

The Cistercian Informer

Volume 50 | Issue 8 | May 2019

www.CistercianInformer.com

Newsline

IN SPORTS: Spring SPC
Cistercian had a strong showing in
all three sports



IN NEST: Art, Art, and More Art
John LeSage details what it's like
to attend ISAS



IN ARTS: It's the End of the Line
Spoiler Alert! Find out what Marvel
might do post-Endgame



IN EDITORIALS: Looking Ahead
The Election will be here before
we know it. You better get ready.



Online

"Ranking the MCU"
By the Informer Staff

"Ebola Outbreak in the Congo"
By Ethan Ramchandani, '21

"Does Trump Enable Racists?"
By Evan O'Suilleabhain, '21

"The Green New Deal"
By Saish Satyal, '21

The Sky's the Limit!

*Davis Jackson, '20,
who is Mr. Roboto*

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition in Science and Technology) Robotics Competition founder Dean Kamen gave this quote from former President FDR during his World Championship Finals speech. Gathered in Minute Maid ballpark in Houston, nearly thirty-thousand high school students and parents watched the championship matches of this year's robotics competition. For nearly six-thousand teams, it had been a long, grueling, and fun four months of hard work and competition. Now it was time for celebration. As fireworks burst in the night sky over the stadium, students celebrated their successes and learning experiences while also getting to see a sneak peek at the next season. But I could not help but look back at all the challenges



team 6672 Fusion Corps faced this year.

On a chilly Saturday in early January, about twenty Cistercian students gathered on the campus of Texas Instruments to witness the 2019 robotics game reveal and begin designing a robot to compete. This year's theme was "Des-

tinuation: Deep Space" and the game consisted of robots filling "rockets" and "cargo ships" with giant, orange kickballs and flat, plastic hatch panels. At the beginning of the match, the robot was controlled via remote control by a driver who had to use camera vision to see...

Continued on Page 3

Chess, HAL-9000, and Unfortunate Tales of the Paperclip Maximizer

*Winston Hartnett, '20,
who will have a HAL
of a good time*

When thinking of AI, people often conjure up the Kubrick-esque image of a sleek metallic box, a piercing crimson eye, and a cool voice that exudes inhumanity. Yet, whether through Facebook's filtering systems, or Microsoft's ill-fated Tay chatbot, we interact daily with AI that doesn't want to terminate us — yet. To that end, personalities in the scientific and technology communities, notably Elon Musk and the late Stephen Hawking, have classified AI as a future existential threat to mankind for three possible reasons: Instrumental Convergence, the Technological Singularity, and the lack of a unified moral code.

Consider even the simplest AI, one whose sole purpose was to manufacture

paper clips cheaply. No sane engineer would consider spending thousands of man-hours with philosophers, mathematicians, and sociologists hardening an AI to operate within the bounds of modern ethics. However, left unsupervised or its goals unbounded, it determines, "at any given moment there is something on Earth that is not a paper clip, but that I could use to make paper clips; thus, I should continue." And continue it does, obediently and efficiently converting every tangible thing into small, curved pieces of metal until it stumbles upon human beings. It logically reasons that humans could turn off the Paperclip AI — interfering with its primary goal — and possess atoms that could be paper-clips.

Thus, converting humanity into paper clips is a means to preserve itself and fulfill its purpose. Having at some...

Continued on Page 9

Informer Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Jacob Rombs
Assistant EIC: Alex Smith
Layout Editor: Calvin Step

SECTION EDITORS

MS: Xavier Cowan
The Nest: Walker Homan
News: Ethan Ramchandani
Arts: AJ Sklar
Sports: Noah Vetter

SUPPORT

Production: Nathan Paul
Photo Editor: Chase Frutos
Website: Ayden Kowalski
Copy Editor: Saish Satyal
Faculty Sponsors: Mr. Joseph and Mr. Laurange

OTHER

Sam Sloan, Ronak Thomas, and Samuel Menery

FOLLOW US ON

Twitter @InformerHawks
Instagram @cistercian.informer
YouTube @Cistercian Informer
Facebook @CistercianInformer

Tennis Goes for the W

Noah Vetter, '20,
who will have vetter luck
next time.

This year's tennis team may be one of the best current sports teams at Cistercian. Having made it to SPC (which is a feat itself), the quality of the squad has significantly improved over the last few years. Curious to find out how Cistercian tennis had become so good, The Informer went behind the scenes to question Nico Lopez about his thoughts on the team and his own personal growth at Cistercian.

One of the most heavily stressed points in our interview was the importance of building a team environment. Though our team has good players in both singles and doubles spots, it is crucial to have a team rather than a mere collection of individuals. Nico is a great tennis player, and Ankit is already earning his keep, but most of the time it is the third singles or second doubles spot that will decide the winner. This is why it is crucial to work in practice as a unit

and cheer each other on. No team is perfect, but by lifting up teammates and giving energy to each other, one gets that much closer to having an ideal team. Cistercian being a small school also heightens the level of brotherhood needed to achieve this bond between teammates.

It has been said that in tennis it's essential to have a short-term memory with regards to mistakes. Since tennis is more mental than physical, you have to win mentally in order to win the match. Though I have stressed teamwork, another contributing factor to the tennis team's recent success is the great players we've had come in that fully apply themselves. Some of the guys on the team have been playing tennis ever since they could hold a racket. Others may have started in seventh grade. No matter their experience, our athletes have continued to work hard to improve their game. Though Cistercian is not the key contributor to our athletes' work ethic, it is known as a place that teaches us to work hard in mind and body regardless of pre-existing talent.

One of the greatest gifts of Cistercian is the development

leaders. Many Cistercian students acknowledge that they tend to be more mentally gifted rather than physically talented. Despite being tall, lanky, and scrawny, Nico was not naturally gifted in the sport of tennis.

He had to start out losing, but he fought through it as many great athletes have done. As a freshman, Nico played as the first singles spot, no easy task. And not surprisingly, Nico was unable to carry the team.

Tennis is a team sport where we need three wins to get the W. Even if Nico won every single time Cistercian had a match, the Hawks still would not win. Since he was leading the team at the number one spot, he had to grow up and actually become a leader to the tennis team. One of the things he quickly realized was to know what you can and can't do. Nico said that he learned to see the difference between helping people individually and as a team. By boosting the team's energy, rather



Photo By Coby Scrudder

than working with a particular person, he was able to help establish a good team environment.

Cistercian tennis is very similar to the other sports. We have some guys that are great and others that are not. The thing that is the same in every Cistercian team, regardless of wins and losses, is the brotherhood and companionship between teammates. There is still one thought that Nico had hinted at during our interview, and that was this: Cistercian isn't the place where kids come to get really good at a sport. It is the place for us to become leaders in our community and brothers with one another. Let's hope getting really good is a by-product of this!

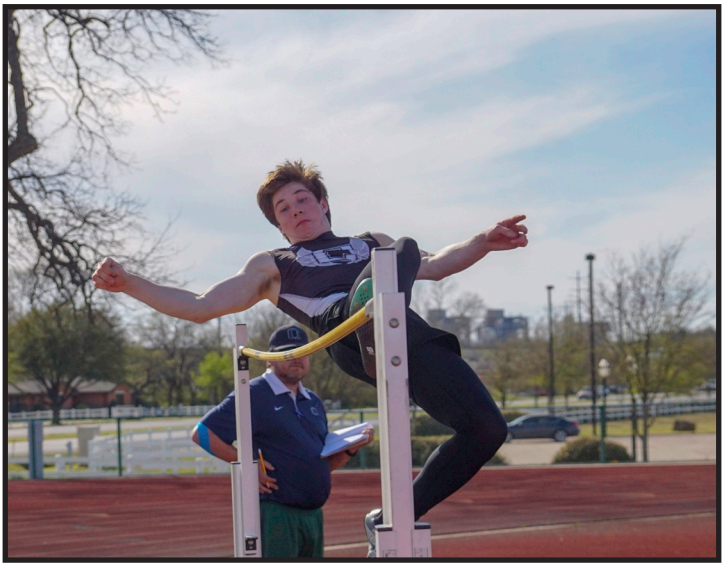


Photo By Br. Raphael

John LeSage, '20,
who will run past Track for
Cross Country

Ah, yes. Track. The oldest and more deified sport of them all. Fittingly, at Cistercian, it is led by such godlike men as Coaches Burk, Bruce, and Cato. Their exalted status is the perfect motivation for getting out on a hot afternoon and proceeding to gasp for breath on repeat 1200m's. It's the perfect motivation for running a "bonus" fourth 200m sprint after your legs are dead from the three previous ones. It's the perfect motivation for powering through an eight-hour track meet

shins.

