

The Cistercian Informer

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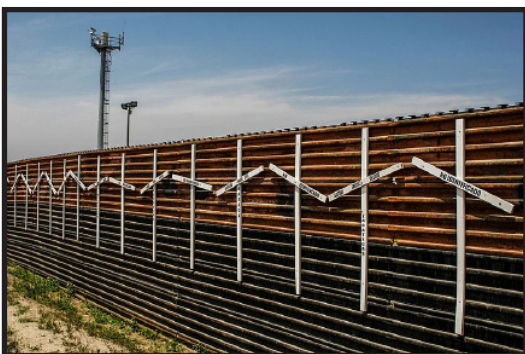
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL: Rockets
Third Formers fill the sky (and the forest) with model rockets



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An impassioned plea for more time off campus



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DC has a lot of work to do to ever become as successful as the MCU



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POLL: Most Anticipated Movie

"Reviewing Captain Marvel"

"Ask Kattdaddy!"

The Colloquium on Welch Road

*Matthew Sawtelle, '19,
who saw the Red Clowns*

In the crisp, glistening light of a North Eastern dawn, Sandra Cisneros boarded a plane bound for Dallas, Texas. One might ask why a person, given the chance to be anywhere in the world other than Dallas, would willingly step foot in this most mediocre of metropolitan areas. The answer to this hypothetical query is simple: there was a literary emergency.

On February 13th, students from ten different DFW private schools gathered at the Hockaday School for the seventh annual Interscholastic Colloquium. The topic of discussion was Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, a modern classic about a young Hispanic girl growing up in an impoverished neighborhood in Chicago. Eighty-nine papers and creative works responding to ten different prompts were selected to be presented and discussed by students and faculty throughout the day. Of these eighty-nine works,



thirteen were written by Cistercian students. It is important to note that, rather than shying away from some of the more controversial topics of discussion, many Cistercian boys threw themselves headlong into the challenge by writing about topics such as the American Dream or

the Chicano culture. Among the highlights of the day was the keynote address by Sandra Cisneros herself. She spoke about her life, her writing, and her inspirations and impetus behind the composition of *The House on Mango Street*. She gave an important message about the...

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Utter Chaos in Venezuela

*Ethan Ramchandani, '21,
who agrees with TR's
stance on diplomacy*

Venezuela has had a problematic political history since the early 2000s. The first signs of violence due to politics was in 2002 when President Hugo Chavez was elected, and thousands of Venezuelans were not pleased with him. This anger created enough turmoil to cause the deaths of 19 people. Chavez was arrested, and Venezuela was under an interim government. A business leader was sworn into the presidency later that year. However, tens of thousands of Chavez's supporters freed him from jail and got him right back to his position of power.

Chavez was not too popular despite having loyal supporters. After he had changed the

constitution and renamed the country to The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, people were on edge about him. As his term continued, Chavez made changes to Venezuela. He started taking control of businesses and broadcastings on television. Chavez personally fired 180,000 employees from varying companies for participating in a strike.

Venezuela's social policies had also experienced drastic changes. Chavez took a very radical anti-United States stance. He instead decided to get closer to Cuba. Soon, he turned the entire state socialist. Since the inauguration of Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro 6 years ago, the Venezuelan economy has gone into a free fall. According to some, the economy of the South American country has shrunk at least 50 percent. This is, in part, the fault of Maduro's socialist government. Maduro has made...

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THIRD FORM SAYS

3...2...1...BLAST OFF

"Everyone in the Form had a good time, and I learned a lot doing this project"

The third form rocket project was an event unlike any other that my form has experienced thus far. As Cistercian students, we frequently hear junior ring speakers, alumni, and older siblings recalling the joys of middle school, especially the rocket project and Texas history trip. These events are significant landmarks of our time here, and it is not a surprise that this month has been very special to the class of '24 as they heartily enjoyed their rocket project.

We were all anxious when Fr. Mark announced the project; we were anxious building them; and were anxious when we walked along the path to the hidden field to launch them. I will be completely honest with you: we were very anxious. The events leading up to the launch days made people quite nervous, as most of us were intimidated by the procedure. Getting the supplies was the least of our worries, as you simply had to get whatever was on your list; but building the rockets seemed like an

insurmountable task.

The handouts given to us by Fr. Mark were very clear and simple instructions, but most people found a way to mess everything up. The actual process varied from rocket to rocket, as different designs had different directions, some clearer than others. One of the more time-consuming parts was attaching the fins, as regardless of how many your rocket had, you had to put them on one by one. And you had to wait for the glue to thoroughly dry before putting on the next one. Getting the rocket done in time was also a hassle, as we had to keep up with the regular number of tests and quizzes expected of a Cistercian student while we built them.

The difficulty of painting the rocket also varied between designs, as some were abnormally complex or included decals. The painting involved several coats of spray paint, which could get messy, especially when you are doing it in your garage close to the cars.

