

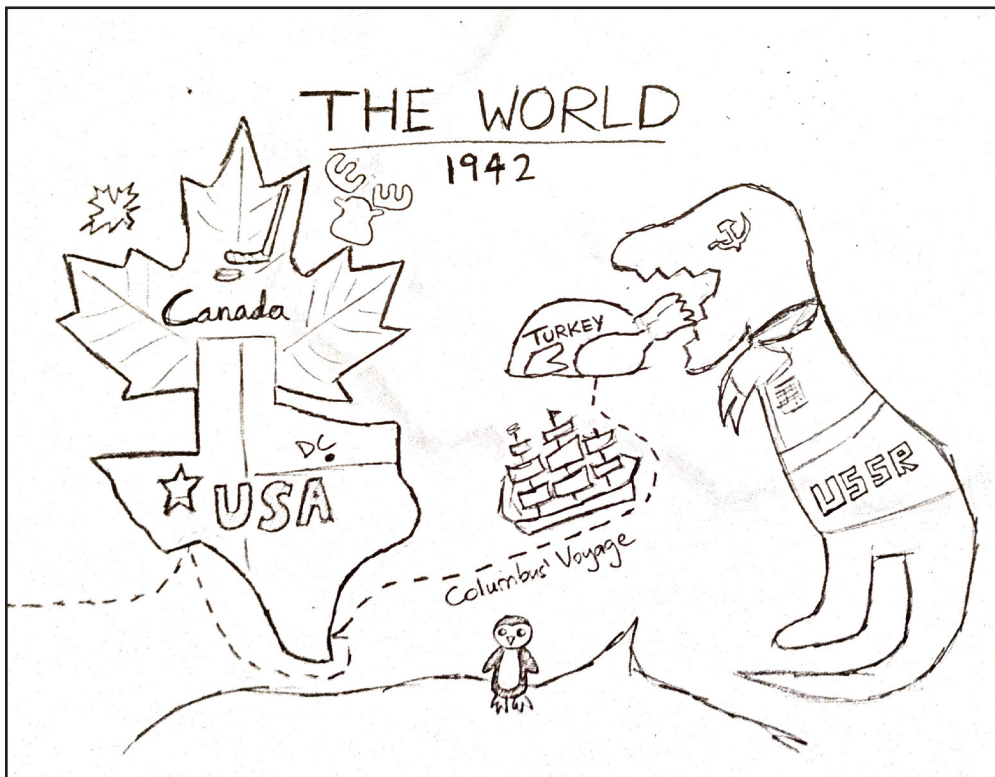


THE TRUE HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING

In 1942, Columbus sailed the ocean blue. He reached America and discovered—to his dismay—that its native peoples were in the middle of World War II. The following is a summary of the conflict and the creation of Thanksgiving as we know it today.

The Beginning

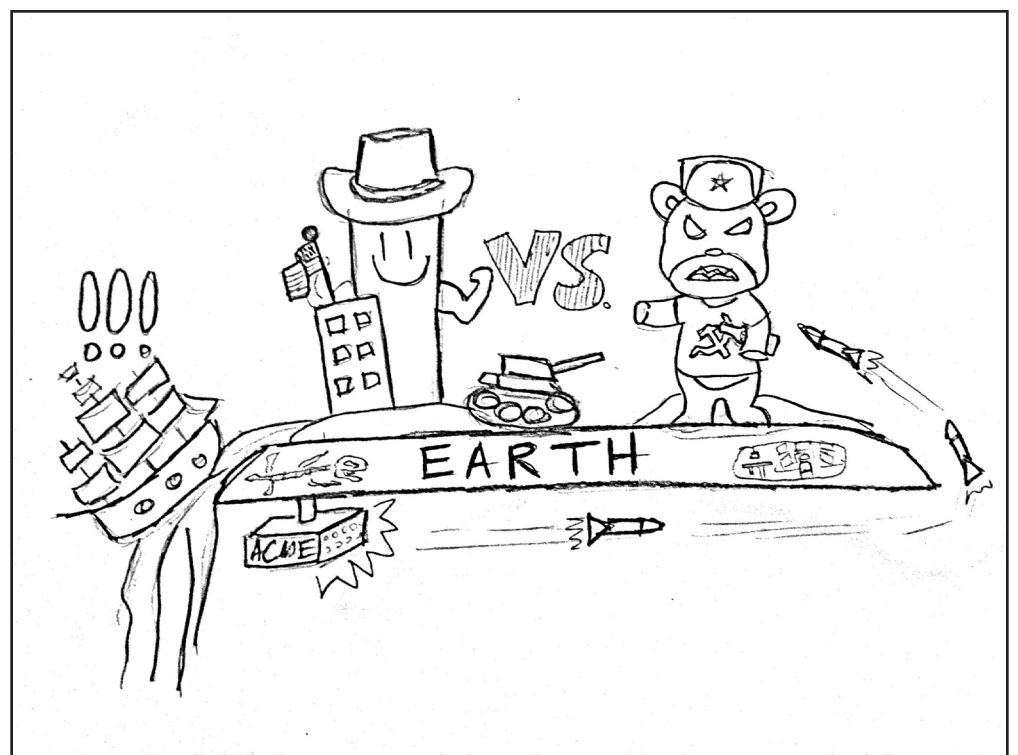
What started the global altercation was a revolution in the country Turkey, where vegetarians and bird lovers were fed up with their nation's blatant endorsement of eating turkeys. The revolutionaries formed the company Nazi—National Avian Zealotry Inc.—and employed the beankrieg technique to turn all meat products in Turkey into tofu. To the east, the leaders of the So-Be-It Union—named for its laissez-faire style of doing everything—put a ban on all gravy and syrup, citing the acronym USSR—Unctuous Solutions Stir Rebellion. Unfortunately, the So-Be-It Union's ban angered Canada—a country known for its ferocity and maple syrup—which immediately declared war on all of Europe and Asia. America, ruled primarily by the Tejas Indians, was dragged into the war because of its alliance with Canada. Thus World War II began.