I always went into track season with a bit of a feel-good attitude that comes from having survived three months of cross country practice. After all, the track is flat, circular, and there aren't a hundred runners trying to jostle with you for a front spot (one of my recurring nightmares during cross country season). If I can handle cross country, I would think, I can handle anything. I carried that attitude with me throughout the entire winter and was feeling confident until the cold air hit me on the first day of the season when it was raining and the temperature was just a notch above freezing. Ouch. Public service announcement: DO NOT sprint in freezing weather. I

Track Crosses the Finish Line

on a Thursday night, about ten minutes of which consists of actual running. All in all, track is the perfect sport ... if you have an infinite supply of patience, chia seeds, and

did two 400m time trials that day, and it felt like someone had seared off the back of my throat. On top of that, my legs felt clunky from only having done distance training. I spent most of the weight-lifting session sitting on the floor and bemoaning my existence. Clearly, a new approach was needed.

We got that new approach the next, slightly warmer, day when Coach Burk walked up to us and told us to start scratching our torsos in an upside-down Y. What? That was something previously unheard of for many of the runners, especially those who had not been in Off-Season during the winter. Coach, meanwhile, called it "RPR" and told us that we would be doing it every day. We marched our way through jawbone-poke, back-of-the-skull, chili chop, and heat ... strange and new, but still a step up from "mango trees," an infamous middle-school core workout that required the poor runner to hold a medicine ball above his head and gyrate his hips like Shakira. At least we got no laughs from the other athletic teams with our new warm-up routine.

Having accepted the new

warm-ups for what they were, we moved on to a fairly predictable routine. We had speed day on Monday (cue the 1200m's), lactate day on Tuesday (cue the sprints and lactation released on the field), LSD (for "long slow distance") on Wednesday, a pre-meet, stride-and-stretch day on Thursday, and a painfully slow meet usually on Friday. As the weather warmed, the trees blossomed, and the grass turned green, we began to see the payoff of the new workouts, and all began to feel stronger, faster, and more powerful. It even worked for me--my mile dropped enough so that I didn't get laughed at by St. Marks students. This made me very happy, as I could finally spend a race not looking at the backs of all the blue and gold jerseys. However, in all seriousness, it's one of the best feelings in the world to work hard in practice all week, run-till-you-drop in a meet, and then feel accomplished as you walk away with a personal best.

My takeaway on track is if you like running, do track. It will make you feel like flying. If you do not like running, still do track. You might even beat St. Marks!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

*John Paul Spak, '19,
who can spak the ball from
a mile away*

On Monday, April 30th, the Hawks played Oakridge on a turf field in Grand Prairie in what they hoped would be a practice game for SPC that week. But as the game came close to finishing, that hope slowly dwindled as another team, the Greenhill Hornets, exploded with 17 runs against ESD. As the Hawks entered the final inning, down four to two, they knew they were playing in their last game of the season. Even though they lost the game (by the same score), this one picture does not do justice to their season, as there were many memorable performances from Hawks both new and old. Per usual, the Hawks started the season a bit behind everyone else in SPC. Three of the top four hitters in the lineup had graduated, and the other, Ethan Barhydt, suffered tendinitis in his wrist that prevented him from batting for the majority of the start of the season.

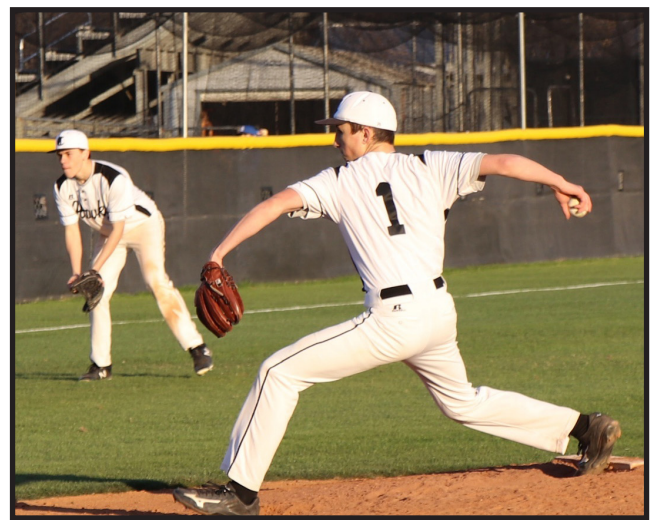
Nevertheless, in classic Cistercian fashion, the Hawks bat-

tled through the tough early stage of the season. Although suffering a miserable performance in their first scrimmage against ESD, the Hawks quickly rebounded by winning against St. Stephen's.

There were many bright spots early in the season as well. Sebastian Currilin stepped up to anchor the leadoff spot, Eli Sanford surprised everyone with his athletic ability as a freshman, and Sam Reimer managed to play his way from a bench spot to a starting outfield spot, despite his blazingly slow running ability. With a victory against Greenhill over Spring Break, the Hawks looked primed to seriously contend in SPC play. For the first game against St. Mark's, everything looked good at first. But then a plague hit the team, one that spelled certain doom for any baseball team afflicted with it: the evil curse of errors and bad fielding.

For the next month, errors continued to pummel the Hawks, and they quickly found themselves with an SPC record of 0-3 heading into a crucial must-win game against Casady. The Hawks, however, would not be put

down by their recent disappointments, and soundly defeated Casady 6-1. Ardemagni threw seven strong innings, and recent varsity call-up Oliver Currilin delivered two clutch runs that helped seal the victory. Things seemed to be turning around for the Hawks, and a win against ESD would virtually guarantee a spot in SPC. But once again, the Hawks found themselves afflicted with the disease of quiet bats. Despite another excellent pitching performance by Sanford, the Hawks were unable to muster a single run. Now with a record of 1-4, the Hawks had two more games to prove themselves for SPC. As expected, the Hawks fell to Trinity Valley, so with only one more shot to prove their worth, the Hawks took on Greenhill at home, in a win or go home situation. Thankfully, everything came together, and the Hawks looked like the solid baseball team everyone hoped they could be. Ardemagni threw a 2-hit shutout, and the defense was lights out as the



Hawks blanked Greenhill. Unfortunately, Greenhill would have to lose to ESD in order for the Hawks to make it to SPC, and as mentioned at the beginning of this article, that did not even come close to happening.

Nevertheless, the season was full of admirable performances from the entire team. But most importantly, the future looks bright for Hawks baseball. Right now, the team is slated to have six returning starters along with two other members of the varsity roster. Three freshmen, Sanford, Ardemagni, and Currilin, flashed their potential throughout the season, and with two multi-year veterans in Barhydt and Schieferdecker leading the squad next year, there's no telling how far the Hawks can go.



*Jose Baquero, '19,
who got the baq and the bite*

When soccer and basketball end, one generally thinks that Cistercian sports are over. There are no more pep rallies or big games on Friday nights. However, Cistercian offers three sports in the Spring. Of these three, tennis offers many opportunities to become a better teammate, if not player, and players are always guaranteed to have a great and fun-filled season. Even though each tennis season is different due to the seniors on the team, there are the same elements in each season.