Additionally, we had to measure the center of gravity of the rockets using a variety of methods before we could turn them in, and this was not easy for every student. In order to store the rock-

ets properly before the launch, we had to make stands for them out of shoe boxes, as the they could not be stored vertically. We also had to make a notebook following the whole procedure, a timeline that included all the possible events and plans that could interfere with the building of the rocket, notes of when certain milestones were reached, and we had to collect many handouts Fr. Mark had given us. It was recommended that par-

ents watch over and help their sons with the project in case they need help or get stuck, and this recommendation proved necessary at several points

throughout the process. The actual rocket kits themselves do not cost very much but getting all the required supplies could be pricey depending on the rocket.

After weeks of hard work, the day came. It was time to launch the first rockets. It was incredible to watch, and exhilarating to see your own rocket fly (vertically or horizontally). And there was always a suspense when waiting for the parachutes to deploy, as some parachutes malfunctioned and hit the ground extremely hard. Some people also tried to catch the rockets, which left them to

deal with an incredibly angry Fr. Mark, considering that he explicitly said not to.

When people got to actually launch their own rockets, they were incredibly nervous, even though all they had to do was follow simple instructions. We also had to make calculations with the data gathered from the launches. There were 2 trackers in the field, each 100 meters away from the rocket, who had to measure the angle the rocket was at when it was at the highest point to use for the calculations.

Most of the launches were fine, but others... not so much. Some got stuck in trees, or went into the parking lot. One even landed on the school building! Unfortunately, one of the rockets broke, as a particular student tipped over another student's rocket, breaking a fin.

Overall, the rocket project was an experience of hard work and toil that nobody in the form will soon forget, as Joshua Reaves (2024) said, "I found it difficult, seeing as I've never done this before, but ultimately fun to work on." Rocket launches just finished at the end of February after many weeks of working on the project. And everybody was excited after an anxious month to see their rockets fly, including for Brendan Herman '24, who said "Maybe we are the ones who are flying away, and the rocket is staying still." For our grade's sakes, we hope he was wrong and that it was the other way around!



"The Rocket Project was great! By far, the best part was being able to go outside for class and watch my friends launch their rockets."



BY THE
NUMBERS



Number of Rockets
Shot into the Sky by
Form III

39

Number of Meals
Packed at Cistercian
with Feed My Starv-
ing Children

102K

Current Inflation
Rate in Venezuela

2.7x10⁶ %

Number of Informer
People who Consis-
tently Forget to Do
Obvious Things

SA1SH

Number Of Tests
Crammed for Right
Before Spring Break

2
MANY

Mango (cont'd)

...nature of beautiful art: it comes from love—love of the people one is writing about, love of the people one is writing for, and love of the art in itself. The best art is saturated with love.

The House on Mango Street was a labor of love for Cisneros, but it also developed from intense anger and a feeling of isolation. Although a work of art should be made with love, anger can be a great force when channeled toward the production of a beautiful thing. She urged us to be angry, passionate, and full of love. It was an incredible honor to be able to interact in person with an author of her talent and stature; her presence gave a specific validation to the day's endeavors, to the essays and conversations centered around her novel.

After having attended both last year's and this year's colloquia, I can say that they of-

fer a rare glimpse into the thoughts, attitudes, and vantage points of persons or communities that the relatively isolated Cistercian student rarely encounters. Many of the topics of focus at the Hockaday colloquium are seldom broached in the casual conversations or academic discussions that echo down the terracotta tiled hallways of our monastic all-boys institution. For instance, the ideas of cultural or personal identity and gender dynamics were the direct focus of ten out of the twenty-seven sessions one could attend at the Hockaday colloquium. I can probably count on one hand the number of times the term "gender dynamics" has been used in a class during my eight years here.

These colloquia help us to understand the language and thinking of many of our peers;



Photo By Señorita Kennedy

they allow us to participate in dialogue we would never enter into if left to ourselves.

It is a great blessing to be able to participate in a day of literary conversation every year, and we have the hard work of our own faculty and the faculty of the participating DFW schools to thank for this opportunity. We ought to cherish the dialogue entered into between schools and take advantage of every opportunity to encounter different perspectives of the strange world that lies beyond our wood-paneled walls.

The Spirit of Admissions

By Noah Vetter, '22, who admits that he likes Cistercian

Cistercian is known for being a small and highly selective school, which makes the admissions process very important. The goal of this process is to accept boys with eager minds, different talents, and different personalities so that we can have a diverse classroom that will work towards creating virtuous men. The broad set of personalities not only looks good for the school, but it also allows for an engaged group of boys who want to learn. The specific creation of this class by the Cistercian admissions team is attractive in and of itself to potential applicants because of the attractiveness of a challenging and dynamic classroom.

Admissions starts with getting the word out. As Coach Taylor said, "Admissions goes hand in hand with summer programs." It all begins with boys from different age groups coming out to programs and having fun at Cistercian. Once the fall begins, Cistercian wants to generate a positive interest in possible applicants for the school and its community. By using social media, Cistercian can encourage people to apply with pictures of sports events, dances,

classes, and most importantly the everyday life of the students. Then open house comes around, and parents and students can come to ask questions, explore the campus, and learn about all of the classes and extracurriculars Cistercian has to offer.

