

The Cistercian Informer

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Newsline

IN NEST: MLK Day of Service

Students take a day on to help their community



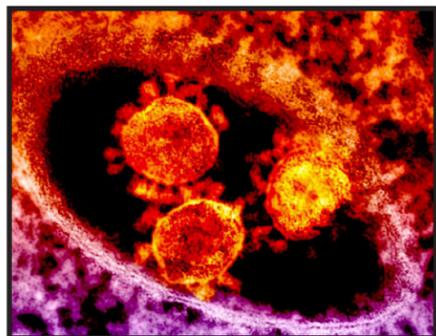
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One writer looks into the flaws in our law enforcement institutions



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Great films and performances were ignored by the Academy



The Sanitization of A Legacy

Saish Satyal '21

**This article is an editorial, and the views expressed within are those of the author and not necessarily those of Cistercian*

*or The Cistercian Informer.**

Livy said “The study of history is the best medicine for a sick mind.” The stories of our society’s formation shape the way we behave today. Yet, it is crucial that these stories are complete and not glorified tales that we tell to make ourselves feel better about who we were in the past. It is important to remember that Thomas Jefferson, though he wrote that “all men are created equal” also owned slaves, including his own children. It’s a strange thing to wrestle with, but it turns our 3rd president from a god-like figure for freedom into a man: a cowardly, brilliant

My Starving Children and Haberman who valued wealth and leisure over the basic rights of his fellow humans. Keeping that in mind, we celebrated Martin Luther King’s birthday on January 20th, a month ago. The reverend has become one of the most celebrated figures in civil rights history, with a statue in the National Mall dedicated to him and a federal holiday honoring him on his birthday. Schools like Cistercian honor his legacy by dedicating a Day of Service in which we go out and



help organizations such as Feed My Starving Children and Habitat For Humanity. However, his legacy is a complicated thing that has been simplified to “I Have A Dream” for most Americans. It’s ironic to see tweets from corporations and the US Government talking about honoring MLK’s legacy, when in reality, they hated him when he was alive in the 1960’s. The same is said for many Americans who sincerely believe that they would have stood up

and marched with him for justice and equality. If we’re being completely honest, that wouldn’t be true. Around the time of his death, MLK’s approval rating was in the low 30’s and many Americans, including black Americans, thought he was too radical. In the early 1960’s, he had been heralded as a moderate because of his outreach to white people in order to get the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed. But, in 1967, in a speech to the American Psychological Association . . .

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A Dramatic Interview with Mrs. Magill

Ayden Kowalski '21,
whose last interview didn't go to plan

This semester, Cistercian Theater will be putting on Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for its annual high school show. Directing this play is Cistercian’s new drama head, Mrs. Tasia Magill, who in addition to leading our theater runs her own multimedia arts center, called Arts Mission Oak Cliff. I managed to find some time just before a rehearsal to talk to her and learn what she loves about teaching theater and what she plans for Cistercian’s spring show.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

What initially got you into theater and then once you were into theater, what about it kept your interest there?

Awesome. I was in my first real play in fifth grade at St. Patrick Catholic School. I was Chorus Member Number 7, and I loved it because I got to be someone I wasn’t

and I got to be a part of a team, an ensemble. To me, that’s so important for a middle school human.

I got the bug then and kept doing it through high school and then didn’t pursue it in college initially, but then continued, and did get a degree in it in college. Working in it professionally has been so rewarding and exciting and as equally rewarding and exciting as teaching it because giving that bug to someone else is as thrilling as being on stage.

How did you make your way to Cistercian?

I first started teaching at St. Patrick because that was the church that I went to and my former principal, who was a nun, was leaving. Right before she left, my former drama teacher was also leaving, so she approached me one day at church and was like, “Hey, do you want a job?” I’d just been praying like, “I need a job because I’m a theater human and I want to be an actor and I need something to pay the bills,” so it was truly a little mini-miracle.

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Mrs. Magill (Cont' d)

I worked at St. Pat's for eight years and I loved it so much there. I only left because I started my own business, which is Arts Mission Oak Cliff, which is its own artist co-working and education space in Oak Cliff in an old church.

At the same time I left, my husband started working here at Cistercian. It was almost the same job I had left. When I was not teaching and pursuing something unknown, like entrepreneurship in the arts, I was really sad. Watching him work here was hard for me. I was totally jealous. I coveted his job. There were times that he really loved working here. He really loved the students and the faculty and everyone was great, but he was not really feeling like he was being called to be a teacher as strongly anymore. I felt that I was, so I was like, "I have plots to take your job."

Then we went into Father Paul's office one day when it was time for him to renew his contract and he was like, "Hey, I want to introduce you to my wife and she would like this job." He was like, "Great. Why don't you go downstairs and fill out some paperwork?"

That was that, now I'm here.

All right, now turning to Cistercian's theater, what was the thinking behind picking *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for your first play here?

I love Shakespeare. I have been teaching Shakespeare to high school students for 13 years. I was a part of a high school Shakespeare program. I think Shakespeare's one of the greatest storytellers. As my aesthetic has evolved as a theater artist, I'm really only interested in telling really great stories. I don't know that all theater is telling great stories, but Shakespeare, he got something right because we're still doing it and I love it.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, I feel like, is the most accessible and a great gateway Shakespeare to get you into the other ones. I want to do lots of Shakespeare here. I feel like this is a good one for people to be like, "Oh, yeah, okay. I don't feel dumb when I'm watching this. I don't feel dumb when I'm acting in this. I get it. I like it." You can do a lot with a little production-wise, as well. You can make a lot of bang for your buck, so I like

that, too.

What would you say to the students who aren't participating in theater, but who might be our potential audience members for the night of the show?

What would you say that they'll be coming to see? What would you say they will see that is spectacular and that might be really worth it, worth their time?

I think the most exciting thing for them is going to be seeing their classmates rise to the occasion where they may not have expected that from them. I think that goes for classmates and faculty members and everything. That's typically the feedback I get when the student body comes to see a show. They're like, "Oh, so and so? I never thought he could do that," or, "I never thought he'd be able to do this." I think that is exciting in and of itself. These are your friends taking on new roles that you would have never expected



Photo By Cistercian.org

them to do.

Then on top of that, don't be intimidated by the fact that it's Shakespeare. You will get it. You will get it because we are training in rehearsal every day to truly understand the text ourselves so that you will understand it as an audience member.

