

The Cistercian Informer

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Newsline

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL: Basketball
*Fourth Form dominates the
Beginning of the season*



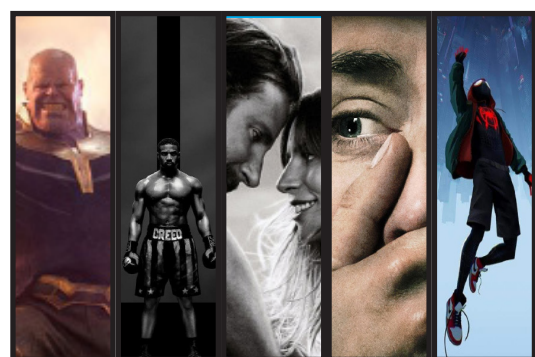
IN NEST: To Be or Not To Be
*An Exclusive Interview with Mr. Magill
on playing the Prince of Denmark*



IN EDITORIALS: The Shutdown
Where do we go from here?



IN ARTS: Informer Movie Awards
*See what the student body voted
as Best Movie of the Year*



Online

"Form II (So Far)"
By Michael Menerey, '25

"School Updates"
By Callum Woodhouse, '22

"Ask Kattdaddy!"

The March For Life

*Walker Homan, '22,
who marches to the beat of
his own drum*

"Powerful," "inspiring," "hopeful," and "enthusiastic" are all words that Cistercian attendees of this year's March for Life used to describe the feeling at the event in Washington DC. This year, thirty-one students went to the March for Life, which is the largest number of Upper School students that we have ever sent. Even though we sent a substantial number of people to the march, they were dwarfed by the hundreds of thousands of people who also felt that the March for Life had a noble cause.

The multitudes of people that showed up to march were all rallying behind one cause: the end of abortion. Among the notable people who gave testimonies about why abortion is wrong were the President, Vice President, Congressmen, and numerous others. However, to Cole Boyd ('22), the most compelling of these testimonies was given by Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic



director, who became pro-life after she witnessed a fetus fighting for its life during an abortion. Witnessing these testimonies and being at the march was important for many Cistercian students, with Boyd saying, "Going to the march enabled me to grow closer with other Cistercian students

and allowed us to participate in a demonstration calling for an end to abortion, one of the most pressing social issues for Catholics in our time." A lot of faculty and staff also feel very passionately about the March for Life's cause, with...

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Paper For Water

*Travis Nolan, '20,
who will need to start folding
bowls soon*

Paper for Water is a non-profit organization started 7 years ago by two girls, Isabelle and Katherine Adams, who were 5 and 8 years old at the time. They had learned to fold some origami models from their father, Kenneth Adams, who is a Cistercian alumnus. The girls decided to fold origami modular ornaments for a month, and sell them to raise money that would be donated to bring water to people in a third world country. They were so successful that month that they decided to continue, and the project has been growing since. They have now raised over \$1.6 million, and built more than 170 wells in 17 different countries.

I have folded origami obsessively for about ten years now, and had recently begun doing volunteer work with

Paper for Water. In November, I attended a seven year anniversary Gala for the organization. The event was very well put together and enjoyable, and it was great to see how big the Paper for Water volunteer community has grown. Their speaker at the event, David O'Brien, announced Paper for Water's "Fund a Well" initiative, in which a person or group of people can pledge to raise twenty thousand dollars, which is enough money for Paper for Water to fully fund the production of another well in Kenya.

At the time, my class had not yet decided on our ring speaker, and we had been discussing what our class "legacy" might be. Talking with a few classmates, we thought that working to get the class of 2020 to raise twenty thousand dollars to fund a well would be a fantastic opportunity to create our legacy and to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We announced...

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Form IV Basketball

*Samuel Menery, '22,
who wants to be
NBA Commissioner*

Now that the break is over, winter sports are back in full swing. After a promising start to the year, the various teams need to keep their momentum going in order to do well in the remainder of this season. The Cistercian Form IV basketball has continued to work hard, and has been achieving successful results because of this. In an interview with Tarun Senthil Kumar, '23, I was able to learn more about how the team is playing, what their practices are like, and how far they think they can go this season. Cistercian Athletics splits basketball into two teams, A and B, in order to fit as many players as possible. Tarun is a member of the Form IV A team. He has described the team as playing very well, and also described the players as playing well together.

Their current record of 5-3 is admirable, but Tarun thinks that the team could have

done better, and that they lost a winnable game. In spite of that result, the team has come back and is playing very well now. After losing to St. Mark's and HSAA, the team has been on a three game win streak, and has been blowing out other teams by more than 20 points each game. Tarun thinks that this great record is due in part to their coach, Coach Manos, who "unlocks all of our abilities." Coach Manos plays an interesting style called "position-less basketball," in which all the players shoot, and can fill any space on the court. This system greatly favors the players, who are all good shooters, says Tarun. Undoubtedly, this has helped the team to their impressive record.

In practice, Coach Manos runs game-like scenarios and drills, in order to boost the players' in-game awareness and decision-making. For example, Tarun says that the 3 on 2 continuous drill is one of the mainstay drills, as well as five-spot shooting, while the infamous free throw drill is known for being a punishing practice finisher. In

this drill, the player must shoot and make 10 baskets. For every one he misses, however, he must do a full court suicide. The thought of extra running provides great incentive for the players to perform better.

