

The Cistercian Informer

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Texas Blackouts

Saish Satyal, '21, who wants people to be held accountable.

A few weeks ago, a polar vortex over Texas caused one of the coldest winter storms in the state's history, and coated the city of Dallas with a generous 6-8 inches of snow. This "once-in-a-generation" event forced every county in the state to issue a winter storm warning for its citizens, an unprecedented situation. On Sunday, the prospect of snow sounded fantastic to Texans. However, this same vortex that brought us flurries and winter fun quickly turned sour as the sudden cold snap knocked 40% of the Texas power grid offline. On Sunday night, consumers were heating their homes and consuming levels of energy that we only see on summer days. The Energy Reliability Council of Texas instituted rolling blackouts starting on Monday morning at around 1:45AM in an attempt to prevent the state-wide grid from collapsing.

In order to understand what happened in Texas, we have to clear up some idiocy first. The blackouts were not caused by the Green New Deal, nor is the responsibility solely on windmills. Both renewable and



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fossil fuel energy sources failed during the state-wide freeze, though it should be noted that ERCOT itself admitted that no one expected coal and natural gas to fail this spectacularly. Essentially, the blackouts were caused, metaphorically and literally, by a perfect storm. During normal cold snaps in a single, energy-producing area of the state, power plants in warmer areas will ramp up energy production to cover their neighbors' losses and ensure

that no one is affected. However, in this instance, the entire state was frozen and no one was able to ramp up their production. Not only that, icy roads hindered any technicians from performing maintenance or repairs on the failed power plants. This blackout isn't entirely ERCOT's fault; they maintained a reserve margin, which is essentially just a

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Trump Populism & The Future of American Democracy

Coby Scrudder, '21, who hopes the nation will come together.

When Donald Trump was elected in 2016, it shocked the world. For the first time in decades, an outsider, a real estate mogul, had won the presidency, beating lifelong politicians from both parties. And yet, looking back on this, why were any of us shocked? Trump was nothing more than the logical conclusion of long-standing Republican strategy and sentiments that had been held by the American public, but were never fully expressed.

America has a long history with populist movements. One of the most successful was Theodore Roosevelt's Bull-Moose Party. Like Trump, Roosevelt was an unlikely candidate for a populist movement, both of them coming from wealthy, elite New York families. Moreover, these candidates share the same incendiary attitude. The Nation magazine once described Roosevelt by saying "his violence of language, his

recklessness of assertion, and his apparent inability to reason coherently make him a spectacle disturbing to his friends and mortifying to the country," a description that could also be aptly attributed to Trump. However, unlike Roosevelt, Trump was able to tie a sense of restrictive nationalism into his campaign.

Trump was far from the first Republican to do this. Starting with Barry Goldwater in 1964 and perfected by Nixon in his 1968 and 1972 elections, the infamous "Southern Strategy" appeals to this type of nationalism.

Restrictive nationalism is a typified by an apparent lack of faith in the government and institutions of a country and a strict set of criteria for what it means to be a true citizen of your country. In America, this is most prevalent among Southern Evangelical Protestants. Those in America who subscribe to this type of nationalism most often attribute true citizenship to native birth, Christian faith, and English

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Twelfth Night

Santiago Barajas, '24, who is ready for a theatrical masterpiece.

Everyone has been surprised by some unexpectedly humorous moments while watching a play—who couldn't help but laugh as King George ludicrously sang "You'll Be Back" in *Hamilton*? Even at school plays, the audience has spectated scenes that gave them a good laugh. But with the advent of the coronavirus, these moments of joy were stripped away from us as that loathsome bugbear suspended every activity in sight. Now a year later, on March 25th, Cistercian will endeavor to reestablish theater on campus in a rather unique fashion. Our upper school cast will soon debut *Twelfth Night*, a romantic comedy by William Shakespeare, while still combating the various restrictions brought about by the pandemic in a creative way.