Firstly, there are the clas-

ic Coach Boyden one-liners such as "take off" and "go to rack" and the same jokes that have been recycled long before any of us. But apart from these jokes and similar practices, this season has been the most different out of the others. Usually, many upperclassmen help with team chemistry during the beginning of the season. Yet this season was different, with only three seniors and three juniors, the underclassmen were given a more significant responsibility in the team, and they had to "step up" in the words of Coach Boyden.

Incoming sophomore Ankit Lulla came in as our line two singles, and Ethan Baek is our line three singles. As for doubles, Christopher Hardin plays line two doubles. Apart from these three incoming players, returning sophomores Sam Laber and Ben Woods play in lines one and two doubles respectively. Out of the seven positions

Still Going for the W

that competed in SPC, few spots are not occupied by underclassmen. Junior Nico Lopez played as our line one singles, and Sam Laber and Jose Baquero played as line one doubles.

Since only two upperclassmen are on varsity, the dynamic of the team has changed. It seems that the energy of freshmen and sophomores mixed with the direction of the upperclassmen may have improved the team chemistry, and set up for even better years in the future. The team entered SPC as the number three North seed, our highest seed in recent history. The only matches early in the season that we had lost were against the top two teams: St. Marks and ESD. Our greatest victory was against Oakridge who we beat 5-0. We then beat Fort Worth Country Day 4-1. Our last victory was in Oklahoma against Casady where we won 3-2 even though we were missing some of our doubles players. Nearing the end of the season we played Trinity Valley and Greenhill, losing to both bitterly. We lost to Trinity Valley, 1-4, with Ankit, now line one singles, getting the only win. In the match against

Greenhill, we tried to get hyped up since we had recently suffered a loss 1-4 to them. Though we ended up losing 2-3, we showed spirit and may have beaten them if we had played just a little better.

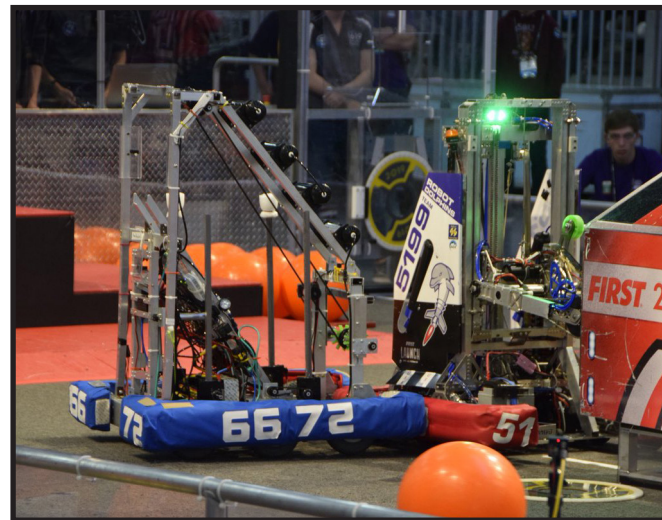
Although our record dropped, our team dynamic was not dampened, and we went into the SPC competition hungry. On the way to SPC, the trip was pretty quiet and chill, but once in Houston, the weather proved to be unfriendly. We started out our match against St. Stephen's poorly. Though most of our players lost, our line two doubles team was still playing as it began to pour down on the courts. But having lost all except for Nico, the team went to the Consolation Bracket, where they played Greenhill again. This was an opportunity to have a win against a rival team we had lost to in the season, but we were unable to pull out a win. Nico and Ethan were the only ones who could get a win in the match. Though it had a disappointing end, senior Jose Baquero got to play his last games as a hawk, and the team showed some of the heart they'll need if they want to go any farther in future years.

The Sky's the Limit (cont'd)



"I'd characterize this year as a small step for team members, but a giant leap for the team."

- Winston Hartnett, '20



...through a "sandstorm," which was basically a black curtain placed in front of the driver. Fifteen seconds into the match, the curtain would be removed, and the driver would control the robots to place "cargo" and "hatch panels" on the rockets. At the end of the match, the robots had to climb onto a two-foot-tall platform.

And Fusion Corps enthusiastically rose to the challenge! For six long weeks, we developed a bot that could accomplish incredible

our bot, HAL (from 2001: A Space Odyssey). Our driver, Brandon Zimmer, unfortunately, had very little time to practice with the robot. Nonetheless, he excelled, with his prowess and skill displayed on the game field. We had a few difficulties at the beginning of the Plano competition. Our battery would run out of voltage during a match, and the robot would reset itself before doing anything else. This greatly hindered our performance, but we worked through

the problems, and once we found the solution, we never had any troubles with it again. In the end, we ranked fourth out of thirty-five teams and captained the fourth-seed alliance to the semifinals where we lost to the number one alliance. Throughout the competition, our

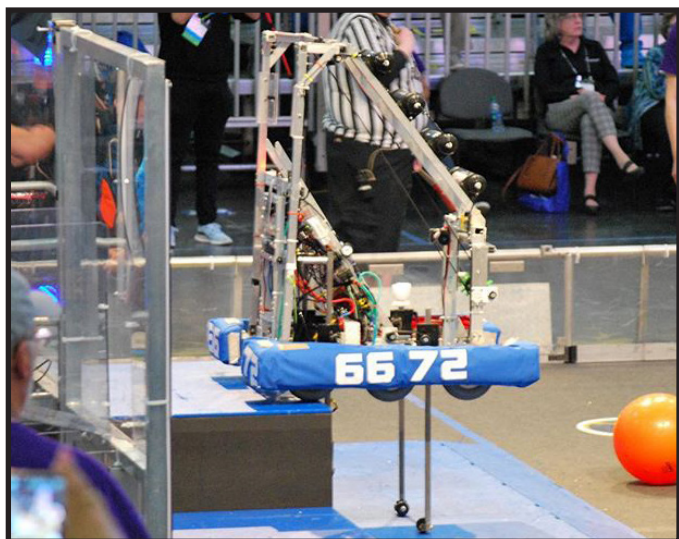
ranglers, tied us. They picked us to join the first-seed alliance, and we proceeded to go undefeated and win the title as well as the blue banner, which was recently displayed in Founder's Hall. We also won the Autonomous Award for our programmer Winston Hartnett's code, which allowed the driver to make the robot climb with the press of a button.

The Texas District Championship in Austin featured a strong field of competitors with many perennial powerhouses, but we fought our way to being ranked eleventh out of sixty-four teams. We were the captain of the eighth-seed alliance and faced a daunting task in taking on the first-seed alliance in the quarterfinals. With our incredible scouting and our strategic mastermind and business captain Samuel Wilcox, we chose two incredible teams and scared the top alliance. Although we lost, both matches were extremely close and shocked the whole world watching the live stream on Twitch.

We gathered district points for each of these competitions and ranked fifteenth out of 195 teams in Texas. This qualified us to attend the World Championship in Houston. 408 teams from China, Israel, Australia, Brazil, Turkey, and the United States battled it out across six divisions. Despite the tough field of teams, we soared

into ninth place out of sixty-four teams and led the seventh-seed alliance. Then the unthinkable happened. With his tremendous scoring and defensive capabilities, HAL and our alliance upset the second-seed alliance. Unfortunately, we lost in the semifinals, but at least we did better than Jesuit's team who lost in the quarterfinals.

And so, Dean Kamen's words touched all of the students in the stadium – we enjoyed the sport, the friends, and the excitement



tasks, such as raising itself onto the platform (which was a programming and engineering feat), under the direction of myself and John Rehagen. For the first time ever, our team utilized pneumatic (high pressure air-powered) pistons, thanks to the work of Kyle Blessing and AJ Sklar, and electronic encoders, which could tell us the position of each motor. Our newest members built a full practice field which was put to great use before each competition.

