

The Cistercian Informer

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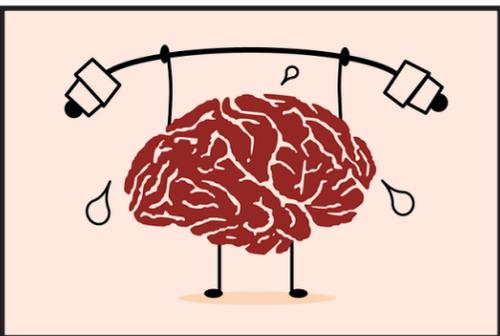
Newsline

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL: Imagine
The Middle School Drama showed us a world of pure imagination



IN NEST: Mental Health

Finals are hard. The stress is real.



IN OPINIONS: Red vs. Blue?

Looking back at the Midterm Elections



IN ARTS: Award Season

Will a movie that normal people went to see have a chance at Best Picture?



Online

"College Applications"

By Samuel Menerey, '22,
and Patrick McLain, '19

"Chess Championships 2018"

By Chase Frutos, '21

In Memory of Stan Lee

*Joel Kataddy, '20,
who still has Zac Snyder*

Last month, Stan Lee passed away from natural causes. The news shocked both the country and all comic lovers around the world. But many don't really know the man outside of his frequent cameos in superhero movies. So, let's wind the clock back and take a look at the life of Stan Lee by delving into comic book history.

Stan Lee graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx in 1939. After graduating, he landed a job as an assistant at Timely Comics, the company that would eventually become Marvel Comics. He was a small-time writer, credited with the occasional Captain America story here and there, but he wasn't anything important in the company yet. Back in those days, the comic book industry went hand in hand with World War II, since the superheroes were reflections of the war effort. Books upon books were written about Captain Amer-



ica and his team of Invaders attacking the Axis Powers. But when World War II ended, the superhero industry began to die out. The war was over, and nobody wanted to read stories about fighting the Nazis anymore.

So, people started letting their imagination roam

free. Sci-Fi graphic novels were all the rage. Space, aliens, time travel, and anything but reality was flying off the shelves. It was then that Stan's time as an assistant at Timely Comics began to pay off. The company rebranded itself as Atlas Comics in an effort to get away from...

Continued on Page 6

And the Rain Rain Rain Came Down Down Down

*Max McGuire, '21,
who parted the Trinity*

This fall has had an unprecedented amount of precipitation, with rain pouring down almost every week. This rain brings along many benefits to our campus. The grass and trees get the water and vitamins they need, especially after a very dry summer. However, this perpetual rainfall can also bring about severe flooding like Lake Cistercian in the lower parking lot. This has already happened several times this year, while in years past it only flooded once the whole year.

The reason the creek near the lower parking lot floods so much is that when there is an excessive amount of rain, the Army Corps of Engineers has to let water out of Lake Lewisville, the flood con-

trol lake for the area, so its own dam does not overflow. The water then travels down the Trinity River where it branches off into our own creek and overflows into the lower parking lot. This release of water from Lake Lewisville, combined with the excessive amount of rain we have been having this fall, is a sure recipe for disaster for our lower campus.

Cistercian was also built in a floodplain; the problems created by this floodplain are aggravated by the fact that water is also redirected down the Trinity so it doesn't flood downtown Dallas. Every time the parking lot floods it only costs us about one to two thousand dollars for the repairs. However, this year, since the parking lot has flooded several times, the price really adds up. One of the worst floods started on the day of Closing Ceremonies in 2015, when the flood water...

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This Issue Sponsored by Hicks B. Morgan

Imagine

By Lucas Lopez, '24,
who are our only hope

This year the Middle School drama was *Imagine*, a play written by Doug Cooney. It starred Ash Harrison as "Sam," and it is staged on a playground while 8-year-olds are having recess.

It begins with Sam and his imaginary friend T-Rex making mud pies in the sandbox. Suddenly, two bullies (J. Sanford and C. Lipscomb) come in and tease Sam about his imaginary friend. They call him a baby and tell him to get some "real" friends. After this, Sam and T-Rex get into a fight, which eventually leads them to stop believing in each other. Because they stopped believing in each other, they switched places. Sam is taken into his imagination in the form of a crayon. He is guided through imagination by Shadow, the leader of the crayons. T-Rex, on the other hand is transferred into the real world. Before he gets there, though, he meets Sam's oldest imaginary friend, Little Debbie (C.

