have Flaherty run this country?

Pres: Yes

Jack: Would you run this country?

Pres: Child please...

Jack: Quick riddle: What always asks but never has answers?

Pres: My Form

Jack: An owl...

Pres: Oh of course I knew that.

Jack: This little mouse in the back of the VIIA classroom once told me that Mr. Alcala would be joining the StuCo team this year? Is that true?

Pres: Yes, Mr. Alcala will be the new Fr. Thomas this year, heading the Student Council to another wonderful year. He will do a fine job I'm sure.

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Matthew Sawtelle '19 gives a recap of the Middle School quiz bowl season on page 6.

INSIDE



Alonso Medina '18 talks about the threat and message of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria on page 4.



William Henry '16 runs through the NBA post-season and individual award races on page 9.

THE MUCKRACKER

The end is near! Things are really shaking up as we approach the last months of this fantastic school year. We have a promising new President, Mr. Peter Dorn, who is hoping to build on the successes of current President James Flaherty and lead his Form as they become the first test subjects for the new changes made to the Cistercian senior year experience. While you speculate about their inevitable demise, this April issue can show you a world of interesting news and advice about all kinds of things. You don't need me to tell you—go read for yourself!

William Song

It's been one year since the super competent juniors of the Class '15 took over the Informer. Since then they have produced journalistic masterpieces like none other in the school's history. Well, in your hands you are holding their last such masterpiece. The seniors are leaving the school to study finger painting and cooking, so contain your tears by checking out the issue's awesome articles and mind blowing sudoku!

Joshua Maymir

Do you have a poll idea? A suggestion for Informer Rates? A better way to build a snowman or a comeback to a writer's zinger of your football team? Tell us about it! Email the editors at cistercian.informer@gmail.com or tweet your response @cpsinformer. And while you're on twitter, follow us. We're not desperate. We just need some friends. Anyone besides Phong.

April's Lesser Known Holidays

National Stress Awareness Day (April 16): Raising awareness about stress is an important step towards the eventual liberation of hundreds of thousands of teenagers who, under the duress of national law, are forced into small rooms for up to forty hours a week and must work without pay. Many suffer in silence—one of them could be sitting next to you right now! Put your incessant tweeting and Facebook statuses to good use so we can put an end to stress nationwide.

Newspaper Columnists Day (April 18): This is the day to celebrate your favorite columnists—perhaps those who write for the newspaper of a certain small, private, Catholic school in Irving. The next time you see one of them, be sure to thank him for his hard work and dedication to his craft, because it is each writer's contribution that makes each issue come out on time.

Take a Chance Day (April 23): Take chances! Make mistakes! Get messy! Do something new today. Show up at a different school for class, or go to a different house for dinner. Maybe read a book that isn't for school for once. Say hello to someone you don't know. Let's get creative!

Arbor Day (April 24): One of the first words we all learn in Latin class is arbor, which means "tree." On this day, go outside and show your appreciation for trees by giving them warm hugs. Compete with your friends to see how many trees you can hug in 24 hours—the winner gets lots of splinters on his arms.

World Penguin Day (April 25): The World Penguin is a lot like the World Turtle—it carries the universe on its back. But what carries the World Penguin? Another penguin! It's penguins all the way down.

Richter Scale Day (April 26): The Richter Scale was invented in 2014 by Cistercian physicist James Chadwick after the city in which he lived, Irving, experienced an unprecedented quantity and intensity of earthquakes. The scale measures the magnitude of an earthquake using a base-10 logarithmic scale, so a higher number means a bigger earthquake. Basically, if your GPA was the intensity of an earthquake on the scale, Fr. Paul could sleep soundly at night.

National Prime Rib Day (April 27): Yes, please.



-William Song '15 sat on a whoopie cushion

April Calendar

Monday 13th

8th Baseball vs Fort Worth Riders

Tuesday 14th

8th Baseball vs FWCD
7th/V Baseball @ FWCD
Varsity Tennis @ FWCD

Wednesday 15th

MS Tennis vs FWCD
JV Baseball vs ESD

Thursday 16th

MS Track Meet
7th Baseball @ ESD
JV Baseball vs Stix

Friday 17th

Varsity Track @ Greenhill
V Baseball/Tennis @

Holland Hall
Upper School Drama

Saturday 18th

V Baseball/Tennis @ Casady
Upper School Drama

Sunday 19th

Upper School Drama

Monday 20th

7th/8th Baseball vs/@ All Saints

Tuesday 21st

V Baseball/Tennis vs ESD

Wednesday 22nd

MS Tennis vs ESD
7th/8th Baseball vs/@ St. Mark's
JV Baseball @ Greenhill

Thursday 23rd

MS Track @ TCA
JV Baseball vs Fort Worth Riders

Friday 24th

V Baseball/Tennis vs All Saints

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Write for the Informer!