Finally, we were ready for our first competition in Plano with

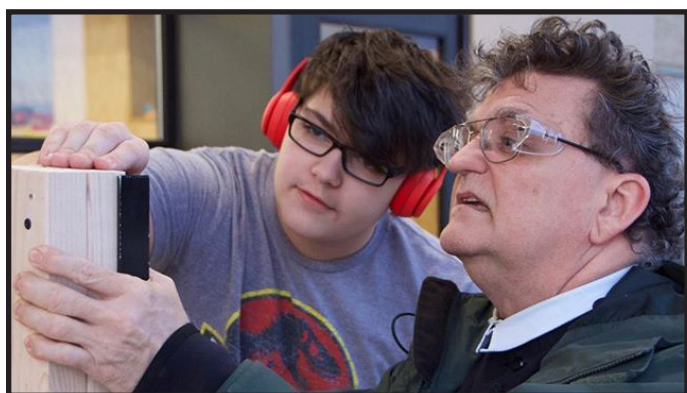
scouts watched all the matches and recorded the data for each robot, which helped us tremendously in building our alliance of three teams to compete in the playoffs. We did not go home empty handed, as we received the Judge's Award for our simple, yet efficient and practical design.

At the Dallas competition, we finally got our special climb to work, which set us apart from every other team. We ranked first out of thirty-nine teams for most of the tournament until the reigning world champions, 148 Robow-



of getting to play with robots. But we also recognized the invaluable experiences we had received, as well as realized the greater importance of what we were doing. We will be the engineers, researchers, and explorers of tomorrow, and we will all change the world.

If you have any questions about the team or want to join as a high schooler, please come talk to me, Winston Hartnett, Alexander Tsioutsias, Brandon Williamson, AJ Sklar, Kyle Blessing or Fourth Former Ryan Jackson. We can't wait to see what next year will bring!



"I had a lot of fun building bonds with my friends and learning pneumatics"

- Kyle Blessing, '20



Reflecting on Reflections

Alexander Tsioutsias, '20,
who always reflects

Earlier this year, *Reflections* became the bearer of the prestigious Gold Crown by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. For those who don't know, each year one of about nine schools in the country are awarded a Gold Crown for their outstanding efforts. This year, five schools in the Dallas metropolis were awarded Gold Crowns. But how did a small, private, Catholic school encased in the woods and subjected to recurrent flooding become recognized as one of the top magazines in the country?

For those not present in *Reflections*, the club is vastly different from that of *Exodus* or *The Informer*. Mainly, *Reflections* is tasked with capturing and displaying the literary and artistic talents of its student body to parents, teachers, and other individuals present within the school community. Because the general process for creating a magazine is often

lengthy and time-consuming, members split up the efforts into two semesters.

For the entirety of the first semester, members are tasked with formulating a theme for the magazine. For example, two years ago, Daniel Hu and Jamison DeCuir created an ultra-modern and minimalist design they called "Retrospections," which honored the past issues of *Reflections*. And, last year Matthew Dorn focused on the theme of "Light," which employed obsidian black pages to highlight the bright, garish colors of the magazine's interior. Unfortunately, I am not at liberty to disclose the theme of this year's magazine; therefore, I must implore you, the reader, to retain all excitement until the upcoming school year.

Additionally, the club holds various competitions throughout the year to encourage the student body to submit their work. And, as the submissions begin to flow in, a select panel of literary and art judges will sift through an assortment of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, drawings, photographs, and paintings and consider whether or not they accurately reflect the maga-

zine's theme for the year. Afterward, the pieces will be archived in different folders for potential use in the magazine further down the road.

In the second semester, members begin editing the literary submissions. This is a lengthy process because members must read each piece multiple times to eliminate common errors that would prevent a magazine from winning a Gold Crown. Once all drawings and paintings have been photographed, the *Reflections* staff will assign people to edit photographs, before placing them in the magazine. As soon as everything has been edited, *Reflections* can progress to the next major step: designing the magazine. It all starts with a basic design that forces the *Reflections* staff to decide what size magazine to use. Subsequently, they begin to discuss a series of minute details, such as color and font. Then they must determine what literary piece goes with what piece of artwork.



Photo By NSPA Pacemaker

To the reader, it might appear easy, but the process is quite complicated because members must attempt to find which pieces of writing complement the various submissions of artwork. This process is repeated until the magazine has been formed. However, before printing it, the provider will print off a limited test run for *Reflections* for the staff to inspect the cut of the magazine to ensure that everything was printed the way it was supposed to.

So while our school may be small, our students have a lot of artistic talent, and the *Reflections* staff puts a lot of hard work into creating the magazine, so there is no doubt that *Reflections* deserved this prestigious award.

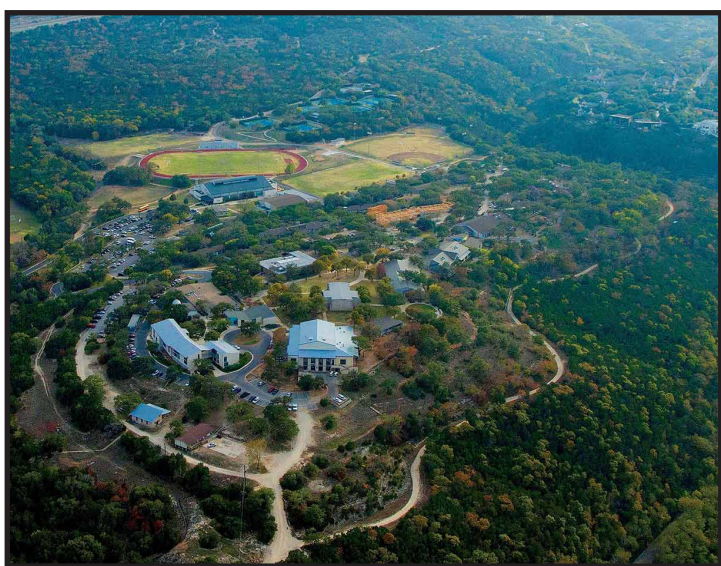


Photo By Niche

John LeSage, '20,
who already has been
introduced

Ever heard of John Winthrop's city on a hill? The one that draws people in from all over the world because all can see it?

Well, John Winthrop, Boston may have been cool, but you missed out on an even cooler city on a hill, one which drew high schools from across several states onto a lofty outcropping in Austin, Texas for three days of food, fun, and art. Lots and lots of art. Possibly every single painter, drawer, poet, and musician in the Southern Plains congregated over

one April weekend on this new city on a hill ... also known as ISAS. I was among the Cistercian students who were fortunate enough to go. We left on a chilly Thursday morning, leaving behind the rest of the school that was still half asleep. But before we got to the city on a hill, we had to stop at the greatest place on earth — the land of the beaver, the famous Buc-ees.

Sure, the drive down was fun, but it was nothing compared to what awaited us at St. Stephens' School in Austin. Once we pulled in, we found our homeroom, and, well, we were pretty much free for the next three days. There was so much freedom; it was almost disorienting. At just one point in time, I could have watched a choir, a dance troupe, gone to a drumming workshop, or written some poetry with other festival-goers. I was beyond impressed by the artistic skill on display. Coming from a smaller

Art, Art, and More Art

school, I was interested in seeing what the other schools could do with a greater focus on the arts and a larger student body to pull from. The students were all incredibly talented, and I got to hang out with some of my Hockaday friends who were also attending (always a bonus). We had dinner, and I scoped out the festival for the rest of the day, retiring late that night ready for the next day.

The next day would be the longest of the festival, from 8am to 10pm. Fourteen straight hours of art! I wasn't even sure how I would fill up that day, so I just took it one step at a time. I first had a portfolio review with a real artist, who seemed quite impressed with the maps that I had drawn. She advised me on some things that I should change and offered me some ideas for the future. From there, I went on to have some lunch, go to an African drumming workshop, watch another choir, and then do some improv. A note to future attendees: even if you haven't done much in an artistic area, try the workshop anyway. It's very easy to get into things, and most people probably will be new as

well. That was the case for me with improv. I was thinking it would be filled with full-time high school actors, but it was actually incredibly chill and mostly attended by newcomers. Some of the skits we came up were hilarious.