Soderberg), who explains to him what has just happened. She tells him that if he wants to be with Sam again, he must befriend a kid with no imagination. As T-Rex looks around the playground for such a fellow, two bullies steal Rocky's (L. Lopez) backpack. When they look inside his lunchbox for something to eat but only find a peanut-butter sandwich, T-Rex sees his chance to befriend this real kid. He walks up to Rocky and tries to act like him. However, he becomes bored almost immediately. He then decides to show Rocky what it's like to have an imaginary friend by taking Rocky to the Amazon River as the sandbox becomes a boat. They row down the river, but soon run into alligators. They see a map inside the alligator's mouth and quickly grab it. When they look at the map, they realize that they are in Africa. Immediately, two monkeys come in and serve them lemonade. Then Rocky realizes the map was upside down ... and that they were actually in Antarctica! Upon arrival they realize they weren't prepared for the cold weather, so they order hot chocolate from three penguin-waiters. Then Rocky realizes that the map

was covered with big, round O's and thinks they must be on the moon. The sand box then turns into a plane and they soar off into space. When they get there, they realize that they aren't the only ones there. The moon creatures they meet say that someone played tic-tac-toe with their map, rendering it useless. After that, they decide to go to the Grand Canyon. Meanwhile, Sam, still stuck in the imagination, meets two princesses named Tullabelle (N. Chio) and Lullabelle (N. Folmsbee). They, like Little Debbie, have no imaginary friends. They ask Sam to play a game with them, which they say he'll like. Sam decides to go on with it, but soon realizes it means he has to dress up as a princess. He runs away, being chased by the princesses, and soon runs into Rocky and T-Rex. They don't have time greet each other though, because the princesses soon catch up with them they hide, but the princesses end up finding them. Disap-



Photo By Br. Raphael

pearing through the trap door, they finally lose the princesses, and, with the help of Shadow, they finally make it back to the real world. As soon as they get there, the bullies come up to them and tell them that if they want to play on this playground, they have to make them laugh. Luckily, they do succeed!

Mr. Magill's former MS plays, *School House Rock* and *Elf*, were big hits throughout the school. *Imagine* might have been harder to work because of the extreme amounts of special effects that were needed, but with Mr. Magill working long hours and with the help of UNT props and the wonderful set made by the Novinski's, the cast was able to pull it off in time.



Photo By the Photoshop Club

Ask Kattdaddy!

Who would in a fight, you or Batman?

Submitted by Martha Kent-Wayne

The thing is... I AM Batman!

Do you scratch your paws?

Submitted by Mittens

As a sophisticated cosmic entity I do not, although I DO know that your cat does indeed scratch his paws....

Do you have friends?

Submitted by Randy Newman

All you middle schoolers are my dearest friends, until you become high schoolers (bleh)...

What mood are you in when you have to take a bath?

Submitted by Alex Close

I feel like destroying the world in a matter of seconds...but then I calm down by taking out all my rage on...pickle mice.

Why is Panama shaped like an S?

Submitted by The Irish, Panamanian, Canadian Man

Kid, there are many mysteries of the world yet to be solved. We (well you) will never find out any of them. So don't let that haunt you forever. Plus, you're from

Panama!!! Why wouldn't YOU know?!

If you were to pick a homecoming theme what would it be?

Submitted by a Clueless Stu Co Rep

Me, myself and I. Did I mention me? Look, it's a great idea: first, we put up posters of myself all around the gyms. Then we put this huge mural at the entrance of the gym, that way all you can thank me of making this homecoming so spectacular. Everyone would dance around an immense statue of me made out of yarn holding a disco ball to light up the dance floor. Oh, and everyone should wear my signature hat.

Are you a pickle?

Submitted by Bubble Bass

No, I am KATDADDY!!! Unless I want to turn into a pickle, which I'm able to do with my shapeshifting powers! Although, it's very unlikely that I'll want to...

Are you really a cat?

Submitted by Grizabella

No, I am a cosmic entity that roams the universe in search of entertainment.

Where do you live?

Submitted by P. Sherman

I am everywhere, and in everything...I am WHERE I LIVE!!!

What? What? What?

Submitted by Dave Quill

Actually, the real question is why?

Why am I like this?

Submitted by Saish Satyal

Simply because you sakk.

When are you going to reveal yourself?

Submitted by Josh Brolin

I will never reveal myself... You should be grateful that you even now of my existence! But in time, you will know what it's like to lose... To feel so desperately that you're right, yet to fail all the same. Dread it. Run from it. Destiny still arrives.

BY THE NUMBERS



Optimal Time to see the Cistercian Oppossum

0800

Number of Super-bowls the Cowboys will win next year

1

Number of Juniors who are theoretically receiving their Rings

40

Number of Finals I will study for ahead of time

5

Number of Finals I will still not study enough for

5

Flooding (cont'd)

...covered the entire football field and even permeated the concession stand. The school had to replace the whole track and fix all the damage that was done to the concession stand. The total cost of the repairs was about half a million dollars. The paint on the track washed away completely, and the baseball field also ended up being underwater. This year the flood waters even damaged the personal property of students who left their cars in the lower parking lot while they were in Austin for a football game. A couple of lucky people got their cars out in time. However, some very unlucky ones did not have the time to move their cars and they ended up getting seriously damaged and, in some severe cases, totally ruined.

The flooding is unfortunate because there is not a lot we can do to prevent it. We cannot put up any dams or dikes on the Trinity River because that water would then be funneled downtown, where the flooding would be much more catastrophic. In addition to doing

damage to our campus, the flooding also severely complicates the football schedule. Towards the end of this year's season, the walkway to the field was covered by a foot of water, so getting players to the field was quite an arduous task. Players and coaches came up with some pretty smart ideas about how we could get to the field, but luckily the water level receded just in time for the game. The Cross Country team was also affected by all the rain and flooding. Coach Roane found other ways to allow them to train, rather than just canceling practice because of the rain. They often had to run inside, doing lots of figure eights using the two gyms and the locker room staircase many times. This grew to be very repetitive very fast, and the team was all hoping that the rain would end quickly so they could get back to their normal routine.