Eventually, the big day comes: admissions testing. Over the course of two Saturdays, boys come in to take the tests while the parents of the potential Cistercian students go on tours led by upper schoolers. Though there is not a specific time for interviews with the applicants, there are simple ways of learning about applicants. The admissions committee, as well as other faculty members, make mental notes of the boys' reactions or comments during the testing period.

Fr. Anthony said, "we want to fill a classroom with boys who are not just smart, but also interested in the place or excited to be challenged." He also mentioned that students in the Upper School help with the admissions process by giving tours and answering questions. While doing these things, they notice things about the kids and give feedback to the admissions team.

Though this part of admissions isn't a perfect process, it reveals whether a person is enthusiastic about being here, which is an important factor in a person's acceptance into Cistercian. After testing it comes down to the admissions committee to work hard to decide on who gets a "yes," a "no," or a "wait-list." Each member takes notes on the different applicants, and then they come together to discuss and make decisions. The Cistercian admissions committee works very hard every year, but many others also help with the admissions process like parent volunteers. The upper schoolers who help give tours also play a crucial role in the process, as hearing a student's feedback on his school is incredibly valuable to potential Cistercian parents. Current families also help simply by spreading the word.

The well-refined admissions process at Cistercian and the hard work of those on the admissions team is really the bedrock of what makes our school great. This process is the first step made towards fulfilling Cistercian's goal—helping a group of boys grow into a group of men.

Why We Need More Outings

*Cole Boyd, '22,
who wants to get out more*

Ahh outings, the few days a year where a Form comes together to enjoy a day filled with activities that range from a match of Nukem to card games. Everyone loves them; however, there are too few of them. Middle Schoolers are graced with the opportunity of two outings, but as Cistercian students grow older and mature into Upper Schoolers, there is only one opportunity a year for this joyful day of play and camaraderie. Because of their rarity, they are often met with great anticipation, and for good reason because these days always meet our expectations. So, what gives? Why are there so few outings and why do we not have more of them?

Studies show time and time again how vitally essential breaks and physical activity are for students who spend most of their time in a cramped classroom. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, “Cognitive processing and academic performance depend on regular breaks from

concentrated class-room work. This applies equally to adolescents and to younger children. To be effective, the frequency and duration of breaks should be sufficient to allow the student to mentally decompress.” Even though this statement supports having more breaks throughout a single school day, logic follows that in a longer period, like a whole school year, more day-long breaks would also be beneficial. I think it is fair to say that more breaks from the constant flow of homework, essays, and tests could benefit the student body. According to Preston Schnorbach ('22), “Outings are stress-free breaks from a high-pressure environment.” More time to release stress while throwing a frisbee or climbing rock walls could be “just what the doctor ordered” for tired and weary Cistercian students just looking to have a little fun.

Also, I believe more outing opportunities would give students more things to anticipate. There is nothing better than a day of play in the middle of a busy week to lighten the mood surrounding all kinds of work. I, like the rest of the student body, really enjoy

the free time that outings provide, as well as the opportunities to blow off steam that does not come very often in the life of a Cistercian student. Too often it seems like there is not a lot of light at the end of the tunnel full of quizzes and hard exams, but I believe an increase in outings could enable many students to power through some of those challenging Cistercian times. All of the activities that outings provide allow students to see each other away from the stresses of the classroom. I remember multiple times during outings where I would hang out with people whom I had rarely spent time with before, and this kind of bonding throughout a form is vital for the success of friendships and the development of brotherhood between the members of a Cistercian class.

I interviewed Br. Raphael Schaner to ask him if he thought outings were beneficial to a form. His response was, “Yes, because it is important for a form to bond not only in the classroom but also

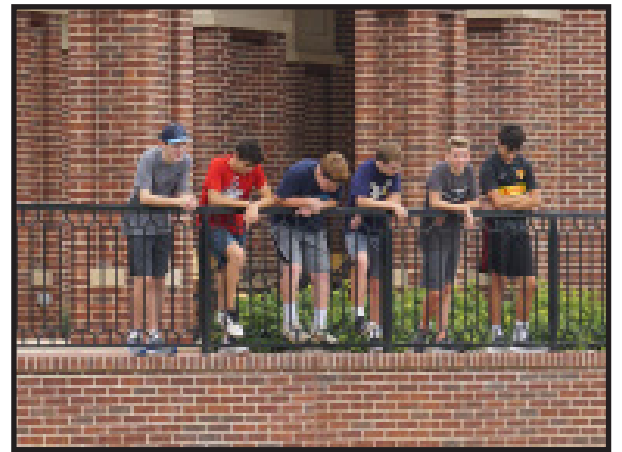


Photo By Br. Raphael

on the athletic field in a non-formal environment.” Occasions like outings help to bolster the feeling of brotherhood in a form—a feeling that many faculty members have often stressed as very important. Throughout my four years at Cistercian Preparatory School, some of my fondest memories come from these pleasant days of being able to hang out and play with all of my brothers.

I believe the impact of at least one more outing in a school year could significantly increase morale and wellness for every Cistercian student because of the way they effectively build the feeling of camaraderie. Even though adding one more outing might cost us one day of school, gracing the student body with more opportunities to relax and grow closer to one another is truly priceless.