Email Cistercian.informer@gmail.com with any article submissions. Chances are you'll see them in the next issue. That includes you, Middle Schoolers!

By The Numbers

273

Brackets out of 11.57 million (0.0024%) still correct after the first day of March Madness

12

Seconds that it takes Chris Bender '16 to solve a Rubik's cube

0

Times Hungry Hawks card was proposed this year

2

Average minutes seniors are late to class because of ping pong

10

Baseball games missed due to bad weather

4.0

Form III's average GPA for Health class



Win it with Nguyen



As the year quickly approaches its end, so also does the collective willpower of the student body begin to die. With Prom and Finals on the near horizon and no real breaks besides Easter, we have reached the final push. Except... no one wants to push. That's ok! That's what I'm here for. To be extra perky when you can't find the energy to be perky yourself. The gates are open for all your pressing questions. When you feel down in the dumps, just remember my favorite Bible quote: "For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow" (Ecclesiastes 1:18). Hmm... or don't... that probably wasn't the best quote...

How can I snag a hot date for Prom?

First, you have to choose your target: who is the lucky girl who will be graced with your invitation? Are you looking for a girl who is paler than the moon and whose eyes shine like stars? Or are you looking for a girl who has got a brain and always speaks her mind? To each his own. That's the first step, and I can't help you out there. Listen with your heart! You will understand. Next! This is the most important step: the woo. Wooooo. Woooooo. Woo. K. Put a nickel in her cell phone every day for a month. Then take them all out on the last day. Wait patiently until she smacks herself in the head and then jump out and say: "Did someone CALL for a Prom date?" Or you can put all her belongings in jello, and when she notices, jump out and shout: "Jello, operator? I need an ambulance; I just saw the prettiest girl and I feel like an unstable gelatinous structure somewhere between a solid and a liquid." Or you can make a bunch of lame references to popular media and when she stares at you with disapproving, dead eyes, you can stop talking and walk away.

I want to get the most out of this dance. Teach me how to "get jiggy with it" while also maintaining my respectable reputation.

The best partygoer knows how to use his surroundings. You're at an aquarium. You literally have the best dancers all around you. You can do the classic penguin waddle, or, if you're more daring, you can dance like the fish (be creative!). Regardless of what you do, just remember that no one thought highly of you anyway. You're at rock bottom and the only way to go is up, or sideways like a starfish. Odds are you can't really hurt your reputation at this point. And if your date doesn't find your rhythmic skills impressive, then just brush it off because she's just like all the other hypocritical accusers who don't think you're perfect.

I don't get the point of it. Why should I even go to Prom? It's so much effort to get a date. Then I have to get a tux. Then I have to go to the dance. And then I have to actually dance. Ugh.

Well what else were you planning to do with your April 25th Saturday night? Unless you already got your boots ready for the 2015 EQUEST PREMIER CELEBRATION AT TEXAS HORSE PARK, I'd say you don't really have an excuse. Prom is that one night when you can just be your socially awkward, timid, and self-conscious self! At least with this dance, a girl is forced to be seen with you. It won't be too awkward... Yes, the guy to girl ratio doesn't quite measure up to the Freshman Mixer, but this one girl on whom you bestow your invitation really deserves to go with you. She's the most important girl in your life right now! Or maybe she's just some random person who had nothing to do Saturday night and was willing to make you look somewhat attractive. Regardless, it's worth the effort because you get a snazzy new Facebook prof pic with a pretty girl. And what's life without superficial images?

What was your favorite prank this April Fool's Day?

"Pretend to invite a girl to Prom." (Stewart Schweinfurth '15)

"Tell my parents I'm going to college." (William Angus '15)

"Tell my parents I got a 44 on a Calculus test when I actually got a 43." (Aidan McGlinchey '15)

"I'm not playing football next year." (Danny Garda '17)

"Replace the chalk in the weight room with itching powder." (Brock Obama '17)

"Convince someone that I'm British." (Kenny Donohoe '17)

"Anonymous positive pregnancy test." (Anonymous '17)

"Hire Michael Myers and sic him on your friends." (Charles Lipscomb '18)

"Shoot someone." (Albert Andrews '18)

"Get everyone to raise their hands for a whole class period." (Evan Bird '18)

"Fill a whoopie cushion with whip cream and place it on someone's chair." (Will Novinski '18)

Interviewing the Pres (cont)

Jack: Were you sad to see Fr. Thomas leave?