As well as regular practice, Coach Manos reviews films of the games with his team. This recent addition to practice directly shows the team their previous faults, and helps Coach Manos and the team to fix them before the next game.

Tarun gave me some information about some of the individuals on his team, which has been playing to the high caliber of Cistercian Athletics. Tarun firstly described himself as being able to find space on the floor and having a good floater, as well as playing at the front of their zone press defense. Next up was Colby, the tallest on the team, but who moves like a guard. He has a good mid-range touch, 3 point shot, and can block well. After him is Dan



Photo By Br. Raphael

O'Toole, who Tarun described as a "freight train," and an all-around player. Bryce Ardemagni is a great driver, with good defensive skills. Steven Cox is a consistent shooter who is a great jumper, and plays along with Tarun at the top of the press defense. Lastly, Mac is a great shooter who can pass on a dime as well.

The basketball team has all the hallmarks of a good Cistercian team: a great coach, great players who get along and are able to play well off each other, and healthy confidence. Tarun believes that Cistercian can win SPC North Zone this year. Hopefully, the Form IV team can play well, and win the tournament.



Photo By Br. Raphael

*Saish Satyal, '21,
who has now taken over the
Tutoring Club*

The Cistercian Tutoring Club is a new club established by two sophomores, Ethan Ramchandani, '21, and me, Saish Satyal, '21, that is meant to help Cistercian middle schoolers become better students. The club was established in October 2018 and it meets after school every day until 4:30 PM in the Form I classrooms. Participating students have reported getting their highest scores in Science and Math after attending the Tutoring Club. When I asked Ethan why he was inspired to start the

Tutoring Club

club, he said, "I started this club because I wanted to teach children and this seemed like an easy way to help people."

The club offers academic help to any student in

need of assistance. It accepts "walk-ins" as well as "reservations." Any student that needs help to raise his overall grade in a class can come in, or even a student who only needs help for a particular upcoming test or quiz is welcome to walk in. The tutors of the club recommend that people attend if they have a C+ or lower, even if it isn't permanent.

However, the club is not a place to sit down and get homework done like study hall. The point of the club is to get help in subjects where one's understanding isn't clear, not to practice something that one already knows. The tutors will often use problems similar to the homework questions to help their students understand the material better.

Some tutors and students are not able to come in after school because of sports and other extracurricular activities, but they can still be part of the tutoring club, and the club will still keep track of their community service hours. All those students need to do is contact Ethan Ramchandani using his school email and their hours can be logged. Not only does volunteering with the club help tutors earn community service hours, but it's also a great entry for one's college application. It can be used to strengthen college essays or polish up those resumes. Although it is hard work, especially after a long day of school, many tutors attest to the feeling of satisfaction, especially after the student understands the material being taught.

This club started with one high schooler who had an idea and decided to implement it. It started out with a single tutor trying to teach two kids at a time in the cafeteria. After a few weeks of trial and error with teaching methods and location, the club finally settled on a single place and it has only grown since then. However, its problems were still not solved. With the win-

ter sports season looming ahead, the club had almost no tutors who had the time to be consistently involved. Luckily, after a strong recruiting campaign, the club was able to gain a strong core of five consistent tutors, with a combined total of more than 100 hours of service. With the help of friends and teachers, the club was able to grow into a place for students to learn, but also have fun at the same time. Teachers passing by the classroom are able to attest to the fact that the children sometimes goof off, but in the end, the job always gets done.

One of the "consuls" of the club stated plans for potential growth in the future: "We are thinking about expanding the club beyond Cistercian and maybe even to smaller schools in our area. The logistics and details of that are still being worked out, but we certainly do not plan to stop here." With its consistent presence after school, the Tutoring Club is a great place to learn and grow. So come by if you need help with any subject, or talk to Ethan if you are interested in being a tutor. You will not regret it, as it is a joy to help your fellow students grow in their understanding.

BY THE NUMBERS



Number of Redcards Given at a Recent Soccer Game

2

Number of Redcards Given to Cistercian at that Game

0

Average Number of Bells Tested Each Day

7

Number of shots fired at the Junior Retreat

3

Number of Cars Owned by Teachers that Preston has Hit

1

Paper (cont'd)

...it to the class shortly thereafter, and it was enthusiastically taken up. We have met since then during many lunches and activities periods to fold and assemble origami ornaments. Our project has taken on the name "Well Done 2020."

Evan Anderson agreed to include this initiative in his ring speech, and we sold ornaments after the ceremony to raise money. We will be working throughout this year with Paper for Water to reach this goal. You will likely see me or members of my class promoting this cause and selling ornaments or other things. If you would like to donate, donations can be made online. Check the Informer website for more details on how to donate!

There are other fundraisers taking place this month. The first of these was a booth we manned at a Lunar New Year's Celebration on February 9th at Watters Creek in Allen. Members of the junior class folded and sold origami, and promoted Paper For Water. All proceeds we raised at the event will go

towards our goal. The event celebrated the beginning of the year of the pig, and featured taekwon-do, tai chi, and lion dances. This was a very successful way to promote our cause.

The second fundraiser will be done through Cistercian directly. Well Done 2020 is collaborating with Student Council on their Valentine's day fundraiser. This year, upper schoolers will have the option to buy a handcrafted origami heart, folded by members of the junior class, that will be delivered with the chocolate and note to any Ursuline or Hockaday student. All money made from origami sales will also go towards our goal.