As devastating as this flooding might be, it does have some benefits to the wildlife that lives on our campus. After every



Photo By Blake Harris

flood, you can always see some very beautiful birds down on the water's edge or other creatures that lives around campus. In fact, a lot of Cistercian students, especially the middle-schoolers, thoroughly enjoy the fact that our school grounds are occasionally the site of a lake, as it provides them with an unusual spectacle to get through the monotony of a school day. Flooding in the parking lot is something that has and will continue to devastate our school for years to come, but combined with its effects on the local wildlife, it is something that makes this school quite different from any other in the metroplex.



Horton Richard, '21, who would enjoy San Andreas

There are many famous major fault lines; the fault lines under San Andreas, in particular, have received a lot of attention from various sources due to the fact that they might be a serious danger for surrounding cities. The San Andreas fault is famous, or rather infamous, for causing some incredibly high magnitude earthquakes and geological disasters. While it is the most famous, it's important to remember that there are many more fault lines all over the earth.

"All right," you say "that

Fault Lines

sounds interesting, but why did I need to hear about it?" Well, the easy answer is that you go to school over one every day. That's right, Cistercian's campus is located over a minor fault line, and it may have some effects on our school in the future. Those of you who have been at Cister-

cian for a number of years have almost certainly noticed small earthquakes here and there, but these small earthquakes are not the only possible problems that a fault line might cause. Some important and perhaps truly devastating possibilities include fault ruptures, liquefaction, and landslides, all of which would cause massive damage to a building in the affected area. Fault ruptures happen when one side of the fault moves away from the other, resulting in one piece of earth moving drastically up, and the other moving drastically down. A building with its foundation over this rupture could be torn apart. Liquefaction is caused by an earthquake which

shakes the ground in such a way that it can behave like quicksand. This results in buildings sinking into the ground, causing water damage as well as part of the building being buried underground. Finally, a landslide would leave anything on top of the hill without any legs (or any ground) to stand on.

All of these geological events could be quite devastating, but what are the odds that any of this could come to Cistercian? Not very high. Any of these would be a fairly rare occurrence on one of the really big fault lines. Cistercian is not on one of those and is built on sturdy ground which has not had to deal with any real geological problems. However, it might be worth contacting city or county officials to determine if there is any possible danger, and if so what steps could be taken to assuage those dangers. At the end of the day, although we as a school should be aware and cautious of our situation, do not let fear of our fault line keep you up at night, because you really have nothing to worry about for the foreseeable future.

Mental Health

Saish Satyal, '21,
who is the stem of this
brainchild

With the looming figure of midterms on the horizon, mental health is once again a topic to talk about. Approximately 18% of the adult population in the US, which is classified as 18 years or over, has suffered from some form of mental illness. The CDC says that just over 20% of children have had a mental disorder. That means that approximately one in every five children, aged younger than 18, has had a mental disorder. Yet, many people ask a simple question: If life is so much easier than it used to be, why is mental illness on the rise? The answer, for most of us, is in a wooden cubby that is placed in our Form Master's office.

With the rise of smartphones and computers, people have been able to connect to the world in a much easier way. These little boxes give us access to the entire world and the world isn't the best place to be. Sure, they

give us great things like Netflix and Hulu and memes, but these devices also put a large amount of burden on us. Along with your favorite TV show, your phone or computer is able to show you how amazing everyone else's life is and it shows you how much fun everyone else is having, while you're stuck in your room, scrolling away. Through the use of certain social media apps, your device is able to highlight everything going wrong with your life by putting it into sharp contrast with someone else, who seems to be having the time of their lives.

Not only that, the internet provides us with a constant source of news and how bad the world is doing. Even as this article is being written, the wildfires in California rage on, the stock market has been decreasing, and politics is still an incomprehensible mess. It took me less than 3 minutes to see all of that, just from the news headlines after I opened a new tab. Not only that, just a few weeks ago, the UN released an official report stating that the world could end by 2030 due to climate change! These things that connect us to the internet can cause us joy, but they can also cause us a

lot of stress.

Another reason for mental illness rates rising is that people have started paying attention more carefully to the warning signs. What was once classified as a teenager being lazy is now revealed

to be a student with depression trying his best to hide his interior struggles. By decreasing the stigma around mental health, people have started realizing that they may have mental health issues and started seeking help. Talking about it has helped more people come forward and seek help with their problems, rather than harboring them and letting them fester and take root.

In reality, life is just as stressful as it has always been, if not more. Students strive to get good grades and eventually push themselves to the breaking point in the name of success. Many people who can't afford expensive colleges take on massive student loans for the chance of getting



Photo By Saulalbert

a stable job. In a large and scary world, people are expected to know everything and to become a great figure to lead the way, and that just makes the world scarier. These psychological pressures of being the perfect person in a world that is fragile, broken and getting more broken by the second are tremendous. Any student worried about their mental health or just worried about their life should go talk to a counselor to seek advice. In Cistercian's case, our counselor is Coach Walsh, who is located at the end of the cafeteria. Anyone feeling uncomfortable should always talk to someone that they trust about, even if it isn't their counselor. Having someone to talk to always help.



