

The Cistercian Informer

Volume 51 | Issue 3 | November 2019

www.CistercianInformer.com

Newsline

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL: Garbage Guru

The Garbage Guru has more garbage for you



IN NEST: Informer Rates

The Informer rates the best Thanksgiving break activities



IN NEWS: The Impeachment

Due process? Witch hunt? Will Trump be Impeached?



IN SPORTS: Varsity Soccer

Varsity Soccer has started their season off strong!



IN ARTS: Ranking the Jokers

How does Joaquin Phoenix compare to other famous Jokers?



Responding to the Bubble

Joseph Spak & Mark Van Kirk, '21

This article is an editorial, and its views reflect the views of the authors, but not necessarily the whole student body

SPAK: Racial and ethnic diversity is not something to be considered when evaluating the intellectual community of a school. What we should be looking at instead is diversity of thought, the real catalyst for discussion and fruitful pursuit of truth. In the article "The Cistercian Bubble," Ethan Ramchandani proposes that due to a perceived lack of racial diversity, Cistercian is unable to thrive as a bastion of free thinking and a haven of enlightened debate. However, what he fails to realize is that the color of one's skin is not the sole factor that determines one's beliefs. Not all people who are white have the same beliefs, so why does it hold that all people of a different race have the same beliefs? Ramchandani claims that racial diversity is necessary for the diversity of thought that we should seek. It thus follows that a student's race would be factored



in during the admissions process. But, by nature, such a process would be racist. Judging applicants on the color of their skin and not on the content of their character is a clear violation of their basic human rights. We cannot adopt a system that prioritizes this violation of human rights. It doesn't matter whether a student is black or white

or green or purple. All applicants should be given the opportunity to compete on the same playing field.

VAN KIRK: One of the intended consequences of the founding of Cistercian was to have a large number of students who share the same religious beliefs...

Continued on Page 4

Victory for Model UN

*Saish Satyal, '21,
who has started way
too much clubs*

Model UN is the hottest new club in Cistercian, and it is mind-blowing. It provides students an excellent opportunity to learn about new countries and to propose solutions to many of the problems facing the world today. A recent conference, the Dallas Area Model UN, presented students with a wide array of issues from the rebuilding of the United States after 9/11 to the problem of Somali piracy in the Indian Ocean. Each of our student participants was able to create his own solutions to these problems and eloquently write and present his proposals. One of the great benefits of Model UN is the new level of international awareness and understanding that it brings to our school. While many Cistercian students are knowledgeable about the domestic issues of our nation, students do not know enough when it comes to foreign policy. For example, when polling a group of twenty people

from across the high school, only eight knew that Canada had already held their national elections and that the liberal government had triumphed once again with Trudeau at the head. By joining Model UN, students will be able to expand their horizons and learn a lot about different crises that face the world, like the revolution unfolding in Hong Kong. This club also hones the critical-thinking skills of the students who participate and, with new challenges being thrown at them constantly, it is a great way to learn crisis management as well.

A great example of this is my committee at the Dallas Area Model UN Conference, the Crisis Committee, which handled the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 attacks on the USA. I was the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development at the time, Mel Martinez. In doing my research for the conference, I learned about the United States' general disaster response policies as well as the block grant that the HUD gave to the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation to rebuild Manhattan...

Continued on Page 3

INFORMER STAFF

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Calvin Step and Alex Smith

ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mateo Ramirez

SECTION EDITORS

The Nest: Saish Satyal

News: Ethan Ramchandani

The Arts: AJ Sklar

Sports: Chase Frutos

Middle School: Nate Stecklein

SUPPORT

Production: Nathan Paul

Digital: Ayden Kowalski

Copy Editor: Sam Sloan

Faculty Sponsor: Mr. Laurange

OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

Dominic Andrews, Truman Griffith, Tarun Senthil Kumar, and Cole Burke

FOLLOW US ON

Instagram @cistercian.informer

Twitter @informerhawks

YouTube @Cistercian Informer

Facebook @CistercianInformer

This Issue Sponsored by NAI Robert Lynn

BY THE NUMBERS

Number of Inches of Snow Texas Deserves

42.20

Number of Seniors Who Are Taking Physics

18

Number of Parts in a Father Paul Homily

5

Number of Miles Needed for a California-Hawaii Highway

2467

Number of Students Excited for Frozen II

2 FEW

School Days Left Until Christmas Break

2 MANY

The Garbage Guru

Mark Zuckerberg on Billionaires: “No One Deserves To Have That Much Money”

I want to be comforted by the fact that Mark Zuckerberg is feeling the Bern, I really do. A billionaire saying that he doesn’t deserve that much money should warm my cold, dead, socialist heart. However, when it comes to actually doing something about the problems that his site has been causing for America, Mark Zuckerberg has refused to respond properly. When confronted with the rapid spread of misinformation on his Facebook platform, he said that it’s “something we have to live with.” Spreading misinformation to cause panic is not protected by the First Amendment, which means that Mr. Zuckerberg is only unwilling to regulate his website because it would be too much of a hassle. He, of course, also doesn’t support Elizabeth Warren’s crack-downs on the technology industry to stop large companies like Facebook from stealing unsuspecting users’ information and selling it to companies like Cambridge Analytica. This article series is supposed to be mainly humorous, but Facebook and Mark Zuckerberg’s handling of

all of the problems that his site has is getting a bit too much.

