

The Cistercian Informer

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Brought to you by experts in the field



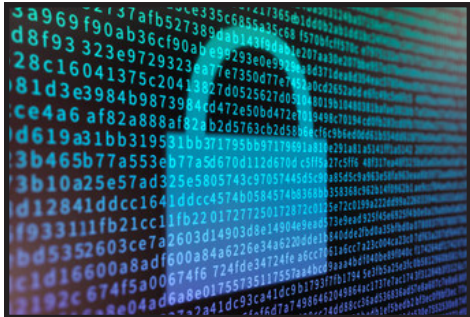
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Quarantine: A Warning

Joseph Spak, '21

We've been in quarantine since Spring Break. We've been doing online classes for weeks. We have to wear a mask to go to the grocery store. And many, many people are fed up with these restrictions on daily life. People are ironically rallying to petition the government to lift the quarantine. Protesters in Minnesota have been very publicly calling for a return to normalcy, demanding that they be given their rights back. Yet the simple truth is that we need to stay in quarantine.

I come at this issue from an interesting perspective. My father is an infectious disease specialist at Baylor in downtown Dallas. Every day I hear story after story of how gruesome the virus is. His stories are representative of those from every doctor on the front lines during this crisis. Doctors around the country see the effects of coronavirus firsthand and subsequently know that we have to stay in quarantine. We have to flatten the curve (i.e. spread out when infections occur so that hospitals are not overrun). Hence, the quarantine.

Despite the common public

sentiment that young people with no pre-existing health conditions are fine, doctors and health workers know that we simply don't know enough about COVID-19 to definitively say that young people are safe. Doctors are so afraid of transmitting the virus that they are going to extreme lengths to keep their young families safe. One doctor at Baylor University Medical Center has to sleep in his guest room and does not see his children. Another doctor has a unique routine when he gets home: working in the COVID-19 ward, he does not want to infect his wife and children. As a result, when he gets home, he cleans himself in the driveway using a rag and hot, soapy water to kill the virus on him. He puts his scrubs from that day at work in a bucket of hot, soapy water which he then stirs to ensure that whatever virus is still alive on the clothing is killed. These measures are the new reality in the lives of healthcare workers.

Their sacrifices are worthless if we lift the quarantine. Lifting the quarantine right now would be incredibly imprudent. Many argue that we should lift it because the daily increase in deaths is declining slightly and we should thus less-

en the protective measures we are taking. This argument, however, is incredibly flawed. Imagine a skydiver: he jumps out of the plane and needs to slow his descent. Naturally, he deploys his parachute. About halfway down, he realizes that he is going slower. But he would never decide to detach his parachute. Lifting the quarantine is the equivalent of detaching the parachute. We've already deployed the parachute by staying in quarantine. This lets us slow down, reflected by the decline in daily death increases. If we want to keep the parachute on, so we can return to life as we know it, we need to keep the quarantine in place. If the skydiver detaches his parachute, he dies. Similarly, if we lift the quarantine, there will be grave consequences for many people.

I implore everyone reading this to be responsible. Please stay home. When you do leave the house for groceries or other necessities, please wear a mask and practice social distancing. This will all be worth it. Lives will be saved if you can stick to the quarantine. And please don't call COVID-19 a hoax. Hoaxes don't overrun hospitals. COVID-19, however, will do just that if we prematurely lift the quarantine. Stay safe.

NFL Draft Analysis

By Maxwell Vaughan '21, Tarun S. Kumar '23, and Cole Burk '23, who are the NFL's first analyst therapists.

Maxwell Vaughan '21

1.) Cincinnati Bengals: Joe Burrow (QB, LSU)

Just about anyone could've seen this pick coming. The LSU quarterback threw for 5671 yards and 60 touchdowns on his way to a Heisman Trophy and a National Championship last year. He is certainly the most talented and pro-ready quarterback in this draft and is a no-brainer for the Bengals at number one. He stands at 6'3" and seems to make any throw he wants to. But, what makes Burrow special is his ability to extend plays when under pressure. In fact, when he was pressured and forced to improvise, his passer rating increased to 143.2 (via Sports Info Solutions). He can think and play on the fly, and he can sling the ball like no other. He is the future of the NFL and the Bengals' franchise.

2.) Washington Redskins: Chase Young (DE, Ohio State)

Chase Young is probably the best outright player in this draft. Arguably one of the most dominant college football players of all time, he registered 16.5 sacks and 21 tackles for loss in just 12 games. He's almost impossible to stop, unless he's double or triple teamed; he has the size, length, speed, power, technique to beat any offensive lineman he wants. It's a smart pick from the Redskins, and as a Cowboys fan, I dread the thought of having to face Young twice a year.

3.) Detroit Lions: Jeff Okudah (CB, Ohio State)

The Lions make a good pick in Jeff Okudah out of Ohio State. He is the best cornerback in this draft, and probably the most impressive cornerback prospect since Jalen Ramsey. Okudah can press receivers very effectively on the outside. He also loves to play physical and tackles well. Even though they just signed Desmond Trufant, another cornerback, he's on the tail end of his career. It's a logical pick for defensive-minded head coach Matt Patricia.

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Words From Cistercian

By Fr. Ambrose, Mr. Saliga and John Rehagen, '21

Fr. Ambrose

“Usually when you come down with a common, more historical sickness like the flu, you know what to expect. The unpredictability of Covid-19, however, has made it a challenge. Thankfully, the more-at-risk older Fathers are now out of the woods and recovering nicely. In my case, the symptoms, mostly fatigue and headache, were up and down. I either felt pretty good or lousy. My medicine was plenty of rest and vitamins for the body, and the love and prayers of you all. In my own family, and among my Form and the wider Cistercian community, I have always felt genuine care and friendship. I’ve encountered that in so many tangible ways during my 15 years as a monk but also in a really profound way the last several weeks – way more than I come close to deserving. From thoughtful notes, to variety popcorn, homemade cocoa Rice Krispies treats, and even a VR set to try, people have been exceedingly generous and thoughtful in tending to my needs and lifting my spirits. Included in that list is a happy dose of Zoom calls, even with a distant cousin I haven’t spoken with in 20 years! While I long to return to more normal days, I am forever grateful for these gifts in my life and extend a hearty THANK YOU to you all.”