Another program that Paper for Water has recently announced is their Christmas Tree Project, in which a donor can purchase an entire tree covered in origami ornaments for a more substantial donation. We will be working to find potential donors interested in this project

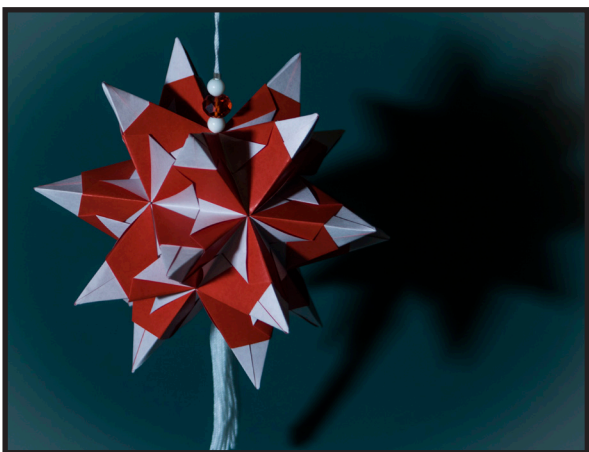


Photo By Travis Nolan

throughout the year as well.

As we see this project to its completion, we will be able to dramatically change the lives of the people of a Kenyan community. We hope that this project will also serve to further unite us as a form in our final year-and-a-half at Cistercian, and that it will help us to carry a habit of generosity into our lives after Cistercian. But this is not just a project for our form. This is a chance for everyone in the Cistercian community to get involved in a good cause. Whether it be by donating or by helping fold origami, all of the support given to us helps. This project would not be possible without you all. So thank you for that support, and we hope to see you at an event in the future.



Photo By Fr. Ambrose

...Fr. Ambrose being the main person who organized the trip to D.C. When he was asked why he felt that attending the March for Life was such an important experience for Cistercian students, he said, "It is an incredibly valuable experience because it is good for them [the students] to support a noble cause, which often gets swept under the rug. It is also an important experience because it gives them a chance to see that so many other youths across the nation support this cause." However, it is not just monks who strongly believe in the importance of attending marches like these. Many of the lay faculty members like Mr. Me-

believe is right.

When Mr. Mehen was asked what he felt about the overall importance of political demonstrations, like the March for Life, is for our democracy, he answered, "Marches are good, as long as they are peaceful and non-violent. However, political involvement should not end with marches." He went on to stress the importance of other forms of political advocacy, like voting regularly and showing up to city council meetings. This is what is really great about the March for Life community; they understand the importance of voting, being well informed, and getting involved both in local and national politics. The March for

March for Life (cont'd)

hen also believe in the importance of political advocacy and helping students become proponents for what they

Life is not just a singular annual event for them; they live out the message the march is trying to send every day of their lives.

According to Nathan Co-meaux, '22, one of the Cistercian students who was present at the march, "It seems that the crowds get bigger every year. During the rally, the crowds filled the whole national mall. I was really glad to see how many people showed up to support the cause." The fact that such a large number of people made the trip to Washington D.C. in order to voice their opinions, is a testament to the fact that the "American tradition" of making sure your voice is heard is still alive and well in our generation. Even if you do not necessarily agree with their opinions, there is no denying that democracy does not work without people like those who attended the March for Life, who are constructively voicing their thoughts in the hopes of improving society.

A Letter To The Editor

Fr. John Bayer,
who will think you were
playing Fortnite if you
don't read this

Dear Editor,

In your last issue, an article on social media and mental health appeared above an article on community service. That got me thinking. I'd like to share a short meditation to connect these articles and, hopefully, to inspire us to serve.

I think of "community service" as a secular catch phrase for what is ultimately the life of charity. Charity draws us out of ourselves and pushes us to live for other people. We find our lives by giving them away, like Jesus (Mt 10:39, 16:25; Mk 8:35; Lk 9:24; Jn 12:25), whose essence is, as Pope Benedict XVI put it, "pro-existence" or "existence for" – for others. He is not closed and self-protecting like a stagnant reservoir. Instead, he lives like a roaring river rushing through time and space to give life to others.

When we live this way, we inevitably encounter suffering and weakness in others and in ourselves; and thus we are forced

to wrestle with the biggest and deepest questions of life. What am I here for? Where does meaning come from? Why do we suffer? What is the good that makes all things beautiful?

When we engage these questions we take up a new mode of thinking. We stop looking at the "things" in our lives (our possessions, grades, mistakes, reputations and so on), and we start asking about the horizon within which they all sit – the view that gives each thing its place in light of what is most important. And that's a good thing, because the horizon is truly beautiful and marvelous to behold.

Isn't it remarkable how gazing at the seemingly infinite ocean, or at the dark recesses of space, can bring us deep peace by giving us perspective and orientation? Charity and prayer are that gaze in the spiritual life. They are a gazing into the biggest oceans and the deepest recesses, which include our personal or spiritual life, our freedom and knowledge. Everything we will and know stands within an infinite "greater" – a horizon that transcends us and so grants perspective and orientation.