Then lastly, there's comedy, so much comedy, and magic. That is going to be enough to delight all audiences. Oh, and it's short, okay? You can still go out afterwards and have fun.

Catch Cistercian's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* March 26-28!



Photo By Luke Rain

Dominic Andrews '21, who would rather have a day on than a day off.

A Day of Service

las, the juniors, sophomores, and freshmen went to Feed My Starving Children, a Christian non-profit that makes and distributes hundreds of millions of meals each year to children that need it. At FMSC

we were first split up into teams and we all had different jobs. The largest group, and the one that I was in, was responsible for making all the meals. Not only was it fun to pack these meals, but you also got to do it with your friends. We packed a lot of meals all of which went to Uganda and given to children in need. In the afternoon the upper school split up into smaller groups and went and did community service for those in need in Dallas.

Seniors spent their morning at Hunger Busters, a non-profit that brings meals to kids at local schools. They created a huge assembly line to make the sandwiches that would be later packed up and sent out during the afternoon session. They also helped clean the building and even

to throw out moldy bread!

In the afternoon, a large group then went to the North Texas Food Bank, others went to Spokes for Folks, Dallas Ramps, and Habitat for Humanity. My group went to Habitat for Humanity where we built furniture for the ReStore where what we built would be sold to help pay for houses that Habitat builds. Many of the work can seem small but we are the base on which those in need can improve their lives. Our small effort helped hundreds of people.

This experience was very fruitful for many different reasons. First is that it helped people all over the world. Working at FMSC made me realize how lucky everyone here is. We live in a safe, prosperous nation with a lot of opportunities. We may never have imagined what it would be like to not be sure if we would have dinner that night and we certainly never worried about if we could make it to the next day. These things have never come up in our lives, but for these people finding food is a constant struggle. It filled me with sympathy for their plight and made what I did at FMSC even more powerful.

Because of our work, some children around the world don't have to worry about what is for dinner, but can instead focus on their future. FMSC is helping these children have a future where they can improve the world around them. Our work at FMSC is supposed to help those so they can begin to help themselves. Even in our prosperous nation, there is still a lot of work to be done. At Dallas Ramps, for example, they built ramps for people with disabilities. It fills me with a sense of fortune at being so lucky and it puts my own issues into context.

This day of service was not accidentally put on MLK day. MLK devoted much of his life to improving the world around him. His service to our country has had a profound effect on our own lives and because of his sacrifice, we live in a better world. Even though you may disagree with him on some things, his devotion to service and to the betterment of humanity is something that everybody can get behind, regardless of MLK's beliefs. I call on the whole student body to first reflect on your own life. No matter how bad things are, be grateful for what you have received.

Instead of spending MLK day all for ourselves the entire upper school body spread themselves around Dallas to do community service. The MLK day of service is one of the newer traditions at Cistercian, with our most recent day being only the fourth one ever for our school. It is unlike any other Monday, and serves as a nice break from the monotonous school day and the stress that comes with it. While the seniors went to Hunger Busters, an organization that makes and distributes meals to schools in Dal-

Sanitization (Cont' d)

... he said that “urban riots must now be recognized as durable social phenomena.” Though he deplored their violence, they were now an inevitable part of the fight for justice. The black man was still being marginalized and oppressed and, to Dr. King, a riot was an effective way to shock a white community into seeing reality.

There are those today who disregard Black Lives Matter for being a “violent organization” and who have gotten angry at Colin Kaepernick for peacefully kneeling during the national anthem. There are those who tell critics of American policy to “Move to another country” since they don’t like it here. In a word, there are those who are wholly opposed to change because in their eyes, America functions perfectly fine. For those same people to turn around and assume that they would have fought with MLK for equality is almost funny. Somehow, they fail to remember that he was an outspoken critic of the country that he loved. He consistently denounced the USA and its “imperialist” policies in Vietnam. He criticized our country for its racist institutions that continued to oppress the black

man. He was famously anti-capitalist and said things like, “One day we must ask the question, ‘Why are there 40 million poor people in America?’ And when you begin to ask that question, you begin to question the capitalistic economy.” There are also other Americans that choose to ignore the fact that Martin Luther King Jr. was a reverend and that many of his speeches centered around Christian ideals. He was not a purely political figure, as many secular leaders want to show him as.

In effect, we have butchered the true legacy of MLK to fit the vision of what we want him to be, while forgetting everything else about him. By choosing to only remember him as a man that called for unity and proclaimed his “Dream” to the world, we forget that he was a passionate preacher who also advocated for socialist and anti-imperialist policies after recognizing the vast inequality in America. By choosing to forget about the extreme resistance MLK faced on his fight for inequality from corporations and the government, we cut out crucial parts of the battle that he had to win. The origin of this butchering is unclear: it may be out

of shame for the actions of our forefathers or it may be because we don’t want disagreeable ideas to taint the image that we have of an American hero. But the effect is still the same: we sanitize his legacy and we turn MLK into something he’s

not. By choosing to forget about some facts like the FBI sending him a letter calling him a fraud and advising him to commit suicide, we erase a crucial part of the fight for freedom that he faced.

It is important to remember that MLK was hated in his time. Radicals thought he wasn’t going far enough, moderates thought he was going too far, young black people thought he was too preachy, etc. Multiple newspapers, like the New York Times, condemned him for not completely denouncing violence. A few months after the March on Washington, a poll found that 59% of Northern white Americans and 78% of Southern white Americans disapproved “of actions Negroes

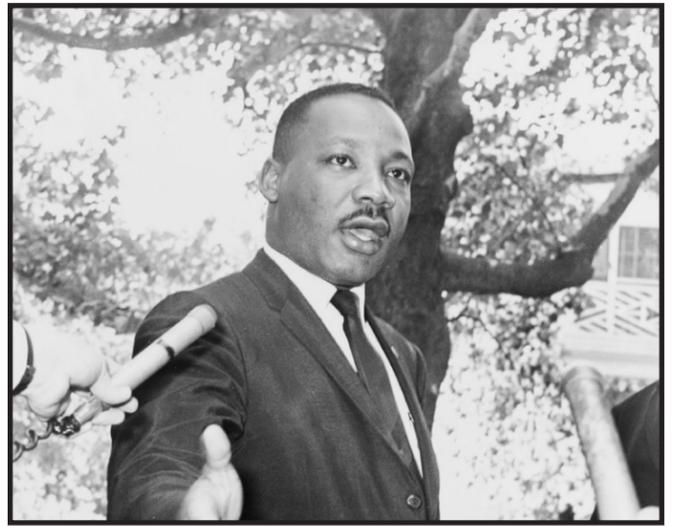


Photo By Pixaby

have taken to obtain civil rights.” A Gallup poll found that it wasn’t until 1995 that a majority of white American citizens supported interracial marriage between blacks and whites. Yet somehow, in 1999, MLK was voted the second most admired person in the 20th century (after Mother Theresa). This erasure of the legacy of MLK also hides the details of our country’s long struggle for civil rights. We have almost turned MLK into a deity, unable to be criticized, but in worshipping him, we hide his struggles, which means we lessen his achievements. By turning him into a legendary figure, we have made it difficult for Americans to really think about whether they would march with him or agree with him today.