Photo By CPSstudentlife

*Ankit Lulla, '21,
who is not Mr. Beast*

Phenomenal, amazing, thrilling. Only a few words are good enough to describe my experience with Máximo, the Argentinian exchange student staying with me, and Juan, the exchange student staying with Thomas Leahy. Máximo, an entertaining kid in general, has told me countless stories about life in Argentina and about his family, building up my desire to visit him this summer. I'm glad to say the Class of 2021 has been very

our Form.

Due to the structure of the Argentinian school year, Juan and Máximo can stay at Cistercian for a month and learn more about how our school functions. During the summer, I will get the fantastic opportunity to travel to Argentina and learn more about Argentinian culture while going to school there. I've learned that instead of taking six to eight subjects as we do in America, Argentinian students can take fourteen subjects! One of these includes Psychology, which is something I hope is introduced at Cistercian as an elective. Since they are spending their summer break at school to practice their English, Juan and Máximo do not have to take any of the tests and quizzes

The Exchange Program

welcoming and social with both exchange students. If I see them during a break or lunch, they are always smiling or laughing while talking to one of the kids in

that the rest of us have had to suffer through. While it makes sense, this has drawn the playful ire of many of our classmates who have had to pull all-nighters to study for a particularly challenging History test over WWI.

Despite our jokes, the Class of 2021 has been very welcoming towards our exchange students. Due to the already large size of our class, we have had to take our Teacher's Desk out and replace it with an ordinary student's desk. However, their presence in our classrooms still makes all of the changes worth it. Just last Wednesday, all of Form VI side B came together and sang Juan “Happy Birthday” as he sat there and laughed.

In the month they spent here, Juan and Máximo have already immersed themselves in the “culture” of Cistercian and of our class. When talking to them, you feel that they have been part of the Cistercian Class of 2021 since middle school, even if they only arrived a couple of weeks ago. High school gives the students many opportunities to bond with each other, whether it's over shared

interests, suffering, or through inside jokes about class and each other.

Also, I have been able to introduce Máximo to life in Coppell and what it is like living in an American household by going on bike rides and doing errands like getting the groceries. Over the weekends, we have been able to hang out with Thomas and Juan--the other “exchange pair”--to play video games. Due to our shared interest in games like Fortnite or Apex Legends, we have been able to form a closer bond with each other. We've also been able to unite on the field of war while playing paintball at a classmate's birthday party.

In their short time here, they have taken advantage of the many opportunities Cistercian and American life offers, and have really become part of the class. Soon, I will be able to go to Argentina to stay at Máximo's house, and Thomas will be able to go and stay over at Juan's. This has been a remarkable experience, and I'm excited to go to our sister school, El Colegio San Esteban, and learn more about the culture and language in South America.

Venezuela (Cont'd)

...multiple salary increases in 2018, all of which could not keep up with the rate of inflation plaguing the country. A vast majority of the population has been forced to go hungry, and a reported 7 percent of everyone living in Venezuela have since immigrated elsewhere.

Flash forward to January 23rd, 2019, and Nicolas Maduro is narrowly re-elected as president for another six years. However, some people had enough of the Maduro regime. The leader of the legislature, Juan Guaido, declared himself president by assuming all the powers and responsibilities of the executive branch. The international community was split between the two leaders. The POTUS voiced his support for Guaido, in a tweet sent out on January 23rd, stating "The citizens of Venezuela have suffered for too long at the hands of the illegitimate Maduro regime. Today, I have officially recognized the President of the Venezuelan National Assembly, Juan Guaido, as the Interim President of Venezuela." But not every leader agrees. Other countries like Russia and China continue to support Maduro.

Since the president's announcement in favor of Maduro's rival, Maduro has cut off all ties with the United States and kicked out US diplomats. This has also given rise to further tension between the US and Russia. Since Russia is Maduro's biggest backer, Putin has warned against the US taking military action. The Venezuelan vice president has claimed that the US has been buying and supplying weapons to Venezuela's neighbors which proves problematic for Russia. Russia has a massive investment in Maduro's Venezuelan rule and could stand to lose a lot if he falls. Russian mercenaries have been reported to be boosting Maduro's defense, and tonnes of Venezuelan gold have been flown out as well.

China has an even more significant stake in Maduro's Venezuela than Russia does as they have a reported 50 billion dollar investment. However, this political tension has taken an enormous toll on the citizens of Venezuela. As mentioned before, a vast majority of the population is still starving and not making enough money to support themselves. No number

of wage increases can curb the rising rates of inflation which have been projected to hit 10 million percent at some point this year.

The international community has attempted to step in but was met with a literal roadblock by Maduro. Trucks of food and medicine for the Venezuelan people have been stopped from entering the country. Maduro has even gone as far as cutting ties from three Caribbean countries including Curacao, which has had historical relations with Venezuela. Maduro enacted this in response to threats from these countries saying that they will force aid through to Venezuela. Maduro, however, has condemned the support by saying that it won't be accepted by the citizens, as they are not a country of beggars.