John Rehagen '21

“For our robotics team, the start of social distance meant the breaking of many hearts on our team. After nine long weeks of designing, testing, and re-designing the robot, our season was over with just a single competition. Our competition in Dallas (which we had a good chance of winning), the state championship, and the world championship were all cancelled. After a long and arduous build season, it was abruptly cut short with a lot less payoff than we had hoped for. Everything we were working towards and looking forward to suddenly disappeared. However, we knew we couldn’t mourn forever. There was a pandemic at hand, we still had things to do. Our team leaders began researching what we could do, but we didn’t know what was exactly needed. We knew we wanted to make something that could protect those on the ‘front lines’ of this virus. Then we learned about a new type of PPE that was designed and could be produced by teams like ours. This ‘COVID-Box’ is used to intubate (and extubate) patients for ventilation and it’s made out of the same clear plastic that we use on our robots. Its purpose is to protect doctors from further exposure while dealing with critical patients. Once we heard about this, we quickly got back to work. After coordinating with the administration on how we could safely access the science building and with Dr. Vaughan on how many COVID boxes they needed, we were able to use our resources and swiftly build 3 of these boxes. Not only that, we also consulted Dr. Vaughan to build an appliance that can be used in people’s normal ovens to disinfect their masks. The COVID boxes have been at hospitals for several weeks now and we are currently distributing the disinfecting racks. Thanks to the help of the administration, the supporters of the school and our team, and the hard work of our members, we were able to turn an unfortunate situation into an opportunity to positively impact our local community.”

Mr. Saliga

“When we got the order to ‘Shelter in place,’ I bristled. I had no intention of ‘taking shelter’ during this, a prime opportunity to go on the offensive with life. I miss my students, but Zooming with them has been good. I’ve invited them to learn more humanely than ever while they are away from campus. My hope is that they see that learning is life and life is learning. ‘School’ is not a place... it’s a way. I mean, in my own case, I’m red lining it these days in and out of class --- reading, writing, praying lots --- but with more free time available, I’m hitting the kitchen like Guy Fieri, shooting hoops and daily flinging the disc, chucking bocce balls and swinging the croquet mallet like it’s 1977. And, if you could see me getting air on the trampoline, dealing cards, smacking the ping pong ball around, ridin’ bikes or playing hopscotch, you’d swear I lapped up the whole fountain of youth. Spending time with my kids is the highlight of any day, and so being ‘stuck’ at home with them makes me feel like el Rey de España. Hey, if the Corona fits, wear it! Yep, it’s good to be ‘da King!’”



Photo From Wikipedia Commons



Photo By Vocal Media

Noah Vetter '22, who is no longer bored in the house.

During this time when you are stuck inside, it is easy to wallow in your house without anything to do. If you want to be productive, you could just go online and find a series of optimistic and unrealistic suggestions that will make you feel bad for sleeping in and playing video games. With this article, though, I hope I can offer some suggestions that will reach my fellow students who are stuck with trudging through draining online school days followed by lazy afternoons at which point you feel too mentally tired from school-work. Since Cistercian will finish the fourth quarter electronically, it is important for the sake of one’s sanity to find ways to have fun while also being productive. The hardest part

of being productive, whether at the beginning of school or after, seems to be getting started on anything. To get the creative “juices” flowing, one could: **Do trick shots.** What kind of trick shot or what materials you use is up to you. I found that throwing ping-pong balls into a strategically placed solo cup does just fine. Not only does this get me invested in something, but it also is a good release after the boring day I’ve had. **Go outside.** Everyone has different access to outdoors activities so this varies by what you can do, but it feels good to be able to just think to yourself away from siblings or parents, or not think at all and blow off some steam. Whether you are exercising for athletics or just going on a walk, it feels good and keeps you in touch with nature. You can also bring along music for your activity. **Participate in some art.** It’s not about drawing or painting. You can totally skip this as an option if you are like the majority of high-schoolers who only look to art for an easy

What To Do

A in an elective. However, this is a great time to express your emotions creatively. You could just write words filling up a page by finding some markers (I’m sure they are somewhere). Once you’ve gotten school out of your system, you could plan out the course of your idea or just go headlong into it. It really just depends on what you want to do. Here are a few things for thought: **Read a book (or books).** Although this is a classic option, you could be creative with what genre or specific author you read. Find something interesting. The worst feeling is suffering through trying to read a dense book that you hate, and then feeling bad about yourself because it is considered a classic. The same goes for movies (and TV shows). Just watch what you enjoy. **Keep a journal.** I know very few people, especially males, keep journals, but nobody knows how important this will all be years later when you’re asked about what it was like during the coronavirus. This is a distinguishing mark on our generation, and it would be nice to be able to look back on this time through your own writing. Maybe you want to learn something with very little effort, or just have something in the background. Podcasts are a great option.

I never really listened to a series of podcasts before, but now I have the time to find one that I like. These are great for learning about sports, music, or history, and you’ll rarely find a podcast that is boring or too general. Of course there is FaceTime, Houseparty, or Zoom if you need to see some faces other than your parents’. Isolation can be a real problem, so it is healthy to talk to others, especially if you are in a small family. As much as it would be great to hang out with your friends, try to limit human contact outside of your family, not just for your own safety, but for the sake of other people’s health that you may inadvertently be endangering. And if you just want some family time, I’m sure your family has started breaking out Monopoly or Risk. Finally, there are specific hobbies that you may already be doing or want to pick up. You could try out an instrument, learn another language, build a model, or even go bird watching. For every person, there’s bound to be some hobby. I have often felt the “bleh” factor after the school day ends. However, there are still plenty of different things you can do during this quarantine, and if you can just keep yourself going after school ends, you may find this quarantine not so bad.

Not To Be

Ayden Kowalski, '21, who just happened to be in A Midsummer Night's Dream

The curtain opens to reveal Alex Banul ('20) alone at the center of the stage, his cello before him. Two black platforms stand above him on either side. Playing the stern, fearful servant to the king, I climb the platform and cue the music for the show to begin. From each side of the stage emerges one of the royals—the arrogant king of Athens, Theseus, embodied by the Informer's own Alex Smith ('21), and his unwilling and superior wife, Hippolyta. This is the opening night of A Midsummer Night's Dream, which would have been March 26, 2020—and which, as everyone else hunkering down at home knows, was not to be.