Lindsey Graham prank called by Russians pretending to be Turkish defense minister

This news should also bring me great joy. Lindsey Graham getting pranked by two punk Russians pretending to be a high ranking member of the Turkish government is almost what I dream about. But, of course, those Russians are suspected to have ties to the Russian intelligence community, which probably isn’t great. What’s even worse is that Senator Graham revealed that his public support for the Kurds was fake and we see in a transcript of the phone call that he calls them a “threat” to Turkey. Once again, this article series is meant to be funny and it’s meant to help you keep your mind off of the more serious topics in the world. But the withdrawal of US troops, the betrayal of our Kurdish allies, the release of multiple ISIS prisoners, the raising of the black flag of ISIS

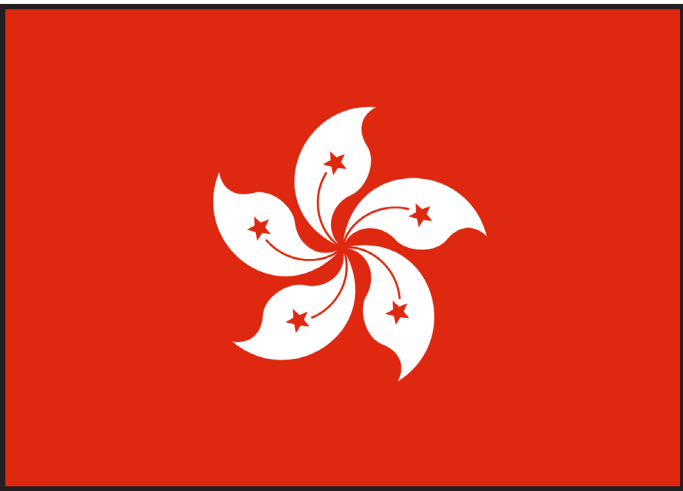


Photo By Patrick Kwan

in Syria once again, and the massacre/prospective genocide of the Kurds isn’t something to be taken lightly. When faced with genocide, history has shown that appeasement doesn’t work. If he can stand up for his views on US television, Lindsey Graham should, at the very least, not flip-flop on these beliefs when talking to a member of a foreign government.

CEO Who Inherited Position From Father Lashes Out at Lazy Millennials For Being Entitled and Expecting Handouts

This is pretty self explanatory. Hopefully it doesn’t hit too close to home for some of you.



Lucas Lopez, '24, who will fight for freedom

Over the course of the last few months, there have been a multitude of riots in the city of Hong Kong over the topic of the Extradition Bill. Hong Kong is a city with a convoluted history. Originally, the Chinese government ruled the city, but China lost the Opium Wars to the British, Hong Kong was given to the British for 99 years. Britain agreed to give it back as long as Hong Kong was made a Semi-Autonomous Region (SAR), meaning that while it was technically still a part of China, it has its own rights, government, police force, and many other things that set it apart from China. In 2047, the Hong Kong agreement

Hong Kong

will run out, and it will become a part of mainland China. The issue is that China isn’t waiting.

If put into place, the Extradition Bill would give China more power over Hong Kong. The bill entails that if you do something illegal in China and you go to Hong Kong, the government of China can take you from Hong Kong and bring you to their own courts for punishment. This bill was made because a man who lived in Hong Kong killed his pregnant wife in Taiwan, then returned to Hong Kong so he would be safe. Even if the bill has innocent intentions, it will have malicious consequences. The Chinese government has a loophole they can exploit; they can arrest people for “political reasons.” Free speech is illegal in China, so many people who have spoken up against the Chinese government have fled to Hong Kong to avoid a potential death sentence. The people of Hong Kong view this bill as absurd and have taken to the

streets about it. To them, it is about the preservation of their rights and their autonomy from the mainland. The term “riot” means something different in Hong Kong. I was in the city for one of the first riots, but instead of screaming masses and violence, the riot was a group of hundreds of thousands merely walking in the streets with their umbrellas out, right outside of my hotel. When I went to my room’s balcony to get a better view, all I could see was a sea of vibrant colors, without a word being uttered by anyone. The people didn’t want a fight, they wanted change. A few days after I left, another riot occurred. Unfortunately, the Hong Kong riot control unit resorted to attacking their own citizens and flooded the streets with tear gas and water cannons, but the people of Hong Kong have been trying to keep things as peaceful as they can. For example, on October 27th, one of the rioters pulled out a knife, and his fellow protesters stopped him from using it, not the police. The riots and protests have achieved some good though. The bill has been withdrawn, but the citizens are now fighting for their rights.