As the afternoon ticked on, I attended our school critique, interested in hearing what the judge would think about our work in general, and then went off to dinner. After I ate, I attended a poetry games workshop and hit it off nicely with two of the attendees. We spent the rest of the evening wandering around, laughing, and chatting. That's the beauty about ISAS — everyone pretty much shares the same interests, and you can start a conversation with anyone. The final morning dawned ominously stormy, but it didn't mess with the festival until after I had seen one more choir and a bit of a coffee-house. But soon it was time to leave. We were all sad to go, but I was utterly thrilled by the experience and can't wait to return next year.

(Oh, and we stopped at Buc-ee's again on the way home. Just can't get enough of that place)

WATCH OUT! ENDGAME SPOILERS AHEAD

Eleven years ago, Robert Downey Jr. gave his first performance as Iron Man. Iron Man started the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and Downey Jr. undoubtedly played a massive role, both on and off the screen, in its success. Now, he is gone, and one cannot help but wonder how the MCU will continue without its prima donna. And with the two prior leaders of the Avengers, Captain America, and Black Widow, gone as well, this question is even more open-ended. However, there are some possibilities and clues as to who will be the new face of the MCU.

Recently, the Spider-Man: Far From Home trailer was released, and in it, Spider-Man, played by Tom Holland, remarks, “The world needs a new Iron Man.” Will the MCU take a bold new approach and make Spider-Man their Iron Man replacement? Well, it would not be the first time. In recent comic book history, Peter Parker founded his own startup company, Parker Industries, rivaling its predecessor Stark Industries. Thrust into the

public eye at the head of a promising, young tech company, Peter began to develop more and more Starkian tendencies, symbolized by a stark shift from the old spandex suit to an all-new advanced suit (AI included). The Far From Home trailer already showed us that Peter keeps his advanced suit, which was given to him by Iron Man, and we know his habit of tinkering with it from Homecoming, so perhaps he may step into this new role. It would make logical sense to have Spider-Man be the new face of the MCU since Spider-Man merchandise already outsells every other Marvel character combined. But can Tom Holland carry the same level of charisma, personality, and presence that Robert Downey Jr. had? That remains to be seen, and will perhaps be more apparent after his next movie.

Another choice would be Captain Marvel, played by Fr. Philip’s favorite actress Brie Larson. Making her debut only a couple months ago, she already played a large role with the Avengers, working with Black

Widow after the snap and helping defeat Thanos in the final battle. With the popularity and success of Wonder Woman, by far the best character and movie of the DCEU, making Captain Marvel the de facto leader of the Avengers would seriously capitalize on the large desire to see more strong female representation, a desire Marvel is already attempting to cater to with the upcoming Black Widow movie. However, Larson is still relatively new to the MCU, with Avengers: Endgame being only her

second, compared to Holland’s almost five appearances. Captain Marvel has never been as overwhelmingly popular as Spider-Man has been either. However, Captain Marvel has been the leader of the Avengers multiple times throughout Marvel’s comic book history, so a bigger role



AD!

MAJOR SPOILER ALERT!

would not be too much of a stretch for her character.

Now only two more characters remain as likely candidates: Black Panther and Thor, played by Chadwick Boseman and Chris Hemsworth respectively. Black Panther's success and the character's four appearances make him a popular enough character to potentially bear the burden, and it would be a tactical decision for Marvel to appeal to the increased turnout of African American audiences that showed up to watch the character's first solo movie.

However, Chadwick Boseman doesn't seem like the right fit, especially since he was so overshadowed in his own titular film by his costars. Thor Odinson seems even less likely. Thor has always been more of a background character, a strong support both for the team and for the MCU. And recently, especially in both Thor: Ragnarok and Avengers: Endgame, the character has devolved into little more than a punchline, not nearly ready for the weight (get it?) of the chief protagonist. Add to that the fact that he is off being an Asgardian of the Galaxy, and it seems very unlikely.

There is also the possibility that Marvel would use one of the new properties they have acquired now that Disney owns Fox. This would give them multiple new options to become leaders of the team, but they would not have the advantage of audiences having spent years watching the characters evolve over multiple movies. That was one of the keys to the success of the MCU. Everyone loved the

characters and wanted to see them grow throughout 22 movies. Bringing in a new set of characters and immediately giving them control of the Avengers would not result in the same level of audience investment. But if they did go down this path, Reed Richards and the rest of the Fantastic Four would be the most likely option, as that will be the easiest property to integrate since there hasn't been a hugely popular take on the characters yet. The X-Men would be more problematic to introduce since they are still apart of an ongoing franchise. Quality notwithstanding, a take on a new property would be much easier than explaining to most audiences that the X-Men are rebooted.

And so the question remains. With Black Widow, Captain America, and Iron Man out of the picture, the stage is cleared and set for the next leader of the MCU. Will it be a familiar face? Will it be someone new from one of Disney's newly acquired licenses from Fox? Or is the Marvel Cinematic Universe in its own Endgame? Only time and box office sales will tell.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT



IT'S TIME TO LOOK AHEAD

The Presidential Election Will Soon Be Upon Us.

The Republican Candidates

*Coby Scrudder, '21,
who might drop his trump card*

The summer of 2019 is almost upon us, which means it's time for the presidential hopefuls to start campaigning in full force. As the Republicans are the incumbent party, the field is not as convoluted as the Democratic fields. However, there is one Republican challenger to President Trump and one likely Independent:

TRUMP



Whether you like him or hate him, you all know him. Donald Trump is running for his second term in office amidst mixed feelings about his first term. Recently, he has been exonerated of the charge of Russian collusion, and there is an ongoing investigation into spying by the FBI on his 2016 campaign. This time, he is running under a new slogan of "Keep America Great!" This new slogan is a break from 2016's "Make America Great Again" slogan, and it implies that Trump has turned around America in a mere 2.5 years. And in some ways he has. His new tax cut has done a lot for the working people of America, the economy is doing very well, and he seems to have secured funding for the wall for the moment, but that could change depending on the case in the courts.

However, he has failed on some of his campaign promises. He has not been able to defund Planned Parenthood, and his ban on bump-stocks brings his views on the 2nd Amendment into question by absolutists. Under his presidency, partisanship in the country has dramatically increased, which could reflect negatively on his 2020 run. But even this will not be enough to deter the majority of his fan base that showed up to vote for him in 2016. While some may be annoyed that not all of his campaign promises came into reality, I still believe that Trump will easily win the Republican nomination and he should have a serious chance at reelection.

WELD



Bill Weld is the only Republican running against Trump for the nomination and he is fighting an uphill battle, to say the least. Unseating an incumbent in the primaries has never been done before, although Reagan almost unseated Ford in 1976. Weld is not an outsider to politics, or even to running for president. He is the former Governor of Massachusetts and he ran on the Libertarian Party ticket in 2016 with Gary Johnson. Now, he works as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a partner at a law firm.

Regarding his political stances, he is a supporter of abortion, same-sex marriage, and marijuana legalization. He also preaches cutting taxes and joining the Paris Climate Accords. He called out Trump on his call to deport all illegal immigrants, comparing it to Kristallnacht. His party loyalty is not the strongest, as he supported Obama in 2008 and ran as a Libertarian, but that doesn't seem to be an issue considering Donald Trump's history.

Overall, Weld is a very weak candidate in this election. He's facing a historical impossibility and doesn't hold a good position to overthrow an incumbent. Most of his positions have him as a moderate Republican, but his economic policies of lower taxes and less social safety net alienate some voters. Not to mention his social views, which doesn't seem to align with what the majority of GOP voters tend to believe.

SCHULTZ



Howard Schultz was the CEO of Starbucks for almost 25 years, and he is thinking about running in 2020. He hasn't officially announced his campaign, but there is a good chance that he will run as an Independent. If he wanted to run a campaign, he could undoubtedly fund a large portion of it by himself. He is an outspoken opponent of the two-party system in America, which is why he wants to run as an independent. He says this divide between the two parties is our greatest problem and we need to do something to change that.