Many readers may wonder what A Midsummer Night's Dream is about. The answer is quite complicated, as there are three main storylines going on simultaneously, constantly crossing over each other. Put simply, the play takes place mostly in the woods, in which there are fairies (and a hobgoblin)

which are capable of magic, outside a mythological version of Athens ruled by Theseus. Two groups of people venture into these woods: a group of young romantics chasing love, and a group of clownish tradesmen trying to put together a play. At the same time, marital issues between the fairy king, played by Kaosi Unini ('20), and queen lead to the employment of the hobgoblin Puck, who Banul portrays, which ends up creating chaos for all three of these parties. By the end, the lovers find what they've been searching for, the tradesmen put on their terrible play, and the fairies stabilize their marriage through some rather questionable means. It's easier to follow than it may seem, a feat of both Shakespeare's timeless writing and the hard work of everyone involved in Cistercian's staging, from the actors, to the crew, and to the director, Cistercian's new drama head Mrs. Tasia Magill.

For over two months of rehearsals, everyone committed themselves to bringing the drama to life. The actors were diving into the depths of the people they were to play, finding Shakespeare's characters in our black box theater and

translating them in exciting ways. The running crew converted the stage to a forest and back again, even when the prop trees didn't want to cooperate. The tech crew set the mood from the sound booth. The seniors made an unexpected prop contribution for the finale that needs to be seen to be believed. Parents spent a Saturday morning working on the set, as well as taking turns chaperoning rehearsals. At the head of it all was Mrs. Magill, whose lively vision of modern Shakespeare remained at the heart of her direction.

Cistercian's A Midsummer Night's Dream may exist only for us, the creators, in the rehearsals that we had, but that is enough. Theater isn't just about the performance. Theater, like all art, is ultimately

about connection: connecting to one's own imagination, connecting to other times and places, and connecting to others both onstage and in the audience. What I will remember are the backstage conversations, the hilarious mistakes, the shining triumphs; simply put, just being part of a community. If the show had gone on, there is no doubt the Hawks would have seen something great. But what may be better than seeing a performance is being in one. A Midsummer Night's Dream had the largest cast of any Cistercian high school production I've been in. Let's fill the stage even more next year.



Photo From Wikimedia Commons

BY THE
NUMBERS
Number of unnecessary days of online school:
42
Number of feet you should be from someone!
6
Number of screens turned off during class:
2 MANY



Photo From Wikimedia Commons

Facial recognition can't tell black and brown people apart – but the police are using it anyway

This is facial recognition that's being used in London. Not sure I can say much else about it since this is clearly despicable and much harder to make fun of than Dennis Prager being a buffoon. This is going to affect real people and lead to a much greater percentage of black and brown people being harassed in the UK.

Florida troopers find narcotics in bag labeled 'Bag Full of Drugs'

These Florida troopers need to lay off these criminals. I'm terrible at organization, so I know that if I didn't label my drugs, I would definitely get them confused with my regular pantry ingredients. These criminals are just trying to keep everything

Garbage Guru

neat and tidy so that they can access their drugs and build their criminal empire a lot easier. I'm willing to bet these criminals didn't just shove their bad tests into their backpacks, but they put them in folders marked "Need To Improve." And when they inevitably didn't, they carried those same habits over with them to build their criminal empire.

Company releases "Politics Scented Candle" made from genuine horse poop: "Subtle notes of bu-reaucracy"

Whoever came up with this needs a raise and a corner office with large windows.

Avocado crime soars as Mexican gangs turn focus from opium to 'green gold'

Millennials are the root cause of society's problems. They're killing the diamond industry by not buying shiny rocks, they're killing our cable industry with their "superior streaming services," and now, because of their avocado toast obsession, they're causing vicious crime in Mexico. Crime in certain

avocado growing areas has gotten so bad that the police can't really patrol there anymore. As terrifying as this reality is, the fact that avocados are more profitable than opium has me in stitches.

Allegheny County judge repeatedly referred to Black juror as "Aunt Jemima"

Court is the worst place for your tongue to slip. That should be pretty self-explanatory, but apparently, this idiot of a judge can't grasp that. Also, if you're going to be racist (which you shouldn't be), don't be open about it! Also, don't be racist to someone's face, AND, AGAIN, DON'T DO IT IN COURT. This judge wasn't fired or really reprimanded. He was reassigned to a different county, which is another egregious act. We should be holding our public servants, especially those that uphold the laws of our nation, to a higher standard than everyone else. And if a normal person would get immediately fired for saying something like this, there should be some sort of rule in place making sure that a public servant gets fired as well, not merely relocated.

The Pro-Life Movement

Photo By Associated Press

Evan O'Suilleabhain, '21

One of the most important social and political questions of our generation is the abortion debate. This issue is especially relevant to the Cistercian community which, I am proud to say, has been a vocal proponent of Christian morality for longer than I've been alive. However, the pro-life movement could accomplish so much more if it extended its focus beyond abortion alone and tried to address some of the root causes of abortion as well. This broader scope, a focus on an overall more just society, could do wonders for this country and its moral compass. First, pro-lifers are obviously not a monolith. When I mention "the pro-life movement," I realize I am simplifying all the differing individual perspectives within the movement into the public face of the movement as depicted at major events such as the March for Life. Also, I don't mean to minimize the very tangible and profoundly positive impact that the pro-life movement has had on many women across the country. I simply think that this impact can be even greater.

A core problem with the contemporary pro-life movement lies not with its goals, but rather the means by which it tries to achieve those goals. The ultimate purpose of the movement is, of course, to end abortion. This goal is a noble one, and pro-lifers seek to accomplish it by shutting down all abortion clinics nationwide. However, this fails to take into account both the illegal abortions that would still take place, as well as the pressures that many women face that might lead them to consider abortion as their only option. If a woman is faced with (in her eyes) the impossibly heavy consequences of raising a child given her current circumstances, then by comparison, a perhaps difficult trip to a foreign country to get access to an abortion will still be an option that seems reasonable to her at that moment and so she will seek it out. Remember, we're trying to eliminate this evil entirely, not force it to a different country. While criminalizing abortion in the United States would sooth our collective conscience, knowing that the state is doing all it can to end the practice, it doesn't actually stop the problem. Some may think that, if a woman takes it upon herself to flee to Mexico to get her abortion, this is tragic, but there's nothing more we could have done to stop her. This is not true. A more effective approach would be

to also tackle the causes of abortions. In other words, the solution to abortion involves not just banning it outright, but improving those material conditions which drive women to seek it. This way, not just the ability, but the motivation to get an abortion will be gone.