Pres: I cried myself to sleep many nights if that answers your question.

Jack: After your first few weeks as president, what do you believe your current approval rating will be?

Pres: 4 stars and a duck.

Jack: What are your thoughts on the new changes to Senior Year?

Pres: It is very interesting because we get to be the guinea pigs, but who doesn't want to be a guinea pig?

Jack: Having received the ancient tribal cloak worn by many presi-

dents and tribal chieftains who came before you, do you believe you are fit to wear it?

Pres: Was Cinderella really fit to wear that glass shoe?

Jack: Absolutely... Rumors in the hood of the senior classrooms says that a new 50-foot gilded statue of Stewart Schweinfurth is being purchased and placed behind the chapel to conform well with the stain glass window behind it, for he is a man of many colors. Thoughts about the rumor?

Pres: That is absolutely, equivocally false... Its actually 60 feet because we decided to gel up his hair.

Jack: I look forward to seeing what you can do this next school year for the name and image that is Cistercian Preparatory School. Thank you for your time.



-Jack Rau '16 put the ELMO in jello.

ISIS: A Twisted Message to the World

Nowadays, the word ISIS is synonymous with reprehensible killings, morbid videos, and radical Islamic practices. Who can forget all of the beheadings caught on tape, especially those performed by the infamous "Jihadi John"? Who can forget the innocent people ISIS has massacred, who have been killed 300 to 700 at a time? The UN has accused ISIS of committing genocide. The Islamic State has dealt the world massive physical and psychological blows.

On November 22, 2012, journalist James Foley, who documented the Syrian civil war, was abducted by ISIS. Then on August 19, 2014, ISIS uploaded a video that showed a mysterious masked figure who spoke with an English accent beheading Foley. This masked man, who was nicknamed "Jihadi John", condemned Obama's airstrikes on ISIS and warned the US that American blood would be spilled if the airstrikes continued. The masked man would later be identified as Mohammed Emwazi. Born in Kuwait on August 17, 1988, Mohammed's birth name was Muhammad Jassim Abdulkarim Olayan al-Dhafiri. He and his family are stateless Iraqi Bedoons who moved to Britain. Among the people who Mohammed has killed or allegedly killed are: James Foley, Steven Sotloff, David Haines, Alan Henning, Peter Kessig, Haruna Yukawa, and Kenji Goto Jogo. ISIS has also posted even more disturbing videos and is becoming bolder, attacking places that attract tourists such as Tunisia's Bardo Museum.

ISIS has recently been in the news for attacks on the public and for its destruction of Middle Eastern historical and artistic artifacts. ISIS's destruction of important cultural sites such as Nimrud, Hatra, the Mosul Museum, and most recently Khorsabad have raised concerns over how much damage ISIS will continue to do. Irina Bokova, the Director-General of UNESCO said, "The bulldozing of the archaeological site of Nimrud marked a new step in the cultural cleansing underway in Iraq. These acts are a deliberate attack against civilians, minorities, heritage sites and traditions. In the minds of terrorists, murder and the destruction of culture are inherently linked". In addition, in an interview with CNN Bokova said that only a few of the statues in the Mosul Museum were replicas, in contrast to an Internet rumor claim. She also stated that all damage inflicted to other historical sites such as Nimrud, Hatra, and Khorsabad is real and possibly irreparable.

A UNESCO World Heritage site reported that Hatra, which was



Tomb of Sheikh Qadeeb al-Ban al-Mosuli

impeccably preserved, is now completely razed. According to UNESCO, Hatra was "an excellent example of the fortified cities laid out on the circular plan of the eastern city, such as Ctesiphon,

Firouzabad or Zingirli. The perfect condition of the double wall in an untouched environment sets it aside as an outstanding example of a series which covers the Parthian, Sassanid, and early Islamic civilization. It provides, moreover, exceptional testimony to an entire facet of Assyro-Babylonian civilization subjected to the influence of Greeks, Parthians, Romans and Arabs."

Bokova also spoke against the destruction of Nimrud, saying, "I condemn in the strongest possible manner the destruction of the archaeological site of Nimrud site in Iraq. This is yet another attack against the Iraqi people, reminding us that nothing is safe from the cultural cleansing underway in the country: it targets human lives, minorities, and is marked by the systematic destruction of humanity's ancient heritage". Nimrud(Khalka) was an ancient Assyrian capital city which flourished from 900 to 612 BC. UNESCO says that Nimrud's "frescoes and works are celebrated around the world and revered in literature and sacred texts." According to UNESCO, Nimrud was an unfinished site, which still had much potential.

