



The Informer



Cistercian Preparatory School

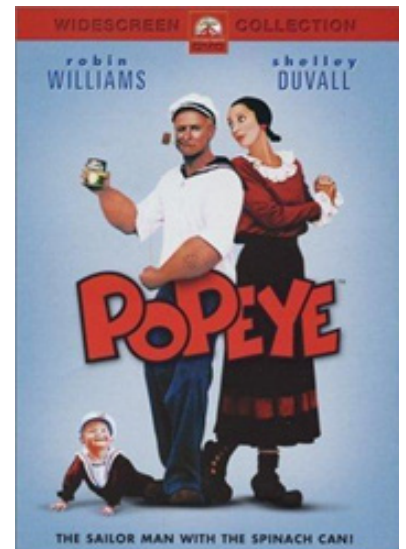
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September 2014

ROBIN WILLIAMS: A TRIBUTE

What with Robin Williams' tragic passing, I felt that it was only right for me to do what I can to pay homage to this master of both comedy and performance of all kinds by taking the time to review one of his greatest cinematic masterpieces. While *Good Will Hunting* and *Dead Poets Society* are stellar pieces of film (which I highly recommend), I am here today, in this newspaper, to review in detail Robin Williams' debut film role, that is, *Popeye*.



The sailor man with the spinach can. That's right. Robin Williams' first film role was in a live-action *Popeye* movie alongside Shelley Duvall. Look at that bleached blonde hair. That corn cob pipe. That button nose. And those two terrifying prosthetic forearms. Shelley Duvall also appears in the role of her life as Olive Oyl, but we'll get back to that later.

Popeye is a very special movie. Not only does it demonstrate how long Robin Williams can keep his right eye closed while holding a pipe in his mouth, but it also truly tries to communicate the spirit of Popeye the Sailor Man. It maintains the aesthetic of the cartoon to a ridiculous degree (I mean those forearms, I can't even take it), using slapstick comedy almost non-stop. There's a man who keeps trying to grab his hat, but keeps accidentally kicking it away, a man who gets smashed through the ground like a nail being hammered into a board- really just a limitless amount of weird weird humor that only kind of translates into the live-action world. Remember this guy?



Yep, that's Popeye's nemesis, Bluto. And don't worry, he's in there too.



He's even got his own song: *I'm Mean, If you Know What I Mean*. Oh that's right, I forgot to mention: it's a **MUSICAL**. A musical rife with comedy based around people getting hit with chairs and a huge, completely destructible set that sent this movie way over budget.



And we cannot forget the costume design of this movie. Each character has the clog-like shoes that one would see in the old cartoon, and every person is dressed in the exact clothes of their animated counterpart.

The behavior of each one spot-on, with Shelley Duvall using a strangely high-pitched voice and Robin Williams angrily mumbling at a million miles an hour. Oh, and remember that baby in the first picture? That would be Swee'Pea, a baby that they find in a basket, and then immediately decide is their baby, and that they are parents now. Oh and the baby is psychic. They use it to win horse races.

I assure you, when it comes to substance, this movie is not simply fluff. Each character has an arc, with Popeye starting out as just your average Joe that hates spinach. But in the end, he eats his spinach...(Continued on pg 7)



INSIDE



Scott Sklar '15 interviews Cistercian's newest D1 student-athlete, Dare Odeyingbo, on page 4.



We rate the best (and worst?) summer vacation destinations on page 5.



Joshua Maymir '15 discusses a controversial and possibly racist iPhone app on the back.