In a 2005 survey by the Guttmacher Institute, 73% of the women surveyed said that their inability to afford a baby was a decisive factor in their choice to abort their child. The Guttmacher Institute also found in a 2016 study that nearly three quarters of women who receive abortions are of a low socioeconomic status, and 49% lie below the federal poverty line. It should be noted that the Guttmacher Institute seeks to defend abortion rights, but their figures and statistics, which are highly regarded by people on both sides of the debate, remain the most accurate on public record. Glen Harold Stassen, an ethics professor at Fuller Theological Seminary and an opponent to abortion, said regarding the Institute: "I affirm their methods and their study, and am grateful for their effort." Babies are expensive, and while their lives hold infinite God-given value, it is undeniable that they can be a significant economic burden on a new mother. You can't put a price on life, but the Department of Agriculture estimates that raising a child from birth through age 17 costs around \$233,000, or around \$14,000 annually. That's not considering the cost of actually having the baby, which is, on average, upwards of \$10,000. As the median annual income in the United States hovers around \$30,000, it's not hard to see why some women view the choice not as abortion or child, but as abortion or destitution (for both her and her newborn baby). New mothers don't receive much help, either. The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 mandated that new mothers receive 12 weeks of unpaid leave. Compare that to the 8 weeks of paid leave and up to 52 weeks of total leave offered by the United Kingdom's NHS. Ideally, no woman should suffer from such financial insecurity, but with resource distribution as lopsided as it is, that's the reality.

There's also the legal ramifications of poverty. The Institute for Policy Studies reports that "poor people, especially people of color, face a greater risk of being fined, arrested, and even incarcerated for minor offenses than other Americans. A broken taillight, an unpaid parking ticket, a minor drug offense, sitting on a sidewalk, or sleeping in



a park can result in jail time." Seeking to avoid homelessness, poverty, and incarceration, women may feel trapped and view abortion as the only way out. If all life from birth until natural death is truly valued in this country, then such predatory justice and healthcare systems would not be tolerated. In summary, the economic factors that contribute to abortions also contribute to many other evils. If the root of these issues were addressed, it would be a massive victory for the pro-life movement. It would be a victory for life in general.

Another significant roadblock for progress with the pro-life community is its political alignment within the (unfortunately) partisan era we live in today. Generally, pro-lifers hold allegiance to the right wing, whose strictly anti-abortion stance effectively compels most Christians to vote Republican, lest their tax dollars go towards Planned Parenthood. This is understandable. Yes – the Democratic Party platform definitely is anti-life, but there is ample evidence of policy standards by both parties that could be called anti-life. One need not look further than GOP Congressman Trey Hollingsworth of Indiana, who explicitly called loss of life due to COVID-19 "the lesser of two evils" when compared to the economy failing. President Trump himself has made it clear that he wishes to remove quarantine orders for the sake of the stock market. There's also the ICE border detention camps, which have become extremely dangerous because of their cramped conditions and the current pandemic. Even before then, the camps were a rather barbaric institution that was still fervently defended by the right wing. Republicans are traditionally supporters of the military-industrial

complex and the prison-industrial complex, two constructs which have done more to diminish the value of life in America than any abortion clinic could do. The Republican party's determination to end abortion is admirable, but why isn't this same stubborn, uncompromisingly pro-life energy extended to protesting assassinations of foreign leaders, civilian drone strikes, private prisons, and capital punishment? To be clear, Democrats are also pretty anti-life. Even beyond abortion, they support many of the same things I mention with Republicans (Soleimani's assassination, private prisons, etc.). As Ralph Nader said, "...the Democratic and Republican parties [are] two apparently distinct political entities feeding at the same corporate trough." Capturing the nuance of this is impossible in a relatively brief high school newspaper article, and I understand the moral dilemma that voters find themselves in when they go to vote. The way things are today, the two-party system offers Christian voters no real solutions. Perhaps we should be thinking about alternatives to electoral politics, but that's another discussion.

It cannot be stressed enough that I do not wish for the pro-life movement to cease its valuable work. Rather, I urge everyone that calls themselves pro-life to take a more comprehensive view of what it means to be an advocate for life, and address the root of the problem rather than a symptom. While the battle for a more just society may seem at times a losing one, I find myself coming back to one of the more optimistic verses in the Bible: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. Amen.

An Invasion of Privacy

Saish Satyal, '21, who hopes he won't be censored by the government because of this.

On March 5th, a date that feels like it was years ago, Senator Lindsey Graham (R) introduced a bill that he cosponsored with nine other senators (a mix of Republicans and Democrats) called the Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2020 (the EARN IT Act of 2020). This act calls for the establishment of a national commission, made up of nineteen members, that will assess and recommend “best practices” to the office of the Attorney General that should be put in place for companies to follow. If the AG approves, this list of recommendations will be put on the Department of Justice’s website and they will be sent to Congress to be made into a bill. Due to the obvious urgency of preventing child exploitation on the Internet (which is explicitly this bill’s purpose), it will be fast-tracked through the Senate and the House so it can be approved by President Trump. If this bill is made into law, companies must follow the recommendations on the bill to prevent child exploitation or face a whole host of liability lawsuits from consumers.

Currently, in the USA, you cannot hold a company liable because of something another user did, said, or posted on their website. To put in simpler terms, you can’t sue a company because someone posted something false, racist, or downright gruesome on their website since companies have difficulty controlling that. However, this new bill of recommendations would force companies to crack down on their censoring measures on posts relating to child exploitation by giving them a list of guidelines to follow. On the surface, that sounds great. It makes sure the Internet is a safer place for children to run around in, which is always good. Unfortunately, the potential that the EARN IT Act and its subsequent bill have make them dangerous to the rights of the American people.

The commission that the EARN IT Act appoints is made up of the Attorney General, the Secretary of the DHS, the Chairman of the FTC, and sixteen other members, usually experts in various fields of consumer protection, such as child exploitation, cybercrime, and data security. There will also be victims of child exploitation on the panel, lending a more humane perspective to the legal proceedings and debates. Once again, it all sounds great. However, the real problem lies in the possible list of recommendations that this commission will give to the Attorney General. It is a well-known fact that law enforcement officials are often stopped in their tracks by a thing called “end-to-end encryption.” This is the strong encryption that makes sure your texts and messages cannot be read by any random hacker. There are multiple incidents of law enforcement being unable to open phones with this encryption on them, thereby forcing private companies to help them through legal means (notably, the Apple-FBI standoff after the San Bernardino shooting). Given the known animosity towards

this kinds of encryption, the probability that this commission recommends a backdoor for law enforcement officials around end-to-end encryption is highly likely. The commission needs fourteen out of nineteen officials to vote in favor of that kind of measure for it to pass. This means that the four experts on the commission with actual cryptography, privacy, and constitutional experience can be easily outvoted on that kind of matter. If the end of end-to-end encryption becomes a reality, companies will be forced to give up their consumers’ privacy or face massive lawsuits from anyone that has been victimized on their platform.