Photo By Blake Harris

Walker Homan, '22,
who serves his community
mobile-y

Cistercian's community service program has always done a great job of providing opportunities for students to serve. This year, the program has greatly improved the way that we can serve those around us by utilizing a social networking app that helps manage our community service work.

Despite all of the controversy surrounding social media, an app called Mobile Serve has been able to aid the Cistercian service program in its attempts

to help the community. This is done by effectively informing students about various service opportunities and by tracking service hours. Since discovering the app, the community service board has been strongly encouraging students to download

it, because it is a great way to learn about opportunities to get involved in the community around us.

Another big way Mobile Serve helps the community service program is because of how easily the community service representatives can inform students about upcoming events that they can take part in. Instead of having to manually email the forms about each event, community service representatives can publish an event on Mobile Serve and it will automatically send out an email to everyone letting them know what the upcoming opportunities are. Mobile Serve also gives individuals the chance to share an event that they feel is important. Srta. Kennedy said "this is a very important

Community Service

feature because one of the main ways we learn about service opportunities is through people sharing what kinds of service they find personally important."

Both Fr. John and Srta. Kennedy have definitely had a major influence on this new era of community service at Cistercian. Fr. John noted that community service is very important to him because he believes that "Community service is the way we enjoy a life of love." He also emphasized that community service should be done not out of the spirit of meeting a requirement of hours, but out of the spirit of love.

In a meeting with Srta. Kennedy, we discussed the various opportunities the community service board was planning. One major event is the Upper School's MLK day of service. The community service team is going to line up a number of options for service and the members of each grade in the Upper School, starting with the seniors, will get to choose which events they would like to participate in. The community service team is also working to host more events where we work with the No-

tre Dame School. For instance, they are currently working on an event where students from the school come to Cistercian and we help them learn about adoration. The team is also working on sending an increased number of students to the Rays of Lights Event, which helps provide a safe place for children with special needs and their siblings to interact with volunteers. This event is special to Cistercian, as many members of our community are involved in this cause.

It is exciting to see the community service program at our school using technology to turn social networking into a positive experience that encourages those around us to take a greater role in service activities, whether it's picking up trash or working with kids with special needs. No matter what you enjoy doing for community service, there is always an abundance of events to participate in. The continued efforts of our community service coordinators, combined with the Mobile Serve app, will lead to a much more involved community service program.

Red, White, and Blue? More like Red vs Blue.

The Senate

45 Democrat Seats

53 Republican Seats

On November 6th, people from across the country voted in their state's Midterm Elections. Up for vote were 34 Senate seats, all of the seats in the House, and 36 gubernatorial seats. The Republicans have 53 seats in the Senate, 199 in the house, and 25 governors. The Democrats have 45 Senate seats, 223 house seats, and 23 governors. The other two Senate seats, which are the Florida and the Mississippi, are both leaning Republican as are the other two gubernatorial races. In the House, 6 seats are leaning Republican and 4 are leaning Democrat. This means that the Republicans have a majority in the Senate and will most likely have a majority among governors, whereas the Democrats have the majority in the House.

Just looking at the numbers, this would not seem to be a win for the Republicans as they lost the House, which they recently controlled. However, if you look at previous elections, this is a victory for them. In 2010, which was the

Was it a Red Wave...

By Coby Scudder, '21, who is cruising down on Main Street

first midterm election under President Obama, the Democrats lost 6 senate seats and 63 house seats. In 2002, however, the Republicans kept both Houses under President Bush. This makes sense, given the political climate at the time and the war just beginning in Afghanistan. In 1994, during President Clinton's first term, the Democrats lost 9 Senate seats and also lost 54 House seats. Given the history of first-term midterm elections, President Trump gaining seats in one of the chambers is a victory for the Republicans. Also, keeping the Senate is arguably more important than keeping the House. With control of the Senate, Trump can get his court appointments confirmed. The biggest problems with not having control of the House is the possi-

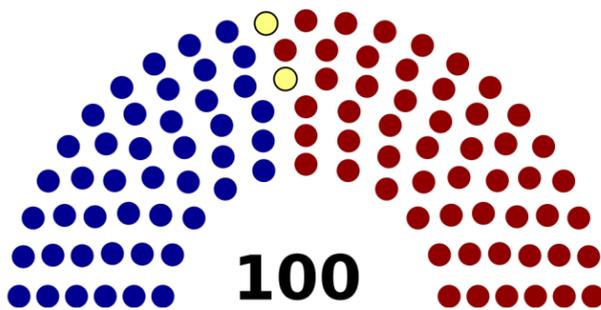
bility of impeachment and a block of any future tax cuts. However, Trump has already gotten his big tax cut through, so he isn't looking to do another one very soon. Also, impeachment isn't a problem because the Senate has to remove the President from office, which won't happen with a Republican Senate. Keeping the Senate will be more important for Trump than keeping the House because he can still get his appointments confirmed by the Senate.