Along with videos and announcements of the destruction ISIS also released a statement which embodies the reason for the desecration of Middle Eastern ancient heritage: "These ruins...are idols and statues that people in the past used to worship instead of Allah...The Prophet Mohammed took down idols with his bare hands when he went into Mecca. We were ordered by our prophet to take down idols and destroy them." Because of their radical view of Islam, ISIS will continue to destroy historical heritage from around the world. Who knows how much ISIS will destroy before they are stopped.



-Alonso Medina '18 put mayo in a cream donut.

Fantastic Four Reboot: Better or Worse?

With summer coming up, everyone is probably looking forward to no more school and the new Marvel movies. However, just about no one cares about the new Fantastic Four reboot. Why is that? The real reason why people are not excited is the fact that the last two movies were total bombs both commercially and critically. No one probably has any expectations for the new movie, since the last two were horrible.

Why were they horrible? First, besides the Thing, the whole team had cheap powers made from CGI. The flames around the Human Torch didn't look real, the invisibility for Susan Storm was extremely cheap, and no one could really take Reed Richard's stretching ability seriously due to the way he used it.

Second, the plots were extremely boring. There was a ton of failed humor, and all the information was very scientific and confusing. Finally, the movies stuck to some of the things from the comics that they should not have. Reed Richards, played by Ioan Gruffudd, was extremely boring and seemed a lot older than everyone else. It followed along these lines in the comics (especially the lines of white hair), but in the movie it did not go along well with the audience. Despite Marvel's rise in popularity, it's hard to make people excited for a movie reboot.

Even though the last two movies were terrible, I think the reboot will be much better. For starters, the cast is much younger. Not only that, the well-known Miles Teller, who played Peter in *Divergent* and the main character in the critically acclaimed movie *Whiplash*, will be playing Mr. Fantastic. Next, the origin story is changing. In the older movies, the origin story was that cosmic radiation gave the Fantastic Four their powers. Now instead of that, the origin story

will involve a failed teleportation experiment and the Negative Zone. This should be much more interesting than the previous origin story, mainly because it won't be as boring or scientific.

On top of all this, the reboot will incorporate some details from the comics about Dr. Doom that were not in the previous movie. The main one I am excited for is the fictional country of Latveria. In the trailer, there is a scene where Susan Storm, played by Kate Mara, is looking at a map on a computer screen. On the map there are coordinates that are labeled as Latveria. Latveria was the country that Dr. Doom was dictator of in the comics, and this detail is essential to the story of Dr. Doom.

Finally, probably the thing I saw that makes me the most excited is the fact that a little more CGI will be used in the movies. The previous movies had cheap CGI, but with advances in technology, I believe the new powers will be a lot cooler than the older ones. Not only will the powers have better CGI, but this time the Thing will be mainly CGI. In the older movies, the Thing was actually a man covered in a ton of makeup. He certainly looked good, but this limited his ability to be active in battle scenes. This time, however, the Thing has the chance to be an absolute tank as he was in the comics. All in all, I am excited for the new movie coming out in August, and I think it will be much more successful than the previous two.



-John Paul Spak '19 inexplicably found his desk on the hidden field.



Upcoming Movies

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..." This famous intro is something we have all seen a thousand times, and now, I'm pretty sure everyone is going to see it at least one more time. On November 6, 2014, the title of the seventh official installment in the Star Wars saga was announced: "The Force Awakens." Then, the world went crazy when the trailer was released on November 28, 2014. The trailer racked up an incredible 58.2 million views in the first week, surpassing *Avengers: Age of Ultron* which had 50.6 million views. If you haven't seen the trailer yet, you should. Although some fun has been made of it (just look at "George Lucas' Special Edition" of the trailer), I believe the trailer was very well done. The cast notably consists of the returning Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, and Carrie Fisher who have their previous roles of Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, and Leia Organa respectively. However, the cast also gained some new actors (John Boyega, Daisy Ridley, and Adam Driver) for the new lead roles. Episode Seven is set about thirty years after the end of Episode Six. Unfortunately, the release date isn't until December 18, 2015.