An attempt to prevent the spread of child exploitation has turned into a bill with the potential to rob Americans of their 4th Amendment rights. Technically, law enforcement officials would need still a warrant to access your messages if this becomes the new reality. However, as we all know, man is not perfect and if you’re an advocate against something that those in the federal (or even state) government don’t like, the likelihood that your private messages are illegally seen goes up significantly. We all know of the famous letter sent to MLK by the FBI telling him to kill himself. Now imagine if the FBI had the power to somehow see almost everything MLK said in private. It shouldn’t matter whether you’re a proponent of limited government or of expanded government, we all know the disastrous power that this could give to the people in charge. It should be extremely easy to imagine a scenario where someone’s words are taken out of context, leading to their unlawful arrest, or where someone’s private messages are leaked, destroying the cause they were fighting for. Even if your messages aren’t seen by the government, the likelihood that your messages are hacked by some criminal skyrockets as well. Suddenly, the American people are much more easily the victim of cybercrimes, unable to find a secure place to store their data and messages. Companies would have to find a stronger encryption to code everyone’s messages with and even then, this committee meets at least once every 5 years to update these guidelines. Companies would have to change their encryptions at unsustainable rates.

Powers that could be abused this blatantly wouldn’t really be a problem, except that ten different Senators from both sides of the aisle are sponsoring this bill. The second-highest ranking Democrat in the Senate helped introduce the bill and Lindsey Graham is easily one of the most well-known senators in the United States. The senior senator from California (the liberal stronghold), Diane Feinstein, is also cosponsoring this bill. With this kind of bipartisan support, the EARN IT Act has a real chance of getting passed in the House and the Senate. If the EARN IT Act passes (which seems likely) and the commission recommends to Attorney General Barr that companies allow the government a backdoor into our messages (which is also likely), the subsequent bill will be extremely hard to stop. There is a provision in the EARN IT Act that says the subsequent bill will be fast-tracked through Congress, leaving almost no



Photo From Wikimedia Commons.

time for debate on 4th Amendment rights. The House and the Senate will each get only ten hours to debate the bill (which passes extraordinarily fast, let me assure you). If Speaker Pelosi is able to force House Democrats to fall in line and Republicans are able to close ranks like they usually do, this bill will sail through with minimal problems.

The introduction of the EARN IT Act is only made all the more problematic by the recent Senate vote e USA Freedom Reauthorization Act which restores government surveillance powers that expired in March due to the expiration of Section 215 of the Patriot Act. We should all know this section, which essentially allows law enforcement officials to obtain “secret orders” to order telecom companies to hand over “tangible” evidence, like phone records or browser histories, from a Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC). Now, this court system was established by FISA, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and the judges on the court are appointed solely by the Chief Justice of SCOTUS, without any Congressional oversight. This court holds secret hearings and only hears arguments from government attorneys; without any oversight from the public and with secret orders that don’t notify someone if their rights are being violated, there aren’t many ways to tell if your privacy is being invaded. The 2013 intelligence leak by Edward Snowden is the closest thing we have to see how wide-reaching the government’s power is. It was leaked that the NSA was able to force a subsidiary of Verizon to hand over all comprehensive telephone data, including location, about calls made “wholly within the United States.” It was also reported that this court had been issuing such broad orders to all telecom companies since 2006. This is the kind of behavior being reauthorized by the recent Senate vote on the USA Freedom Act.

The whole point of a republic is that our elected officials make sure they serve us well, since that’s why they’re called “public servants.” We should make sure they do their jobs and actually represent what the majority of the American people want by striking down this bill. The actual Patriot Act expired in 2015 and while government officials feign sympathy for us, they’ve repeatedly voted to invade our privacy in the name of “national security”. If you don’t like your privacy being blatantly invaded, contact (or tell your parents to contact) your federal senators (Ted Cruz and John Cornyn) to vote against EARN IT and contact your local House representative (which can be done through a quick Google Search) to make sure they won’t support the USA Freedom Reauthorization Act or EARN IT.

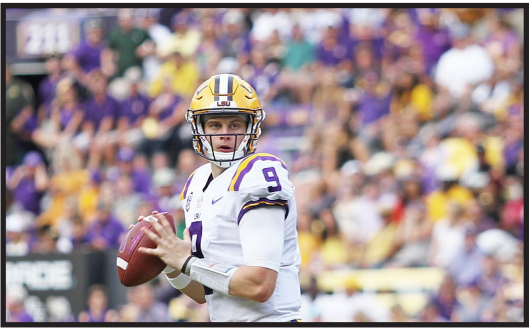


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An NFL Draft Analysis

4.) New York Giants: Andrew Thomas (OT, Georgia)

At the number four pick, the Giants decide to improve their offensive line. This is the right

move by the Giants consid-

ering how much Daniel Jones struggled last year. He had very little pocket presence, and failed to deal with pressure well. The hope is that Thomas can help alleviate some of the pressure on Jones, and therefore their offense can improve as a whole. While I think this is the right idea, I think guys like Tristian Wirfs or Jedrick Wills have higher ceilings. Thomas was a solid and safe pick, but he will probably not end up being the best lineman in this class.

5.) Miami Dolphins: Tua Tagovailoa (QB, Alabama)

Tua is definitely a good quarterback. He has good pocket presence, plays well under pressure, and has a good (but not great) arm. He will be a solid NFL quarterback, but many are worried about his injuries. In his college career he was injured five times, spraining both ankles and a knee, breaking a finger, and most recently, dislocating his hip as well as fracturing it. This is certainly an unattractive injury list. He's a risk, plain and simple. If he can recover completely he will be a great quarterback for the Dolphins.

6.) Los Angeles Chargers: Justin Herbert (QB, Oregon)

This might be my least favorite pick in the top ten. On paper, Herbert looks good. He has great size and a strong arm. He also had great college stats with 32 touchdowns and almost 3,500 yards. But, much of this production was due to Oregon's offensive scheme. About half of Herbert's attempts last season were within 5 yards of the line of scrimmage, and 23.2% of his passing attempts last year were screen passes. He doesn't like to take shots downfield, and when he does, he's constantly throwing too late and letting his receivers take big shots from preying defensive backs. This will simply not fly with NFL receivers, especially Keenan Allen. With all this being said, he has potential to be great, which he showed several times last year. But, that brings up another point: he's inconsistent. If he can clean this up, he will be a solid quarterback. But right now, I don't see him having much success his rookie year.