D-Day: June 6, 1944

The most important day of the war was D-Day—also known as Dinner Day. While the revolutionaries in Turkey were having dinner, Columbus and the Tejas Indians executed their plan to help the government of Turkey decisively defeat the revolution. Using the science of friendship as demonstrated by the Tejas' name, Columbus and the Tejas constructed thousands of tanks and shipped them to Turkey in what became known as the “Tanksgiving”. Thus the revolution was defeated in the aftermath of the “Tanksgiving dinner”.

Unfortunately, the So-Be-It Union still posed a problem as it continued to fight an all-out war with Canada. America and Canada needed a clever plan, and fast. A Tejas Indian named Chief Al Bertine Styne was doing a school project in Manhattan when—Eureka!—he discovered a technique called “New Clear Fishin”. Using his newfound knowledge, the Americans launched missiles under the Earth—because the world was still flat back then—and behind the So-Be-It Union, taking the latter by surprise. A member of the KGB—Kids Growing Beards—whose nickname was Flat Amir Puddin’ would survive and later become the President of the country Russia Limbaugh.



Legacy

The war ended with many casualties. Over one million turkeys and ten million gallons of syrup perished in the conflict, though the only ones crying about it were those who didn't get to eat any of it. To celebrate the new peace, leaders from all over the world gathered together and played a game of Axis & Allies—a real game based on a fictional retelling of history written by the Chinese. They also devoured a few hundred turkeys and rebranded D-Day's “Tanksgiving” as “Thanksgiving” so that no one with their mouth full could pronounce it. Columbus himself would only live for a short time afterwards, as he mistakenly believed that the world was round and sailed off the western edge of the world.

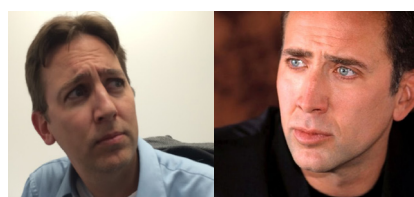


-William Song '15
has that long hair,
slicked back,
white t-shirt

INSIDE



Luke Maymir '17 shares his favorite Thanksgiving turkey recipe on page 4



Tweet us at @cpsinformer if you or someone you know has a celebrity look alike! You may be featured next issue!



Aidan Noel '15 gives his list of his favorite performances from this year's Coffeehouse on page 7

THE MUCKRACKER

Are you ready to go on Thanksgiving break, talk to your crazy relatives, and stuff your face full of turkey? I am. While you flirt with gluttony on the 27th of this month—and probably for many days afterwards—remember that the Informer is here, thinking about you, and thanking you for reading it and then rolling it up to physically enforce the rules of your house which your little cousins insist on breaking. Next time, read about Christmas gifts, New Year’s resolutions, and Kim Jung Un’s cheese addiction.

William Song

Jingle Bells! Jingle Bells! Jingle all the way! It’s almost here. We are in that antechamber to December and Christmas, that prequel of Santa Claus and family celebrations, that time of anticipation called November. But November is not just a prequel. It’s election month, and in that space between Homecoming and Thanksgiving, the future of the nation was determined, Ebola was contained, and No Shave November was started. No less importantly, Taylor Swift broke the radio with Blank Space. Ultimately, we have enjoyed much and we have much to look forward to, and this issue covers every part of the month with exquisite detail and ghastly humor. So enjoy our newspaper, and share it with your friends this Thanksgiving too!

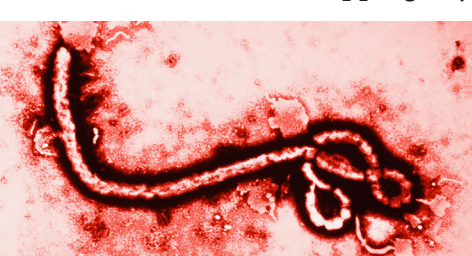
Joshua Maymir

Ebola 2014 is Not Over Yet

When Dr. Craig Spencer was released from his 21 day quarantine, many Americans thought that he would be the last Ebola case treated on U.S. soil. This is not the case.

A Sierra Leonean surgeon and citizen of the United States, Martin Salia, is being transported to a bio-containment unit in Nebraska. NBC News reported he caught the virus while working at Kissy United Methodist Hospital in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the countries that has been hit hardest by the Ebola Virus. According to CNN News, Sierra Leone has “seen more than 5,300 cases of Ebola and more than 1,100 deaths”. Worryingly, Ebola has now spread to a previously unaffected country, Mali. An imam from Guinea came to Mali to be treated for an illness. After he died, his body was washed by a group of people. A woman who had washed the imam’s body became infected with Ebola and died on Thursday in Mali. NBC also said there are over 200 contacts total in Mali that could be infected with Ebola. If the virus is not contained it will devastate all of West Africa and possibly the world. This thought may lead people to wonder who patient zero was.