If we never look at the horizon – if we never see the "sky" of our spiritual lives – then we lose our place. If we never ask the biggest and deepest questions, then we lose our orientation existentially. Now, I'd like to make a point about social media and mental health. Today we are tempted "to find our lives" by obsessively filling ourselves, like stagnant reservoirs, with little pleasures. Our click-bait culture always frenetically fixes our attention on something to consume, and never on the horizon.

But the truth is that we are happier only if we can see the horizon. So, look for chances to pray and to become absorbed in the truth, beauty and goodness that surround us by gift of our Creator. Learn to suffer and to wrestle with the questions whose answers give lasting meaning to our lives. Don't trade all silence for noise. Don't fill every second with checking news-feeds and status updates. Instead, order yourself by the horizon. Unify your life under the limitless sky of



Photo By Caspar David Friedrich

love. Join others in their suffering and discover your true happiness. You will find the key to your life in the grateful eyes of those you serve. For you will understand your life for what it truly is: a smiling invitation from God to be responsible for others and to live for love. And like casting rocks into the ocean, you will learn to cast all your cares into God, who can integrate your every success and disappointment into his plan for our happiness.

Finally, do you want some good spiritual reading to help you find that horizon in your life? Check out *A Mind at Peace: Reclaiming an Ordered Soul in an Age of Distraction* by Christopher Blum, and *Humility Rules: St. Benedict's Twelve-Step Guide to Genuine Self-Esteem* by Augustine Wetta.



Photo By Shaban Athuman

Leo Ontiveros, '22,
who is not to be

On Friday, January 11th, *Hamlet*, starring Mr. Magill, premiered. Mr. Magill's performance was highly anticipated by many members of the Cistercian community. This was made evident by the number of clergymen that dotted the crowds at the Moody Theater that Friday. Some members of the Cistercian community who attended Mr. Magill's performance included Fr. John, Fr. Gregory, Br. Benedict, Br. Francis, Br. Matthew, and Br. Zechariah.

Cistercian.

In his stage combat elective, Mr Magill shared with us the large amount of complex stage combat that was going to be featured in the play. Seeing him play the role of Hamlet and gasping at all the twists and suspense made it truly a night to remember. The Sophomore Class viewed the production, and like most others who have viewed it, they had many laudatory remarks to make about it.

After witnessing Mr. Magill in *Hamlet*, I chose to interview Mr. Magill about what being in this theatrical production was like. When I asked Mr. Magill about how he ended up playing the part of Hamlet, he responded with, "I was

To Be or Not to Be

Fortunately, I too was able to witness Mr. Magill's stellar performance. The theater, of course, was also filled with a large number of people who were not affiliated with

chosen by Raphael Parry. Playing Hamlet would be a dream role for all actors. So, of course, I was overjoyed when I was asked to play the part." Another important question I asked was, "What was the hardest part about playing the main character in this play, or in plays in general?" He answered, "A lot of lines. I was given the script very early in order to be off-book during rehearsals. It was the first indoor production [of Hamlet] in Dallas, so I wanted it to be good. Another thing was that people have an idea of who Hamlet is; it was a big responsibility to live up to that and yet make it my own."

Another question I asked Mr. Magill was, "Is there any advice that you would give to Cistercian students who are aspiring thespians?" He responded, "Don't shy away from hard work. Improvisation is fun, but you have to take acting seriously. Acting doesn't just involve acting itself; there are a lot of other things to master as well. You have to read plays, memorize monologues, practice voices, and spread yourself onto other genres. Overall, be in plays! Like everything else, being a good actor does

not involve shortcuts."

I also thought it would be interesting to know what genre of plays Mr. Magill prefers. He told me, "I generally don't have a preference; to me, a good production has a mix of genres. For example, comedy has to have dramatic elements to have a good story. Tragedies are great when some scenes are slightly comedic. What makes a play great is a mix of genres. For example in Hamlet [a tragedy], there were some comedic scenes as well. I especially love Shakespeare for his expertise in mixing genres together. There needs to be a human element to make characters relatable. A character can't just be all funny or the play would just be bland. A play I did, "She Stoops to Conquer," was a comedy that had dramatic themes in it too; that was what made the story relatable and the characters human."

I believe that we all feel very blessed that Mr. Magill has set aside some of his time to work at Cistercian and lead the aspiring actors of our school on the right path. Thank you, Mr. Magill, for all of your hard work, and for your incredible performance in *Hamlet*.

Government Shutdown

*Max McGuire, '21,
who wanted to shut down
this shutdown sooner*

The United States recently underwent its longest government shutdowns in the history of the union. The Federal Government formally shutdown on December 22nd, and it took 35 days for it to be opened again. With midterm winners being sworn in and candidates starting to announce their campaigns for the 2020 election, how did this shutdown affect our nation and what is the future of American politics?

The problem behind the shutdown found its roots before Donald Trump was elected. The Trump campaign's main concern was improving border security, specifically building a wall on our southern border with Mexico. This promise widened the gap between his supporters and opponents. Many people opposed this view on moral grounds while many steadfast conservatives clung to this idea and believe the wall to be a solution to many of America's illegal immigra-

tion problems. This audacious claim helped Trump win enough support from his followers in the election; now, two years since he was elected, he is finally trying to follow through on that promise.

Ever since his first week in office, President Trump has made several bills pertaining to immigration in his effort to "Make America Great Again." He passed Executive Order 13769, which banned entry into the U.S. from several Middle Eastern countries. This Executive Order was met with much protest, but also was applauded by some politicians who say it will help keep America safe from outside threats. Two years have passed since then, and now the eyes of the whole government have shifted south.