Violence has even erupted causing hundreds of injuries on both sides. It seems that those trying to deliver humanitarian aid have been taking a more aggressive approach. Venezuela's future is not absolute. Worst case scenario, the



Photo By Alexcocopro

country collapses. The country will be in a continuous state of chaos without a government to guide them. This will last until a foreign power intervenes or until a group claims control over the country.

A better scenario would be that a military government would keep the peace until they figure out a new government. Regardless, we can only hope that this conflict is resolved soon and that the people of Venezuela are safe. Living in a state of uncertainty is not healthy, and it has certainly taken a toll on the people of Venezuela. Hopefully, this peaceful course will be taken and the crisis will be able to end sometime in the near future, and the people will not be forced to live in this state for much longer.



Photo By Steve Hillebrand

Saish Satyal, '21,
who loves bridges

In a series of shocking events, President Trump declared a state of national emergency to obtain funding for his wall along the border of the United States and Mexico. The Democratic controlled House has recently announced that they are going to dispute his claim. During Donald Trump's campaign, he repeatedly stated that he would Mexico pay for this wall. However, as is shown by the recent government shut-down and declaration of emergency, he is obviously not able to get our neighbor to pay for this wall.

Calculating the exact cost of the wall is difficult because the Trump administration does not even have an official design for their wall. Trump's initial claim

during his 2016 campaign was that the border wall would cost approximately 5-7 billion dollars. (Yet at a Kansas rally in December 2018, he gave

a cost of 15-20 billion dollars.) During his campaign and first year in office, Mr. Trump has said that the wall would be concrete and be 30-40 feet tall. However, he has since revised his claims and stated that it would be made of reinforced steel slats. However, on December 31st, he once again tweeted that the wall would be partially concrete but partially made of reinforced steel slats. But will any of these methods do anything? Customs and Border Protection attacked a prototype with objects that are easy to obtain, such as power tools. The heavily redacted report that it released did not state the exact details of the wall prototypes but noted that every model of the wall that they have worked on has failed. However, we do know that Donald Trump's proposed budget for the wall does not include costs for maintaining, repairing and actually staffing our border.

The Border Wall Crisis

Out of the 1,954 miles of land that the United States shares with Mexico, about 668 miles of that land are already fenced due to the actions of previous presidents such as Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. Another 130 miles of the border is uncrossable due to natural barriers. This leaves around 1,136 miles of border that is open and unfenced. However, this shouldn't be worrying many people. The total rate of border apprehensions has been falling since 2000, where it peaked to over 1.5 million. Since 2010, the seizures have stayed under 400,000 people, with an exception in 2013 and 2014. These are the lowest numbers that we've seen since 1973, as stated by the US Customs and Border Protection. Not only that, about 27-40% of illegal immigrants are people who have come in legally and overstayed their VISA.

Texas is the only state that keeps records of crimes committed by illegal immigrants. Using this data, we can see that 0.89% of illegal immigrants committed any crimes in 2015 which is much lower than the 1.79% of native-born Americans that committed any crimes that year. It should also be mentioned that these statistics are not limited

to violent crimes. The drugs being smuggled into this country aren't mainly at the vast swaths of land that are unprotected either. Approximately 85% of drugs seized at the border were actually taken at legal border crossings. While this percentage only talks about drugs that were caught, experts say that these statistics reflect the overall flow of drugs into our country.

The point is that a large wall, costing billions of dollars, covering 1,136 miles of land is entirely unnecessary. In fact, George W. Bush's original plan in 2006 wasn't to build a fence, it reduced the need for illegal immigration and to create a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants already in the US. The Secure Fence Act of 2006 was actually a bipartisan effort in which 26 Democrat Senators, including Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, worked towards creating tighter border security. In partisan America, the compromise seems to be building strategic barriers with increased enforcement along points where illegal crossings happen most frequently as well as providing more and better paths to citizenship for illegal immigrants trying to live in America, but not building the wall that Trump talks about building.

Soccer (Kinda) Wins in SPC

*Maxwell Vaughn, '21,
who flu through the season*

The Hawks' SPC journey starts back in the last game of the season. While they suffered an unfortunate 4-1 loss to Casady, this loss proved to have a bright side to it, as due to the SPC standings, the Hawks drew a more favorable team, John Cooper, in the first round of the tournament. On Thursday, the Hawks traveled out to Trinity Valley for their first-round game against the Dragons, a solid team. The game was a back-and-forth battle up until about halfway through the second half when an errant clearance led to a John Cooper goal. As the Hawks pushed more and more players forward, the John Cooper defense proved steadfast, and no goals came. The game ended 1-0, a tough defeat for the Hawks.

The next day, the Hawks took on the Houston Christian Mustangs at Oakridge. Houston Christian was known as a weak team since they finished almost last in the regular season. Despite the evident disparity in talent between the two sides, it was

Houston Christian who got on the scoreboard first. Less than ten minutes into the game, a simple cross led to a free, tap-in header for the Mustangs.