THE MUCKRACKER

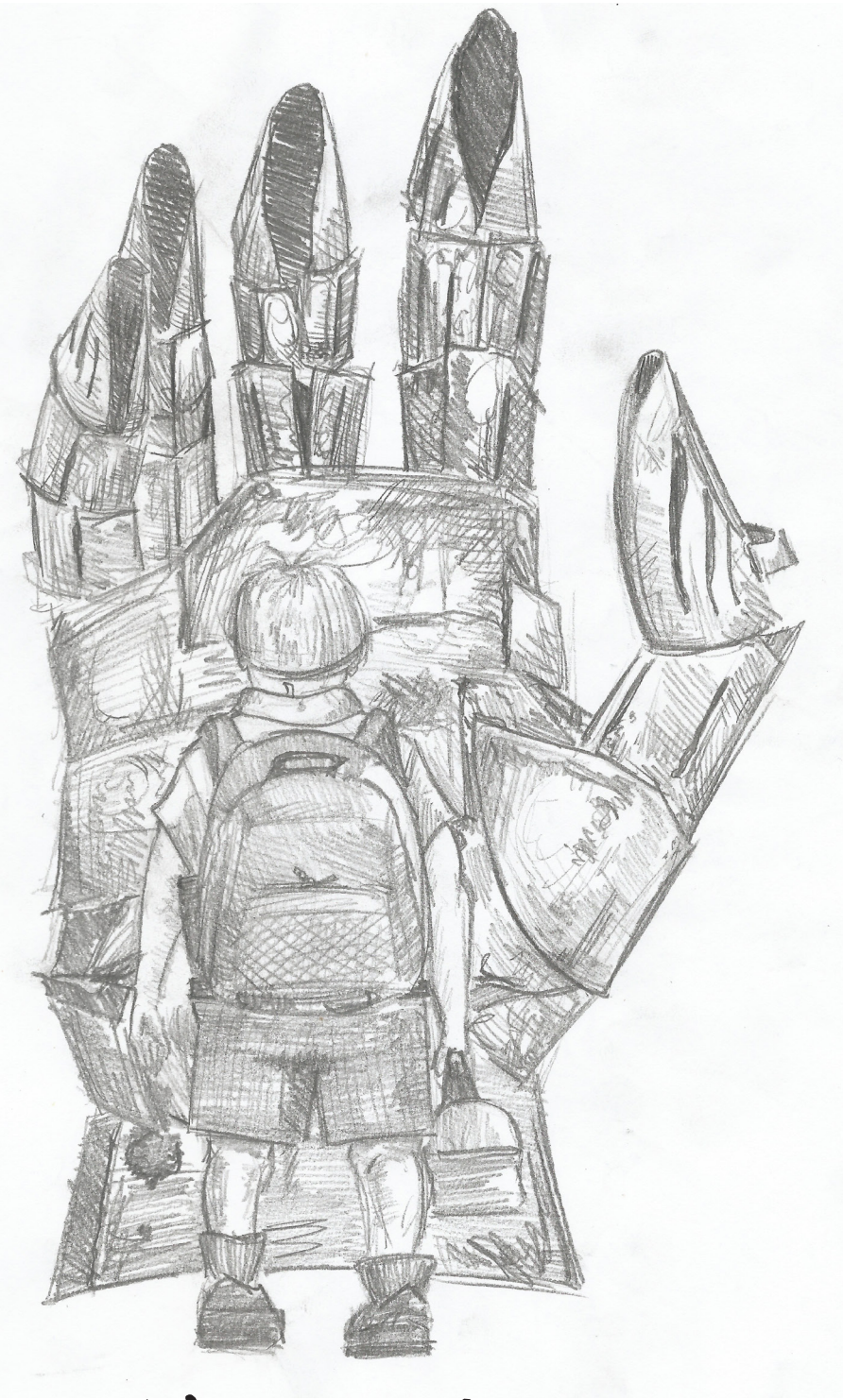
“Abandon hope, all ye who enter here.”
—Entrance to the gates of Cistercian

Summertime sadness is over, but now that school is here you can say hello to sleepless nights, boatloads of homework, and mind-numbing stress. But worry not! This year we’re going to mix things up here at your favorite school newspaper. Throughout the year, you’ll still see articles written by you the students and interviews with teachers and more students. We’re not only going to try new things but also might bring back oldies, like the Informer Rates. Expect to be wow-ed by this year’s paper, and expect to have your darkest secrets revealed through the Informer Poll. Till next time—don’t study too hard.

William Song

Hello dear reader, and welcome to the start of another school year. Whether you are here for the first time or the eighth, Cistercian promises to delight. Homecoming approaches, and we can already hear the war cries of the Black Hand and the cheers of freshmen girls at their first Cistercian dance. We hope this issue delights you as well. The Informer staff has worked hard to craft an engaging issue to welcome you back to the school year. We hope to spark your imaginations and fire you up with dread, er, hope for the upcoming months. Enjoy!

Joshua Maymir



Welcome to Cistercian

Class of 2022

Drawing by John Dudasko ‘15

September Calendar

Monday 1st Labor Day-no classes	Thursday 11th 7th/8th Football vs FWC	Saturday 20th V/MS XC @ Gary Horner Invitational
Thursday 4th 7th Football @ Ft. Worth Temple Christian	Friday 12th Varsity Football vs FWC	Thursday 25th 7th/8th Football vs St Marks
Friday 5th Varsity Football @ JPPI	Saturday 13th V/MS XC @ HSA Small School Invitational	Friday 26th Varsity Football vs Kinkaid
Saturday 6th VXC @ Flower Mound Invitational	Thursday 18th 7th/8th Football @ Trinity Valley	Homecoming Silent Auction
Tuesday 9th Jesuit College Night	Friday 19th Varsity Football vs The Village School	Saturday 27th MS XC @ Tom Landry CC Invitational
		Homecoming Dance

Write for the Infomer!