This is why this was a victory of the Republicans. They beat history and gained a few seats in the Senate. However, they lost the House. The was a lesser evil for Trump, because he can do more with a Republican Senate than a Republican House. Even though the Democrats gained the House, this year was not a victory for them. It was still a decent election for them, because they took control of one of the chambers, but the Republicans still got what they needed to achieve their goals.

The House

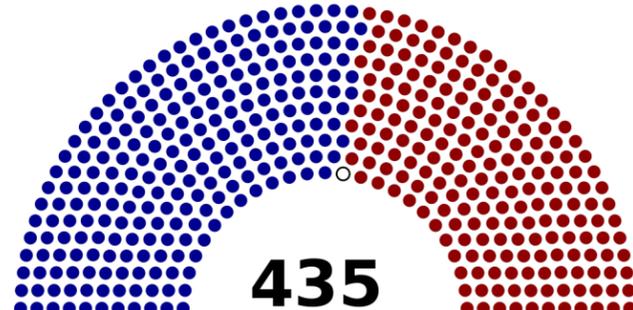
199 Republican Seats

235 Democrat Seats



...Or a Blue Wave?

By Winston Hartnett, '20, who beto get himself ready for 2020



turnout growth will make Texas a swing state by 2024, and much more competitive in 2020, when Senator John Cornyn's seat is up for election.

The Future – The recent news about Special Counsel Mueller's investigation into alleged Russian interference and current Democratic control of the House and its Judiciary Committee suggest more conflict ahead. It is necessary among Democratic and Independent voters to protect the Special Counsel – himself a lifelong Republican, former Marine, and 12-year FBI director – from executive interference. However, many Americans expect legislative gridlock in the coming session to stall policy-making at a time when national debt interest, accruing faster due to a recent tax overhaul and spending bill, will surpass defense spending. Moreover, the international status quo increasingly demands unified action.

My Opinion – Keeping in mind the above, the American people have delivered their most

resounding verdict yet on the current status quo – one of bitterness, partisanship, and sociopolitical division ordained by populist demagoguery – by voting for checks and balance, rule of law, and reason in candidates professing different views than a Republican contingent that seems bent on abandoning its foundations of fiscal responsibility and constitutionality for political expediency, all the while championing the burning effigy of moral integrity. Its base, the Great Silent Majority of working-class, suburban, law-abiding taxpayers readily abandoned the vitriol and incessant scandals ushered in by this administration in favor of either tepid enthusiasm or the Democratic party. At a time when both parties are becoming more radical, and younger generations are expressing apathy or disdain for the democratic process, the solution is not to set fire to the opposing camp – calling upon an army of horrors, “trigger-words,” slippery slopes, or straw men – but to recognize the true enemy of any self-governing people: fear itself.

The House – With California's 21st Congressional District, the last undecided race of the 2018 midterms, and the vast majority of election wins certified, the numbers are in: Democrats gained 39 House seats, securing a solid 234-seat majority for the next session. Central to their victory was the political shift among sparsely populated suburban areas that voted solidly Republican in 2016, delivering a net Democratic gain of 15 seats. Likewise, densely populated suburban districts that voted solidly Democrat in 2016 shifted more Democratic, with 12 more seats flipping. Overall, the shift was most profound in districts that voted for Romney and Trump in previous elections, accounting for one-third of Democratic pickups – a sharp rebuke of Republican policies that have ostracized many independent and conservative voters alike.

The Senate – In the Senate, Democrats fared better than

expected, losing only 2 seats for a 53-seat Republican majority against a brutal electoral map: 74% of senate seats up for election were held by Democrats, the most seats any non-presidential party had to defend in midterms since 1914. In addition, Democrats overperformed in nearly every state, beating even partisan leans of 25+ points in states that voted overwhelmingly for Trump, like West Virginia – which he had previously won with a 36% margin.

The Voters – Both parties' bases were highly motivated, with voter turnout increasing nearly 10% from the 40% national average; in Texas alone, voter turnout increased 14% to 46% total. Democrat Beto O'Rourke came to within 3 points of Republican Ted Cruz by winning over burgeoning urban voters that already, in five counties alone, encompass 43% of Texas' population. The combination of high urban population growth and continued

Cross Country is Done

*John LeSage, '20,
who yearns to race Tom
Hanks*

The Final Countdown. The Big S. The meets that St. Mark's always wins. Those are just some of the many nicknames for two meets that brought together the strongest, fastest, toughest runners from across the Southwest Preparatory Conference.

SPC North Zone was held this year in an unusual location, Oklahoma City, on a freezing day towards the end of October. The Hawks were ready for the action, but a little nervous about what the distant location and difficult SPC schools would do to us. Nonetheless, the three-hour bus ride and dinner at Olive Garden created great bonds among the runners. They made jokes, told stories, and possibly set a world record for the number of bread sticks ordered at the restaurant. Coach Roane made sure, however, that the team's focus was directed toward the race. Despite the filling dinner, retired that night still hungry for success.

In the glaring morning light, the North Zone course looked promising--completely flat. The cold air was bracing and filled the Hawks with a desire to go out and get the thing over with so they could climb back into the heated bus. All seemed perfect as the gun went off--until the runners hit mud. Lots of mud. Nevertheless, it didn't slow the team down too much, thanks to the strength garnered from the punishing workouts of the previous few weeks. After the runners, the team was rather dismayed to find they had only come in 5th out of 7 (with a very small gap between that and 3rd). That said, the times remained quite impressive. The top three Cistercian runners were John LeSage (18:03), Nico Walz (18:19), and Luke Rakowitz (18:23), who all finished in the top 20.