7.) Carolina Panthers: Derrick Brown (DT, Auburn)

Now, defensive tackle might not be the most glamorous position, but it is certainly important for building a franchise. Brown may not put up insane stats (only 4 sacks last year), but that's just the nature of the position. He will certainly play his part in the Panther's defense for years to come. He's a great run stopper and can put pressure on the quarterback, even when double teamed. And if an offensive line has to double team him on the majority of downs, that means fewer players to block the remaining defensive linemen. This is a solid pick from Carolina; they're getting a guy who is probably a top five player in this draft at the number seven spot.

8.) Arizona Cardinals: Isaiah Simmons (OLB, Clemson)

Isaiah Simmons is a great athlete and very unique football player. He's explosive and he can cover a lot of ground, as he ran a 4.39 second 40 yard dash and had a 39 inch vertical jump at the combine. He's also got long arms and loves to play physical. This is a great pick for the Cardinals. Their defense was horrible last year, allowing the most yards per game out of all NFL teams. They needed an upgrade very badly, and Isaiah Simmons could be the answer for all of their past defensive struggles.

9.) Jacksonville Jaguars: CJ Henderson (CB, Florida)

The Jaguars defense struggled last year, so they certainly needed immediate help from this pick. They took CJ Henderson from Florida to shore up their secondary. What's interesting though, is that their defensive problems from last year stemmed mostly from their inability to stop the run. They had the 28th ranked run defense (in terms of yards allowed per game), while having an average pass defense (16th in passing yards allowed per game). Yet, while desperately needing run help, they opt for help in the secondary. However, guys who could help their run defense like Brown and Simmons were already off the board, so I think the Jaguars made the best they could from a tough pick.

10.) Cleveland Browns: Jedrick Wills (OT, Alabama)

The Browns have been looking for their next Joe Thomas, and they may have just found him here at the number ten spot. Wills is arguably the best tackle in the class and could have easily been a top 5 pick. He has a solid football IQ, great technique, and is very athletic for an offensive lineman. He's able to read defensive ends' stances and alignments and adjust and block accordingly. He's a great player, and it looks like he is set up for success in the NFL

Tarun Senthil Kumar '23

11.) New York Jets: Mekhi Becton, OT

The New York Jets needed a receiver, offensive tackle, and cornerback in the draft. Becton, standing 6'7 and weighing 365 lbs, mows over his blocking assignments in the run game and sustains his protection in the passing game. His elite upper body strength overwhelms opponents. However, his hands are a bit raw when it comes to blocking techniques. Becton is a great player, but he's not their best receiver by far. New York's stale offense lacks any real play-maker other than Le'Veon Bell, so the ideal selection would have been Jerry Jeudy or CeeDee Lamb, but Mekhi Becton is a good pick.

12.) Las Vegas Raiders: Henry Ruggs III, Receiver

Las Vegas had the luxury of every receiver on the board being available to them. Yet, instead of picking projected best receivers Jerry Jeudy or Ceedee Lamb, GM Mike Mayock selected Henry Ruggs III. What Ruggs lacks in height, he makes up for in speed. He requires special attention from defenses at all times and poses a big play threat every time the quarterback drops back. Speaking of which, QB Derek Carr now has a wide array of receivers (including Ruggs III, Tyrell Williams, and Hunter Renfrow) at his disposal. With Carr's job on the line, he should be able to hold his own in the high-powered AFC West this year. This was not the pick I would have made, but it still was a good one.

13.) Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Tristan Wirfs, OT

Thanks to the arrivals of Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have become the Super Bowl favorites. Before the draft, the Buccaneers needed an offensive tackle and running back. They fulfilled part of those needs by drafting Tristan Wirfs out of Iowa. Wirfs dominated the NFL Combine in February, posting a 40 yard dash of 4.85 seconds, a broad jump of 121 inches, and a 20 yard shuttle of 4.68 seconds. Standing 6'5 and weighing 320 lbs, Wirfs is a freak athlete, but tends to lack composure and hand speed on some plays. With Wirfs protecting Brady's blindside, Tom has ample time to throw to Mike Evans, Chris Godwin, Gronk, OJ Howard, and Cameron Brate. Tampa Bay selected Wirfs to fill their most glaring need, and because of their draft day execution, the Buccaneers' offense might be a historical one. This pick is certainly a great one.

14.) San Francisco 49ers: Javon Kinlaw, DT

The San Francisco 49ers hoped to add the missing pieces to their roster through this year's draft after their Super Bowl loss. Coming into the draft, the 49ers had needs at receiver, defensive tackle, and offensive tackle. They decided to improve their strong defense, which ranked 5th in the league last year, by selecting Javon Kinlaw. After impressing during Senior Bowl week, Kinlaw was projected to be selected in the top ten. He, along with Nick Bosa and Arik Armstead, looks to wreak havoc in the league for years to come. Considering that San Francisco filled their other needs with the rest of their picks and took the best player available, this was a great pick.

15.) Denver Broncos: Jerry Jeudy, Receiver

The Denver Broncos finished the last season 7-9 after a 0-4 start. Despite this resurgence after a terrible start, QB Drew Lock needed help, so John Elway drafted Jerry Jeudy. Jeudy set countless records with Tua Tagovailoa at Alabama and hopes to do so in the Mile High City. This past year, Jeudy, who played slot receiver, was known for his crisp route-running and elusive jukes. The Bronco offense, now consisting of Drew Lock, Courtland Sutton (WR), Jerry Jeudy, KJ Hamler (WR), (new signing) Melvin Gordon (RB), Philip Lindsay (RB), and Noah Fant (TE) will be sure to pose a threat in the AFC West next year and for years to come. This was a great pick.

16.) Atlanta Falcons: AJ Terrell, CB

Though the organization may try to hide it, QB Matt Ryan, receiver Julio Jones, and the Atlanta Falcons haven't fully recovered from their Super Bowl loss a few years ago in which they "choked" a 28-3 lead to the Patriots. After an eventful offseason, Atlanta had needs at corner, linebacker, running back, and safety going into the draft. Terrell is a tremendous athlete who moves smoothly in coverage and possesses great range, but struggles with tackling. His draft stock plummeted when LSU receiver Ja'Marr Chase scorched him in the 2019 National Championship game. All in all, though corner was a priority for the Falcons, they reached for Terrell at pick 16 when they could have simply traded back and selected him in the second round. This was a bad pick.