However, the tide slowly turned towards Cistercian. About midway through the first half, striker Jimmy Garda was taken down in the box by a Houston Christian defender. Jimmy was given the penalty kick, which he converted with ease. The game remained a deadlock tie until the second half when Jakob Quarles finished off a cross from the wing. The game opened up for the Hawks as Houston Christian had few offensive opportunities in the rest of the game. Jimmy Garda soon followed up adding another goal to the Hawks' tally, making it 3-1. Finally, in the waning moments of the game, Zain Dabbous hit a perfect side volley from outside of the box. This goal made the final score of the game 4-1, in favor of the Hawks.

The Hawks, now rejuvenated by the win, set out to play Oakridge in the critical 9th place game. This game was important because the Hawks had scraped

out a scrappy 1-0 win against the Owls in the regular season, and this had created a bit of animosity between the teams, but mainly on the Oakridge side. Early on the cold Saturday morning, the Hawks began the uneventful first half. Chances were few and far between, and both teams looked evenly matched. However, in the second half, a controversial handball led to a penalty in favor of Oakridge. The Owls converted, and the Hawks were down 1-0.

But the Hawks fought back. During a set piece, midfielder Evan Anderson was taken down by an Oakridge defender, who was immediately given a red card. Evan took the penalty and quickly put the ball in the back of the net. Just a few minutes later, the Hawks got a free kick just outside of the box. Reefer Harrison stepped up to take it, and hit a perfect free-kick into the top left corner, leaving the goalkeeper



Photo By Jacob Rombs

standing still. And within ten minutes, the Hawks were beating the Owls 2-1. They eventually held on and won the game, getting 9th place overall in the tournament. While it might have been a disappointing finish, the heart and ferocity that the team played within the last two games was inspiring and a perfect show of competition and hard work. Our athletics program has instilled in us a fighting spirit, and the perseverance needed to never give up even when things aren't going well. It might not have ended exactly as we would have wanted, but the Cistercian Hawks have undeniably had a good season, and it was fantastic to go out with two straight wins.



Photo By the Mavericks

*Anthony Peterman, '20,
who wants to Luka round more*

With the third overall pick in the 2018 NBA Draft, the Dallas Mavericks select Luka Doncic," read Adam Silver, the NBA Commissioner. Our Dallas Mavericks had played poorly throughout the 2017-2018 season but earned the fifth seed in the 2018 NBA Draft. Now how could they have drafted Luka Doncic third if their seed was fifth? The answer is that the Mavericks traded up in the draft in order to get the young star from Slovenia. Initially, the Atlanta Hawks held the third pick, but they were willing to trade the high pick to Dallas.

used to draft Oklahoma's point guard Trae Young) and their first round pick this year, in the 2019 NBA draft, wherever it falls.

The Mavericks, under the direction of Mark Cuban, decided to take this chance on Luka, the young phenomenon, in spite of other owners' worries about Doncic's abilities. Owners around the league hesitated to go all in on Doncic because of the history of top basketball picks from European leagues. For example, Serbian center Darko Milicic was a top prospect in 2003 from Europe and was drafted second overall (behind LeBron James) by the Detroit Pistons. Why was this such a horrible move? The answer is that he was drafted before all-time greats such as Carmelo

We're All In on Luka

In the trade, the Mavericks received the third pick in the draft (which they used to draft Doncic) but gave away their fifth round pick (which the Atlanta Hawks

Anthony, Chris Bosh, and Dwyane Wade. And you've probably never heard of him. The story of Milicic and other potential young stars from Europe who turned out to be NBA busts made NBA owners hesitate to draft the rising star Luka Doncic, but Mark Cuban and the Mavericks went all in, and it paid off big this season.

This season, Luka Doncic has established himself as the best rookie in the league, with no real competitor. He is averaging over 20 points per game, which is phenomenal for a rookie and has shown his ability to make step-back three-pointers. His incredible playmaking ability is even more incredible. Luka is showing his talent not only as a scorer but also as a passer and leader. He is energizing the Mavericks like only Dirk Nowitzki has done before, and is giving Dallas fans a reason to root for their team. Luka Doncic's effect on the whole Mavericks' organization has been extremely positive.

In the middle of this season, towards the end of January, the Mavericks acquired star forward, Kristaps Porzingis, from the New York Knicks. Although

Porzingis will sit out this year with a knee injury, the Mavericks hope that he will return next year as good as he was before his injury to play alongside Luka Doncic. Hopefully, these two players will be the Mavericks' base for years to come. However, to make this trade, the Mavericks had to give up good players. The Mavericks traded stellar point guard Dennis Smith Jr. (Mav's 2-17 first round draft pick), shooting guard Wesley Matthews, and center DeAndre Jordan to the Knicks and two future first round draft picks. In return, the Mavericks received Porzingis and an aging veteran guard Tim Hardaway Jr. The Mavericks gave away a lot of talent, especially Dennis Smith Jr., and two future first rounders, so this trade was a huge risk. If Porzingis never returns to his old self to help the Mavericks, this trade could be one of the worst in Mavericks' history because of its magnitude.