President Trump is finally trying to deliver on his wall promise and in the meantime is making the gap between the political aisles even greater. He is currently seeking \$5.7 billion dollars in funding for the construction of the wall, and this demand is what politicians are having such a difficult time discussing. This disagreement

between the two parties became heated and the President's demand was repeatedly denied, so the only thing Trump could do was shut down the government until one side compromises.

The government ended up being re-opened after 35 days, if only temporarily. But the damage was already done. So what is the future of politics in America post-shutdown? We are two years away from the next Inauguration day and several politicians are already discussing their intentions to run for President. Trump will surely face competition from politicians like former Arizona Senator Jeff Flake or Governor John Kasich of Ohio. Donald Trump still has a supportive backing which will most likely win him his party's nomination. On the Democratic side since the loss of Hillary Clinton in 2016, there seems to be no major front runner for the nomination. Democratic party leaders like Nancy Pelosi seem unlikely candidates while longstanding faces of the party like Joe Biden



Photo By USCapitol

and Bernie Sanders have expressed interest in running in 2020. Perhaps we will see the rise of a new generation of politicians like Beto O'Rourke or private citizens interested in the election like Mark Cuban.

With a government shutdown of unprecedented length, it is hard to say exactly what the aftermath will be. It affected many government workers and hurt the productivity of our nation so much that politicians will try to do everything they can to avoid another shutdown like this again. It is still unknown if Trump will force another shutdown to get the funds for his wall, or declare a state of emergency. Although the future is shrouded in uncertainty, it is important our politicians do the best thing to keep our country safe and to make this world a better place.



Photo By Michel Euler

*Ethan Ramchandani, '21,
who is frustrated with the French,
their revolutions, and French class*

France has a tumultuous history when it comes to submitting to authority. The opinion of the masses towards the government has been changing throughout history. The Gilets Jaunes, or Yellow Jackets, are a diverse group of protesters that have been violently showing their opposition to the French president, Macron. Due to their diverse makeup, the yellow jackets unanimously agree on being anti-politician. No formal leaders have emerged and those who have tried were shut down.

The movement finds its roots in an online movement where a small group of low income, struggling citizens were opposed to a speed limit change. However, this initial outcry posed

a threat to no one and was a small flare up to an otherwise insignificant issue. It is unclear what exactly ignited the violence seen in November, but one thing is clear--the years of feeling neglected by the government was unleashed in a fiery wave.

The problems the Yellow Jackets have with the president may seem wide ranging, but the they all feel neglected. This term is almost an understatement of the president's treatment to the common man. Macron increased fuel prices in his initiative for a greener Earth. He reduced taxes to the wealthy in an attempt to be more business friendly. In general, though, people seem to be unhappy with the lack of change from prior administrations and these adjustments have attracted a variety of criticism against Macron. However, all three reasons have enraged the struggling lower class of France. Despite the public services that the people experience and take for granted, they feel neglected by the government.

The Yellow Jackets

The first violent demonstration came in mid-November when the Gilets Jaunes barricaded the streets. Riot police responded with tear gas and rubber bullets. There were several similar protests throughout the month of November. Finally on December 1st, the Yellow Jackets crossed a line. A large scale demonstration on the Arc de Triomphe brought graffiti and vandalism to the historic monument. This prompted the government to call an emergency crisis meeting. However, the problems only seem to grow for Macron as students have begun to revolt, disrupting high schools across the country.

On December 8th, things began heating up as the Yellow Jackets rioted again, except this time they burnt cars and clashed with the police. This came after the Yellow Jackets have refused several meetings for peace and would rather see action. Therefore the government locked down the capital, deployed armored vehicles, and closed the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower. The number of arrested have now reached the thousands while several hundred have reported injuries. At the end of the year, the country is split. Those

against the Yellow Jackets have taken to the media to try to ease the tension. Meanwhile, some have written that the Yellow Jackets are ready for a fight. Some even have the audacity to claim that the Yellow Jackets will go to war if prompted.

In 2019, the Yellow Jackets protested again on January 5th. A large demonstration in Paris saw a turnout of thousands. Unlike the protests before, there weren't as many arrests or injuries. Police intervention resulted in three arrests and four injuries. These protests have been claimed to follow the arrest of the Yellow Jacket's most recent "leader." Despite their adverse attitudes to appointing such a leader, Eric Drouet has emerged to be the authoritative figure. He has been arrested and released many times due to protests and is currently not in French custody. The Yellow Jackets have also received the support of Italian prime minister, Luigi de Maio, who has egged them on several times and pushed them to their breaking point.

The French president's best efforts haven't seemed to please the Gilets Jaunes' grievances. Hopefully the violence will calm down soon, but for now there seems to be no foreseeable end to the tension.

Hawks Crush Hornets

*Chase Frutos, '21,
who still can't win in
Rock, Paper, Scissors*

Throughout the entire Christmas break, Coach Walsh vigorously pushed the Varsity Soccer team every morning in practice and mentally prepared us for the up-and-coming game against the Greenhill Hornets. We wanted to start the new year off right as the Greenhill game was the first soccer game of 2019 and arguably one of the most important for our season. Greenhill previously beat St. Mark's 2-1 and beat Kinkaid 2-1, even in the Falcon's home territory. We knew we had our work cut out for us.