17.) Dallas Cowboys: Ceedee Lamb, Receiver

The Dallas Cowboys are fresh off an upsetting offseason which I hope I won't have to go into. Their most glaring needs entering the draft were at cornerback, safety, and edge rusher. The Cowboys front office stayed true to their draft board and managed to keep Receiver Ceedee Lamb away from their fierce divisional rivals, the Philadelphia Eagles. By selecting Lamb, the Dallas offense, statistically the 1st in the league last year, added more versatility and playmaking to their attack, which still fell short at times. Opponents will need to focus more on the air assault and can no longer load the box to stop Zeke from "eating" at will. If Coach McCarthy fares any better than his predecessor, then teams will no longer be at liberty to simply double team Amari and will have a tough time covering the threatening likes of Cooper, Gallup, and Lamb. This was a great pick.



Photo By Getty Images

An NFL Draft Analysis

18.) Miami Dolphins: Austin Jackson, OT

After the Cowboys drafted Ceedee Lamb the round before, the Dolphins were forced to address another need of theirs at offensive tackle, and they tried to do so with Jackson.

25) San Francisco 49ers, Brandon Aiyuk (Receiver), C+

Frankly, here were much better receivers left on the board when the Niners were on the clock here. Tee Higgins or Michael Pittman Jr. would have been better choices in this spot, based off of overall impact during their college careers. This means the 49ers scouts must have seen something nobody else did in Aiyuk, that led them to believe he was worth trading up for. I still think Higgins would have been the best option here, but only time will tell.

26.) Green Bay Packers, Jordan Love (QB), F

This pick puzzled everybody who pays any kind of attention to the NFL. Everyone knows Aaron Rogers is the signal caller for the Pack. He's a shoo-in for the Hall of Fame and wants to play until he's 40. The thought of his retirement has not crossed most minds. There were so many areas the Packers needed help in that they apparently ignored (e.g. receiver, running back, linebacker, etc.). Not only that, Love's statline looks like that of an undrafted free-agent signing. It's smart to wait another two or three years when Rogers is declining in ability to draft his replacement, not when he is on the top of his game and Green Bay is on the cusp of a Super Bowl.

27.) Seattle Seahawks, Jordyn Brooks (Linebacker), B: Texas Tech's historically awful defense doesn't produce a ton of first round talent, but Brooks must be an exception. The Seahawks really needed a pass rusher to either complement or replace free agent Jadeveon Clowney. Brooks may not be a true edge rusher, but he blitzed quite a bit during his four year tenure at Tech from his middle linebacker position, wreaking havoc in the backfield. If the Seahawks really wanted an edge rusher, Yetur Gross-Metos was still available from Penn State, so there must be a good reason for drafting Brooks that has yet to be revealed. Overall, this pick was just okay, and the Seahawks apparently have their middle linebacker of the future.

28) Baltimore Ravens, Patrick Queen (Linebacker) A

The Ravens have a history of producing stud linebackers, and Queen was drafted to become the next Baltimore Bruiser. His sideline to sideline ability is second to none, as he ran a blazing 4.5 forty at the combine. He will see a lot of playing time in his rookie campaign, pairing up with Matthew Judon to create a scary middle of the Ravens defense. Not to mention with all of the other studs on that squad, the Ravens will be a scary team in the near future. This pick was great all-around for Baltimore, and I expect a Defensive Rookie of the Year campaign from Queen in 2020.

29) Tennessee Titans, Isaiah Wilson (Tackle Out?), B

Wilson received All-American honors and All-SEC accolades in his two seasons as a starter for the Bulldogs. This draft was flooded with offensive line talent, and Wilson was no exception to this plethora of big boys. His down blocking skills are something to take serious note of, and will be utilized well in a run-first offense in Tennessee. He will pair up nicely with Titans' left tackle Taylor Lewan, and they should keep edge rushers from reaching QB Ryan Tannehill. Wilson may not start his rookie year, but should be a lockdown for the number one right tackle spot in his sophomore season. This is a good pick by the Tennessee front office, filling a spot that needed serious attention.

30) Miami Dolphins, Noah Igbinoghene (Cornerback), A-

The Dolphins had so many spots that needed help, so they decided to strengthen the secondary. Igbinoghene was one of the most athletic cover corners in this year's draft class. He should be an immediate starter in this defense, pairing up with Byron Jones and Xavien Howard to lock down opposing receivers. He has great body control and plays the receiver close in man to man, breaking up an absurd number of passes. The 'Fins had an incredible draft class this year, and Noah Igbinoghene is no exception. Tremendous pick by a rebuilding Miami team.

31) Minnesota Vikings, Jeff Gladney (Cornerback), B+

With the departure of Xavier Rhodes, the Vikings desperately needed corner help. Gladney was no doubt the Frogs' top defensive back during his time there. However, injuries could be a concern; he suffered a torn ACL as a high school senior and had meniscus surgery after the 2019 season. Ignoring his medical history, he could easily be a day one starter in Minnesota. There was one other option on the board at this point (Trevon Diggs from Alabama). He could have replaced Gladney in the first round, but Gladney's experience makes him the better option, especially since Diggs started his career in college as a receiver. This pick was really helpful for the Vikings, and Gladney will make an instant impact.

32) Kansas City Chiefs, Clyde Edwards-Helaire, (Running-Back), B- This pick was very questionable, but it seems this is who Patrick Mahomes wanted since the start. The secondary would have been a good place to bulk up, but they decided to add more firepower to the offense. Damien Williams will be the number one back for Kansas City this year, but with Shady McCoy's future uncertain, it's not bad to add another back who can make an impact. Edwards-Helaire was the best pass-catching back in this year's draft, which fits perfectly with Andy Reid and Eric Bieniemy's master plan. As they say, the rich get richer, and the Chiefs just got a whole lot richer. This offense will be unstoppable in the coming years.

19.) Las Vegas Raiders: Damon Arnette, CB

At OSU, Arnette and 3rd overall pick J. Okudah locked down Big 10 receivers while 2nd overall pick C. Young terrorized Big 10 quarterbacks. The 2019 OSU defense was a sight to behold. The Raiders, who have needed a cornerback since Charles Woodson's departure, have certainly fulfilled their need for one with Arnette. He excels in man-to-man coverage and pressing the receiver at the line of scrimmage. He joins Johnathan Abram and Trayvon Mullen Jr. to form the young core of the Raiders secondary. Arnette was a surefire first rounder before his fluke, sub-par 40 yard dash of 4.56 seconds raised questions among scouts. However, this was a good pick considering that Las Vegas filled another need with a solid player.