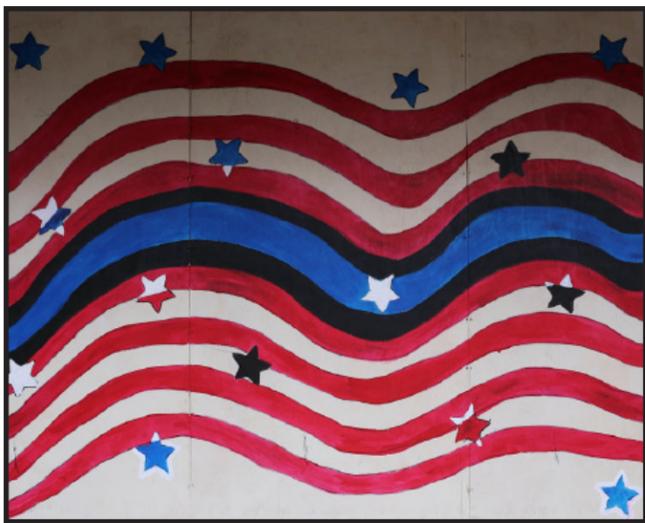


Photo By Paul Sableman

Evan O’Suilleabhain ‘21

Take a drive down any given highway in the great city of Dallas, and chances are you will see at least one bumper sticker bearing the words “Thin Blue Line” or “Blue Lives Matter.” These stickers all communicate the same general sentiment: “I stand with law enforcement, who have suddenly become an oppressed class because people are starting to question their reckless and often dangerous practices.”

The main problems with the American police force are terrifying power and low accountability. Officers can take the lives of anyone they want, even if they haven’t broken the

law, and as history has shown, they seldom face any consequences. The National Police Misconduct Reporting Project found that, for 3,238 criminal cases against cops, only 33 percent of them were convicted compared to 68 percent of defendants from the public.

This uncanny ability to dodge repercussions has been widely publicized with the deaths of Philando Castile, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, and others. More recently, an overeager Miami police force shot a hijacked UPS truck over 200 times, killing two civilians including the truck’s driver, who had been taken hostage. They endangered even more bystanders by using their cars as cover in the shootout. UPS thanked the officers in a now-deleted tweet. This ironic and befuddling instance seems to capture our country’s strange relationship with law enforcement. As a culture, we almost beg them to keep subjugating us. Kids today can walk into school with metal detectors and mandatory

The Glorified Blue Line

backpack searches and think nothing of it. According to the ACLU, we are living in a police state, one directly in conflict with the vision of “a well-regulated militia.”

The job can attract aggressive and power-hungry people. This is apparently proven by the staggering level at which police households suffer from physical abuse. Two separate studies found that at least 40% of police officer families experience domestic violence. This means that domestic violence is up to 4 times more likely in police families than in the average American household. This figure could be inaccurate as it may fail to account for violence among non-married partners.

Another trend in the police force is a compulsive need to be the victim. High-ranking police officials often throw around the phrase ‘war on police’ or claim that they’re ‘under attack.’ One Kansas police officer rather strangely fabricated a story that a McDonald’s employee wrote ‘pig’ on his cup. Yet, statistics from the Bureau of Labor indicate that a police officer’s job is actually relatively safe. The death rate for police is 12.6 per 100,000. Garbage men are three times more likely to die on

the job than police officers.

It is possible that a more aggressive police force can be attributed to the ‘warrior mentality’ that has been widely adopted in recent years. A large number of veterans become cops after returning home, and they may have brought their battle-hardened instincts with them. This mindset is reinforced by naming police missions things like ‘war on drugs,’ ‘war on crime,’ etc. The bumper sticker craze of the Punisher logo and Thin Blue Line solidifies the idea in officers’ minds that they are the final line of defense between order and anarchy, that they are protecting an ungrateful populace from oblivion.

It goes without saying that not all police officers are evil; they are human. However, the institution itself is deeply, deeply flawed, which begs the questions: Is the level of cop deification found in our society warranted? What type of culture are we creating by glorifying people who literally get away with murder? Can they ever go too far? This writer believes that it’s a discussion that needs to be had.

This article is an editorial, and the views expressed within are those of the author and not necessarily those of Cistercian or The Cistercian Informer.

BY THE NUMBERS



Calvin's Favorite Number

~~74~~ 21

Regular Season Losses for Varsity Soccer

0

Number of Jobs Coach Nevitt Currently Has

5

Number of Viewers of Super Bowl LIV

102×10^6

Amount of Clothing Worn at the Super Bowl

NOT MUCH

Number of Overused Jokes at Cistercian

2 MANY

Australia Burns

Ethan Ramchandani, '21,

This year saw the worst of the Australian bush fires, which continue to devastate the whole continent. Leaving well over a billion animals dead, including a third of the Koala population, and an uninhabitable wasteland in its wake, Australian volunteer firefighters are still working tirelessly to contain and hopefully subdue the flames.

These fires are caused naturally each year due to some natural phenomena like drought or a stray lightning strike, but climate change has caused these fires to worsen as the Australian outback has turned drier. The first fires were reported in late December 2019 around the Coopernook region of Australia on both sides of the Pacific Highway. From there, the fires spread quickly to every state in the country and killed 28 people, destroying homes, and wreaking havoc. As of today, approximately 8 million hectares have been ravaged by fires. As of January, the rain caused flash floods that continued the damage. As if that was not enough, golf ball-sized hail fell shortly after, destroying cars and furthering damaging to homes.