Model UN (cont'd)

...and stimulate the economy of the local area after the attack. My preparation allowed me to be confident and to know what I was talking about and introduce multiple resolutions and directives.

The beginning of our committee started at the point in time right after the plane hit the South Tower, back when it was assumed that this was an accident. As the day went on, the conference gradually evolved for us and devolved for the moderators into something that I thought was glorious. The moderators tried to create new, innovative crises for us to find creative solutions to. However, in an effort to end the committee early, we introduced (and passed) a directive that violated every American's 4th Amendment rights. Of course, once we realized we were able to pass blatantly unconstitutional directives, things got out of control. I won't go into too great detail, but the day ended with President Cheney and his cabinet passing multiple tax breaks, rebuilding lower Manhattan, toppling terrorist organizations, building Freedom Tower, razing

Trump Tower, and building Cheney Tower 2: Electric Boogaloo in its place. It was slightly comforting to know that we were tame compared to those in the UN Security Council who experienced the rise of the Second French Empire while trying to solve the problem of aggressive Somali pirates. I think it was rather fitting that Cistercian's first Model UN conference ended with our students changing the structure of the world in an extremely chaotic way.

Even in our most recent conference at Westlake Academy, the day started off with Cistercian students trying to deal with the Crisis in Kashmir and the growing Crisis in Venezuela. Everything seemed to be going smoothly until at 11:55 AM, the United States invaded Venezuela and at 12:03 PM, the Venezuelan Cabinet officially declared war on the United States. Of course, the war didn't bode well for Venezuela. With the initial element of surprise, our cabinet was able to call airstrikes on key oilfields in Texas, Alaska, and California to cripple the US war effort. However, in retaliation, the

USA bombed our official government buildings. The USA also launched a ground invasion into Venezuela and almost invaded the capital city of Caracas. As many delegates in my committee called for peace talks with the United States, I called for an escalation of war efforts. As Patrick Henry said, 'Give me Liberty or give me Death!' The day ended with China making an alliance with Venezuela and somehow taking over the entire world, except for the Indian subcontinent. The day also ended with every single one of our Cistercian delegates getting an award.

Technically, there isn't a way to "win" a Model UN conference; however, making sure that every one of delegates got an award counts as a total victory in my book. The best part is that this club is not just for those who like to speak, argue, and debate. It is for anyone that wants

to learn more about the world and help solve the world's problems. The conference was legitimately one of the most fun things I've ever attended and I was able to learn so much at the same time, which I did not expect. I highly recommend the club to anyone willing to put in the work, which is not even that much. Anyone who wants to go to conferences is allowed to go, and the only requirements are to be somewhat dedicated and to show up to the weekly Friday practices in the library from 2:45 to 4:30. Come join us!



Photo By Nathan Paul

Informers Rates: Thanksgiving Break



CATCHING UP ON HOMEWORK

There's no better way to spend Sunday of Thanksgiving Break than by sitting and crying at your desk because it's now 11PM and you haven't done any homework.

Enjoyment

Stress

Loneliness



EATING

Texas Penal Code Chapter 2, Paragraph 9 states "If your family member messes up the Thanksgiving meal, they can be arrested and tried for this crime. The punishment is 25 years in prison."

Enjoyment

Stress

Loneliness



BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING

There is nothing better than fighting off an 80 year old couple in a Walmart parking lot as they try to steal the 80-inch flatscreen that you bought for \$100. I'm not saying you SHOULD do this, I'm just saying it's terrifying and exhilarating.

Enjoyment

Stress

Loneliness

It Depends...



Responding to the Shapiro Article

Fr. Ambrose

Some years are better than others for the Cistercian Informer, depending on whether upperclassmen take the proverbial bull by the horns, build a solid editorial leadership team and strive to spur community-wide interest in the paper. It seems that this is one of the better years. When I look around the Form I classroom at 8:15am and see my students engrossed in its pages and opining about their favorite article, I'm happy about how the day is beginning.

I am also impressed that the editorial staff has been warmly receptive to teacher feedback, both in conversation and in writing. That they and their student contributors not only want to be heard but to engage others in the community besides their immediate peers seems to me something positive.

I mention this because I find it disappointing when people in a community, whether this one or others, can't gain enough traction or flat out interest to initiate calm, mutually respectful conversation

about real things that matter. Too often people remain silent through fear of judgement, mindlessly being labeled hateful, or because past experience cautions against pursuing a predictably fruitless endeavor. From the Christian point of view, we are called to be counter-cultural, and to learn how to listen and speak to others with charity and respect, even about "hot-button issues."