Avengers: Age of Ultron

Everyone loves superheroes, right? I mean, who doesn't like Iron Man or Thor or Captain America? Well, a couple years ago Marvel Studios had the brilliant idea of combining several of their huge franchises, thus resulting in *The Avengers* (2012). Now, they're back at it with a second *Avengers* movie, *Avengers: Age of Ultron*. Almost all of the main cast is returning, playing the roles of Iron Man, the Incredible Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Black Widow, Hawkeye, and Nick Fury. This second movie will also include the



addition of superheroes Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch, who are played by Aaron Taylor-Johnson and Elizabeth Olsen respectively. Finally, if you are a fan of NBC's series, *The Blacklist*, you should like this movie. James Spader was cast to play the amazing villain robot, Ultron. Also, there is the possibility of Wolverine making an appearance in the film, due to a brief glimpse of claws sliding out in the trailer. *Avengers: Age of Ultron* is due to be released on May 1, 2015.

Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice

OK, this movie is stretching the "soon" part of "Coming Soon," but it is anticipated enough that it's already worth writing about. Marvel and DC are the two great comic producers in history. Recently, Marvel has expanded and become such a large corporation with all of the movies (see *Avengers: Age of Ultron* above) that it dwarfs DC. However, DC did receive some glory for the Superman movie: *Man of Steel*. Now, DC is "pulling a Marvel" and combining two of its movie franchises into one movie: *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*. As the name suggests, the movie will involve both Batman and Superman, but it will also include Wonder Woman and the villainous Lex Luthor. Since the movie will be a continuation of *Man of Steel*, Henry Cavill will again play Clark Kent/Superman. Instead of Christian Bale playing Batman, though, Ben Affleck will be taking on the role of Bruce Wayne/Batman in *Batman v. Superman*. The cast will also notably consist of Gal Gadot, Amy Adams, Jesse Eisenberg, and Jeremy Irons. Now for the sad part: the release date of the movie is: March 25, 2016.



-Luke Maymir '17 has a "kick me" sign on his back.

Middle School Quiz Bowl

Beginning last year, Form IV students have been given the opportunity to participate in Quiz Bowl. For those who don't know, Quiz Bowl is an academic competition in which two teams compete to answer questions that are read aloud by a single reader. Any player on either team can buzz in at any point in a question and give an answer, and if the answer is correct then the player's team is awarded either ten or fifteen points, depending on what part of the question the player buzzed in on, and three shorter bonus questions worth ten points each. However, if the player gives an incorrect answer, his team loses five points. Then, unless the question is over, no one else on his team can give an answer, giving the other team the opportunity to listen to the entirety of the question before giving an answer. Thus, it is a game of both knowledge and risk taking.

This year, sixteen Fourth Formers decided to try their hand at QB. Practices began in the summer, and are usually held on Wednesdays after school. After only a few practices, it was time for the first tournament of the year in mid-September. Inexperienced and nervous, none of the teams placed in the top three which would have qualified them for the national tournament. However, the tournament gave the players a feel for the game and what it took to compete against some of the better teams. Thus, with new knowledge and experience, the players began studying and practicing for the next tournament. The second tournament came in November. After hours of practicing, the teams were ready to compete for a top three position. After eight hours of competition, the A team finished in third place, earning them a spot in the national tournament. Tired but pleased with the results of the

tournament, the team's new focus was to qualify a second team for nationals at the last tournament.

After about two months of preparation, the team was ready for the last tournament of the year on the last day of January. In order to qualify a second team for nationals, two Cistercian teams would have to be in the top four. All three of the Cistercian teams played well, but unfortunately the B team was only able to place fifth. However, the A team had a great day finishing first place in the tournament by beating St. Mark's in the finals. Hope was not lost for the B team though, because due to a petition to the National Association of Quiz Tournaments, the B team was deemed worthy to play in the national tournament as a wildcard. Thus, two Cistercian teams will be able to compete in the national Middle School QB tournament this May. The tournament will consist of over 100 teams from across the nation and will hopefully prove a success for both the Cistercian teams. However, many hours of studying remain between the players and the national tournament.

The A team after the first place finish in the last tournament.



-Matthew Sawtelle '19 plays Magnetic Chairs with himself in class.



Easter Break

Among the many physical and spiritual benefits of going to a Catholic school, the one that shines brightest is the Easter holiday. An underrated break in its own right, the time off is dedicated to venerating and reflecting on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also doubles as a time away from the stress of the 4th quarter. Assuming this vacation is not cut short to make up for one of the "snow days", the 5-day weekend has the potential to be time well spent; or wasted. If you have no plans, don't sweat it! In light of the recent Easter Break, here are my suggestions on how to enjoy it better next year..

(NOTE: The following strategies were submitted anonymously by students at Cistercian Preparatory School and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Informer or the school. Read at your own risk.)