Much welcomed rain fell in January, helping contain the fires and providing relief to the heroic volunteers. However, there was a dark side to the rain. Eight million hectares worth of

ash were kicked up into the air and was quickly washed from the air, into the groundwater, which eventually found its way to the natural waterways. Hundreds of thousands of native fish suffered suffocation adding to the already heartbreaking number of dead animals. Wildlife conservation efforts are in full effect all over the country in an attempt to relocate animals to a better environment. Vets in Australia are being forced to euthanize badly burned animals as they have a slim chance of recovery. Recovery for Australia after the fires will be a long, uncertain road, and it is not even clear if the country will completely recover.

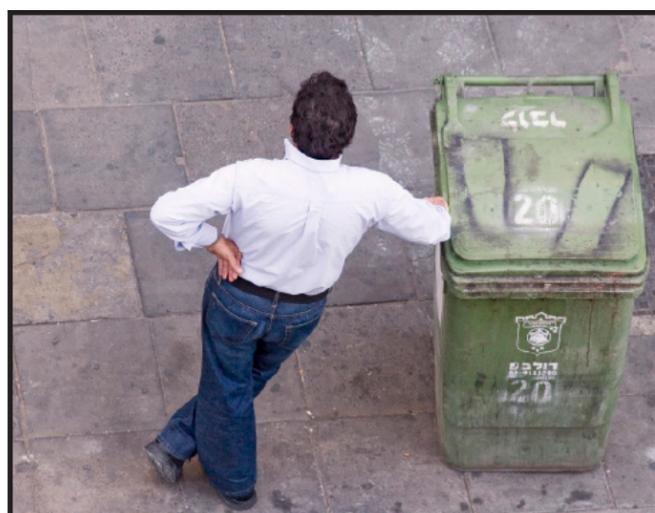
The air quality in Australia has taken a steep drop with the addition of ash and dust into the air.



Photo By the U.S. Department of Agriculture

The competitors of the 2020 Australia Open felt the effects of this during their matches. The air played a huge role in their performance, and some games were canceled due to breathing difficulties. An air quality protocol is in the works for the Open to avoid health risks since players have been pushing for safer matches.

Animals in Australia are in need of help from all of us. Donating money or supplies is a great way to help Australia's efforts. Hopefully, the world will see Australia as a warning and take action against the climate crisis to avoid any further disasters such as this.



Senators under Strict Orders to Pay Attention during weeks-long Impeachment Trial

I'm sorry, these orders are just insanely stupid. Are our senators children that need to be told to pay attention? Why do they need to be told this during a trial that determines whether or not our country's leader stays in office? They've been through high school history classes and a previous impeachment trial; they should know the social and political implications of a president getting removed. The only time I get told to "pay attention" is when I'm running on 2-3 hours of sleep and slipping in and out of consciousness in Theology class. My salary isn't paid by taxpayer dollars and I wasn't elected to serve the People.

Garbage Guru

They swore an oath in front of God to uphold the Constitution, and at a moment that could easily be classified as a Constitutional crisis, they need to be told to pay attention? The nature of their jobs isn't enough

to make them do that? The nationally televised hearing, the fact that the defendant is the "Leader of the Free World," and the fact that the judge is the Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court wasn't enough to make them pay attention? Chuck Schumer and Mitch McConnell had to do that? I'm sure many of them were planning to pay close attention to the facts anyway, but the fact that anything even similar to this order needed to be issued is disappointing and honestly disgraceful.

US Government unveils new, camouflaged Space Force Uniforms

There are just so many things wrong with this headline, it's hard to write about. So, why in

the name of all things good do we have a Space Force? Are we worried about the Galactic Empire? Are the aliens on the dark side of the moon such a terrifying threat that we need a branch of the US Military in space? I understand that the United States' whole "thing" is being the strongest military in the world, but there are people DYING because they can't afford insulin or because they don't have proper housing in the winter. Our nation is facing so many domestic problems, many of which boil down to a shrinking middle class and a growing wealth disparity in our nation, and instead of fixing that, we created a Space Force? Not only that, we decided to base our Space Force logo off of the Starfleet Command logo from Star Trek? America is boldly going where no man has gone before because the other men knew how stupid of a venture this was. Our defense budget is already trillions of dollars and we're adding more to it? It's also important to mention that NASA's funding is being cut almost every year! Truly, it's headlines like these that are convincing me that I live in a simulation.

What Happened In January

Saish Satyal, '21,
who writes too many articles

January 1st, 2020 was a relatively peaceful day that made those of us in America think that maybe this year wouldn't be so hectic. Many of us soon lost this sentiment after hearing about the devastating wildfires that are sweeping through Australia, killing millions of animals and displacing hundreds of thousands of people. Australia was forced to send its largest military deployment since WWII to combat these fires. Philanthropists from across the world and in Australia donated to help the cause, some doing more than others. Soon after the news about Australia started spreading, President Trump ordered the assassination of General Qassem Soleimani, the second most popular figure in Iran. Democrats and Republicans agreed that he was an enemy combatant that had to be taken out since he had killed hundreds of US soldiers (indirectly); however, the timing of the murder was hardly ideal. Iran mourned for three days

before promising revenge on the United States. They sent rockets into a US Air Base and though there were no casualties, approximately 50 US troops have been diagnosed with brain injuries (many of them being concussions). In response to their attack, the US fired some rockets back at an Iranian airbase. After all of Iran's blustering, there hasn't really much more activity in the region.

Back at home in the USA, Nancy Pelosi handed the articles of impeachment to the Senate and the trial of Donald J. Trump finally commenced. The entire debacle was riddled with controversy, though it is surprising what things are controversial. One of the main points of argument has been whether or not the Senate should be allowed to call witnesses at the trial. It seems to me, and it should seem painfully apparent to any other reader, that a criminal trial cannot function without witness testimony. One notable instance in the trial was Rand Paul walking out because the Chief Justice refused to read out his question that supposedly revealed the identity of the whistleblower. He exited the chambers and stated his question directly to reporters, though I'm not

sure how legal that was. He was forfeiting his Constitutional duty of being a juror during this trial and therefore, violating his oath to uphold the Constitution.

The Wuhan Coronavirus has been devastating to China with reports of rising death tolls pouring in every day. Recent news came out that the virus can be killed with alcohol and heat, though the heat required would also kill a human (146 degrees Fahrenheit). 56 million people have still been quarantined and countries have instituted travel bans.

After being faced with this panic for about a week, the world was shocked to hear about the death of basketball legend, Kobe Bryant, and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna Bryant. They both died in a helicopter crash due to poor flying conditions in Calabasas, California. Although he no longer played basketball, his devotion to and love for the sport touched many of those



Photo By Keith Allison

who watched him.