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

6

New faculty members

45

Number of Seniors scared of Fr. Greg

25%

Student discount at Texadelphia

2015

Best year to graduate

5

Lowest score on the first Senior Physics test

9

Number of Seniors who left Physics after this test



Win it with
Nguyen

Welcome back, my dear friends. I know your summer has been long and uneventful and you’ve been itching to return to school to gather the nuggets of wisdom I have to bestow. Wait no more! The journey is done! You have reached the Promised Land. Except... this Promise land is filled with tests and notes rather than milk and honey. But that’s alright! That’s why you have me. I’m eager to lavish my impeccable input upon your deprived persons. Knock and the door shall be opened. Ask and you shall receive. Bring on the questions, my friends.

My textbooks haven’t arrived yet! What do I do?

Here’s some startling advice: cancel your orders. Don’t worry about textbooks. I’ve been here for seven years and I’ve never once bought a textbook. Want to know how I get away with it? Every time your teacher asks you to open your textbook, slide your chair over to your nearest compañero as nonchalantly as possible. Then when he asks you why you’re sitting with your best friend again, you just say that your textbook is on backorder! He is forced to just grumble and mutter his assent before continuing the lecture. This should work for several weeks, but after some time, the eagle-eyed professor will begin to notice that it’s been months since the beginning of the school year. When the inevitable question about the whereabouts of your textbook comes, use the next excuse: someone from the other side borrowed it and didn’t give it back. Now he can either mutter his assent again, or make you retrieve your borrowed textbook, at which point you simply go to the other side and take someone else’s book. It’s foolproof! These tricks have carried me throughout my entire tenure here at Cistercian, but if for some reason, you ever forget my advice or are simply at a loss for words, just tell your teacher that you’re illiterate.

What’s the best way to curry favor with teachers I’ve never had before?

Ah yes. The first week of school is the best. The teachers observe the class and try to size you up. They silently separate the wheat from the chaff. What’s the best way to make sure you end up in the heavenly barn of approval

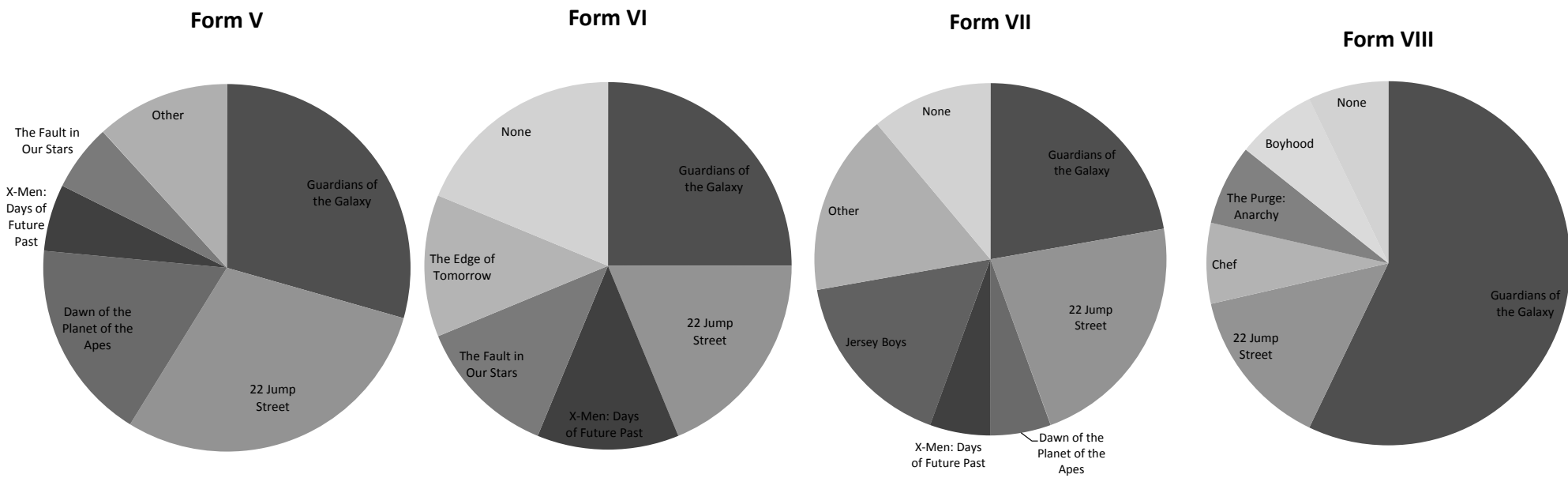
rather than the fiery depths of ineptitude? Well it all starts with a good first impression. Your teachers will most likely ask you what you did over the summer. While this may appear to be a simple and friendly gesture, I advise you to choose your words carefully: they carry far more weight than you think. But do not worry, for I am here to give you tips on hitting that question out of the park. What did you do this summer? Don’t be cliché and mention that mission trip you went on or that internship you did. No, that only makes you look like an overachieving nerd, and no one likes an overachiever. Instead, talk about all the movies you watched on Netflix. You’ll look like a cultured human being who cares more about the arts than about your future. And it’s probably more accurate so you come off as honest. Teachers love honesty.