With that in mind, I will opine briefly about the Cistercian Bubble and Ben Shapiro articles from the last edition. Hats off to those authors for entering into the fray with their bold minority opinions. Quite honestly, I enjoyed the buzz around campus sparked by their rather provocative pieces.

The Cistercian Bubble article was never quite able to untangle itself from the question of diversity – as if that were the critical piece holding Cistercian back from becoming a welcoming place. The real problem that the author has to contend with is not that the students are limited by the school in the number of races or kinds of ideas that they are "exposed" to here. It is, rather, the constant struggle of learning how to engage others in discussion

without dismissing or disparaging them.

Keeping with the diversity question but tying it in with the Shapiro article, I agree completely with the author on this fact: we are all equal irrespective of our skin color. What that means, though, is that the most meaningful diversity has more to do with people's various life experiences – personally or in community, religiously and culturally, socio-economically. And diversity as an end in itself will not by itself lead us to a better community without also some unifying purpose around which we can gather and work together.

Shapiro can be a jerk at times, but as a matter of fairness, when anyone says boneheaded or immoral things and later clarifies or apologizes for them, as Shapiro has done on occasion, that should never be glossed over in a critical op-ed piece trying to influence others. Otherwise we are left with a carica-



Photo By Jon S

ture. Selective evidence makes for a weak argument.

On the attempt to undermine one's opponents, it is never the case that because they make one wrong argument, then their other arguments are invalid or not worth listening to. That's a kind of ad hominem logical fallacy. If Shapiro was wrong when he argued that the U.S. should have engaged Iran militarily, that has nothing to do with whether his arguments against abortion stand up to scrutiny.

I appreciate once again the opportunity to discuss cordially, and will conclude by allying myself further with one of the authors: that it is, in fact, a terrible idea to have a lightning rod as our commencement speaker.

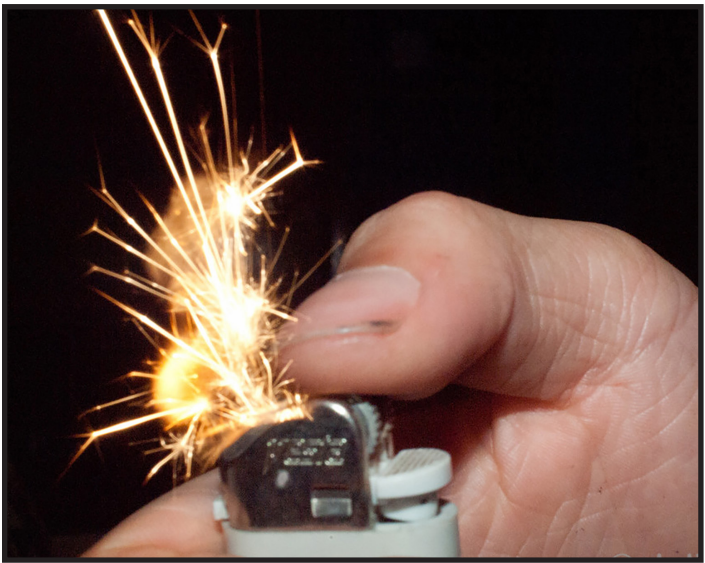


Photo By Julian Ng

...The monks from Hungary established the school so they could not only.. educate young men academically, but also spiritually in the Catholic faith. This shared faith allows for a more unified student body, which is not a weakness. Cistercian does not raise their students under a so-called "sheltered bubble" which isolates them from other viewpoints. The school actually exposes them to many other religions throughout their eight years as students, especially during history classes like World Civilizations.

SPAK: Now as for the claim that Cistercian fails to expose its students to other viewpoints, I could not disagree more with this statement. As a sophomore, not even in-

cluding the other years I have spent at Cistercian, I read the Communist Manifesto and had a round table discussion regarding it, read countless arguments and counterarguments for and against various theological positions, took part in a lively classroom debate regarding gender dysphoria, and much more. This very summer, every single junior had to read W. E. B. DuBois' famous The Souls of Black Folk, a highly acclaimed dissection of the discrimination towards blacks in the United States in the 20th century. At every step of the way, we had discussions over the various viewpoints we were being exposed to. In fact, the very existence of Ethan's article proves that at Cistercian, we welcome dissenting opinions and that we can discuss in pursuit of the truth. If Cistercian failed to show its students other opinions, would Ethan's opinion (which differs from most students' opinions) ever have been printed by the school-spon-

Bubble (cont'd)

sored newspaper on the front page and delivered to every desk in the school?