The Hawks got the chance for revenge two weeks later, on an even colder day back in Dallas, on a course everyone shudders to think of: Norbuck Park. The infamous hill at the last sprint of the race is a regular feature in cross country runners' nightmares. However, we are the Hawks. We can run through

anything. Coach Roane even gave the team an extra-painful dose of hills to practice the week before just to reveal that it was going to be hard.

However, we were motivated to succeed. Our disappointing finish still stung even two weeks later, and it was the seniors' last race ever. They had confidently and humorously led the team the entire season, and they were looking to close of their careers with a bang. As for the rest of us, we were just ready to finish the season. The Cistercian community showed up in force to support us. We had several moms and dads, and almost all four Form Masters made the trek, which I don't think has happened in an SPC in recent memory. It just goes to show how much the support for cross country has grown under Coach Roane.

Under the cold skies of winter, the race was off. Sixteen teams ran, all in search for the title of SPC Champion. Cistercian, seek-



Photo By Coach Roane

ing to firmly establish a foothold in the top 10 of the division, ran as they had never run before. Despite the hills, mud, and a few runners falling, the Hawks came up at the finish line with our best finish in recent memory, placing an impressive 9th out of 16. Even more astonishing, two runners broke the elusive eighteen-minute barrier. Nico Walz and John LeSage ran a 17:46 and 17:54 respectively, and Ethan Ramchandani closed out the top three with a blazing 18:17. Nearly all the runners set personal bests, and the team was able to send the seniors off as they had hoped. They will be missed next year. And so, with high hearts and aching feet, we closed yet another successful season.



Photo By Coach Walsh

*Evan Anderson, '20,
who considers himself to be
"icy fresh"*

On Thursday November 15th, Cistercian's Varsity Soccer team made the trip out to Forth Worth to play All Saints for Cistercian's first game of the season. With many returning players still recovering from a physically-taxing football season, Coach Walsh gave the younger players a substantial amount of playing time. And the result was very positive as these newcomers demonstrated a high level of game awareness and speed on the ball. Even though the team struggled at

opposition.

Cistercian started the game at a fast pace, almost immediately pinning All Saints into their own defensive half for the first ten minutes. Early on, Evan Anderson received a well-played pass from Chase Frutos and picked out Zain Dabbous, who was lurking just on-side thirty yards up the field, with an arcing pass with the outside of his foot. The center back marking Zain whiffed his attempt at a clearance, and Zain had a clear path to goal. His shot trickled just past the goal keeper, but when Jimmy Garda zoomed through to deliver the final tap-in, the goal was unfortunately ruled offside. Jimmy quickly redeemed himself, however, as just a few minutes later, he flicked a

Varsity Soccer Starts Strong!

times to maintain fluidity due to the high frequency of substitutions, we still came home with a 3-1 win, a score that does not fully reflect how we dominated the feeble

header over the goalkeeper after a scramble for the bouncing ball. After this, Cistercian hit a bit of a wall in terms of scoring, until Coach Walsh strategically moved center back Kyle Blessing to striker roughly ten minutes before half-time. Star midfielder Reefer Harrison put on an absolute clinic when he danced through a string of three or four hapless All Saints defenders and squared the ball to Kyle, who buried the ball with ease. After a few more missed chances, the team went into half-time up 2-0.

Coach Walsh sent out most of the eleven players who had started the game for the second half, and, while they managed to maintain possession for long periods of time, they failed to score until Reefer tapped in a rebound from a powerful shot by Kyle Blessing. While goals were not in abundance and a rotating midfield and defense gave All Saints a few chances to get into the game, there are many positive takeaways from the performance. For one, the new players, in particular Maxwell Vaughn and Jacob Quarles possessed the ball very well and linked up with the other midfielders and forwards with delicate

touches and one-tuos. In the dying moments of the game, unfortunately, All Saints scored a consolation goal of little consequence. Regardless, Cistercian played well in this first game of the season.

Since then, Varsity has continued to play well against the many teams pitted against the hawks. And since Coach Walsh, desiring to give the team as much experience as possible, scheduled a robust 17 games, the goal of going undefeated is a hefty challenge. Since this first game, Cistercian has tied Kinkaid and beaten teams such as the Highlands, McKinney Christian, Cristo Rey, and the impregnable Nolan. This game was especially important as Cistercian beat the odds purely through hard work, as Kyle Blessing '20 fought especially hard considering his hamstring injury and sprained ankle. Thus far, Cistercian has retained the title of undefeated, and hopes to continue the streak for the rest of the season. Cistercian opened the year with a strong win, and hopes to dominate the rest of the season retaining the honor of being undefeated.

Stan Lee (Continued)

...their World War II days. Almost every kind of genre was published under this new brand: western, horror, science fiction, everything except superhero. Stan Lee helped write almost all of them, taking a leading role in the company. By the 1960s, he was an established figure and writer in the comic book scene.