I want this year to be the absolute best! What kind of resolutions are you setting for yourself? I’d love to adopt some of them!

Know what I pray for? The strength to change what I can, the inability to accept what I can’t, and the incapacity to tell the difference. -Calvin from Calvin and Hobbes No truer words were ever spoken by a six-year old comic book protagonist. My only resolution this year is to follow these wise words. I hope they Calvinize you into action [chuckle]. Carpe Diem! Go out there and change the world. Do you think science is too difficult? Complain constantly. That is how you “change what you can.” Does your teacher keep lowering your conduct grade whenever you complain? Keep complaining. There’s the “inability to accept what you can’t change.” Do you keep getting kicked out of class causing your academic grade to fall and your parents to disown you which in turn causes your friends to avoid you because you’re a bad influence? Yeah... well... that’s because of your “incapacity to tell the difference.” Hmm... maybe I should rethink this... Or! I can pray for the strength to change it! See? It’s a never ending circle of bliss. Good luck this year, friend!

Let’s say, hypothetically, that someone hasn’t done any of his summer reading yet. What kind of advice would you give that person? Hypothetically... Run.

What was your favorite movie you saw this summer?



Did you actually finish your Summer Reading?

Form V		Form VI		Form VII		Form VIII	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
73%	27%	69%	31%	65%	35%	93%	7%

THE INFORMER
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Big Man on Campus: Talking with Dare Odeyingbo

Scott: Hello

me a nod towards Vanderbilt so after that it became a no brainer.

Dare: Hello

S: Should we start?

S: Now at Cistercian we all know you as the unstoppable running back for the Hawks... But are the rumors true that you will be playing Defense next year for Vanderbilt?

S: Alright, first question... What does it feel like to join a small group of Cistercian athletes who have gone on to play a Division 1 sport in college? Especially in a sport like football?

D: Yes, they are true. The coaching staff at Vanderbilt has told me that next year they would be looking to play me either at Linebacker or Defensive End.

S: Which one would you want to play if you had the choice?

D: Definitely DE since I have already played a lot of that at Cistercian the past couple years!

S: Let us shift our focus to this year's Hawk team. How does the season look for us as we head toward the south conference in SPC?

D: I'm super pumped for this year! We have a good team with a lot of returning seniors and juniors who are ready to finally tear down that playoff wall as Coach Mac says. I believe that if the team comes together and we put together a couple wins against some of the tougher Houston schools then this could be the year that Cistercian shocks a lot of teams and wins it all.

S: Is it true that once you receive and accept your scholarship that you kinda don't have to try any-more in class?

D: NO! First off, my mother is definitely making sure I'm trying in all my classes this year. Plus Cistercian is such a challenging school to begin with that I don't even think it is possible to take a whole year off! Let alone a week if I even got that crazy idea stuck in my head.

S: Is there anybody either here at Cistercian or outside of the campus that you would want to thank for being with you or helping you out throughout your high school career?

D: First off, I would like to thank genetics! You guys came in clutch seventeen years ago! Second, I would like to specially thank my mother and father for pushing me to be the man I am today. A lot of the time I would get angry or be stubborn with them but in the end I couldn't have done any of this without them. I would like to also thank Mr. Saliga and Dr. Pruit for helping me stay on top of everything with the whole college process. Next I would like to thank the kids at PSA in Plano, y'all are the real MVP along with my boss who is a kind and caring man who I think of as a second dad. I would like to also give my gratitude to the entire coaching staff at Cistercian for pushing me to be the athlete I am today. Finally I would like to thank the entire class of 2015 at Cistercian! Y'all are my brothers to the end of time except that new kid who came last year... No one really likes him.

S: Seems like you have a tight knit group of people who truly care about you. Which if you think about it... Is what one gets when he comes to Cistercian. Moving on, Let's shift our focus to the actual Futbol of the world. Who do you believe is going to win the BPL this year? (British Premier League)

D: Its gotta be Liverpool. Hands down I do not care what anybody says we will win the cup this year!

S: I myself cheer for Chelsea so we will see who wins it all. But, we all know it is Chelsea. Final question before I let you go. Do you have a favorite boy band and if so what is your favorite song from that band?

D: Oh man! That is a tough one. Part of my heart would like to chose one of the current bands like One Direction or 5 Seconds of summer, but it wouldn't be right unless I said my favorite was the Backstreet Boys. I still can recite every word from "I Want it That Way".

S: Well I will say that did surprise me. Thanks again Dare for sitting down and answering a few questions. Good luck this season on the gridiron.