VAN KIRK: In "The Cistercian Bubble," Ethan Ramchandani hopes that Cistercian will accept more young students with different racial backgrounds and political beliefs. Although diversity by chance may be beneficial, I believe it would be unfair to favor one student over another simply because the student represents a racial minority. This would be as absurd as accepting more left-handed students to the school so that the number of left-handed and right-handed students is almost equal. As for political diversity, Ethan says, "We must strive to seek the truth, which in turn will help us understand the opinions and beliefs of others in their own pursuit of truth." The problem at Cistercian is not understanding others' opinions; it is agreeing with them. For example, one student said that refugees coming up from Central America should fix their countries instead of coming to the U.S. Although this reasoning is logical, Ethan thinks it is problematic that this student dismissed the possibility that the refugees

may have been more likely to die if they had stayed in Central America. I believe Ethan is addressing a problem here that does not exist. If he disagrees with what this student says, then clearly not everyone has the same viewpoint. Ethan seems to expect that someone who holds an opinion about something has taken into account all other opinions on the matter. I think it is good to know different opinions, but it is unreasonable to assume that everyone is aware of all sides. The Cistercian environment has and always will be open to hearing different opinions, and students should feel free to share their thoughts without the fear of being disregarded.

The opinions expressed in this articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Cistercian Informer.

Do you agree? Disagree? Come to an Informer meeting to see how you can respond to this piece!

Riot For Freedom

*Saish Satyal, '21,
who will also fight for freedom*

Writing an objective article is very difficult when speaking about the situation that has been unfurling in Hong Kong since March. It's difficult to not let a sense of awe creep into this article when speaking about the resilience and bravery of the Hong Kong citizens that continue to stand up for their rights, even in the face of a tyrannical government. The police have shot at civilians with rubber bullets, thrown tear gas at them, planted evidence on them, beaten them half to death with batons, held loaded guns to their heads, and used A.I. to systematically track down and arrest them. And yet, even though civil rights leaders like Jimmy Sham have had their heads bashed in by thugs with hammers, the citizens of Hong Kong persist in their protests for freedom. These brave citizens continue to protest, and the world should be united in cheering on such a noble cause.

The real tensions began in

2014 when students protested a new bill in the "Umbrella Revolution." This new bill would change the structure of the Hong Kong electoral system effectively allowing for the Chinese Communist Party to pre-screen the candidates for the position of Chief Executive of Hong Kong before they were presented to the public for elections. This violated the autonomy for Hong Kong that was negotiated by United Kingdom Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Ziyang in 1984. The island is still part of China's surveillance state, still gets to experience capitalism, and if a Chinese law violates Hong Kong's Basic Law, then that law wouldn't actually be put into effect for the citizens. Essentially, the Basic Law serves as Hong Kong's constitution and it gives the citizens of the island some basic rights and liberties that aren't offered on mainland China. This Basic Law also gives judges the ability to declare a new law "incompetent," which is the same thing as a United States federal judge ruling something "unconstitutional." These 2014 protests, unfortunately, were unable to change anything, but it made students much more aware of

the legal relations between Hong Kong and China and of their civil rights and liberties.

In 2019, an extradition bill was introduced in Hong Kong that would essentially force Hong Kong to extradite prisoners to mainland China, even if there were no extradition treaty in place currently. This would obviously set a dangerous precedent that violated Hong Kong's autonomy, since it would mean that a Hong Kong resident who went to China, spoke out against the government, and then returned to Hong Kong would be shipped back to China, processed in their courts of law, and punished according to mainland China's "justice" system. At the same time, any Chinese activist seeking refuge in Hong Kong would have been unable to do so and Hong Kong would be forced to ship them back to China to be put on trial. This bill was withdrawn on September 4th, but the citizens of Hong Kong are now fighting for four more demands: the



Photo By Studio Incendo

resignation of Carrie Lam (current Chief Executive of Hong Kong), independent inquiry into the horrific police brutality plaguing Hong Kong lately, a release of those who have been arrested for democracy, and greater democratic freedoms (like a surveillance-free state.)

When faced with this valiant history, it's no wonder that Americans are in awe of the bright fire of determination inside the heart of every Hong Kong protester when fighting police atrocities. The flame of Liberty has sparked something inside the people of Hong Kong and it seems to be growing into an inferno that will soon consume the island.



Photo By Michael Vadon

*Coby Scrudder, '21,
who just wants some
peace and quiet*

Right now, it seems like everyone is going crazy with impeachment mania. The Democrats in the house are trying to muster support to impeach the president and are also trying to get Republican support, and many early signs show that there may be enough support if the Democrats can get enough evidence. The main issue in the impeachment trial is Trump's phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. This transcript came out on September 26th after Trump agreed to declassify it completely. In this call, Trump asked Zelensky to look

into Joe Biden's involvement in getting a Ukrainian prosecutor fired. This prosecutor was looking into Biden's son Hunter and his involvement with the Ukrainian energy company Burisma. This company was under investigation for corruption. He also asked Ukraine for a favor in looking into possible DNC corruption in the 2016 election.