CNN News reported that patient zero was a Guinean 2 year old named Emile Ouamouno. Nobody knows how he contracted the virus, but the most probable case is that he got it from eating bush meat. On December 6, after several days of bloody diarrhea, vomiting, and fever, Emile died. Soon afterwards, most of his family was dead as well, from the same disease. The disease then spread throughout the village where they lived, and spread to surrounding countries. This eventually led to the situation in which West Africa is in now. According to the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), the rapid spread of Ebola led WHO (World Health Organization) to “convene an urgent meeting on September 29 and 30 to assess the efforts under way to evaluate and produce safe and effective Ebola vaccines as soon as possible.” At this meeting in Geneva, two experimental drugs have been selected for human testing, cAd3 and rVSV. These two drugs have “demonstrated 100% efficacy in studies in nonhuman primates”, according to NEJM. Let us hope that these two drugs work well in human testing, because Ebola 2014 will not be stopping anytime soon.



-Alonso Medina
welcomes you
to New York

End of November Calendar

Monday 17th Form VIII Retreat 7th Black/8th Basketball @ PoP 8th Soccer vs Covenant Christian JV Soccer @ Oak Grove Park	Wednesday 19th 8th Soccer@All Saints Thursday 20th Tip-Off Classic 7th Black/White/8th Basketball @ ESD 9th Basketball @ Nolan Tournament JV Basketball @ PoP Varsity Soccer vs BD	Saturday 22nd Tip-Off Classic 9th Basketball @ Nolan Tournament Varsity Swimming @ TISCA Prelims Monday 24th 9th Soccer vs BD 7th White/8th Basketball vs CHANT JVB Basketball vs North Hills
Tuesday 18th Form VIII Retreat 7th Soccer @ Highlands 9th Basketball vs BL JV Basetketball @ Covenant Christian Varsity Basketball @ Covenant Christian	Friday 21st Tip-Off Classic 9th Basketball @ Nolan Tournament Varsity Swimming @ TISCA Prelims	Tuesday 25th 9th/JV/Varsity Basketball @ JPII Early Dismissal

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!

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By The Numbers

1

Informer meetings attended
this month by Joshua Maymir

1989

The best number ever

0%

President Flaherty's
approval rating

3

Seniors who still haven't
applied to college

0

Tweets received by
@cpsinformer after
two months :'(



Win it with Nguyen

November is finally here and with it comes yet another flood of questions to fill my inbox. Between this and all those poor, usurped Nigerian princes asking for help, I am booked. But you all are still my number one priority. Thanksgiving is fast approaching, the first quarter is over, and this fresh month contains ample opportunity for advice-seeking. Uncap those pens, date those notes, and get ready for all your problems to be solved.

My weird cousins are visiting from out-of-town for Thanksgiving. What do I do?

Every year we look forward to seeing relatives again and sharing a lovingly-crafted dinner together. But then we remember that our family is far from normal and our cousins embody the essence of “weirdness.” I know your first instinct is to barricade yourself in your room for the duration of their visit, and that instinct is correct! Avoid them as much as possible! You’re already so weird yourself; you can’t afford risking becoming even stranger. Every time they try to talk to you, pull out your phone and start texting or snapchatting (pretending works too). Then quickly make your way to the nearest exit all the while acting as if you hadn’t heard them. After they leave, you can look at the pictures taken—they speak a thousand words, right? Ahh the spirit of Thanksgiving!

Do you have any advice on how to best take advantage of Black Friday?

I always have advice on every subject! I’d recommend lining up early: at least a week in advance. We hear about those crazy people lining up two days early, but we never hear about any crazy people lining up a week early! You’ll be first for everything! But make sure you’re lining up at a store that’s worth it. Everyone is planning on going to Best Buy or Fry’s, but you need to think outside of the box. Go somewhere that you know no one will be thinking of... Walmart! That’s a great store with lots of items and no one ever goes there for Black Friday! I also hear the customers who do line up at Walmart are sweet, selfless, and caring people, so you’ll be in good company!