Coach Walsh's reconnaissance scouted out Greenhill at two of its big games, gathering information about the Hornet players and play style. We knew exactly the team we were up against, the talent, the weapons, and that this team could be one of the best in the entire league. Game day came and our team was both physically and mentally

prepared to put up a fight against the Hornets.

The news report forecasted heavy rain at the time the game was going to start. Nevertheless, the game was on and nothing could stop the determined Cistercian team from conquering a formidable foe in their home territory. The setbacks of near freezing temperatures and rain drenching our uniforms did not discourage any of our determination that we had for winning the game. The referee blew the first whistle and the fight started immediately. We pressured them at full force during the first fifteen minutes of the game. Zain Dabbous sprinted head on for a loose ball and managed to break through the back line of the Greenhill defense. However, before he could pull off a shot, he was fouled inside the box, giving us a penalty kick! We stepped up to take the free kick, but sadly the goalie made an excellent save. Even with another setback, we continued to push on. At halftime, the game remained scoreless.

The second half started with heavier rain and our team continued with the same ferocity

that we had in the beginning of the first half of the game. About mid-way into the second half, Kyle Blessing managed to steal the ball from a defender directly in front of the goal. He shot, but the goalie tipped the ball over the goal, resulting in a corner kick. Evan Anderson took the corner kick and the ball bounced around inside the box until Reefer Harrison managed to get a foot on the ball and scored to the right of the goalie!

With a one goal lead, we had no intention of easing up on Greenhill. Soon after, Evan took another corner kick. Similar to the first one, the ball bounced inside the box until defender, Anthony Farhat, made contact with the ball where he slipped it past the keeper. Unfortunately, shortly thereafter, Greenhill managed to cross the ball to an open forward, who headed the ball just out of the reach of JB Hudnall, the goalkeeper, making it a single goal game.



Photo By Mr. Anderhub

With an intense match coming to its end, Jimmy Garda used his immense speed to steal the ball from the goalie and pass it into the net. We thought we won the game. Greenhill thought otherwise and managed to score another cross immediately after Jimmy's goal. We managed to hold them off for the remaining minutes, giving us our first win of 2019 with a final score of 3-2!

With our team's incredible work ethic and determination, driven by our phenomenal coaches, we managed to win the first game of the SPC season. We still have a lot of improvements to be made. However, a win against Greenhill is an excellent start to the long season.



Photo By ray_explores

*Noah Vetter, '22,
who wanted to lasso
the Rams*

Unless you have been living under a rock, you have probably heard all about the Dallas Cowboys divisional playoff loss to the Los Angeles Rams. Any fan of the Rams would have loved it because they ran over the Cowboys with a score of 22-30. The main problem for the Cowboys was the Rams' incredible running game, which racked up more than 250 yards against the Cowboys' famous rushing defense. The Rams have one of the best running backs in the league, Todd Gurley, but they surprisingly decided to utilize C.J. Anderson as well. Both

ran for over one hundred yards. On top of the Rams' outstanding rush, the Cowboys weren't able to get any running game themselves as they had to play from behind after the first quarter. In short, the Rams deserved the win and easily outplayed the Cowboys.

The depressing loss gained a lot of criticism from many Cowboys fans. Though one could see the aggressiveness of the Dallas head coach, Jason Garrett and offensive coordinator, Scott Linehan, they were unable to convert on the most important fourth down. Going for it on fourth down multiple times was a welcome change, but in most cases the Cowboys had needed to keep the drive going anyway. Many fans wanted Dak Prescott, the Dallas quarterback, to throw more often since the running game wasn't working out. Though Ezekiel Elliott is an amazing running back, depending upon him for many of the

Cowboys Lose...Again

Cowboy's first and fourth down attempts just did not work well, especially at the most crucial times. Though one could rant on and on about the game, the result of the game was due much to the fault of the coaches.

To give a reader a better sense of the Dallas Cowboys recent playoff record, the team hasn't gotten past the divisional round since 1995, when they won Super Bowl XXX. Since then they have been to the playoffs ten times out of twenty three seasons and have won four wild card spots. The Cowboys' playoff drought is currently one of the longest dry spells in the NFC. Though it wasn't any specific person's fault, the offensive coordinator, Scott Linehan was fired and next season Jason Garrett, despite still being unpopular, will be making more of the calls though Kellen Moore is the offensive coordinator.

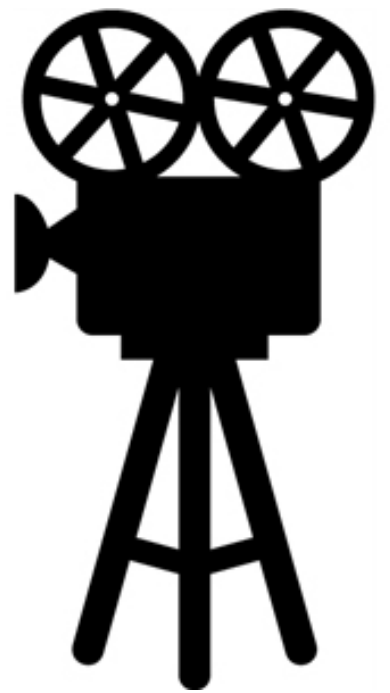
Besides the sadness of the Cowboy's playoff record, it was also sad that the Cowboys blew a chance at the Super Bowl! The Rams went on to the Super Bowl after a tight (and controversial) win over the New Orleans Saints. The Cowboys had already beaten

the Saints earlier in the year with outstanding defense! Even though they would have had to play the Saints again, there was still good reason to believe the Cowboys could have pulled out another defensive win. There are a lot of "what ifs," but a win on that Saturday could have meant the Cowboys being in the Super Bowl. It would have been their first Super Bowl in almost 30 years, and it certainly would've been more interesting that seeing the Patriots score a single touchdown.