Plan A: Study up (but not too much):

Even though it's a break, there's no need to kick up your feet and do nothing! For high schoolers, as painful as it is, break out that AP book and study a chapter or two in order to avoid adding to the exam stress May already has to offer. Even in Middle School, gathering papers from the last 3 quarters and putting together an "exam folder" would be profitable, not to mention the satisfactory feeling and beaming smiles from your parents.

"hashtag no days off" -William Fielding Brown '17

Plan B: Live on prayers (HAHA PUNS):

Let us not forget why we are not coming to school. Commemorating the Last Supper, the death, and resurrection of Jesus is something that we as Christians are truly obligated to do. Whether it is once or even four times, make your way to church at some time and celebrate with your brothers and

sisters the final days of Jesus' time on Earth. Even if you are unable to attend, take some time wherever you are to offer a prayer of thanksgiving to Him.

Plan C: Just Do It... ("It" being nothing):

Pack up your books and binders into your backpack after Wednesday's last period, and don't open it until Monday night. Is it not a BREAK? Kick back and catch up on your favorite shows on Netflix (and maybe start a new one?) All I'm saying is I've never heard someone get bored of watching Friends or Law and Order: SVU reruns. But be warned! Viewer discretion is advised.

If you haven't been blessed with this immaculate membership, follow March Madness! Even better, do research on all 68 college basketball teams, plan and fill out your bracket with absolute precision, taking into account every stat from PPG to FT percentage, and watch as your aspirations and hard work are obliterated in the round of 32! If basketball is not your cup of tea, catch the UEFA Champions League on Fox Soccer to see the best teams in Europe square off. Side recommendation: Do all this on Easter Sunday while enjoying whatever food or drink you gave up for Lent. Studies indicate it alleviates the anger and discomfort previously felt.

Plan CAB:

Can't decide which one to do? As that great famous one guy said, "¿Por qué no los tres?" An effective balance between these three plans has a high success rate and allows any Cistercian student to pray, enjoy himself on the break, and still get work done.



-Emmanuel Adesanya '17 has an air horn in his desk.

Vegas: Flashing Lights and Saddened Faces

Let me tell you a thing or two about Las Vegas. It's hot, it's grungy, everything reeks of smoke, and you can't walk a block without seeing a homeless man or a street performer who is also likely homeless. The main attractions are overcrowded gambling institutions, where the big-name performers are either washed up, known only by people four generations ago, or David Copperfield, whose greatest trick has been his ability to remain timeless and seemingly immortal. Overall, Las Vegas seems to be a pretty terrible place according to my biased and purposely harsh description. However, my recent vacation there proved slightly more exciting than my description provides for, but less exciting than I hoped for.

The day of my vacation began with a trip to the airport. Now, let me let you in on a little secret: airports are the second worst thing to ever happen. Even without the TSA causing exorbitant amounts of stress, emotional pain, and worry, airports would still be terrible places. The air always seems stuffy and somehow artificial, everyone is constantly suspicious of everyone else as if we were in the Korean demilitarized zone, and the snacks are way overpriced. In addition, airports are home to the first worst thing to begin existing: airplanes. We are sixteen years into the 21st Century, and airplane engineers still have failed to find a way to add an extra inch or two to the leg-room on those infernal machines. And then there's the AC system, which was so loud that my noise canceling earphones playing music at a moderately loud level failed to negate the constant sound of the artificially moving air. Luckily, on my flight to Las Vegas, I was seated in an exit row, which is known to have greatly increased leg-room, and my seat on the flight back home was an aisle seat...so all-in-all I was pretty fortunate.

The flight to Las Vegas was generic: there was an effeminate male flight assistant, a man who moved seats so he didn't have to be squashed beside an overweight couple (I'm not trying to disparage them, I'm simply using the most effective adjective here), a baby was constantly crying and annoying everyone, and as we flew low over Vegas, I gazed upon endless rows of the same adobe roof. As we finally made it out of the airport alive, we were greeted by a driver who took us to The Venetian, and we found our way to our hotel room in the Venezia tower. Of course, on our walk through the lobby, we ran into a hairy Italian man dressed as a gondolier, eating from a jar of olives, who assaulted us with unrefined music from his accordion. Oh, and we passed a newly wedded couple that had just come out of one of the Venetian's twenty or so in-house wedding chapels. It was all a quick and simple taste of Vegas to say the least.