This year, the Mavericks have made two monumental trades. The Doncic trade so far has turned out to be one of the best trades the Mavericks have ever made, and we shall see how the Porzingis trade fares for the Mavericks very soon.

A Big Year for John Mayer

Alex Smith, '21,
who feels good vibes

At the start of 2019, John Mayer's talk show, "Current Mood" (filmed on Instagram live), was beginning to take off. Since then, he's announced two tours and released a single titled "I Guess I Just Feel Like," so things are moving for Mayer. At the start of the summer, you can see him with Dead & Company, the revival of the Grateful Dead featuring four of their original members. Then in the late summer (or the start of fall), he's taking his solo band on the road. He'll be in Dallas in September at the American Airlines Arena.

His new track is an excellent insight into where he's at right now. The beautiful part about music is how these artists can show their emotions and passions through their songs. In January, he gave us a sneak peek to the track when he posted a video playing the song's solo on Instagram. Fans hoped to hear it soon after that, but he created suspense like any good artist would do. "I Guess I Just Feel

Like" was released on February 22nd, which was the perfect way to start a weekend. Since then, it has topped the charts and been received rather well. His sound has continued to change over the years, and it's always fun to hear one of his new tracks, "I Guess I Just Feel Like" will most surely become a Mayer classic.

"Current Mood" is a project of Mayer's that he started in late 2018. He always wanted a talk show, he even tried having a TV show in the early 2000s, but it only lasted a couple of years. Now, he's set up a set in his home in Los Angeles and has famous guests over to do his show. The show airs most Sunday evenings; he says it's his way to send people into the week smoothly; fans almost rely on this show. His guests have been celebrities such as David Spade, Dave Chappelle, Charlie Puth and Halsey. He'll come on the air and has a routine to the show; the show is raw, Mayer will talk about whatever is on his mind. He's had a few special shows even (all of them are available on IG TV on his Instagram page), one where he made his set all black,

put on a black suit and talked about his theory on pants, which was a spontaneous decision. In another (a recent one), Vanity Fair had contacted him about doing a show on their Oscars red carpet and John had quite a few guests on, making it all a surprise for the fans.

Mayer can almost be considered a comedian, and his 'segments' on Current Mood are outstanding. One of them is titled "Can I talk to you over here for a minute?" where he discusses things he has a problem with, or he gives his insights. Often Mayer will also do a musical performance with his guests, who are often musicians. Maybe the best part about this show is the behind-the-scenes banter. He invites friends over to watch the show in the back, people like Bob Saget and others, who make the experience even more comical. At the end of each show, he sends the audience on their ways with a few minute chat, meant to calm us for the week. Mayer talks a lot about



Photo By Erik Thureson

how the show's come together and how magical it's been; it's created quite a following. The only question now is will it go to the next level, maybe a spot on real TV? There are things he could do to take the show to another level, but it is important for him to realize the aforementioned things that have made it so popular.

John Mayer has kept his fans on their toes so far this year, as he always has something up his sleeve. His presence online has been a welcome change; in the times one feels the internet has nothing to give and it's always the same, boring content (which is rather frequent), he is there. He is moving things currently moving at a steady pace, so maybe an album drop is coming soon.



Photo By Warner Brothers

Joel Kataddy, '20,
who believes Zac Snyder should
direct Guardians 3

Anyone who knows anything about comic book history knows that DC Comics released the Justice League comic series years before Marvel released anything similar. As a result, Marvel went into overdrive in an attempt to push out their own superhero team: The Fantastic Four. Now, the opposite seems to have happened. Marvel released their movie superhero team first, with DC scrambling to catch up. Unfortunately for DC, it hasn't worked nearly as well. In 2008, Marvel's *Iron Man* received tremendous critical and commercial success. This movie spawned the MCU as we know it, as just four years later, Marvel's *The Avengers* rolled out into theaters.

And so, *Man of Steel* was released in 2013, beginning DC's own cinematic universe. The movie received mixed reviews, which, looking back, should have been a red flag for DC's flagship superhero.

Three years after, *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* was released which was, for both comic book fans and casual moviegoers, absolute garbage. But that was just one bad movie, wasn't it? Apparently not, as the same year, *Suicide Squad* rolled out which also disappointed almost everybody. But DC didn't have the time to stop and make severe changes to their movies since *Justice League* had already had substantial work done on it. Unfortunately, that movie also flopped, which was incredibly terrifying for a film featuring DC's most beloved superhero team. With these three movies, DC seemed to continue digging themselves into a deeper and deeper pit. These movies have been

A Game of Catch Up

less than loved, but it is crucial for them to see what has recently been successful for their brand and use it as a blueprint going forward.

DC needs to stop playing catch-up. Their second movie, featured their three most important characters in a team with little to no buildup. They did this in an attempt to push out their superhero team into theaters across the country to compete in the superhero market with Marvel's team. Unlike Marvel, who had movies to establish their main character before their team-up, only one member of the Justice League had their own solo movie, and he wasn't even in the majority of the crossover. This rush to push out a team left DC unable to adapt to critiques and their own failures, leading their movies to fail to be unquestionable successes.