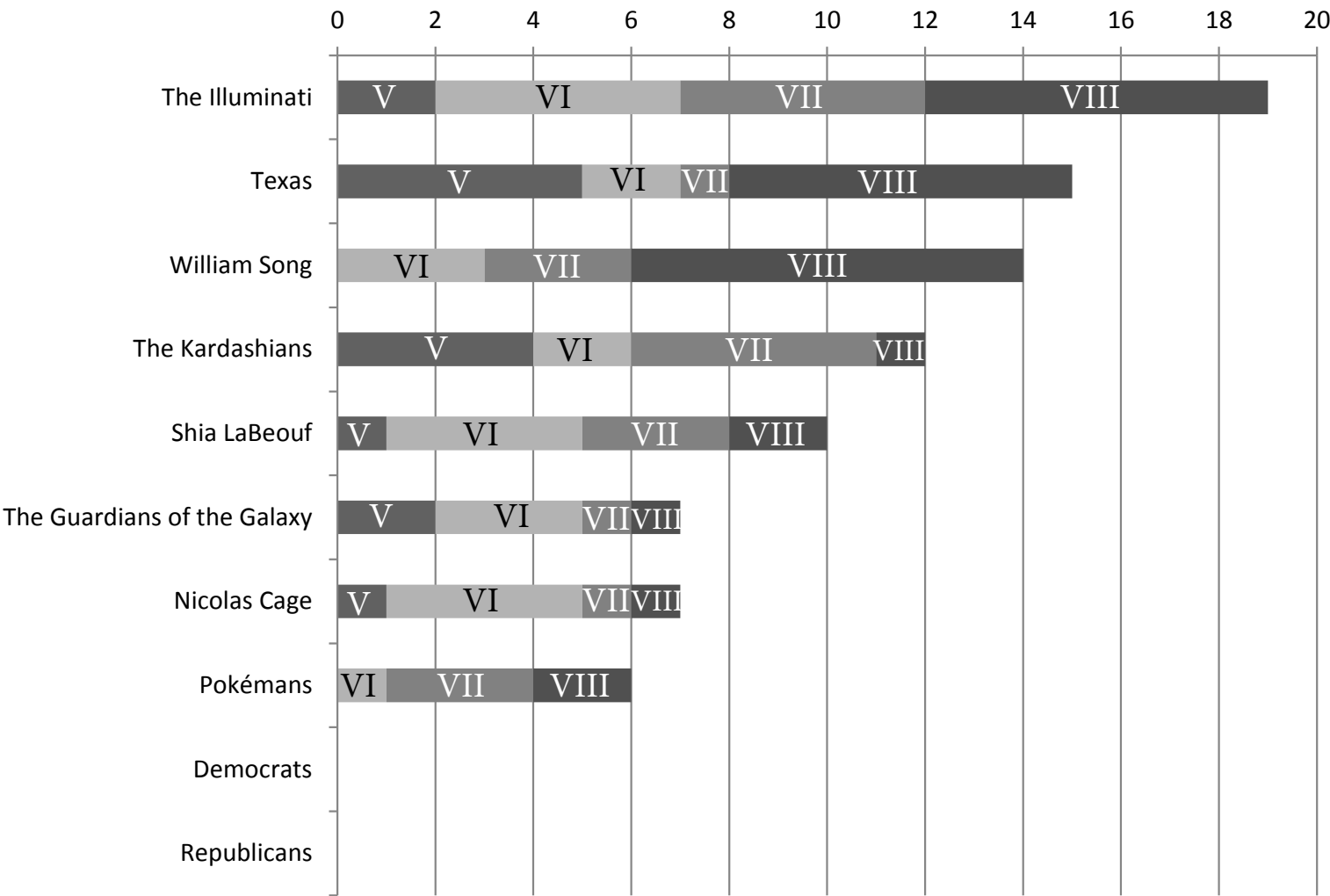
Are you going anywhere over Thanksgiving Break?

As of right now, I have no plans (are you inviting me?!). I have my own strange family coming to visit, so I’m probably going to take my own advice. Luckily, I have Taylor Swift’s 1989 to keep me company (10-out-of-10 would recommend!). She’s the only one who understands me!

Is there an easier way for us to get our questions to you? It’s kind of inconvenient right now...

My apologies! I realize that writing questions on authentic egyptian papyrus with sheep’s blood and mailing it in via carrier pigeon is not as easy as I thought it would be. Although I do prefer this method, I feel like a change is in order. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I will be lenient and allow questions to be *tweeted to @cpsinformer with a #WIWN or emailed to cistercian.informer@gmail.com with a subject line saying “From the Hoi Polloi seeking to become enlightened: a question for the Nguyenner”*. I am looking forward to seeing a new wave of questions, but I will miss those papyrus letters...Oh well!

If the elections happened again, who would you vote for?



Sample Size: 60 ducks
Margin of Error: ±10.36%

Honorable Mentions:
Nickelback
The Galactic Empire
The Fellowship of the Ring
The Cast of House of Cards

NCAA Basketball Preview

Even though the true excitement of college hoops doesn't come along until March Madness, the college basketball season is officially among us. Per usual, the powerhouses such as Duke and Kentucky will be sporting a mainly freshman led powerhouse into the March tournament, and as the Wildcats showed us last year, anything can happen in March. Kentucky retains two of its top three player from a year ago, the Harrison twins, but lost two of its top scorers in Julius Randle and James Young. Led by John Calipari, the Wildcats will be a team that is feared in the SEC.

Led by freshman Jahlil Okafor and former SPC player Justice Winslow of St. John's, the Blue Devils will look to sport an amazing record throughout the regular season, only to crush Jack Hagewood's dreams of making the perfect bracket in March. Other teams to look out for this season include Arizona, Wisconsin, Michigan State, and even the Texas Longhorns, led by Myles Turner.

Your local SMU Mustangs will finally be able to call themselves a tournament team for the first time in decades. Putting last year's snub behind them, and the departure of the second best high school player in the country from their program, the 'Stangs, led by Juniors Markus Kennedy and Nic Moore, will be at least a top five seed in any region they are placed in during the madness taking place in March.



My early Final Four predictions for this year: Ohio State, Kentucky, Syracuse, and Arizona. As shocking as it is, I will not have SMU as my champion in my bracket, as my earlier prediction of a Chicago Bears Super Bowl has gone nowhere but downhill. Go Bears Bulls.