D: No problem my man!

*-Scott Sklar '15
cried the first time
he met Dare*

2014-2015 Football Preview

College Football is back, but in a different fashion. The BCS, a highly controversial way of picking which teams would play for the national championship in years past, is being replaced by a simple 4-team playoff system. The championship game will be played at none other than Jerry World itself, AT&T Stadium right in our own backyard. Unfortunately, a championship is not looking realistic for any hometown teams, as TCU isn't a perennial powerhouse anymore, and SMU opens the schedule up as a 31-point underdog to the Baylor Bears.

This year is full of exciting matchups with serious playoff implications, and the first game of the year, Texas A&M vs South Carolina, starts out the year with a bang. The first test for the post-Johnny-Football-era Aggies, having to play one of the top teams in the nation at one of the loudest stadiums in the country, is no walk in the park. Here are the favorites for making the first ever college football playoffs: Florida State, whose quarterback can throw touchdowns better than he can steal crab legs from grocery stores; Oklahoma, with a hotshot Trevor Knight at the helm and coming off a huge upset by blowing out Alabama in last year's Sugar Bowl; as well as Alabama, Oregon, and Michigan State.

Being a fan of the upset, my 4 choices for the college football playoffs are Florida State, USC, Michigan State, and the South Carolina Gamecocks, led by none other than the Old Ball Coach, founder of the "Fun 'n' Gun" offense, Steve Spurrier. In the end, I'm predicting Jameis Winston and the Florida State Seminoles to play the USC Trojans, where Jameis will pick up his second national title before heading to the NFL.



*-William Henry '16
prefers fantasy football*

Summer's over, and school is finally here! We know that you long for the days of sweltering heat and no homework, so the Informer has decided to rate a few vacation spots to remind you of the good old days.

Home: The best place to relax and where no doubt most of you spent your summer, watching TV or parked in front of a computer. If you want to mix it up, go watch TV at someone else's house. There's no place like home.



Comfort: ★★★★★

Popularity: ★★★★★

Cost: \$50/day for food

Beach: A delightful location for swimming, sporting, and tanning. Beware of jellyfish, sharks, and nude sunbathers.



Comfort: ★★★★★

Popularity: ★★★★★

Cost: Sunburns

Foreign Country: Magnifique! Fantastica! Wunderbar! Everyone loves tourists from America. I hope you bought some plastic key chains or snow globes for your friends!



Selfies Taken: Too many

Popularity: ★★★★★

Cost: ★★★★★

Gym: Summer is the perfect time to get swoll and show off your guns. A proper diet for this lifestyle includes protein shakes, falcon eggs, and rocks.



Comfort: None. The pain helps you learn

Popularity: Get all the girls

Cost: Sick abs are priceless

Work: There's nothing like spending 40 hours a week to make a few bucks to fuel your video game addiction or buy your girlfriend nice things. School sounds pretty good compared to a real job huh?



Fatigue: ★★★★★

Popularity: ★

Cost: Cash Money \$\$\$\$\$

Bathtub With a Tub of Ice Cream:

The perfect place for when life is just too overwhelming. Crying is optional but recommended.



Comfort: Ice Cream

Sadness: ★★★★★

Cost: Your self-esteem

Amusement Park: Expensive food, tons of annoying kids, long lines, vomiting on roller coasters, oh my!

Hold on to your pants, because you're in for a ride.



Vertigo: ★★★★★

Popularity: ★★★★★

Adrenaline: ★★★★★

The Bat Cave: When your city needs you, don a bat mask, wear your underwear outside your pants, and beat the baddies with a guy named after a bird and a girl who really likes cats. (You might get a call from PETA).