Staying out of major headlines, the country Myanmar was also found guilty by the UN of committing genocide against the Rohingya Muslims, who were forced to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. Yet, because of all of these major events, this news has flown under the radar. This persecution of Muslims has been perpetuated since 2017 and it continues until today.

And of course, to top it all off, Boris Johnson squeezed Brexit in at 5:00 PM on January 31st, at the last minute. So far, nothing catastrophic has happened to Britain's economy, so it seems things could go well, although that might be asking too much out of this year.



Photo By _freakwave_

Saish Satyal, '21

A new, rapidly-spreading virus in China has begun to gain worldwide attention. Its symptoms and effects can range from that of the common cold, pneumonia, or SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), to even death. This coronavirus in China is theorized to have originated in Wuhan as a result of citizens exchanging infected animals, such as bats. Another source of origin may have been a seafood market that also sold live animals. It has spread through sneezes, coughs, and physical contact. Normally, coronaviruses rarely gets passed on to humans from animals, and even if they do, it's not likely that a human can get another

human infected unless they maintain close contact. However, the Chinese Health Commission confirmed that this virus can be spread by human contact, which has caused panic across the globe. According to reports from the Chinese government, 60,000 people have contracted the virus and over 1000 have died (as of February 12th). China has quarantined an estimated 56 million people inside of its cities, but the disease has continued to spread rapidly to neighboring countries and now, to the United States. It should also be noted that the Chinese government shouldn't exactly be trusted, especially based on previous responses to diseases like this one. According to individual reports from doctors in Wuhan, the estimated number of infected actually reaches 100,000. Doctors and staff are severely overworked and there aren't enough hospital beds to treat the patients that are being admitted. Multiple

The Coronavirus Outbreak

videos have been posted on Chinese social media showing sick patients crowding the hallways, with many on the floor, and some of them already dead. Apparently, most of the victims won't be able to make it since doctors have been unable to treat them properly because of the massive amount of cases. Some Chinese doctors have been rejecting certain people that may have had the coronavirus, refusing to test many incoming patients, mainly classifying them as people with "severe pneumonia." Many doctors and nurses are vulnerable to being infected by the virus since they don't have the HAZMAT-level protective clothing required to shield against the disease. While some doctors have received those suits, most medical professionals are forced to work with only a surgical mask to cover themselves. Of course, the Chinese government has warned that the coronavirus is spreading faster and they expect the situation to get worse. As the world watches this horror unfold in China, many are afraid of a new global epidemic, akin to the Black Death or the Spanish Flu.

With the advancement of

modern technology and travel, the virus can spread further and faster than ever before. Many countries, including the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Canada have reported patients who have contracted the coronavirus. The fears of a global epidemic aren't unfounded, and with an infectious disease that presents itself like the common cold, the likelihood of people disregarding initial symptoms is very high. A viable vaccine has been estimated to be one year away, but we don't know how much the virus could mutate in that time. On a lighter note, Plague Inc. has experienced a rise in sales after reports of the virus.

Sadly, there is not much that is known at this time. We are still in the first stages of this disease, but chilling videos on social media, growing death reports, rumors of cover-up by the Chinese government, rapid spread of confirmed cases, and the severity of the disease are all things that must not be taken lightly. Unless swift preventative measures are taken to prohibit travel and quarantine China, like the world did with Ebola in Africa, who knows what may happen next.

Reds Breaking Records?

Maxwell Vaughan, '21, who has never watched a soccer game in his life.

With their 2-0 win at home against Manchester United, Liverpool has successfully accumulated 64 out of 66 points possible in the Premier League, which is a record among Europe's top five leagues. The Reds have had possibly the greatest start to a season in the entire history of soccer. While this is quite an impressive feat, there are two lofty records set by past Premier League sides that this team has to top in order to enter the League's pantheon.

Just two years ago, in the 2017-2018 season, Pep Guardiola led Manchester City to the league title. On the way, they became the first team with 100 points in a season, which is the most gained ever by a Premier League team. They finished the season with an impressive 32 wins, 4 draws, and 2 losses out of 38 games. In the 2003-2004 season, soccer icons Patrick Vieira and Thierry Henry led Arsenal F.C. to an undefeated season, the first since Preston North End in 1889.

Both of these records have been discussed non-stop by English soccer fans. Arsenal supporters remember their "Invincible" season, and the City squad of just a few years ago will certainly be discussed as one of the best teams in Premier League history. The current Liverpool team has a very solid chance at breaking either record or even both.

However, there are three main things that could lessen Liverpool's chances: fixture congestion, injury, and, of course, playing tough matches. Fixture congestion has already been a big problem for Liverpool so far, as they had to play a Club World Cup match and a League Cup match on the same day, and this could still be a problem for the Reds later in the year. With the FA Cup still ongoing, and the UEFA Champions League starting back up in mid-February, Jurgen Klopp's men could have some trouble with overuse injuries, as playing midweek games and weekend games are not exactly kind to the body. But there's one thing that Liverpool has that can easily combat fixture congestion and injury: some of the best squad depth in Europe. For example, early in this month, Klopp played a team

of mostly youngsters and backups against a full-strength Everton team and won 1-0.

Lastly, the Reds only have four games remaining against the top ten teams, one against tenth-place Southampton. Liverpool didn't have much trouble against them earlier in the year, winning 2-1. I don't see the Reds having much trouble at home against Southampton, but it is not a game to be taken lightly, as Southampton has beaten some solid teams like Leicester City, Chelsea, and Tottenham. Another one is against sixth-place Wolves. Fourth-place Chelsea could put up a fight, but I don't think it's likely Chelsea could win. At this point, the only team that could beat Liverpool would be Manchester City. Although Liverpool won the previous match 3-1, they by no means dominated. It will be a close match, and City could easily come out on top.