There are a couple of issues with what Trump did. First, Trump withheld \$400 million of military aid to Ukraine before the call with Zelensky. White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney says that this was done to make Ukraine investigate the possible DNC corruption in the 2016 election. However, many opponents of Trump argue that this was a quid pro quo for investigating Joe Biden and not the DNC. Second, he asked for an investigation into Joe Biden, a possible presidential opponent, and not into Hunter Biden. If Joe Biden is responsible for the investigation into Burisma

The Impeachment

getting stopped, then that investigation should be reopened, but Trump only asked for an investigation into Joe. Another problem in this is that Trump asked Zelensky to work with his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani. Since this apparently needed to be stated, it is not normal for a country to work with a President's personal lawyer.

Outside of this transcript, a couple of other key pieces of evidence have come out. One of these is a draft of a statement made by Trump's aides that was meant to be given to Zelensky. This statement would have made it clear that Trump wanted to have the Ukrainians investigate Joe Biden and his involvement with the 2016 election, which Trump believes was interfered with, just not by the Russians. Giuliani helped to write this statement and told the writing aides exactly what to tell the Ukrainian President to do. In addition to this concrete evidence, many witnesses have come forward as well. One of the biggest witnesses was William Taylor Jr., the head U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. He told impeachment prosecutors that Trump had withheld aid and refused a White House meeting with Ukraine until they would investigate Joe Biden.

This statement essentially refuted Trump's assertion that there was no quid pro quo with Ukraine for investigating Biden. Another witness, Gordon Sondland, a U.S. ambassador to the E.U., told investigators how Giuliani dealt with much of the foreign policy between the U.S. and Ukraine. Many other witnesses have come forward and objected to Trump's delegation of foreign policy to his personal lawyer and away from career diplomats. Currently, many members of the executive, including Trump, V.P. Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Giuliani are under subpoena from the House impeachment investigation, but they have denied these subpoenas. They claim that the impeachment inquiry is illegitimate, and they will not comply with the subpoenas, which is illegal.

Currently, support for impeachment is split partisan. However, many Republicans, have said that they would vote in favor of impeachment if there was enough evidence. They do not believe that there is enough, but given a couple more weeks, there may be. New evidence seems to come out every day and much of it could change the tide of the impeachment.

Varsity Basketball Preview

*Tarun Kumar and Cole Burk, '23,
who know
that teamwork
makes the dream work*

The Cistercian Varsity basketball team is coming off a very strong 2018-2019 season filled with big wins over Parish, Fort Worth Christian, and Grapevine Faith, along with an SPC tournament appearance. Building off last season's successes will be a challenge, however, as last year's senior-led team only returns one player to this year's squad. Tasked with this monumental challenge is Coach Dorn, the new Varsity head coach, who has a deep pool of talent to feature on the hardwood this season.

The Class of '20 brings Jack Schieferdecker, Timmy Ngo, and Anthony Peterman. Schief's Varsity experience and all-around ability playing the post makes him a threat to the opposition at all times. Watch out for plays designed to create mismatches for Schief, who played guard in Middle School, making him quicker than his defender. Timmy plays guard utilizing his smooth shooting mechanics and blistering

change of pace. He looks to contribute heavily to the scoring load. Anthony, also a guard, possesses a true 3-D mentality. Our seniors are sure to add leadership and versatility to the squad.

The bulk of the team comes from the Class of '21. Daniel Horlick and Aidan Smithson should form a crafty partnership in the backcourt while Sam Laber, David Cox, Aidan Chance, and Henry Parmenter will add depth and size to the frontcourt. "Danny Dimes" (Horlick) always makes the right play, whether he needs to facilitate, drive to the cup, or pull up from downtown. Smithson thrives best when he controls the pace of the game. He dreams at night about attacking defenders off the dribble at will. Sam and David, the Community Service reps for Form VII, aren't nearly as kind to their opponents on the court. Though hard to believe, they run the floor better than they run the pizza sale at lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Coach Dorn, one of their Community Service sponsors, is sure to play them in small-ball lineups due to their height and athleticism as forwards. Aidan Chance and Henry Parmenter, specimens

straight out the weight room, intimidate their opponents by dominating the paint, meeting shots at the rim, and snagging rebounds just for fun. They assert utter dominance when they step onto the court.

This year's freshman and sophomore classes are filled with talent. The freshman class has members such as Colby Mechem and Dan O'Toole who will contribute early and often at the varsity level for years to come. Colby Mechem is an athletic 6'1 all-around player with great ball handling, and Dikembe Mutombo-esque blocking skills. Dan O'Toole has arguably the smoothest shooting technique on the team, as well as the ability to make plays on his own. The sophomores will also add to this year's talent with players such as Oliver Currin and Eli Sanford. Currin is a true tank. Eli Sanford is tough and gritty, with driving skills and lock-down defensive prowess. This is something to look forward to now



Photo By Fr. Raphael

and for the future of our program. Besides the varsity studs in these classes, the JV team will be stacked with their fellow peers. JV A-team will be led by sophomores Matthew Martin and Alex Ardemagni, as well as a strong showing from the freshman class with Stephen Cox, Bryce Ardemagni, and Tarun Senthil Kumar. Watch out for the dangerous brother tandem of Bryce and Alex, with Bryce out at the wing and Alex pounding and bullying in the paint.