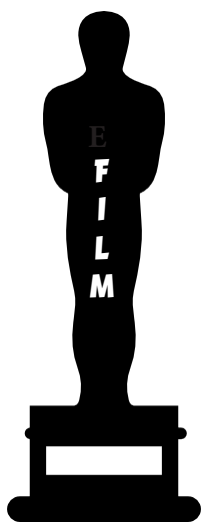
Lastly, the Cowboys now have to struggle with their salary cap because they have many good players that need to get paid such as Demarcus Lawrence, Ezekiel Elliott, and Amari Cooper. Hopefully, the Cowboys will be able to hold on to a great roster and win when it matters because Dallas fans want to see their team winning big games rather than just season games. The biggest goal, which has been totally possible for a while now, is the Super Bowl, but once again the Cowboys have missed a chance. Now Dallas will have to wait and see what becomes of America's team in 2019.



THE INFORMER MOVIE AWARDS

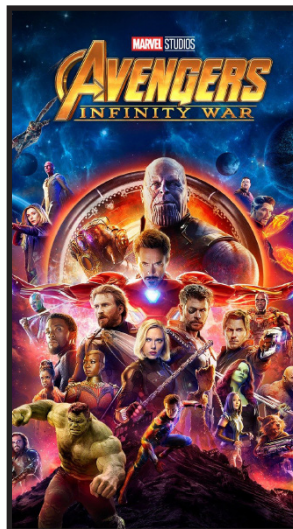


Last month, students were given the chance to vote on their favorite movies of 2018. The winners of these awards are:



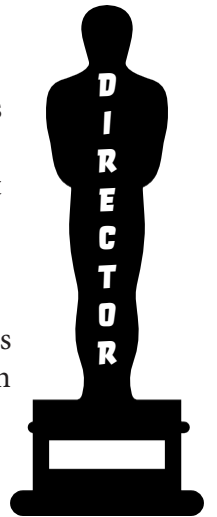
Avengers: Infinity War

Infinity War defied all odds. It brought together 10 years worth of story lines and characters into one satisfying conclusion. Somehow, it was not an overlong slog of a movie, but instead a moving and fast-paced feature with real stakes and tension. The student body was obviously very pleased.



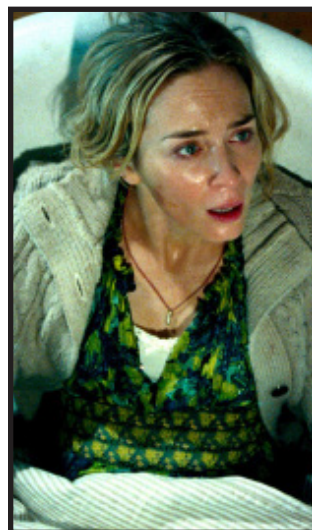
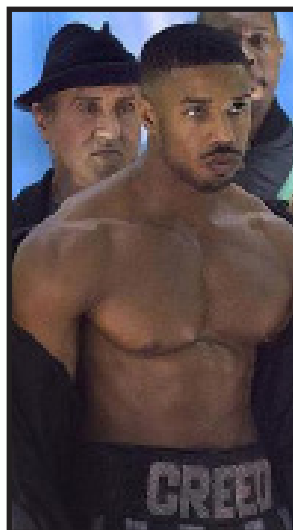
Ryan Coogler, Black Panther

Black Panther will serve as one of the defining cinematic moments of 2018. It takes a very special director to make all that come together, and make the comedy, action, and themes all work well together. Ryan Coogler definitely made that happen.



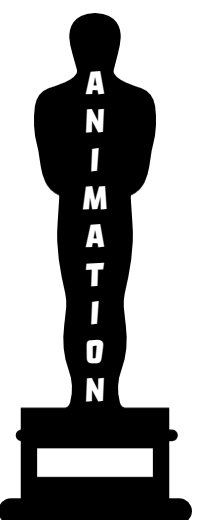
Michael B. Jordan, Creed II

Michael B. Jordan was also in *Black Panther*, but students chose his performance in a more under-the-radar movie, *Creed II*. His performance as Adonis Creed only improved in the sequel, showing the different sides of Creed as he struggles with living up to his father's legacy while still taking care of his family.



Emily Blunt, A Quiet Place

Emily Blunt gave an intense, nail-biting performance in *A Quiet Place*. She (silently) played a grieving mother trying to raise a family in the middle of a very difficult situation, showing what a mother will do to protect her family. The bathroom scene alone makes her worthy of this award.



Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse showed us that there were more sides to Spider-Man than just "with great power comes great responsibility." It was funny, fresh, and exciting, all while raising the bar for what could be told in a superhero movie and depicted using animation.