Now, there's one more game that I think has the highest chance

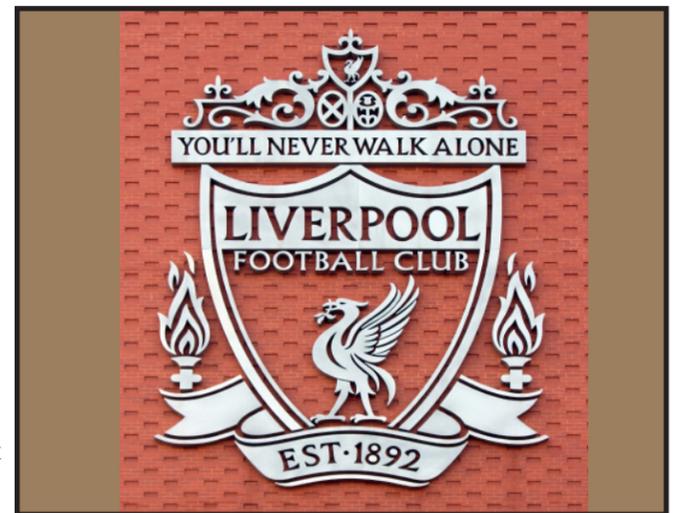


Photo By Rodhullandemu

of ruining Liverpool's hopes at an undefeated season. Three weeks before the end of the season, Liverpool will travel to London to play Arsenal. Although Arsenal is having an abysmal season by club standards, sitting in 12th place at the moment, they will no doubt be inspired by their record-setting predecessors and the roaring crowd behind them to stop Liverpool's unbeaten run. All in all, unless they don't win the league by some miracle, this will be a successful season for Liverpool. Winning the league is certainly more important than these two records. With that being said, they could be a legendary team if they managed to break one or both of them.



Photo By Keith Allison

Tarun Senthil Kumar and Cole Burk, '23, who are tired of heartbreak.

Jason Garrett is Gone

a few "quality" years, including 2016 when his team sported a 13-3 record. Before the 2019 season started, Dallas had Super Bowl aspirations. However, fans and pundits alike wondered

whether Garrett would hinder his team's ability to reach their full potential. They started off strong, but heartbreak for their fans was lying in wait. Lacking the leadership from the top to instill resilience into the NFL's youngest roster, the Cowboys fell apart. They were being outmatched in the first half of games week by week while playing catch up in the second half to no avail. Not only did they fool their supporters, but they even deceived the statisticians, gathering enough "garbage time" yards to lead the league in total offensive yards. Garrett's fate was nearly decided by an absolutely horrendous Thanksgiving showing against Buffalo. After missing the playoffs, owner Jerry Jones reluctantly decided to pull the trigger.

Now that Garrett has moved

to New York, who will be next in line to try to restore this iconic franchise to their 90's glory? Wait no longer, Cowboy Nation, that man is Mike McCarthy. McCarthy is the former coach of the Green Bay Packers, the bane of the Dallas Cowboys' existence for the past decade. A clear upgrade over his predecessor, Coach McCarthy has experience in leading a historically dominant franchise to a Super Bowl win. Since assuming Head Coach responsibilities in Green Bay, McCarthy has obtained an accomplished win percentage of 61.8%. An offensive-minded coach is only as good as the quarterbacks he works with. McCarthy was the Quarterbacks Coach for Brett Favre in his first stint with the Packers for the 1999 season, and has succeeded with Aaron Rodgers to a degree. While Rodgers' play on the field is viewed as special, his relationship with his coach is not. Rodgers eventually prodded the front office to fire McCarthy in 2018.

In his year off, McCarthy specifically did film sessions to study the latest offensive analytics trends to keep his football mind evolving and sharp. When asked what the ex-

pectations for his new team in 2020 were, he replied that he was "eager and anxious" to lead the Cowboys to the Super Bowl.

With a new Head Coach came an almost entirely new staff, with Kellen Moore (Offensive Coordinator) being the only key returning member of last year's staff. Notable hirings include Mike Nolan (Defensive Coordinator) and Maurice Linguist (Secondary Coach). Also, the expiring contracts of Dak Prescott (quarterback), Amari Cooper (receiver), Byron Jones (corner), and Robert Quinn (defensive end) are major concerns.

Dallas is projected to have cap space of upwards of 80 million, and the front office has to decide whether to commit long-term to certain players or not. The option of trading is even available as multiple rumors surrounding the acquisition of All-Pro safety Jamal Adams from the Jets continue to surface. With the reputation of "America's Team" hanging in the balance this summer, a Super Bowl seems to be the only way to justify recent off-season moves. Welcome to Dallas Mike McCarthy.

To their fans' delight, the Dallas Cowboys have decided to part ways with Head Coach Jason Garrett at long last. Garrett, with only two playoff wins to show over ten years, has wasted the numerous careers of Cowboy greats such as Jason Witten, Tony Romo, and Dez Bryant. There was a blatantly obvious and constant theme in the "Garrett" era over the years: mediocrity. After taking over as the full-time Head Coach in 2010, Garrett went 8-8 three seasons in a row, along with a 9-7 record a few years after. He strung together

The Importance of Comedians

Thomas Leahy, 21, who is really funny. Trust me.

At the 2020 Golden Globes Awards, comedian Ricky Gervais, the host of the show, openly criticized and made several off-color jokes at the expense of Hollywood's biggest stars. Gervais, who has hosted the awards show five times before, stated that he "didn't care anymore" and proceeded to make several jokes intended to get a rise out of celebrities who already think too highly of themselves. Gervais touched on topics that typically are kept quiet by members of the movie industry including jokes about the Harvey Weinstein sexual assault scandal and the College Cheating Scheme perpetrated by some of the industry's most notable names in 2019. Gervais has since refused to apologize for his remarks since they were after all "just jokes".

Comedy is a subjective art, and what different groups of people find funny depends on their culture and the context of the jokes being told. As society has become more progressive and the idea of "political correctness" has become such an

important message for public figures to push, many comedians have been edged out of the spotlight simply due to their jokes being deemed too mean-spirited or too edgy by mainstream media. Comedians such as Dave Chapelle, Bill Burr, and Ricky Gervais have always been known to push the envelope as far as the subject matters of their jokes and often express their apathy for the new rules of "political correctness". Chapelle and Burr have both tackled "Cancel Culture": a phenomenon that has overtaken social media apps such as Twitter in which actors, athletes, or social media Influencers can have their entire careers ended due to a minor mistake or an offensive statement from the past. Often times when a celebrity is "canceled", an ensuing #ThisPersonIsOverParty begins trending. This creates a piling on effect and most people join in on bashing the individual without knowing the full story. For instance, comedian Kevin Hart was forced to step down as the host of the Oscars in 2018 due to homophobic tweets from 2009. Hart promptly apologized for his former remarks. Many of Hart's peers, as well as other comedians, came to his

defense saying that Hart should not be judged in 2018 for a series of jokes he made in 2009. It was clear that Hart had changed his viewpoints and the tweets did not reflect his character.