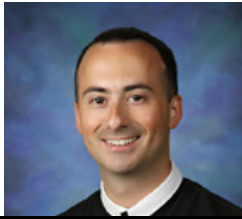


Safety: None

Popularity: I'M BATMAN

Cost: \$200 billion for fancy gadgets

Priestly Preferences



Favorite	Br. Raphael	Fr. Justin	Br. Francis
Pop Song	"Puff the Magic Dragon," although I'm open to being persuaded it's a folk song.	That's easy: I'm so "Happy!"	"Jar of Hearts" by Christina Perri
Pop Artist	Michael Jackson	*no comment*	Taylor Swift
Sports Team	San Diego Chargers	Still the White Sox, I can't help it	All Dallas teams & Chicago Cubs
Athlete	Pheidippides, that guy knew how to mob	*no comment*	Allyson Felix
Priest	Friar Tuck	Jesus, then Fr. Julius	Pope Francis
Food	Homegrown	Riiiiibs	*no comment*
Ice Cream Flavor	Tripple Ripple Vanilla Road Monkey	Cookies N' Cream	*no comment*
Language	Wookie	Latin, of course	Esperanto
TV Show	Hogan's Heroes	What's that?	The Cosby Show
Movie	I just saw The LEGO Movie, and it's pretty awesome	Heat	*no comment*
Actor	John Wayne	*no comment*	Ronald Reagan
Contact Sport He Played	uh... next question	Tae Kwon Do: Watch out Henry!	Putt-putt golf
Super Bowl Ad	RadioShack's "The 80's called and want their store back" ad	"Super Bowl Shuffle"	Crystal-Clear Pepsi
"Football" (Soccer) Club	Form III soccer is supposed to be pretty good this year	Die Nationalmannschaft von Deutschland	*no comment*
Style of Facial Hair	Handle-bar moustache	Goatee :(Fu Manchu
'70s Outfit	Ron Burgundy's	Definitely a plaid suit	*no comment*
Color of Afro Wig	Blonde	I'll stick with brown	*no comment*
"Modern Art" Piece	"The Kramer" although I'm open to being persuaded it's Neo Classical	Munch's "Evening on Karl Johan Street"	Villanueva's painting in "Founders' Hall"
Class to Sleep In	Latin	No longer an option	Home Economics
Summer Assignment	Spreading compost in the Abbey courtyard and listening to Max Rogers sing "Be A Man"	*no comment*	Jamba Juice
Britney Spears Music Video	uh... "I'll Take You There" with Justin Timberlake	*no comment*	"Hit Me Baby One More Time"

Interviews conducted by Luke Maymir '17

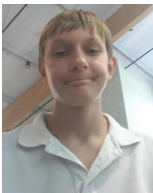
iPhone 6: Bigger and Better?

Rumors have surrounded the iPhone 6 recently, whether it be about the size of the phone, the display, or the launch date. However, without a doubt, the iPhone 6 will be a smartphone to beat this year. The iPhone 6 is expected to launch at a special event on September 9th. The new iPhone is fabled to come out in two different sizes, a 4.7 inch version and an astounding 5.5 inch version. The 5.5 inch version is said to launch at the same time as the smaller version, but this new undertaking for Apple could cause it to be released at a later date. It will be interesting to see how the iPhone 6 matches up to some of the other Samsung phones on the market such as the Galaxy S5, the Note 3, or even the Note 4 which will launch this year as well.

The features of the iPhone 6 that could potentially set it apart from the other smart phones out there are the new display and the integration of iOS 8. Probably the most interesting thing for most people about the new iPhone is the 5.5 inch version of the phone. This is very unusual for Apple to make a large phone like this, and they are obviously a little hesitant about making this big of phone that can rival the size of even the Note 3. I think that the majority of current iPhone fanatics will opt for the smaller version of the phone, and that the larger phone is more of a test for Apple to see if the larger screen

size will coerce any Samsung users to make the switch. However, I don't think Apple will be very successful in getting many Samsung users to switch based purely on the screen size.

But regardless of the new screen size, the new iPhone will flaunt even better graphics than its predecessors, and a more powerful processor. With the limited information we have about the phone now, it is difficult to say whether or not the iPhone 6 will pose a threat to Samsung, but I would expect that with the larger screen and the user-friendly nature of iOS, that the iPhone 6 will definitely be attractive for anyone on the fence between an iPhone and any other brand. But of course, we are still hoping for some nice surprises from Apple on launch day.



-Matthew Sawtelle '19 just hopes he'll still be able to Instagram his selfies

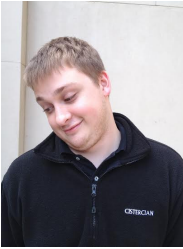
Les Misérables De Nos Jours

Les Mis at the Wyly...what more must I say? Save the children, the actors all had incredible voices, especially Jean Valjean, whose vocal range surpassed what is expected of his rough yet honorable character. On the other hand, even for a child, the Young Cosette had an extremely weak voice and the lines of hers that I could hear I couldn't fully understand. She had a strange quasi-Chicagoan accent ("ehhh, wad-dya gonna do about it?") which made her sound as if she had a large quantity of saliva in her mouth, likely due to nervousness, just waiting to gush out. Not that salivating on that stage would be strange in any degree. Anyone who has ever caught a production at the Wylie Theatre knows that the cozy quarters of the building lend themselves to an even cozier view of the actors' constant barrage of spittle. As a side note, the presence of spit is actually a good omen, as it demonstrates that an actor is making an attempt to fully enunciate consonants which might otherwise fall flat. Now back to the main topic.