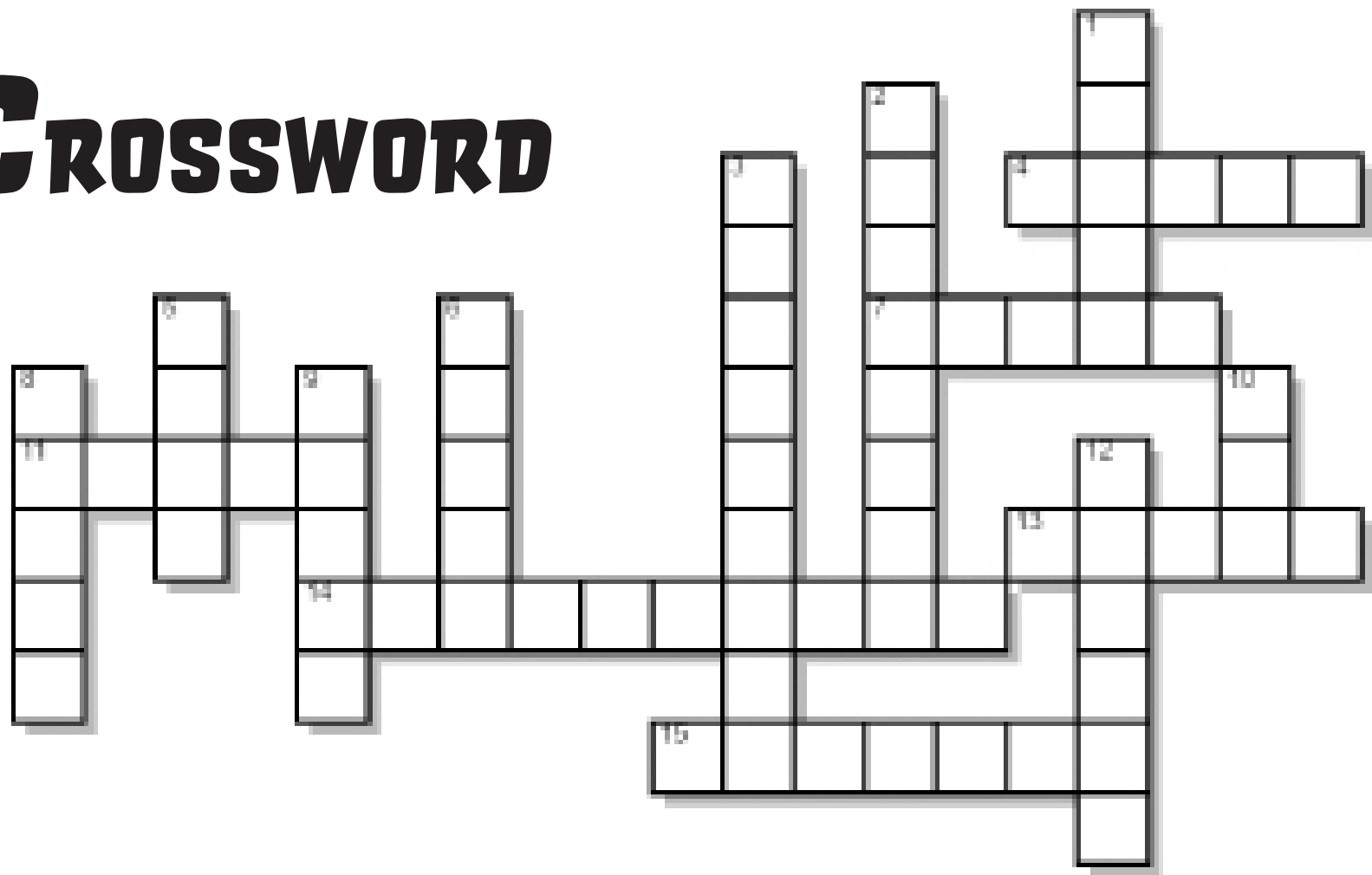


The Kissing Booth

2018 had some truly awful movies, but this one stood out to many students as the worst one. *The Kissing Booth* was one of Netflix's flagship releases this summer, and students (and Fr. Philip) rightfully saw it as the piece of garbage that it is. Cliché, dumb, and problematic, it shows exactly what a rom-com does not need to be in 2018.



Crossword



ACROSS

- 4 - An organ essential for breathing and love
- 7 - Ariana and the Dwarves both have seven of these
- 11 - Most students this Valentine's Day
- 13 - A sugary way to say you care
- 14 - What Varsity Soccer wants to be
- 15 - How Cistercian does MLK Day

DOWN

- This issue's sponsor - 1
- Informer sponsor and novelist - 2
- A delicious gift of affection - 3
- Still not possible in Texas - 5
- A baby with a bow - 6
- _____ for Life - 8
- Goddess of love - 9
- A color of passion - 10
- Mr. Magill's alter ego - 12



Founded by a former writer for the Cistercian Informer, Gregg Partners is a revenue strategy consultancy that equips mission-driven businesses to achieve their vision. Clients include Wikipedia, The Pat & Emmitt Smith Charities, and dozens of the world's leading nonprofit organizations. Jeremy Gregg, '97, credits Cistercian with helping him to form the values that have made his company one of the fastest-growing firms in its industry.

"I am proud to support the future of journalism by sponsoring The Cistercian Informer," says Jeremy Gregg, '97.

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