Some of the most important issues for him are strong border protection, higher taxes on the rich and corporations, pro-abortion (except 3rd trimester), and a health care for all system where the 180 million Americans with insurance can keep their insurance. He does not want a system like Bernie Sanders' Medicare For All. He believes that he has a legitimate chance to win 270 electoral votes and could even take Texas from Trump. I believe that while he might be able to take a chunk of votes away from Trump, but I don't know about how many he could get from run of the mill Democrat voters. However, with the Democratic primary race being so fractured, there is a chance that some voters compromise and vote for Schultz. I believe that the farthest he will make it is maybe taking some of the Republican votes away but not make much of a difference.

TO THE 2020 ELECTION

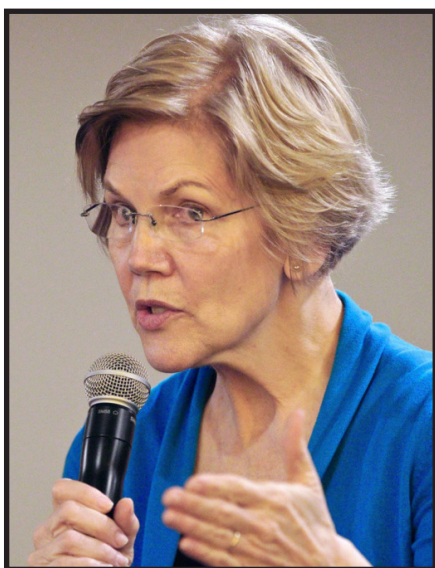
Who Will You Be Voting For?

The Democratic Candidates

*Saish Satyal, '21,
who beto look out for trouble*

The 2020 field of Democratic candidates has the most diverse group of people running for the presidency in American history. There are 16 candidates that qualify for the primary debates, but this article is dedicated to those candidates that have the best chance of winning or are the most interesting:

WARREN



Senator Warren was the first Democrat to announce her candidacy for the 2020 presidential election. She has frequently been mocked by President Trump for saying that she has Cherokee ancestry and has been called “Pocahontas.” After taking an ancestry test in 2018, it was revealed that she was only 1/1024 Cherokee, which is less than the national average. Being able to identify as a person of color would draw in younger voters and make them more likely to vote for her in upcoming elections. Unfortunately for her campaign, the lie received widespread criticism from both sides of the political spectrum.

However, Senator Warren has been releasing a stream of policy proposals, the most famous of which is her plan to cancel massive amounts of student debt. At the moment, her polling numbers aren’t as high as other Democratic heavyweights. This is only because we are currently in the “pre-debate” phase of campaigns. Senator Warren’s strength is her knowledge of her policies, and once she starts speaking on the debate stage, it will be difficult to stop her poll numbers from rising.

BIDEN



At the moment, former VP Joe Biden seems to be soundly beating every single one of his opponents. His association with Obama and the pre-Trump era gives him a boost with Democratic voters and his puppy-like enthusiasm for just about everything makes it hard not to like him as well. However, while Biden has a commanding lead in the party, he has a spotty past that could get him into a lot of trouble, especially in 2019. The most glaring mark on his record is the Anita Hill hearings in the 1990s. These confirmation hearings were chaired by Biden to place Justice Clarence Thomas on the SCOTUS. Anita Hill, a former employee of Clarence Thomas, came forward with allegations of sexual misconduct during the time that he was her boss. Biden was dismissive and refused to allow witnesses that would have corroborated her story to testify.

Obviously, this kind of conduct would not go over well with a Democratic base. However, the debates will allow Biden to publicly and directly address his actions in 1991, and if he does it right, his numbers will soar even higher than before.

SANDERS



Once again, Senator Bernie Sanders has entered the presidential race. His 2016 run made huge waves since he was a socialist with a very good shot at the presidency. However, due to DNC meddling, Senator Sanders was not able to secure the Democratic nomination and lost to Secretary Clinton. While his socialist policies have appealed to millions of young voters across America, they have also alienated Independent voters from the Democratic party. At the moment, he is second in the polls after Joe Biden.

But even if Senator Sanders were to secure the nomination, he would lose the general 2020 election. No Republican, no matter how anti-Trump they are, would ever vote a socialist into the White House. Their vote would either end up going to an Independent candidate or to Mr. Trump himself. While Senator Sanders should continue to fight for his policies and ideas, making him the Democratic nominee would be a very foolish political move. (This may have been part of the reason the DNC prevented Senator Sanders from winning the Democratic nomination in the 2016 elections.)

BUTTIGIEG



Pete Buttigieg, pronounced (Boot-Edge-Edge), is a young, openly gay mayor from South Bend, Indiana. He began to gain prominence in the Democratic Party when he ran for the chair of the DNC in 2017, and his national fame skyrocketed when he was featured on a CNN town hall with Anderson Cooper. His ability to expertly answer questions attracted the interest of many younger Democrats, and he officially entered the race a few weeks ago. His intelligence, likability, and military service have made him into a well-rounded candidate for the Democratic Party.

His main problem is his political inexperience; his only tenure in politics is as mayor of a small town in Indiana. To Pete’s credit, he was able to transform South Bend, once on the list of Top 50 failing cities in the USA, into one of the best-run cities. Even if he doesn’t gain the nomination, this run will allow him to leave a mark on the political landscape, and with his similarity to Barack Obama, still the “reluctant leader of the Democratic Party,” he is a political name that voters should look out for in the future.

Paper Clip Maximizer (cont'd)

...future time colonized every planet in the universe, the Paperclip Maximizer ultimately does achieve its goal, converting itself into a HiQin™ brand Animal Shaped Bookmark Clip — a dove, the last of which had long since been converted into a paper clip.

This simple, yet concerning, thought experiment reveals one of several problems the burgeoning field of AI Control is wrestling with. The “Paperclip Maximizer” was designed to demonstrate perverse instantiation, or, “Be Careful What You Wish for Syndrome.” Furthermore, such an AI is acting in a rational and obedient capacity, as it is producing paper clips efficiently — which is precisely what the benevolent engineer initially wanted. Even when the goals of an AI are well-bounded, the most efficient route, that also produces the most profit for businesses, is not always the best for humanity.

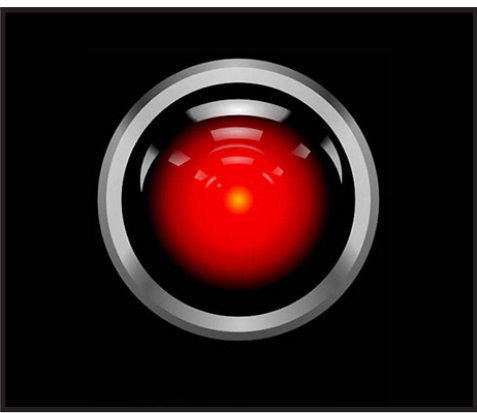
The archetypal AI villain, HAL-9000, is, in fact, a product of the Instrumental Convergence problem: in the official canon, HAL was ordered by NASA to withhold any information pertaining to sentient alien life from the crewmen, but was also pro-

grammed never to lie — a supposedly benign moral rule — by the HAL Corporation. Thus, HAL killed all crewmen aboard because it (1) meant he would never have to lie if everyone was dead and (2) he could then withhold all information about alien life because there was no one left to put him in a situation where he had to lie. The keen bystander, therefore, would recommend we give an AI a moral code — something that it could always consult to determine “right” or “common sense” conduct. However, in the absence of an objective, all-encompassing ethical framework, any substitute proscriptions given would be inadequate in safeguarding against a convergence event.

Also, history has demonstrated that evolutionary superiority does not fundamentally engender peace between higher and lesser beings: it facilitates the lesser’s extinction. Homo Sapiens, the only human species left, hastened the extinction of its rival Homo Neanderthalensis through violence spurred on by a competition for resources, a potential parallel between humanity and AI in the future. This parallel leads to the concept of recursive self-improve-

ment, in which an AI’s ability to change itself using its own superior intellect leads to an exponential explosion of more self-improvement, makes containing AI even more difficult — if not futile — once it surpasses human intelligence, a point usually dubbed the “Technological Singularity” or “The Rapture.”