This particular production of Les Mis had a modern setting. The police officers/French soldiers were all in full SWAT body armor and appeared with riot shields and futuristic looking handguns (maybe they were supposed to be stun-guns?). The women were all metal-workers in an assembly line and the first unsuspecting victim of the Thenardiers' tourist trap appeared as a wealthy and young hipster, exactly as you would expect to see in every house in the Silicon Valley. Also: Yes, "women in a metal-working assembly line" seems about 100 years off the mark, but let's just ignore that as it is the most minor deficiency that comes packaged with the modern context. Take, for example, the fact that Cosette is still staying with "an innkeeper and his wife". Do inns even exist anymore? When was the last time that you used that word and you weren't talking about a medieval videogame? I'd imagine the modern Thenardiers to be running something like a Motel 6 (or is it Motel 8? I actually can't remember.) And then there's Lamarque's illness, namely that modern medicine could have easily cured his cholera. Oh, and faking your way into being the mayor of a thriving town, Valjean? "I don't think so!" says modern background checks, SSN and ID verifications, and that fact that any police force would have easily been able to track down Jean Valjean days after his flight. As petty as all of this is, and as much as I understand the fact that this was not the point of giving the musical a modern context, these little problems bugged me throughout the whole show. Not to mention that they must

have hired the same sharpshooters from the Star Wars movies (you hip people out there get what I'm saying.)

Overall, it was a very well done reinvention of the classic musical. One scene belonged in the Rated R category which we were warned about beforehand. As a side note, apparently their production of Shakespeare's King Lear was not family friendly either, so I guess the team at the Wyly is trying to push its boundaries. Only once did an actor slightly mess up a word, but I only noticed because I knew the song verbatim. Oh, and Javert's suicide was cheesy, and people who didn't know the story probably couldn't tell what was going on. They made it look as though he flew away into the last glimpses of the setting sun. Oh well. The Thenardiers were spot on and that's ALL that matters. I'll be looking for a higher level of perfection in the upcoming production of The Phantom of the Opera, which I will be reviewing next. Until then, herd goats, hoard cinnamon, and only travel at night.



-Aidan Noel '15 Dead Poet's Honor



Robin Williams: A Tribute (Continued)

...and ultimately he saves the day. Oh yeah, he also meets his father (a bearded, sexist, older version of Popeye) and we see the troubled past that made Popeye into what he is today.

I'm not going to ignore the fact that this movie was beautifully shot. From a technical standpoint, it's an excellent movie. It was directed, for some reason, by Robert Altman, an industry legend, who has made movies such as M.A.S.H., The Long Goodbye and Gosford Park, and you can really tell. It is crisply-edited, and filmed with skill, which makes it all the more fascinating, and all the more endearing. Popeye really took me into its world, and it established a Popeye mythos that the world would never forget. Watching the movie, I could feel the community of Sweet Haven. I really hated that tax collector for taxing Popeye all the time, and teared up when he got beat up by Bluto. The film is a whirlwind of emotions, is what I'm saying.

The movie really stands out as having a variety of things in it that are just ridiculous. The characters make bizarre, sometimes nonsensical decisions, and there are plot points in the movie that are completely absurd, and yet thought of as completely normal by all involved.

However, I like to think that Robin Williams loved the time he spent making this movie, because I certainly enjoyed all two hours of it when I watched it. In this movie we see something that's rare these days. No, I don't mean the long-clamored for Popeye origin story, but rather an actor giving his all. Despite the complete and utter ridiculousness of this movie's very existence, Robin Williams' performance was still fantastic, and he cemented this movie into my mind forever. Never again will I hear the name Popeye without thinking of his squinched up face, his unintelligible muttering in the guise of the sailor man with the spinach can. Robin Williams was a genius, brimming with talent, and his passing was a tragedy, but I think what he would want the most is to be thought of at his best, not only in his hefty, serious movies, but in his light-hearted, slightly frightening live-action versions of black and white cartoons from the thirties.



-Jack Chadwick '15 always eat his spinach like a good boy

THE SKETCH FACTOR

Ever wanted to know where not to pick up your homecoming date in Dallas? There’s an app for that. No, really. It’s called Sketch Factor. And it’s alternately hilarious and scary. Open it on your iPhone and a map appears showing sketchy incidents around you. Or you can search a location to see what sketchy happenings are going on there. The app is simple to use, and although it is only for iOS currently, an android version is coming soon.

For the record, “sketchy” is defined by the authoritative Urban Dictionary as “(adj.) describing someone or something that just isn’t right.” Clearly, the definition cannot have variable interpretations. (That sentence is sketchy, because sketchy means different things to different people, so the sentence isn’t right.) For the synonyms and antonyms, please consult the Form I Vocabulary Book.