-William Henry '16
isn't out of the woods yet

“Amazing” Thanksgiving Turkey Recipe

Ingredients for the brine:

- 1 frozen turkey
- A good bit of sugar
- A LOT of vegetable stock
- 1 spoonful of black peppercorns
- (-1*(i)2) + 1/2 spoonfuls of allspice berries
- (-1*(i)2) + 1/2 spoonfuls chopped ginger candies
- A LOT of heavily iced H2O

Ingredients for the aromatics:

- 1 granny-smith, sliced
- (-1*(i)2)/2 onion(s), sliced
- 1 synonym stick
- 16 tbsp. H2O
- 4 springs of mary rose
- 6 leaves of wisdom
- Can-o-la Oil

Directions:

Combine the ingredients for the brine in a stock pot and boil it. Then refrigerate the brine.

Combine the brine and ice-water in a rather large container. (Why is the ice-water included with the ingredients for the brine? I mean, it's not actually part of the brine, or else it wouldn't say "the brine and ice-water" because that would be redundant. On that note, some of you may be wondering why I am insulting my own recipe. It's because it's not actually my recipe completely. So, to avoid plagiarism, I must add that the basis for this recipe comes from the show "Good Eats." There, it's done, and now let's get on back to the recipe.)

Now, you put the turkey into brine/ice-water container as well and basically drown the poor thing by

completely immersing it for about 1000 hours.

Then, just to make it that much better, take the turkey out of the large container and throw it into an oven of 533.15 degrees Kelvin. You can now throw away all the disgusting stuff left in the large container which previously contained the turkey. (WARNING: All potentially harmful or damaging activities possible with a large container of a very cold liquid are completely discouraged by The Informer and all who may be affiliated with it.)

Now, combine a good bit of the stuff for the aromatics in some aluminum foil and run electromagnetic waves which have $14,000 < < 1,000,000$. Put this concoction into the turkey and put the bird back into the oven for awhile. Then take the turkey out and, for maximum taste, serve while it is still burning.

-Luke Maymir '17
can show you incredible things



WARNING: THIS RECIPE IS NOT ACTUALLY MEANT TO BE USED. USE OF THIS RECIPE MAY LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURY TO A PERSON'S HEALTH AND PROPERTY. CONSIDER YOURSELF WARNED.

Texas’ New Governor

Earlier this November, Texas wrapped up the process of picking a new governor for this Lone Star State. The election took place between the Republican nominee Greg Abbott and the Democratic nominee Wendy Davis. Although Texas has its patches of blue and whatever you want to call Austin these days, by and large it was red, red, and some more red on election night. Greg Abbott won a whopping 59.3% (2,790,227 votes) to Wendy Davis’s 38.9% (1,832,254 votes). These figures shouldn’t come as a shock since white voters, the minority within the state, still cast two-thirds of the statewide vote—and they gave an overwhelming share of their votes to the GOP. A fun side note for you Dallas County people: y’all actually gave over 60% of your vote to Wendy Davis.

After reading these results were you a little surprised? Not about how much the Republican conservative won but the fact that you didn’t even really know who this guy was until about October. In fact, Abbott is not an especially familiar figure in Texas, as expressed in a poll last year that found a slight majority of Texans either had never heard of him, or didn’t know enough about him to have any opinion.

Have no fear, for I am here to give you the run down on the man that you will be calling governor for the next four years. Greg Abbott is a true Texas boy. Abbott, 56, is little known outside Texas but is about to become a player on the national stage as governor of the second largest state. Many of the issues that concern Texas in today’s politics include gun rights, abortion, same-sex marriage, taxes—and Abbott will assume a reliably conservative position on all of these issues. The three main issues that Texans are concerned about today are the issues of what to do with the border, transportation, water supplies, and the education system. For the border, Abbott outlined a nearly \$300 million border security plan that includes an extra five hundred troopers along the Texas-Mexico border to crack down on illegal crossings and reduce drug transportation into the country.

On transportation and water supplies, Abbott stated “The water supply is critical to our economy, to farms and ranches, to our way of life. We need to build the next generation of water projects that will ensure Texas is water secure for the next 50 years. And I will work to ensure the state water fund is focused on the right priorities. Critical to our economy is better transportation infrastructure. I support ending all diversions from the state



highway fund to other spending programs. Money raised for roads will be spent on roads. And we need to prioritize fixing border checkpoints for legitimate commercial traffic that have become economic choke points. Commercial delays are impacting local economies, especially in places like the Rio Grande Valley.”

Finally, on the issue of education, Abbott plans to implement outcomes-based funding for universities, establishing block scheduling at community colleges, and requiring all public institutions to give college credit for scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. At the same time Abbott wants to bring into effect a new program introducing MOOCs, which are “massive open on-line courses” with unlimited enrollment that anyone — regardless of whether they are enrolled in a university — can sign up for and take for free. Right now, the courses rarely earn students college credit.

With election season over, Texans can go back to not caring as much about the state’s politics as they should now-a-days. Greg Abbott is our new leader and the state should wake up and take notice of the changes and ideas that this man wants to bring to the table—for the better or worse of this great state.



-Scott Sklar ‘15
is a nightmare dressed
like a daydream

National Elections Report

The midterm elections have come and gone, and no one under the age of 18 paid attention since a new president was not being elected. I have taken it upon myself to summarize the noteworthy results of the ballots.

Green party candidate and slam poet Emily “Spicy Brown” Sanchez won a place in the senate by a record breaking 119%! Many politicians believe this will issue a new age of nickname politics, as Americans are now too lazy to vote on actual facts and now just refer to a nickname for judgment. Unfortunately for her opponent Jake “Honey Dijon” Smith, not everybody can ride this trend as well as Spicy Brown. One voter we interviewed said, “A friend of mine once said that politics was just like working in the kitchen. Now I know what he meant.”