That same night, my family and I went to see a performance by Cirque du Soleil at The Mirage. The performance that we saw was their Beatles based show titled "The Beatles LOVE", and it was absolutely fantastic to say the least. The stunning displays of imagery and color, the abilities of the skilled acrobats, and the coordination of the lighting, music, and storytelling all astounded me even as I am write this article a week after the fact. There was so much constant motion and action that I could see the same show a dozen times from each side of the square theater (there were seats on every side of the stage) and still not be satisfied. The show gave tribute to the 60s greats in an extremely powerful and fitting

way. I have to say, the show was extremely surreal. My favorite moment actually came before the show when a bald man dressed in a silver suit wove his way through the audience, pouring smoke from an enchanted kettle on fellow bald men's shiny scalps.

Speaking of shiny scalps, the rest of the trip was extremely tiring. I think I walked something like a cumulative 20 miles around the streets of Vegas, and in the interims I slept in my overly warm hotel room. Once you get over the fact that every other building in Vegas is just a room full of smoke an extravagant casino meant to draw you in and steal all of your money and dignity, the city really isn't too exciting. There are a LOT of homeless people wandering the streets, some with extremely honest signs. There are also a multitude of people dressed as popular characters (Spiderman, Transformers, scantily clad Roman soldiers, scantily clad members of KISS, etc.) who demanded money in exchange for a picture with your child. I even caved and got a picture with an oddly disproportionate Chewbacca for the small price of two dollars. Possibly the most disturbing moment during my stay was when I saw one such street "performer" taking off his bulky Minion costume, only to reveal a short and sweaty man inside. I took a second, pictured all of the poor children that must have taken a picture with this man, felt badly for the children, felt badly for the man, felt jealous of the children, and moved on with a sigh of disgust.

The rest of the trip can be summed up in a final paragraph. For some reason, it is a fact of Vegas that you never legally cross the street. I think my family was 2 for 30 on legally crossing the street during our stay (come get me, non-existent Vegas police). At one point, we went to ride a giant observation wheel in the city called the High Roller. Onboard, there were many screens that often displayed witty commentary recited by an down-to-earth prerecorded man. Feel free to drop by and ask me the specifics after getting cleared by your Form Master. Two nights before we left, we saw David Copperfield perform some of his magic at a show he does twice a day, every day, every year. It's really quite impressive. I was able to figure out about 60% of his tricks, and one of his "surprise" magical appearances in the middle of the audience was quite hilariously foiled by my mother, who saw him run behind her while cowering under a black cape. Overall it was a cheesy performance, but definitely an experience to have once in your life. Our last day in Vegas consisted of a delicious world-famous donut shop called Ronald's Donuts, a visit to the hot Hoover Dam, and a nighttime viewing of the fountains outside the Bellagio. It was strange to end such a hectic trip with such a calm and peaceful scene. While I probably will not visit Vegas again any time soon, I can say that it is an experience to endure at least once in your life, if only to say that you did it.



-Aidan Noel '15 has a bunker full of water balloons.



NBA Playoffs and Award Predictions

March through June is the dreamtime for any basketball fan. The NCAA Tournament, arguably the most fun three weeks in all of sports, wraps up right as the stretch run and playoffs begin in the latter part of April. The teams are mostly set, with the race for the 8th spot in both conferences still to be determined. In the East, the Pacers, Celtics, and Hornets are all competing for the 8th spot, and it's Indiana's to lose. Indiana's chances can only increase with the return of All-Star Guard Paul George, who suffered a gruesome leg injury while training to compete for the USA in the Fiba World Cup.

In the West the battle between New Orleans and OKC is heating up in the latter part of the season, and this race all depends on how Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook can play together once Durant returns from injury. In the end, OKC will gain the upper hand in that race and lock up the 8th seed. This could set up one of the greatest first round matchups in Playoffs history: OKC vs Golden State. Led by my pick for the MVP, Stephen Curry, the Warriors should come out on top in this matchup. MVP from a year ago, Kevin Durant will put up a good fight and drag the series out to 7, but the crowd in the Bay Area will lift Golden State to the 2nd Round. San Antonio, the defending champs, have a serious chip on their shoulder with all of the attention from the media on the Cavaliers bandwagon, but the Spurs are playing as well as they have all year. The Mavericks are as confusing a team as there is in the NBA. The Rajon Rondo trade that was supposed to make the Mavs the team to beat hasn't worked out as well as planned or projected, but that doesn't mean that the Mavs don't have a chance to make a run in the playoffs. Unfortunately, I think a second round series against a team like the Clippers or Blazers will be the end of the Mavs run this year. Golden State will meet San Antonio in the Conference Finals, with the Spurs returning to the finals for the 3rd straight year.