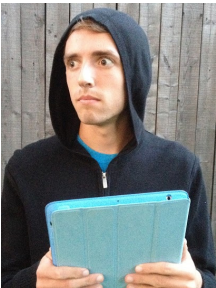
Sketch Factor is driven by its user base. When someone using the app sees something sketchy, they can post it on the map. Sketchy situations are ranked by a “level of sketchiness” from 1-5, with 5 being the sketchiest. Posts are also categorized as “weird” or “dangerous”. And they can make you laugh. Like “Man dancing on my street corner. Without his pants.” But the user base is also Sketch Factor’s problem. Users are typically affluent, ethnic majorities, the socio-economic-ethnic (sounding it out helps) group that can afford expensive smartphones in bulk. These users are typically white. And these users typically have racist attitudes.

I’ve been using the app for two weeks now, and some of the posts scare me. Not because I’m afraid a panhandler will open my car door at a red light and threaten me with a knife before I slam on the accelerator, but because I see posts such as “A black man driving a van as well as 3 other black men on the seats in the back of it” tagged as a Level 5 Dangerous. Or “My motorcycle was stolen. And I thought this was a white neighborhood.” And “I saw a couple of black guys in a parking lot so I walked away quickly” tagged a Level 4 Dangerous. Most users apparently consider African Americans sketchy, or “just not right.” The app reeks of racism.

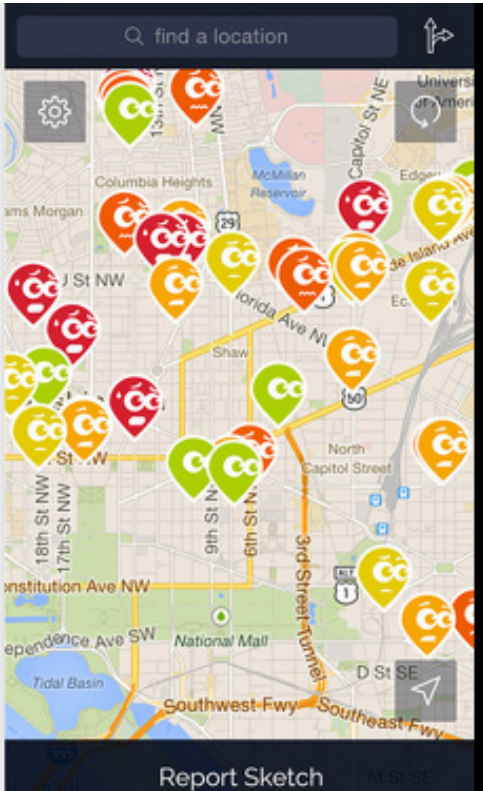
Sketch Factor’s website says users should deal with racist posts by voting those posts down or reporting them. They also claim the app helps minorities by giving them a platform to post racial profiling incidents. Based on my experience with the app, those claims are completely false. Over 70% of the posts I viewed in the DFW area were racist. So those posts aren’t going away. Their users would never vote those posts down or report them because the users are comfortable with racial profiling. Not once have I seen any of the racially motivated posts taken down. Not a single comment removed. Not even any “reported

for racism” notifications. And I have never seen any posts against racial profiling, nor any posts that I could tell were written by a disadvantaged person.

Simply put, Sketch Factor does not and apparently cannot remove racism in the app, nor can it empower minorities in any way. The app exists simply to let rich ethnic majorities, a.k.a. white people, swap stories about harrowing incidents usually involving near encounters of the African kind. Although the app has its bright spots, it promotes racism, it promotes segregation, and it promotes the ghettoization of American cities. It is the moral obligation of the creators of the app to no longer make it available to download, stop issuing updates, and to just stop working on an android version. Next time you question the neighborhood of your homecoming date, look at a crime map or talk to your parents. We should know where to be more cautious, but Sketch Factor is not the solution.



-Joshua Maymir ‘15
is Straight Outta Compton



Discussion Question of the Month

What do you think of the NFL and other football organizations’ efforts to reduce concussions?

“Defensive players believe that the league has unfairly tilted the playing field toward the offense and that it essentially has turned a violent sport into two-hand touch.”
-ESPN Commentary

“Should helmets be banned? Players will be more inclined to protect their heads rather than use them to tackle. Other contact sports without helmets have much lower rates of concussions than American football.”
-FOX Sports

“The league is trying to make an unsafe game safer. Finally, it is doing the right thing.”
-ESPN Commentary

“Many have proposed creating a better kind of helmet – one that is meant to absorb a forceful impact much more efficiently, especially since helmets have been essentially the same for 50 years.”
-FOX Sports

Join the discussion on Twitter (@cpsinformer) or email us (informerdiscussion@gmail.com) and your response could be printed in the next issue!

6	4	9	1		5			
				2		9		
2				4	9	6	5	
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			4		6	5	2	9

If you are able to solve the Sudoku puzzle above, come to Form VIII B and ask for Carson Ariagno. You will receive a prize if you are the first to complete the sudoku correctly.