Both Chapelle and Burr targeted "Cancel Culture" in their recent comedy specials: *Sticks and Stones* and *Paper Tiger* respectively. Chapelle intentionally made controversial topics the center of his jokes in order to get a rise out of sensitive critics whom he was critiquing. With jokes about topics ranging from transgender people to Michael Jackson and R. Kelly, Chapelle succeeded in his goal. His special received a 35% from Rotten Tomatoes staff yet a 99% from audience members. The negative reviews of industry critics only proved Chapelle's point that people are too sensitive and will refuse to see the humor in something if it offends them. Similarly, Burr held nothing back in his special. He made jokes about subjects such as Michelle Obama's book

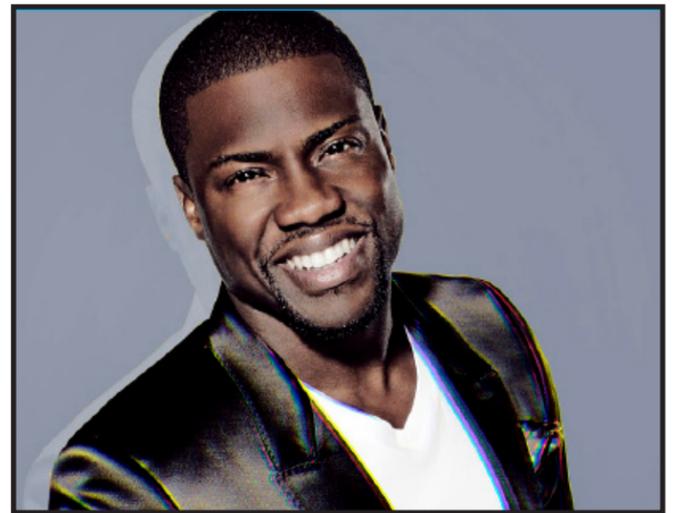


Photo By celebrityabc

tour, male feminists, and transgender people in his typical disgruntled manner. The title of his special, *Paper Tiger*, is a commentary on how people today see people's words as a frightening thing but in reality, they are just words that cannot do that much harm in the long run.

Comedians play an important role in society. Comedy helps the world heal and if comedians cannot make jokes about touchy topics, then there will be no opportunity to move on. It is another way for people to express their opinion and comedians should not be silenced just because their views differ from the status quo.

This article is an opinion piece, and the views expressed within are those of the author and not necessarily those of Cistercian or The Cistercian Informer.



Photo By STX Entertainment

Calvin Step, '20, who was disappointed by the Academy overlooking Cats

Another year, another awards season has come and gone. *Parasite* took home (a very well deserved) Best Picture trophy, and many good films took home big awards. But as always, there are still many major snubs for very high profile movies. We'll be looking back at movies and people that, even if they couldn't win, at least deserved the honor of a nomination:

Best Picture - *Knives Out*

Knives Out received stellar reviews ever since it premiered at the Toron-

to Film Festival in September, and it has been an audience favorite since it went wide in November. The movie is a very entertaining and very smart mystery that is able to play to and subvert expectations in all the right ways. This snub is made all the more infuriating because the rules state that up to ten films can be nominated, but only nine were nominated for Best Picture this year. The Academy needs to return to the system for forcing it's members to choose ten nominees to allow movies like *Knives Out* to be nominated.

Best Director - Marielle Heller

A biopic about Mr. Rogers could've been the cheesiest, most sentimental movie possible. But Marielle Heller was able to utilize him to maximum effect in *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* by making him a supporting character and showing us the impact he has on the main characters around him. It also uses

Oscar Snubs: Not Again!

a fun and clever framing device that has the story unfold within an episode of Mr. Rogers' show. The movie itself is brilliant, and Marielle Heller deserves a lot of credit for how great it is and how she makes something new out of the biopic.

Best Actor - Roman Griffin Davis

Child acting is always dangerous. A lot of times, children cannot act. But sometimes, they are brilliant, and luckily for *Jojo Rabbit*, Roman Griffin Davis was more than up for the task. The movie had a tough tone to land, having to be a satire that is both funny and very sad when it needs to be. A large credit for the success in navigating that tone goes to the actors. Scarlett Johansson got the buzz, but Davis is the reason the movie works. He communicates Jojo's experience of realizing that everything he believed in is wrong and moving forward from there in an earnest, believable way.

Best Actress - Lupita Nyong'o & Awkwafina

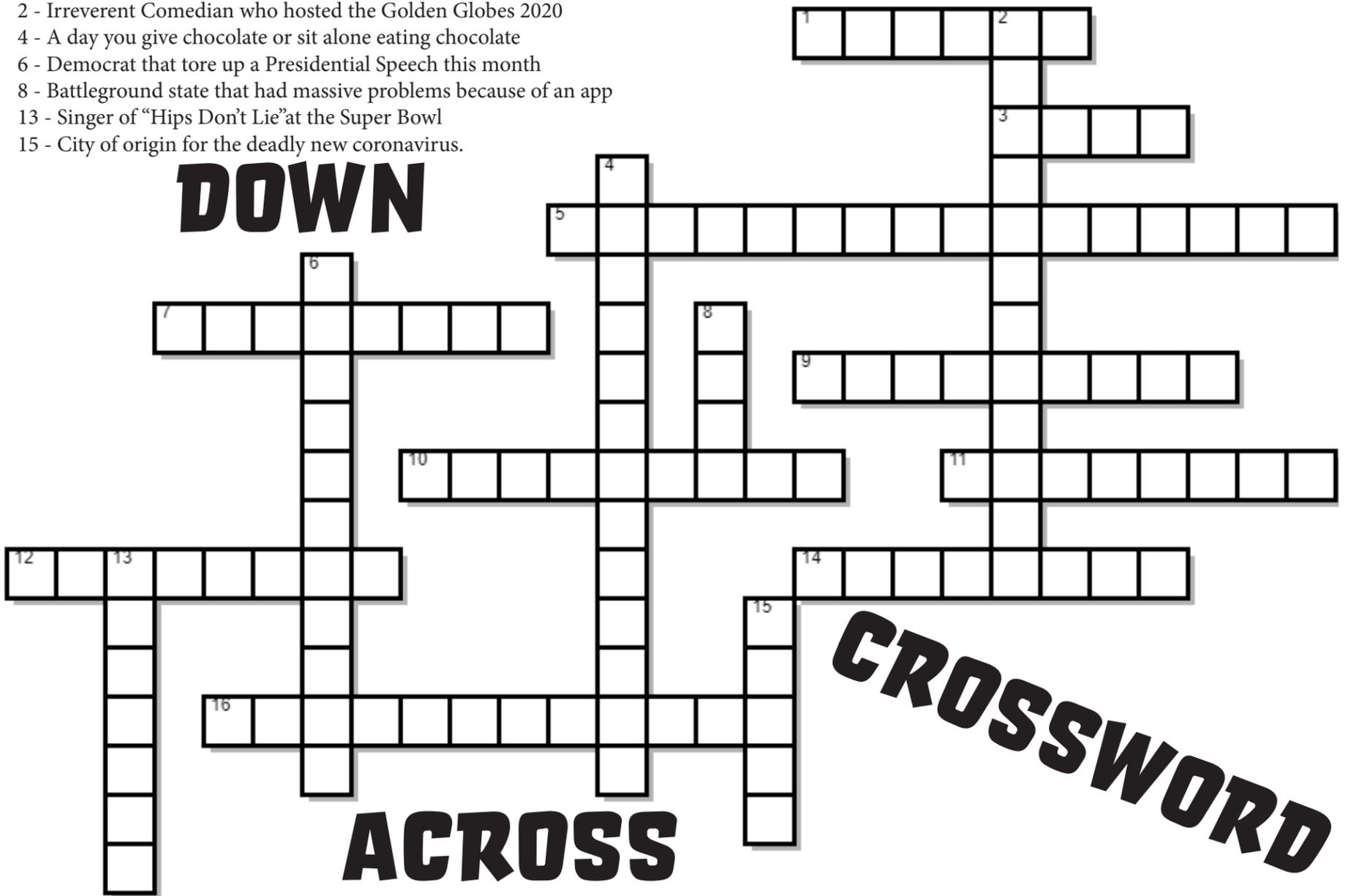
This is a tie, as both were horrendously snubbed for a nomination.