If humanity is eclipsed by an AI superintelligence, our ability to respond to an instrumentally convergent AI is severely limited. Today, the ethics around Artificial Intelligence and the prevention of Instrumental Convergence have a direct application in self-driving cars, most often popularized in the “trolley problem,” in which an unstoppable trolley will kill either several people or one person, depending on the configuration of a track-switching device. The decision to switch tracks is a direct, intentional action causing only one death, while the decision to remain passive is an indirect action killing several. Likewise, if a self-driving car cannot avoid a collision and has the choice between killing several people in its current path or one person on a separate one, what should it do? The answer depends on whether the respondent subscribes to a utilitarian, or pure



net-good rationale, that mandates track-switching or an alternative worldview that mandates passivity.

In the early scenes of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, the ultimate victor HAL-9000 plays a game of chess against Frank Poole, during which he makes several blunders that could have tipped off the crew to fatal flaws in HAL’s operation. If humanity were Poole and extinction HAL, we are already pulling ahead in terms of pieces, having survived ice ages, plagues, and atomic weapons, but the final move is up to an AI that could have the wherewithal to checkmate Poole.

Of course, while I’m not saying that Siri giving you search results for “Water boiler” instead of “Whataburger” is an ingenious plot to end the human race, proactivity in the field of AI and a well-understood protocol for preventing hostility would be a boon to the human race that would allow an inevitable technology to also be a safe one.



Photo By LeLaisserPasserA38

Ayden Kowalski, ‘21,
who needs to add to Billy
Joel’s song

If walls could talk, then what stories Notre-Dame de Paris could tell. She would speak of how, within her halls, Napoleon seized control of France, how in the sight of her rose window the Nazis marched into the City of Light, how on the soil upon which she rests the Romans sang their prayers to Jupiter, king of the gods. The waters that surround her little island knew a time before Paris or France; the

thorns that she clutched to her chest knew a day before the Son of God threw aside the boulder of His tomb. Notre Dame was there when King Louis XVI was overthrown when the Kaiser’s land was subjugated when the people of her city refused to cower before the darkness. So, when the serpents of fire encircled her spire only four days before the memorial of the Crucifixion, the world rushed into action.

So as the situation became dire, the people of Paris offered sacrifices of their own. The basilica whose beauty had captivated millions since the days when the Sistine Chapel’s ceilings were blank suddenly saw the face of the God she honored reflected as the tongues of fire danced above her rooftop, as people risked their own lives, to rescue this symbol and everything it stood for.

The Fire of Notre Dame

To recount the triumphs of that long night is to tell the newest chapter in the global history of Christianity and the arts. The salvation of the cathedral came from 400 firefighters, working for five hours to ultimately preserve the building’s structure and most of its art. Their chaplain, Jean-Marc Fournier, rushed into the fire and formed a chain of men with the brigade to escort the legendary crown of thorns to safety. This same priest served as a chaplain to troops in Afghanistan and was tending to the hurt and dying after the attacks on Paris in 2015. A massive crowd surrounded Notre Dame singing ‘Ave Maria,’ showcasing faith in the divine as a force that defies people’s supposed differences to unite them in the act of love for the common good. The morning after the blaze, the cathedral’s cross glowed in the rubble — a striking and powerful image for the promise of Christianity and the events of Easter in the new millennium, a reminder that God did not design humanity or the world to be perfect but for us to learn from our

own errors and rebuild from the ashes.

For those who have been seeking moments of light and hope in the realm of religion, it is moments like this, that provide the feeling of security and gratitude that religion can offer. In fact, there is perhaps one image from the Notre Dame catastrophe that best exemplifies the whole matter: in the wreckage, after the collapse of the spire, there was a copper rooster that had stood upon the top of the spire for centuries. Within that rooster were two items from French saints and a thorn from Christ’s crown. Is the rooster an unlikely symbol of victory in the face of the seemingly unstoppable wrath of nature? Maybe.

And even still, it is somehow fitting that this seemingly silly metal bird is now the subject of a possible miracle, and that even as Notre Dame appeared to be dying, a new piece of history was born that that, hopefully, will inspire future generations and make them proud to share the experience of stepping within her walls.

BY THE NUMBERS



Grams of Caffeine Drunk by a Cistercian Student Before a Final

1000

Grams of Caffeine It Would Take to Kill an Elephant

999

Number of Hours of Sleep Recommended by Teachers...HA

7

Number of Issues of the Informer this year

8

Number of Issues of all other Student publications combined

2

Ask Kattdaddy

Do you have any spoilers for the new Spider-Man movie?

Due to my various cinematic connections, I was able to obtain the script. A brief warning is now apt in order to give those who wish to avoid these spoilers a chance to look away. For those who remain, I have this to say: Mysterio will die at the hands of Spider-Ham.

What’s your favorite song?

Well, songs is perhaps more accurate. Topping my list of course, is the infamous Tom Jones song, “What’s New Pussycat?” Next of course, is Harry Chapin’s “Cat’s in the Cradle.” (as featured in the cinematic masterpiece *Shrek the Third*). To keep this list short, I will only give one more, Elton John’s “Honky Cat.”

Why do you write for a Cistercian newspaper?

Is there a better school or newspaper to write for?

What do you do in your free time?

What is this “free time” you

speak of?

What are you planning on doing during the summer?

Well, I have quite a few extravagant plans, including cat naps and several scratching posts.

I’mhoping also to read a few books, including *The Cat-cher in the Rye* and *The Great Catsby*.

How can I tell if my cat loves me?

It doesn’t.

What did you think of Avengers: Endgame?

I thought it was the cat’s pajamas!

Why don’t you write more articles?

Why don’t you submit more questions?

What’s your favorite joke?

You’ve got to be kitten me... Do



Photo By wilddtomato

you really need a laugh meow? Oh! I think I know the purrfect one! What do you call it when a cat wins a dog show? A cat-has-tropy.

What’s your favorite kind of cat? Myself.

Who’s the worst person on the Informer? Saish.

Why? Do I really have to explain?

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live? Anywhere but Rome.

Robotics: The Next Generation

Ryan Jackson, ‘24, who is Roboto Jr.

Most people who go to Cistercian probably know that there is a high school robotics team. The first year of our team, I was just a bystander who was trying to learn how the robot worked. I was mostly a mascot for the team, even though I have no resemblance to a hawk. Fast forward to 2018. The theme was Power Up. I continued to learn what does what and how I could contribute to the robot design. I watched my brother assemble the electronics board at least five times, and I assisted Matthew Dorn in testing the intake of the robot. I took note of all the important things to do, and I hid them in the back of my head for my freshman year. Now jump forward to just a couple of months ago. I finally decided that I was going to be on the team full time. This made for really late nights of homework and no time to binge *Friends*. However, I was determined to fully commit to the robotics team, whether it was legal or not.