Speaking of names, Tony Stark lost all supporters in his campaign for “Grand Emperor and sole ruler of the universe” when the press found out his middle name was not “Awesome,” as he had so often claimed, but Edward. After months of denial the New York Times gained access to his birth certificate and proved it once and for all. In a press conference Tony swore vengeance on the person who leaked the name. Pepper Pots refused to comment on the matter.

In our great state of Texas, Fr. Gregory maintained his position as Grand Inquisitor, despite the disgruntled freshman kicked out of their home-room every activities period for Quiz bowl. When asked for comment one freshman said, “I’m never able to pack up early since he-is that him down the hall?” The freshman has asked to remain anonymous.

In a surprise turn of events Disney’s Aladdin was elected senator in Oklahoma. Weighed down initially by his middle-eastern origins, Aladdin won over the voters with the promise of “a whole new world of tax cuts”. Iago, manager of the Jafar campaign, commented, “If he’s a senator then I’m a talking parrot...wait...” Nevertheless, we are in for one carpet ride of a political year.

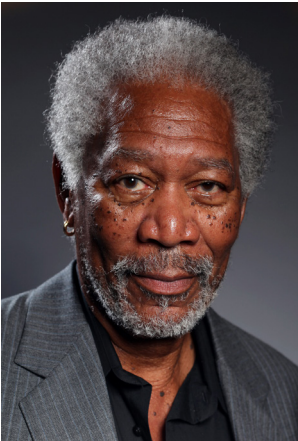
And lastly Morgan Freeman was a write-in for Congress in no fewer than 37 and a half states (because we all know Alaska doesn’t really count). The nation was disappointed when he declined the position, saying he was not the man for the job. One voter commented, “If there’s one person that can save this country from its demise, it’s Morgan Freeman”. Despite Freeman’s

repeated refusal to take the role, the country has and will continue to add him to the ballot. He currently holds the world record, at 148 write-ins and over 15 billion votes total!

I hope you now feel up to date and relevant on all matters political. As I do not wish to misinform anyone in our school, I have heavily researched everything in this article, making it nearly 100% accurate (plus or minus 100%). However, all complaints about minor mistakes in the paper should be mailed to me, where they will be placed under a wet blanket and left outside for a week.



-Will Novinski ‘18
hopes you remember him
in your wildest dreams



Teacher Favorites



Favorite	Fr. Ambrose	Mr. Alcala	Dr. Reinsborough
Sports Team	Rangers, except in 2011	Mavs, but the 2014 Spurs played some of the most beautiful basketball I've ever seen	Western Carolina University Catamounts women's volleyball team
Priest	Pope Barron	Oscar Romero, check him out	That's a dangerous question
Ice Cream Flavor	Cookies 'n Cream	Chocolate. Always.	Salted caramel or Cherry Garcia
Language	Italian or French - both are so beautiful	English with a Spanish accent	Klingon
TV Show	Sherlock	Bob's Burgers	Hmm, don't watch much TV, but when I was little it was Batman
Movie	<i>Groundhog Day</i> - not <i>Casablanca</i> , Nico	<i>Good Will Hunting</i> . Or <i>Tombstone</i>	Anything by Wes Anderson
Bollywood Movie	"Beats me"	Not super familiar with the genre	<i>Khoobsurat</i>
Actor	Vizzini, from Princess Bride (Wallace Shawn)	Matt Damon	Depends on the movie
Actress	Audrey Hepburn	Amy Poehler	Depends on the movie
Contact Sport Played	Golf - don't you make contact with the ball?	No-Holds-Barred Lunchsketball/Activitiesball	Ultimate Frisbee, sort of. I did track, gymnastics, and tennis, but no contact
Super Bowl Ad	The Darth Vader kid commercial from a few years ago	Volkswagen Darth Vader kid	Whichever one has puppies
Football (Soccer) Club	Ask Kellen Reignsborough	FC Bayern Munich	Arsenal or Dortmund are big in our house
Style of Facial Hair	The Abbot doesn't allow facial hair	Light stubble	Slightly curled moustache as worn by my father since I was about 10
70s Outfit	I was born in the '80s!	Flint Tropics uniform	Nik Nik disco shirts were the bomb
Color of Afro Wig	Ask Brandon Zimmer	Light tan	Rainbow brite
"Modern Art" Piece	Starry Night, by Van Gogh	Last year an artist designed a bunch of pianos and placed them around NYC	I think the super-realism painters are astonishing
Class to Sleep In	Ask Fr. Philip	I once made the mistake of sleeping in Fr. Greg's English class*	The one you can get away with it
"Cliff Notes"-ed Book	Let's see, what do you read for Mrs. Greenfield?	Dante's Inferno, long live the Sin Bin	Anything by Dickens, sorry English department
Britney Spears Music Video	Ask Fr. Anthony	<i>I'm Not a Girl, Not Yet a Woman</i>	The first one, <i>Baby One More Time</i>
Candy	Have you HEARD about the Sugar Act in my Form?	Three Musketeers	Anything with Coconut
Monster	Dracula	Great White Sharks, so misunderstood	I loved the characters in <i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> , such a good visual aesthetic

*Editor’s Note: Upon further investigation, the Informer Research Team discovered that Thomas Alcala never actually woke up from his English class nap and that now his ghost remains at Cistercian, doomed to teach with the gregarious priest whom he offended years ago.