This year's basketball team has a bright and glorious season ahead of them. We hope to see the student body come support their Cistercian Hawks basketball team this year. Go Hawks!



Photo By Fr. Raphael

*Maxwell Vaughan, '21,
who is a vaughan again
soccer player*

After a very strong start to last year's season, the Hawks' finish left a bitter taste in the mouths of many players. The Hawks only lost three starting seniors from last year: Jimmy Garda, Anthony Farhat, and Samuel Hernandez. While Jimmy Garda's speed and Hernandez's aggressiveness will certainly be missed, soccer is a very adaptive sport and so the Hawks must adjust their style of play for the season to come.

I believe that the Hawks can adjust easily to a new style of play implemented by Coach Walsh.

Varsity Soccer Preview

Although speed helps, soccer is never won with speed. In previous years, the Hawks have relied on scrappy play and tough defending, and then quickly counterattacking. However, with the

loss of Jimmy Garda, long balls are not an option. The Hawks have to shift to a more direct style of play. In other words, they need more build-up and possession. This requires all eleven players on the field to be competent, calm, and smart on the ball. The majority of these players come from the Senior and Junior classes. Among these standout Seniors are center midfielder Reece Harrison, winger Evan Anderson, center midfielder Oscar Anderhub, and center-back Hogan Jones. Reece is one of the better players on the team and is very well-rounded. Evan has improved significantly over the offseason (specifically his dribbling and distribution) and has a dangerous left foot. Oscar is a physical, no-nonsense midfielder. He reads the game well

and knows where to be on the field. Hogan is a rock at the back and was a big part of the team's defensive success last year. In addition, Senior defenders Kyle Blessing and Stephan Salhab will return as starters. Kyle has years of experience as a forward and Stephan has learned how to play short passes.

The Junior class brings two returning starters: central midfielder Chase Frutos and forward Zain Dabbous. Chase is one of the best passers on the team and has a high soccer IQ as well. Zain is not necessarily known for his goal-scoring prowess, but is a classic example of a target forward: preferring to play with his back to goal and distributing to midfielders. Fellow Juniors Ben Woods and Maxwell Vaughan (both wingers) saw solid minutes last year coming off the bench. Ben, who has played forward throughout his soccer career, is a natural goal-scorer and finisher. Maxwell is not a flashy player, but he is versatile, as he can play center mid, too. Another Junior who saw decent minutes last year was Beto De Los Santos. He will be playing a more defensive role this year, making use of his physicality in the

back. Another key Junior will be defender Andrew Farhat. He is very comfortable with the ball and one of the more skilled players on the team. He has a very strong leg, and hopefully he can channel his inner Steven Gerrard and hit some 30 yard screamers.

Sophomore midfielder Jakob Quarles is another key piece from last year who will be returning. He may be small, but he makes up for this with excellent skill and solid passing. Sophomores Santi Ramirez and Masaki Fraccaroli will also return, and they have shown promise in unofficial practices over the summer. The last possible key piece of the team is Freshman attacker Diego Prida. Already one of the most skilled on the team, he wowed many of the upperclassmen over the summer.

All in all, it looks like the Hawks are set up for success this year with this new system and the multitude of players they have to play in it. On top of this, a solid non-conference schedule throughout the winter should prepare them for the conference games in January, and eventually the SPC Tournament in February.

Ranking the Jokers

*Calvin Step, '20,
who thinks Batman & Rob-
in is gravely underrated*

Everyone is talking about Joker. Ever since the controversial film was released, people have been debating its quality and weighing its merits. There's also the question being broached of how Joaquin Phoenix's portrayal stacks up compared to other famous interpretations of the character. The Informer has decided to join in on all the Joker fun and rank the portrayals from theatrically released films. So without further ado, let's start with the worst one:

7. **Jared Leto (*Suicide Squad*)**

We... we don't talk about him

6. **Zach Galifianakis (*The LEGO Batman Movie*)**

In a movie that is able to both completely mock yet still show its appreciation for Batman, Galifianakis is able to perfectly poke fun at Batman's obsession with the Joker and still have a little bit of (PG) craziness

that stays true to the character. He only suffers by virtue of being in one of the few Batman movies that cares more about its hero than its villain, and is therefore given less time to shine than in some of these others.