Nyong'o had a dual role in *Us* and gave each character it's own distinctive, terrifying personality that made the final twist all the more satisfying. It's also an incredibly physical performance that shows her dedication to her craft. Awkwafina is far more subtle in *The Farewell*, but that subtlety is a key to her character. She has to depict all the conflicting emotion that come with the lie she is living while also trying to spend the last moments she can with her grandmother. The scene where she tells Nai Nai goodbye is one of the best of the year. Both of these actresses deserved more recognition for their work.

Best Supporting Actress - Jennifer Lopez

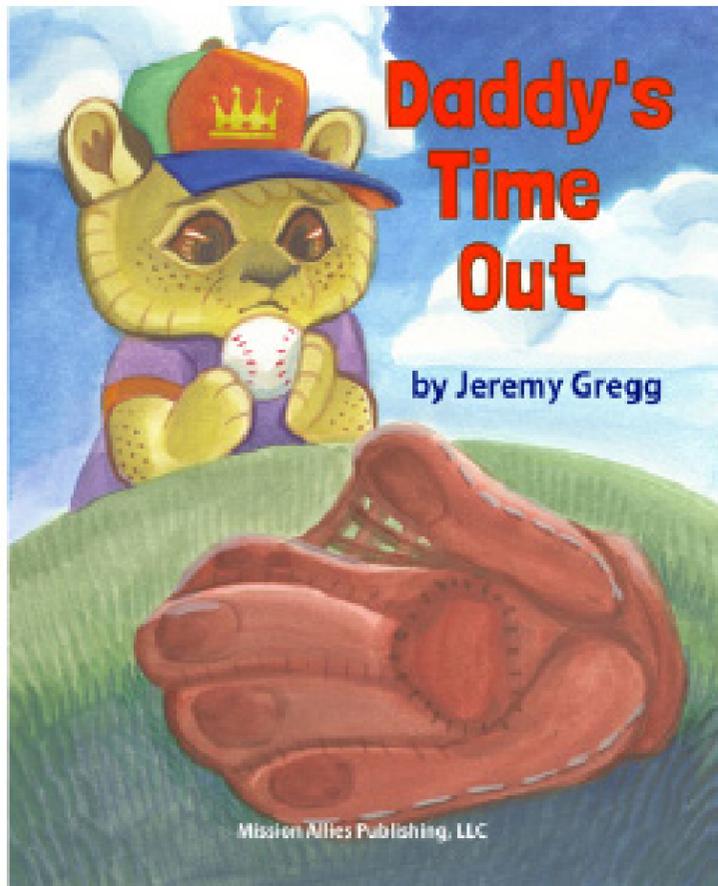
This was one of the most surprising snubs of the year, as Jlo is just that good as the mama bear of a group of dancers trying to get even. She becomes less and less redeemable as the movie goes along, but Lopez never resolves to making her a cliché villain. She explores all of Ramona's layers, and the multi-dimensional performance deserved recognition.

- 2 - Irreverent Comedian who hosted the Golden Globes 2020
- 4 - A day you give chocolate or sit alone eating chocolate
- 6 - Democrat that tore up a Presidential Speech this month
- 8 - Battleground state that had massive problems because of an app
- 13 - Singer of "Hips Don't Lie" at the Super Bowl
- 15 - City of origin for the deadly new coronavirus.



- 1 - A French "third place" that inspired sidewalk cafés in Philadelphia
- 3 - The worst movie to happen to the feline species since *Cats & Dogs 2*
- 5 - This team from Missouri won the Super Bowl
- 7 - Main Character of *To All The Boys I've Loved Before*
- 9 - Continent that is both on fire and also flooding at the same time
- 10 - Iranian general assassinated at the beginning of January

- 11 - Famous Civil Rights Leader assassinated in the 1960's
- 12 - Famous All-Black Institute from which the name sake "Airmen" originated
- 14 - Phenomenal South Korean film that won Best Picture
- 16 - Radio Host who received Presidential Medal of Freedom



"When I was a student at Cistercian, several teachers surely thought that I would end up in prison... but thankfully, I went as a volunteer, not a resident."

Jeremy Gregg, '97 has been volunteering in Texas prisons since 2007. He is now publishing a children's book called *Daddy's Time Out* to explain incarceration to the 2.7 million kids with a parent in prison. He is launching a Kickstarter this month to raise money to donate copies of his book to children in Big Brothers, Big Sisters whose fathers are incarcerated.

Invest in the campaign at www.DaddysTimeOut.com.