-Luke Maymir ‘16

The Cream of the Coffeehouse Crop

In light of the perfect chaos that was the most recent Cistercian Coffeehouse, I have decided to forego my EXCITING article on Driving Miss Daisy. Instead, I am here to tell you your opinion on the performances this recent Saturday evening. Now stand up, be tense, and un-pop for yourself a bag of popcorn for the top 5 performances at Fall Coffeehouse 2014. (On a side note, the performance that involved Fr. Thomas, Br. Francis, Mr. Alcala, and supposedly Fr. Augustine was so excellent that it transcended the constraints of this list. Extra credit.)

Coming alive at a juicy number 5 is Eddie Diaz’s rendition of “Under the Bridge” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. This was perhaps my favorite song (song ≠ performance) that night, just barely beating out “Yesterday” as performed by Brendan Flood. Mr. Diaz killed it on the electric guitar as he effortlessly danced through the difficult chords of his song. Over the last few years I’ve seen a great deal of improvement in Eddie’s vocals, and he somehow took it up another notch with this electrifying performance. Buen trabajo, chico.

Back from the War at a clean number 4 we have “Cold is the Night” performed by Jack Sargent and Taylor Teaster. As usual, Jack killed it on the acoustic guitar and Taylor did that thing where she forces air through her throat flaps (I think we call it “singing”). This musical duo was able to harmonize very well when the song called for it, but their voices were powerful and captivating on their own as well. The costumes were very well thought out, as Jack went for a 21st century male teenager look while Taylor took a completely different approach with her rendition of the post-20th century female teenager style.

Alert the marquis, here’s big number 3: Brendan Flood’s vocal rendition of the Beatles hit “Yesterday”. Though his performance of Michelle was excellent, I found his first appearance to be slightly better. It almost seemed as though he were less nervous the first time than the second. Brendan’s voice sounded authentically Beatles-esque and his solo performances added a nice variety to the night. I was also impressed by the simple fact that he had the courage to get up on stage and sing all by himself, knowing that any mistake would solely be his fault and not the fault of any other band member. For that, I salute you, sir.



Choo-choo-choo here comes number 2! As always, Connor Malin came out and pleased the masses with his crowd favorite original standup comedy routine. Beginning with the topic of the struggle with American obesity, Connor covered a wide variety of subjects ranging from the unethical nature of unwarranted gossip to the effects of the modern comic strip on society and its greater implications. Fun fact: Connor wrote all of that material a few hours before his act at a Snuffers with his pals Bubba and Slime Man. Man were those cheddar fries good.

Bun won stun fun son pun gun number 1. In terms of general entertainment and its quality of fascination, I found this act to be the best of the night. Although comedian Bo Burnham was the first to make me aware of the fact that most modern pop songs use the same four chords, Phong Nguyen and the Axis of Evil (or as they prefer, “M-Axis of Phong Song”...lame) performed an excellent cover of “The Four Chord Song” by Axis of Awesome, an extremely popular Australian comedy band that no one has heard of. *Whew that was a long sentence* They were able to perfectly harmonize their very different voices while maintaining a common rhythm. Not too shabby.



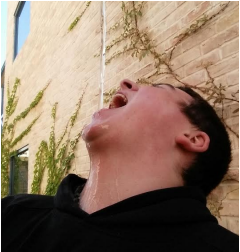
-Aidan Noel ‘15
knows how you
get the girl

Interstellar, Christopher Nolan, and (mostly) Real Science

To start, I have to say, Interstellar was fantastic. I am a huge fan of Christopher Nolan’s previous work, including Memento, The Prestige, The Dark Knight Trilogy and Inception, and I honestly feel that Interstellar upholds the ridiculously high standard established by Nolan in all of his other films. The characters feel very real, all incredibly well-acted by masters of the craft including Anne Hathaway, Matthew McConaughey and Michael Caine. Its story, like those by Nolan before it, is complicated and somewhat difficult to fully grasp the first time through. However, that’s mostly because the concepts themselves are in the realm of things that very few people in this world, if any, can say they truly understand. Time dilation, event horizons, and supermassive black holes are regular features in the plot of this movie. Even though some of the science is a little fudged, no one can reasonably blame Christopher Nolan for wanting to take a few liberties in an area of study that is still so theoretical.

Before getting into the things that make this movie so important, let’s talk a little bit about fake science. We’ve all seen fake science in movies before, whether it be Tony Stark shooting a laser at a triangle to make a brand new triangle element, or the horrible nightmare that was Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull with all of its nuclear bomb-safe refrigerators. While in Interstellar fake science is at a very impressive minimum, there are still moments in it that are significantly less than realistic. Keep in mind, these things that I’m about to remark on have nothing to do with the quality of the movie. They’re just observations. The realism of science in movies is not relevant to a movie review unless it seriously injures the plausibility of a story. Really there were only a few times in Interstellar in which I couldn’t suspend my disbelief. There was one line in particular that stood out, actually: “It may not be possible, but it’s necessary,” said by Matthew McConaughey, who plays his usual perpetually sad but heroic and relatable, Southern average joe. Believe me, his acting is still excellent and full of tears and fury, but the character he plays will certainly be familiar. Other than a few lines such as the one just stated, the only fake science is stuff that almost can’t be proved wrong in a field that uses terms such as spaghettification. Which brings me to my next point.