5. **Cesar Romero (*Batman: The Movie*)**

Romero is a great Joker for a '60s comedy version of Batman. This entire movie is just great, and Romero is part of an ensemble of villains that is able to be both funny and "menacing" when it needs to be. There's nothing much of substance, but the whole movie is great fun and Romero is having a blast playing him (even if that didn't mean he would be willing to shave his mustache for the role).

4. **Joaquin Phoenix (*Joker*)**

This one was a bit of a tossup. Joaquin Phoenix did a great job of doing something totally different and making it work. His Joker is not just a crazed individual, but a mentally ill, impoverished man who is driven over the edge of society. Ultimately, what made me put him a bit lower

on this ranking was the attempts to make his Joker a sympathetic character and the movie just not being as smart as it thinks it is, and not really diving into the issues at hand at all.

3. **Jack Nicholson (*Batman*)**

This performance is what initially immortalized the Joker in the public consciousness. Nicholson was able to capture the double-sided nature of the character, and his ability to hide his insanity while doing utterly crazy things until just the right time made his character a lot of fun to watch. It also helps that Tim Burton focused way more on the Joker, giving us lots of time to spend with him. It may not have helped the quality of the movies, but it certainly helped the audience see what a great job Nicholson was doing.

2. **Mark Hamill (*Batman: Mask of the Phantasm*)**



Photo By Minu Pilvankar

Batman: Mask of the Phantasm was a movie companion to the animated series in the '90s that bombed upon release. It is actually a very good movie, and one in which Mark Hamill reprises his role as the Joker. He is able to perfectly embody the character through his voice alone, creating the perfect laugh and vocals to match the tone that the movie series completely nailed. He is able to be fun yet despicable, weird and engrossing but still utterly unsympathetic. It is a cartoon, but it nails the character more than any other portrayal, other than...

1. **Heath Ledger (*The Dark Knight*)**

Duh



Photo By Raffael Dickreuter

*Ethan Ramchandani, '21,
who prefers to watch the Razzies
instead of the Oscars*

Movie award shows draw millions of viewers nationwide every year. The prospect of seeing the highest grossing films of the year competing for the top spot makes for an entertaining program. However, these awards hardly have the final word on the movie of the year. On multiple occasions, people become outraged over the recipients of these awards. This is because the public is not the determinant of the winners. The gross truth, however, is that the nominations committee's selections process is underhanded.

the award's voters as they make or break a movie's chances of obtaining an award. FYC campaigns assume multiple forms, from sending free copies of movies with certain gifts included to throwing parties where these voters can meet celebrities. Additionally, billboards scattered throughout LA serve to influence public opinion about who is and who isn't worthy of being a recipient.

These campaigns originated during the early years of these award shows. For example, during the 31st annual Oscars, John Wayne's *The Alamo* received lukewarm reviews on release. Chill Wills' acting was the only bright spot in an otherwise dull movie. Wayne attempted to capitalize on this as Wills scored a nomination for the best supporting actor.

FYC Campaigns

"For your consideration campaigns" (FYC campaigns) are a specific form of advertising that are border-line bribery. Every year, studios pool millions of dollars into these. These campaigns target

Wayne hired a publicist nicknamed 'Bow-Wow' to publish ads pushing for Wills' victory. Despite the failure of the ads, the spirit of the campaign formed and lasted into what it is today.

More recently, FYC campaigns have taken a political form with musicians and actors speaking up politically to gain traction with electors. Billboards displaying subliminal political messages are peppered all over major population centers.

Even actors take jabs at the practice. Denzel Washington, in one of his acceptance speeches, described one of these bribery throw-downs that took place. In his story, he recounts socializing and posing for pictures with the Oscar's electors. He punctuated his speech by comically mentioning he won the award that year. As mentioned before, millions of dollars are spent during these campaigns. However, they pay for themselves should they succeed. Just a nomination drives a sharp increase in box office earnings, far more than the money spent to get it there. A win boosts earnings by at least 35 million dollars.

Shockingly, Netflix gained traction through this very technique. Before their claim to fame, they were hardly taken seriously. They went through a long and expensive FYC campaign which ended with 3 Emmy awards under their belt. They bribed the neighborhoods of Emmy voters to display Netflix lawn signs. They even sent food trucks around the city, handing out free lunch. Campaigning clearly trumps quality.

However, there are wholesome consequences of these campaigns. Many movies that would barely see the light of day gain the recognition they deserve. This is the reason many nominees are not commonly known to the public.

Therefore, when watching these awards, it is important to take the victors lightly. While the nominations are not devoid of quality, they are not necessarily better than their competitors. When appreciating movies, personal preference dominates the opinions of others. Especially if those others choose under the influence of money.

24 - Best Thanksgiving Pie

27- Calvin is looking forward to seeing this sequel

hanksgiving

ACROSS

3

CROSSWORD

DOWN

11- This Disney Streaming Platform allows you to relive your childhood

22 - Zodiac for most of November