In 1956, DC released the new Flash: Barry Allen. His powers were a result of a lab accident, which merged the popular science fiction with the previously popular superhero genre from. This reignited interest in superheroes in the general public, and people were eating it up. Atlas needed something to be a real competitor in this scene. So for four years, DC pumped out new or reworked characters without any real competition. That's when Stan Lee came up with his idea to have Atlas comics invent their own superhero team, a team that would rival the Justice League.

But Stan Lee didn't want superheroes that indulged in the darkness and fear of the 60s. The Cold War was ongoing; the Red Scare was creating terror; and

McCarthyism was incriminating everyone. The world was dark enough as it was. Stan wanted relatable heroes that were rooted in our world, and that dealt with our problems, but gave us a sense of optimism for the future. He wanted to give us a place to find hope.

And so, Stan Lee came up with his first superheroes: The Fantastic Four. This team wouldn't be like the Justice League. The

"That person who helps others simply because it should or must be done, and because it is the right thing to do, is indeed without a doubt, a real superhero."

Justice League was all about teamwork, there was no bickering or infighting. The Fantastic Four was a family, and every family has their fights. They merged family drama with their own superhero crises to create a new and interesting idea. With the fantastic storytelling of Stan Lee and the amazing art of Jack Kirby, the Fantastic Four exploded off the shelves. It became so insanely popular that Stan Lee

was given essentially free reign to do what he did best. Stan Lee and Jack Kirby were head and shoulders above almost everybody else in the comic industry: they created the Avengers, brought Captain America back, created Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, the X-Men and so many more that it would be impossible to list. The success of Marvel today was solely because of the hard work they put in, the success they had,

and the stories they told.

But it never was their powers or their villains that made these heroes so popular: it was their relatability. My favorite character of Stan Lee is and always will be Spider-Man. When Stan Lee first proposed the idea of a teenage superhero whose life was a wreck and who was constantly struggling with personal issues on top of his duties as a superhero, his publisher told

him, "You don't understand, Stan, a teenager can only be a sidekick, he can't be the hero. And with all these personal struggles ... you do know what a hero is, don't you?" Heroes come in every shape and size. Stan Lee knew that. He made heroes for everyone to enjoy. They were human first and superhuman second. Stan's characters were a far cry from DC's do-gooders. They were flawed people like his readers, making them very relatable. The Fantastic Four were always bickering. Spider-Man suffered from unrequited love and financial issues, all while trying to keep up with his schoolwork. The Silver Surfer mused about the shameful nature of man. The Hulk struggled with self-hatred. Daredevil struggled to reconcile his vigilante work and the evil he saw with his Catholic faith. Iron Man was plagued with alcoholism. But the heroes learned how to get over their struggles and they gave his readers hope for a better future.

I will never meet Stan Lee. But I have a sense of who he is because of the stories he wrote. The characters he created. And the universe he left us. Excelsior, Stan, excelsior.



Photo By Warner Brothers

Calvin Step, '20, who is probably wrong

2018 is rapidly approaching its end and with that comes the beginning of "Awards Season" for the movie industry. This is the time when studios release the movies that they think have a chance at scoring big at the Academy Awards, Golden Globes, or at other award ceremonies. Many times, these movies have no effect on the average person. There are several movies that come out and nobody sees, yet critics call them the best of the year. While this is often the case, there have been many popular movies released this year which are garnering

awards buzz. So what's the likelihood that they turn their popularity into awards? *Black Panther* came out back in February and steamrolled everything in its path. It became the highest grossing superhero movie in the US and received almost unanimous praise from critics. Since then, debates have been raging wondering if it will be the first superhero movie to sneak into the Best Picture race. It has captured the cultural zeitgeist in a way that no other film this year has, but will this translate into the big award? Other superhero movies, from *The Dark Knight* to *Guardians of the Galaxy*, have been predicted to be nominated before, but it has never happened. The odds are not in its favor, but if Disney is able to campaign it in such a way that differentiates it from every positively reviewed superhero movie ever, it could happen. While it's possible that it will go all the way, it is more

It's Awards Season!

likely to just score in technical categories and maybe Adapted Screenplay.

A few months later, *A Quiet Place* came out and proved (again) that horror movies can be excellent, scary, and have real characters at their center. John Krasinski crafted an intense, moving story of a family in extreme circumstances. It became the biggest hit movie to not be an adaption of some prior work since *Gravity* in 2013. Last year, *Get Out* did translate its buzz into awards, so its not out of the question that the Academy could honor a scary movie. Nominations for Best Screenplay and various technical aspects are the most likely. Paramount will probably push this for Best Picture and Best Actress, but that is very unlikely to result in a nod as Emily Blunt will be competing against herself in *Mary Poppins Returns*.

The summer ended with a bang when *Crazy Rich Asians* debuted and showed the world that people would still go to the movies to see a rom-com. While at times it did stick pretty close to the formula, it used that formula extremely effectively and was filled with more

than enough funny moments to make up for it. Critics enjoyed this one greatly as well, and while it has a chance of success at the Golden Globes, the only potential Oscar nomination would be Adapted Screenplay (and maybe some technical ones as well).