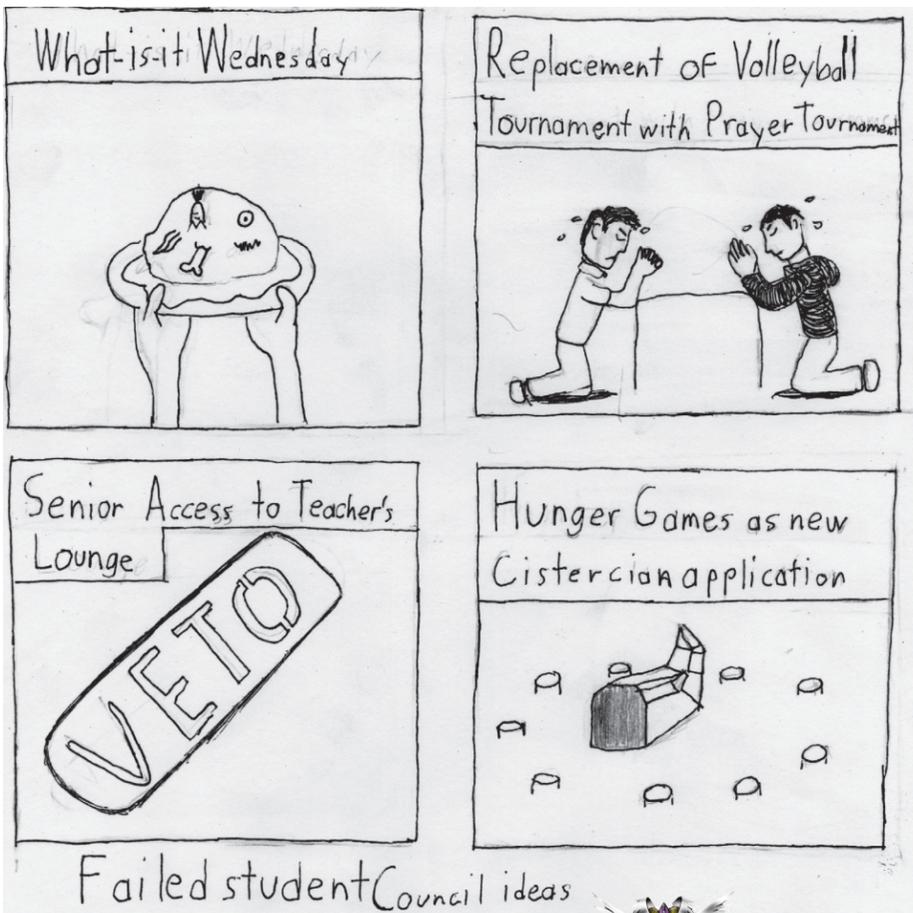
In the East, it's a three-team race between Atlanta, Chicago, and Cleveland. Atlanta has staked its claim as the "San Antonio of the East", using great ball movement and

team chemistry to win, instead of using pure superstar talent *cough* LeBron James *cough*. Atlanta's lack of experience will be the downfall of the Hawks' season, as a matchup between the Bulls and the Cavaliers looks unavoidable in the East. With the return of Derrick Rose and All-Star Jimmy Butler coming for the Bulls right around playoff time, a deep run could be in store. The Bulls have been haunted by injury in the past few seasons, especially their star point guard from a Midwest college, Kirk Hinrich. Just kidding boys, Derrick Rose's knees have been a liability for the Bulls' championship hopes pretty much every year since his MVP Season. It's a sad story, but with one championship it could turn into a triumphant one.

Cleveland has never been more hyped. More athletes, rappers, and celebrities wear Cavaliers hats, but in reality, they would never set foot in Cleveland. A potential Eastern Conference Finals Series between the Bulls and the Cavaliers could set up a resurgence of a story from 2010, when Joakim Noah said in a press conference, "I never heard nobody say I'm going to Cleveland on vacation." When asked to describe the city of Cleveland, Joakim could only come up with, "Man, all I see is factories, it's really depressing here." It's no secret Joakim doesn't like Cleveland, and Cleveland will have even more reason to dislike Joakim after his Bulls send LeBron and the Cavs home. A great Playoffs and Finals Series are in store for NBA Fans, but the most hated team in Dallas looks ready to win a 6th Championship.



-William Henry '16 was on Punk'd



Comic Courtesy: Will Novinski '18



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If you are able to solve the Sudoku puzzle above, come to Mr. Joseph's office in the 1st floor of Founders' Hall. You will receive a prize if you are one of the first to complete the puzzle correctly.