But now they have created two solo movies: *Wonder Woman* and *Aquaman*. While neither is a perfect movie, they both put interconnectivity on the back burner and focused on telling the stories of Arthur Curry and Diana Prince. They featured good actors taking on the roles that left audiences excited about the characters and

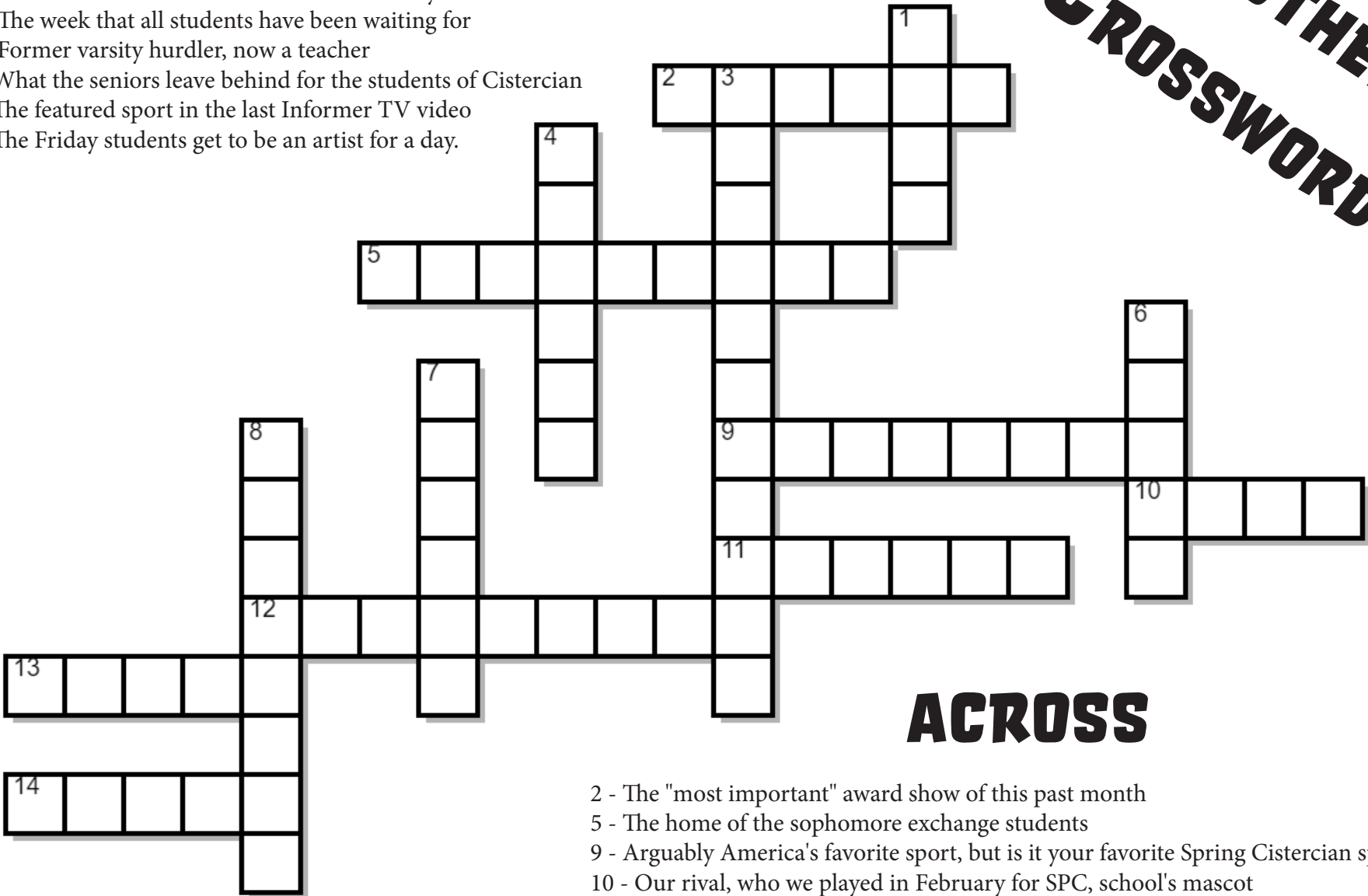
made them care about what would happen next. DC needs to go back to creating individual stories for both their superheroes and their teams and make each one seem unique and exciting if they want any hope of survival. After that, they can worry more about building up a connected universe.

It is not too late for the DCEU to right the ship. In fact, recent comments by Warner Bros' CEO about a new focus on individual experiences around individual characters" show that they are learning their lessons. Their upcoming slate does not feature any grand team-up adventures meant to redo the universe but instead consists of *Shazam*, an 80s set Joker prequel, a Harley Quinn and Birds of Prey movie, and a sequel to *Wonder Woman*. DC needs to do their own thing and not simply chase after their own Avengers. They need to stop trying to be "dark" and "edgy" simply because *The Dark Knight* made a ton of money a decade ago. If they pursue this plan for individual experiences, they are on the path of success. All it takes is for them to stop creating movies that copy what was popular before and start telling unique and interesting stories again.

DOWN

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ANOTHER
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