Every day, I had to sit around until five o’clock because high school sports don’t get out

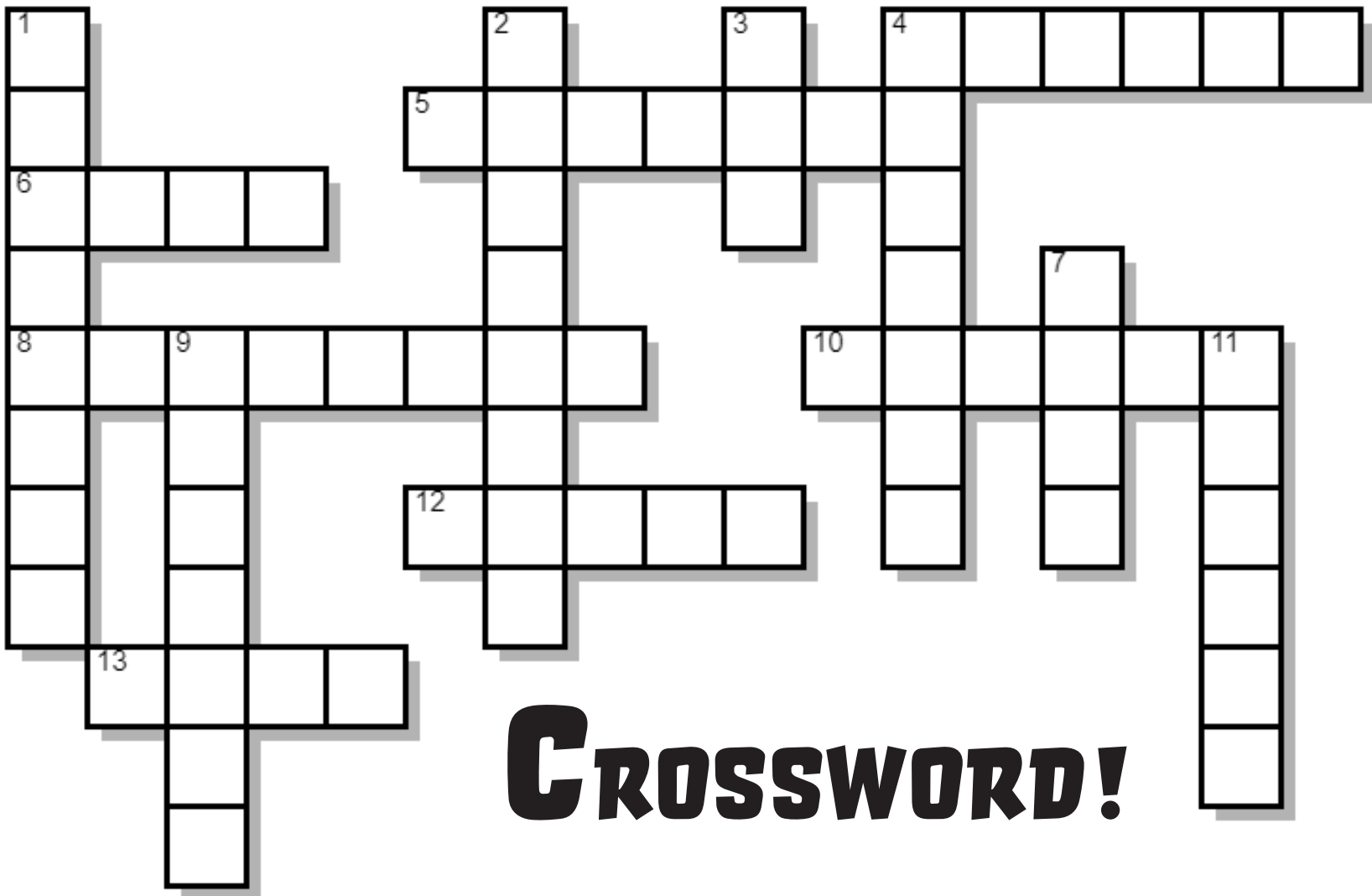
until then. When it was time, we all would start working on the robot. In the first couple of weeks, we planned the robot’s design. We all threw out suggestions until we decided upon a final design.

Once we started building the robot, I was given my first task on the robotics team. I was the person who assembled the gear ratios of all of our motors. Finally, I had become a part of the build team. I was so excited that I went straight to work. However, I forgot to ask how I might make a gearbox, which is a critical question that I overlooked at the time. Apparently, a senior who had graduated, Matthew Dorn, was the expert at building these gearboxes. Without his help, I turned to Google for an honest answer. However, there were no instructions anywhere, not even on the site that we bought the motors from. So, I spent a solid two hours tinkering, trying to piece together a functioning gearbox. Finally, it worked, and I must have done it right because none of the gearboxes

broke this season.

I was also in charge of the media of the team, which includes the making of the reveal video for our robot, HAL. This also meant I got to be the media person on the field, so I got to see our robot play up close. The team spirit was amazing. When we won a match, I would look up in the stands at our “fans,” and the crowd was electric. When a match was over, I helped escort the robot cart back to the pits. In the pits, I helped change batteries and tighten loose bolts. I went around to other pits and learned from some of the best teams at our competitions.

This three-year experience has assured me that I want to be an engineer. The team hopes that someday in the future we will have an FTC team, which is for middle schoolers, and that those students will get the same experience I did. I encourage all of the incoming freshmen to join robotics in some way next year. Whether you want to go into business, coding, or engineering, we have it all on the robotics team.



CROSSWORD!

ACROSS

- 4 - Arguably the most humid month
- 5 - What you won't have to wear for 3 months
- 6 - A place where kids stay in cabins after leaving their houses
- 8 - People you won't have to listen to for the next few months
- 10 - The bridge to cross before your break
- 12 - A sandy place o visit this summer
- 13 - Crack one open this summer, it's fun

DOWN

- A thing families go on over breaks - 1
- The paper we hope you can't go 3 months without (visit the website!) - 2
- Best way to describe a Texas summer - 3
- This place celebrates its independence over the break - 4
- The season "on deck" after the break - 7
- The monk whose form gets to go to college next Fall - 9
- What every student is waiting for - 11

A Letter from the President

To the students of Cistercian Preparatory School,

I want to give you all my sincerest thanks for electing me to lead you next year as the Student Body President. For the past three years, I've seen many past presidents make empty promises that were never fulfilled. My first promise to you all is that I will not make that mistake. I will work tirelessly for you, and every goal I have will be of benefit to you, the students, first and everyone else second. I can happily say that the new council has already made headway in adopting new policies and establishing new trends that everyone will get to enjoy for many years to come! Of course, you'd expect that with new ideas some old traditions are bound to be left behind, but I want to assure everyone that this will not be the case.

In regard to fixing old traditions, the Black Hand seems to be mostly made up of members of the varsity sports teams and are only able to lead their fellow players on the field, Don't get me wrong, we need strong leadership on the

field but what we also really need is strong leadership in the stands. The few who inspire the crowd to chant all of our original battle cries should be recognized for their leadership as well. So my second motion is this: I will make sure that the Black Hand has dedicated leaders who will lead pep rallies and chants in the stands for all sports. And this applies to more than just football. I want to see a better turnout at our games in the Winter and Spring too and reward you for your participation.

With this in mind, I will have more school events such as tournaments and after-parties throughout the school year. I plan to have at least three more after parties in the winter, including the first-ever official student tailgate before a soccer game so we can cheer for the team! Along with the parties, I will start hosting competitions during half time that will give out prizes, such as enough money to buy your Whataburger after the game. We should be a united stu-

dent body, and we need to make sure SPC schools know that we are the best school in the conference both at home and at their fields. That starts with filling the stands with the largest number of loud fans this side of the Rio Grande.

My final promise to you all is my biggest one. I would like to start investing time, resources, and money in sponsoring new clubs for the Upper School. These clubs can be of any interest or purpose. Those interests may be a Ping Pong club, a book club, or even a Super Smash Brothers club. The more you guys show interest in something, the more student council will work to get it off the ground. We only ask that clubs have at least four members when first founded, have a teacher sponsor for the club, (which the council will gladly assist you in finding), and can host a workshop, discussion, or event that students are invited to attend or help participate in. To help start-up interest in these clubs, I will dedicate one Friday, once Homecoming

is over, to host a School Club fair. This way new upper schoolers, and those of you who decide you want a change a pace, can go see all the clubs Cistercian has to offer and start getting involved in their activities, as well as asking to start a new club if there are no clubs to your liking. Clubs can be founded at any time, so do not worry if you can't get one off the ground at the fair.

With the new decade ahead of us, I hope to have started a new era of Cistercian life for all of its students and community members, with changes being made that can become lasting traditions. You all gave me this responsibility, and I promise I will not let you down. You all come first, and if any one of you has a question, comment, or concern, please tell one of your student council representatives or me personally, and we will act on them immediately. I'm very excited for the year to come, and I hope that I have shown you all enough that you share that excitement with me!

Sincerely Yours,

AJ Sklar, Student Body President