A Star is Born has been the Best Picture frontrunner since it premiered at the Venice Film Festival in August, and has been bringing in money since then. But being the frontrunner at the beginning isn't necessarily the best thing, as movies like *La La Land* show. It helps that it has made a ton of money, and casting Lady Gaga will continue to give it a lot of free press. Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress, Screenplay, and many technical nominations are pretty much guaranteed. The only question now is whether it remains the front runner by March 4th.

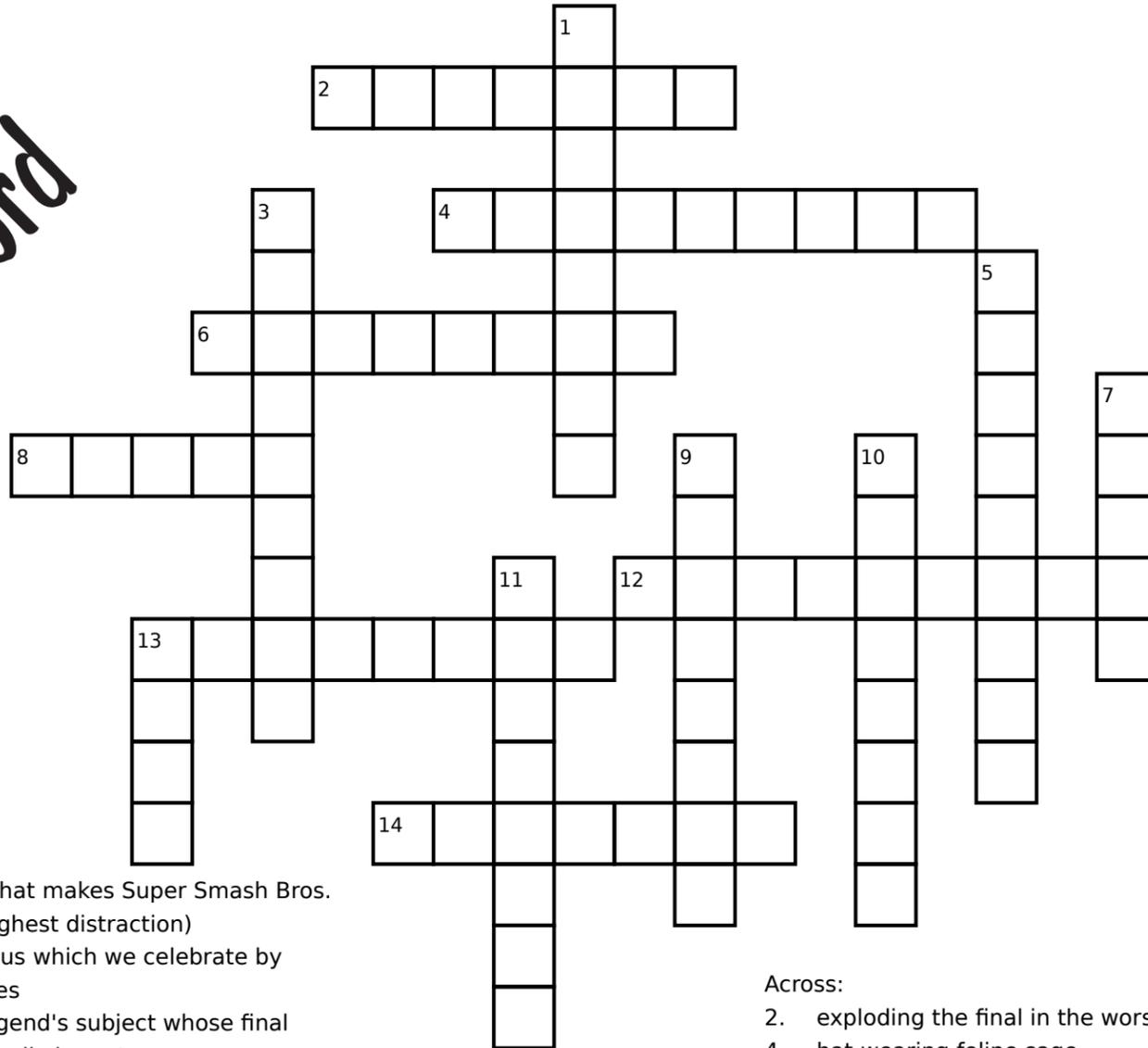
Every studio is in the middle of campaigning their movies for the hundreds of awards shows that take place at this time of year. After we're back from break, Cistercian will be holding its own, giving YOU the chance to vote on your favorite films of the year.

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Cross Word



Down:

1. the company that makes Super Smash Bros. (the second-highest distraction)
3. the birth of Jesus which we celebrate by decorating trees
5. a Cistercian legend's subject whose final has the historically lowest average
7. the first letter is the same as the grade we can't get
9. the first letter is the same as your grade
10. what no good Cistercian student does
11. the reason nobody studies
13. the heavenly fluff that frees us from our education

Across:

2. exploding the final in the worst way possible
4. hat-wearing feline sage
6. the sad study practice of Cistercian
8. what the Juniors receive after Mass
12. the current time of the year (HINT: think outside the box)
13. our state-of-the-art grading technology
14. a militaristic way to fail

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