20.) Jacksonville Jaguars: K'Lavon Chaisson, Edge

The Jacksonville Jaguars are coming off an interesting 2019 season with new QB Nick Foles suffering a season-ending injury in Week 1, and the team was being led by 6th rounder QB Garder Minshew. Coming into the draft, Jacksonville needed an edge rusher, receiver, corner, and offensive tackle. Chaisson, standing 6'4 and weighing 249 lbs, uses his explosiveness to perform power moves and stop the run. His ability to also drop into coverage makes his complete skill set special. Due to the departures of many players on the defensive line, adding a prospect like Chaisson to the roster is a great move by the Jaguars to help build their young core moving forward.

21.) Philadelphia Eagles: Jalen Reagor, Receiver

The Eagles are looking to return to the Promised Land, but their success is dependent on their health. Coming into the draft, they had needs at receiver, linebacker, and safety. Reagor, their pick, uses his elite speed to excel in route-running, gaining separation, and the return game. Despite his height and small stature, Reagor is a potent player when it comes to jump balls. Though Reagor is a great receiver, fans must wonder why GM Howie Roseman decided to pass on better receivers such as Justin Jefferson and Brandon Aiyuk for Reagor. QB Carson Wentz, if he can stay healthy, now has a wide array of receivers to help him prove to the rest of the league why he deserved the huge contract that he signed. Though the Eagles filled a need, they passed on much better players, making this pick a reach.

Cole Burk '23

22.) Minnesota Vikings, Justin Jefferson (Receiver,) A

With the departure of Stefon Diggs, the Vikings needed a new number two receiver to compliment All-Pro wideout Adam Thielen. Jefferson was one of the top route runners in the NCAA last year, making corners stumble all over the field trying to guard him. He can also make a difference once the ball is in his hands with his stunning agility. He will make an immediate impact in the Vikings offense and will see a lot of playing time considering the team's loss of Diggs, Thielen's down year in 2019, and Kyle Rudolph's advancing age. The Vikings nailed it with this pick and we can expect to see a lot from this bayou rookie.

23.) Los Angeles Chargers, Kenneth Murray (Linebacker), B+

The Chargers traded back into the first round after selecting Philip Rivers' replacement, Justin Herbert, to get Murray. He can be found in the backfield on almost any play, whether he is sacking the quarterback or stuffing the run game. A blitzing maniac, he recorded 17 tackles for loss in his final season for OU. Overall this is a decent pick for the Chargers as they look to reinforce what is already a strong defense.

24) New Orleans Saints, Cesar Ruiz (Center), C

The Saints' pick of Ruiz was peculiar since they had already drafted a center in Round 2 of last year's draft. However, they will more than likely play Ruiz at guard than center. Lary Warford (current guard) is in the last year of his contract and after drafting Ruiz it's looking less likely that he will be re-signed. I just don't understand this pick at all. Not only did they already draft a center last year, but they already have one of the best lines in the league. Personally, I think a better option would have been something to strengthen their defense, which is the weakest spot of what is a star-studded squad.

Review: “Gigaton”

Alex Smith, '21, who has written something like this before.

A couple months ago I tuned into the alternative radio station 91.7 and heard “Dance of the Clairvoyants,” a new single by Pearl Jam. To say the very least, I was surprised yet impressed. At that time, the single was receiving heavy airplay on radio stations and it had around 5,000,000 streams on Spotify. It seemed to me Pearl Jam had begun to change their sound. More importantly, though, I could see these guys, who have been around since 1991, were gaining some vitality, trying to tear up a new scene. “Gigaton” by Pearl Jam was released on March 27th and it surely proves that this band has much more to accomplish.

The standout song on the album is “Superblood Wolfmoon”. Matt Cameron’s drums begin the song, which always make for a powerful build-up in any song. Then, a thick, melodic guitar riff drops in and carries on through most of the song. It sets the tone for the entire tune; it is punk, yet upbeat. Eddie Vedder’s vocals begin proves that

he is as youthful as ever. There is energy and projection in his voice, not to mention the slick, abstract lyrics: “Superblood wolfmoon / took her away too soon... I can hear you / Singin’ in the distance / I can see you when I close my eyes / Once you were somewhere / And now you’re everywhere / I’m feelin’ selfish and I want what’s right.” The song maintains the tempo throughout the song, climaxing at Mick McCready’s guitar solo. Heavily influenced by Texas-born Stevie Ray Vaughan, the solo is loud and in your face. I definitely recommend “Superblood Wolfmoon.” It keeps your eyes wide open (and your ears, too).

Next is the song I first heard from “Gigaton,” “Dance of the Clairvoyants.” Obviously, with song names like these, they’re increasing the new listener’s interest. Although it was unintentional, it is working. This song is completely unique when you compare it to the rest of Pearl Jam’s repertoire. Eddie Vedder has been said to be a huge fan of the Talking Heads, a famous 80s band, and one can truly hear it in this song. It begins with a techno drum-beat, establishing the tone of the

song. This tune is easily more accessible for modern-music fans.

Then, a cascading keyboard sound drops in. It feels almost eerie in a sense, maybe even extraterrestrial. Vedder’s

lyrics, again, do not hold back, “Confusing is / To commotion / What love is / To our devotion / Imperceptibly big / Big as the ocean.” The verses work as a perfect tension-builder for the chorus, where everything becomes unified. It creates a euphoric feeling. Through the song, Stone Gossard’s guitar keeps a steady rhythm, but he plays funk chords. The entire song is perfectly strange and again, unique. At the end, the song just seems to fade out, creating haunting vocals.

Lastly, the first song on the album is “Who Ever Said.” This song is a solid rocker, a perfect way to begin a record. The first thing one hears is this strange ambient sound, then abruptly the chaotic guitar. Matt Cameron on drums begins to



Photo By Pearl Jam

groove and then the vocals start. The song keeps a heavy rhythm throughout, really coming together at the chorus, “Who ever said it’s all been said? / Gave up on satisfaction.” At a couple points, the song completely changes; it slows down, becoming much softer. It adds an element of elegance to the song and makes the heavy parts far more exciting. Mike McCready’s lead guitar is also showcased in this song, as he throws in short phrases here and there.

I recommend that anyone listen to this album. For anyone who believes certain types of music are dead, this album proves you wrong. Pearl Jam proves their strength and vitality with “Gigaton.” Music is just music, so give it a try.

Light Shines Through The Screen



My piece is about how the quarantine separates people, but technology has the power to reconnect us. Through the light of our screens we ourselves can be a light to the people in our lives. Make an effort to reach out to your friends and family while we’re all at stuck at home; it can make a huge difference to somebody.

-Peter Novinski, '21