The thing that makes Interstellar so important as a film of our generation, and probably will make it stand out in years to come, is a trait shared by the likes of Inception and Memento. Interstellar jumps out into the unknown, those parts of life that we experience every day and regularly ignore, like dreams or memory, but this time, the depths of the cosmos. Much like 2001: A Space Odyssey before it, Interstellar uses only top-notch special effects, and even so uses them sparingly to create a more concept and dialogue driven film than an action-explosion fest. As space travel opens up more and more in the coming decades and centuries, Interstellar will help to represent that eternal curiosity of humanity, and films like it will be made to celebrate the stars on a conceptual, scientific, and personal level.



-Jack Chadwick ‘15
looks like your
next mistake



FR. THOMAS, THE POPE, AND THE FAMILY

Recently, as in three weeks ago recently, there was an earth shattering, “OMG did that happen”, revolutionary, and unimaginable media interest in a Vatican Synod (translated: meeting). There were just four reasons for people to care about what happened in those walls deified by Michelangelo: A) Pope Francis B) POPE FRANCIS!!! C) A Synod on the Family D) POPE FRANCIS!!!. Since his election, Pope Francis has been hailed as a liberal by the mainstream media. When a synod called by him to, quote, “discuss the pastoral challenges of the family” was announced, pundits expected re-evaluation of sensitive topics such as divorce and gay marriage, and to see a new method of evangelization announced. They were not disappointed.

Although no doctrinal changes were announced, the usual facade of absolute orthodoxy was replaced with factions of Cardinals debating the church’s stance on the family in the modern world, according to the reports from the mainstream media. Pope Francis had decided that his synod would be more open and transparent. As a result, the media was treated to a rare public argument among the Catholic hierarchy that involved fierce debates over draft documents, proposals to readmit divorced Catholics, drafts claiming “homosexuals have gifts and qualities to offer the Christian community”, Catholic bloggers screaming betrayal, and ultimately nothing changing. Except that a conversation had been started about these issues. Here to make sense of what we saw and what we heard is the illustrious teacher of Form VIII Theology, Fr. Thomas.

Joshua: Hello Fr. Thomas

Father Thomas: Hello to you as well

J: First, we heard a lot from the media about the synod. But what exactly was the Synod?

FT: First, the Synod is the start of a multi-year adventure Pope Francis is embarking on. It is supposed to gather the ideas and issues that will be discussed at additional synods in the future.

J: So what’s the purpose of next year’s synod?

FT: It’s also supposed to be a discussion of these issues, but will focus on the Pope’s agenda and plan for the church. After the second synod, Pope Francis will gather all of the feedback he has received, consider it, and then he is still free to do whatever he wants. We have just seen the start of what will probably be a three year process to provide opinions to the Pope.

J: There were several controversial clauses in the drafts at the Synod. Does this reveal a difference of opinion among the Cardinals?

FT: Certainly. At every council in the history of the church there have been factions advocating different positions, and that fact is often forgotten. The Cardinals are human beings from six continents. They have differences of opinion. And that’s ok. This is where those differences should be discussed and a resolution arrived at. It is unfortunate that often these factions are played up to be cosmic struggles for the

future of the church, but there are differences and those are natural in any discussion. The Vatican is like any human organization. There is intrigue. There are factions. But these need to be placed in the context of human beings trying their best to do God’s work on earth.

J: Thanks for doing the interview over lunch. Do you want any Nilla Wafers?

FT: Yes! I love those things.

J: The media have speculated a lot on Pope Francis’ stance on these issues. What do you think about this?

FT: No one knows the Pope’s stance. And that excites everyone. Liberals, conservatives, observers. But at the end of the synod, the Pope reminded everyone that as the successor of Peter, he was the guardian of Jesus’s teaching. So I think the Pope is very aware of what he can do while maintaining the orthodox Catholic teachings. He knows that his faith is the rock on which everyone else’s faith is based. He is trying to find a balance between an insistence on the tradition of the church and the loving presentation of it.

J: How should believing Catholics reflect on the Synod?

FT: The Synod is an opportunity to invigorate the family life of believing families provided that they study the rich tradition of the family in the Catholic faith, and the Synod should remind us to reflect on how the beauty of the family can be lived out in the modern world. It should remind us to consider how we can help promote the holiness and value of the family through our daily actions.

J: Finally, is there anyway Catholics should prepare for the next synod?

FT: Catholics should prepare! At the start of the year Pope Francis sent out surveys to every parish about these issues. He wants Catholics to be involved in these discussions. It isn’t just the bishops who should be talking. Talk about the family with your pastor, your theology teacher, your Form Master, your own family, and your peers. You might learn a lot from these discussions.

J: Anything you want to add?

FT: The world needs good families.

J: Awesome. Thank you for talking with us, Father.

FT: Thank you. It was a pleasure to talk with you.



-Joshua Maymir ‘15
is lightning on his feet

Cistercian Crossword puzzle

Complete the crossword below. Last names only. All answers can be found on the campus somewhere

Created on [TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker](#)

Across

- 2. 2013 service award winner
- 6. 'Pilgrimage' photographer
- 7. animal found on the CPS emblem
- 9. writings in a book held by a white robbed priest
- 11. Founder's Hall, upstairs, left side, middle office
- 12. Headmaster when SC building was built
- 13. sculpture to the right of the chapel

Down

- 1. '_____ soccer locker' (MS)
- 3. piano name
- 4. Cistercian motto
- 5. Notable alumni (wiki)
- 8. Title under Fr. Greg's name
- 10. '_____ taming the wild beast' (Lib)

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