In these unprecedented times, the show is undertaking the audacious task of performing the play on the entrance steps into the campus' main building, more than tripling the size of what the stage

had previously been in the theater. Similar to the concept of a drive-in movie, the school's parking lot and entrance will be turned into a "drive-in theater," with the audience left to the comfort of their cars in the parking lot below. The play will be broadcasted on radio so that the audience will be able to hear the actors from their cars. This way, spectators will not be as tightly packed as in the theater and larger audiences could be present. So, as opposed to the couple performances the actors would typically undertake, the cast will endeavor to perform the play a total of four times, opening the show on March 25th, the Thursday after Spring Break, and finally closing the curtains on Sunday the 28th. Each ticket allows a car filled with as many people as it can reasonably fit to watch the play; however, over half of the tickets have already been purchased. I urge the reader, if you are interested in watching the play, to purchase the tickets as soon as possible before the show sells out.

Excitement runs through the theater as we head nearer to opening day. We, the cast (consisting of fifteen male actors and four

female actresses), have carried out rehearsals for over a month. Our lines have been fixed in our minds, blocking has been perfectly executed, and the elaborate costumes and props have all been chosen and designed for each character and set. Masks, of course, must be worn during rehearsals, and currently we plan to continue wearing masks throughout the performances. A professional crew will accompany the cast on opening night, handling the lights and microphones to ensure an outstanding experience for the audience. Mrs. Magill, the director, has succeeded in creating a comical and entertaining play for the world to witness. With all these preparations in place, *Twelfth Night* will debut with a confident step, a precedent for future pandemic theater.

Twelfth Night will certainly be one of Cistercian's greatest productions as it embraces the new changes brought by the pandemic,



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transforming the drawbacks into opportunities to expand the art of theater. With already over half of the tickets sold, the play will hopefully live up to its expectations and dominate the stage on opening night. Not only will the play deck the new stage with amusing songs and comical scenes, but it will also guide the audience through a journey brimming with love and duels, and beguilements and mistaken identities. Through the combined work of Mrs. Magill, the cast, and the crew, *Twelfth Night* will certainly be a night to remember.



Photo By Cistercian

Nico Chio, '##, who is pleased with the school's success so far.

Across the country, a large majority of schools have struggled with keeping the threat of COVID-19 at bay. Here at the Informer, we interviewed the Director of Facilities, Mr. Parker, regarding our school's coronavirus safety policies.

Why in your opinion has our school been more successful than others in the metroplex at keeping the Coronavirus at bay?

The simple answer is we are blessed with so many things. We are blessed with parents and alumni that

Mr. Parker Interview

have helped and consulted with the school from day one. When it became clear that this was primarily an airborne virus, we realized that the safest path to getting students back

on campus, which was a priority for us from May on, was to really do all we could to mitigate the viral loads in the air. That meant, for sure, compliance with masking, and even making sure we were wearing the right kinds of masks and wearing them properly, and then taking the HVHC measures. We did not just improve the filtration, we went to the highest filtration system our equipment could handle, which is called Merv-13, so that is just more effective at removing small particles. But then the big measure we took was adding the bipolar ionization to really all the school buildings, including parts of the gym, but certainly all the learning spaces, and that has proven effective for several years now on viruses. Its now

specifically been proven to work on COVID, to render harmless the viruses, but also increase the rate at which they are filtered out of the air.

Did the school expect this level of success where we've been able to minimize the amount of days spent online?

No, we prayed it would go as well it has, but I don't think anyone knew. We knew it was important to get back to school. We knew we had to do all that we at least could within reason to make it as safe as possible, but if you would have told me that our first case at all would have not happened until November, I would have been ecstatic. Sitting here in February to not have a single case of transmission in the classrooms, so far, I am thrilled beyond words, not only because everyone has been able to stay safe, but it also means we've been able to have as close to a normal school experience as possible. Even though it certainly doesn't feel normal, compared to so many other places in the country that are still at home completely learning online, I think we are so lucky to have had

it go as well as it has, and I humbly pray and hope that it continues to be good for us.

How far into the future do you see the school keeping these precautions in place?

I hesitate to say. I think we learned that eating outside is actually nice, and that the students enjoy it most days, but I don't think that the next year we would have to eat outside on a bad weather day. I think that having the luxury of being able to eat outside would be something we would benefit from for a long time. The outdoor furniture was expensive, but we bought it because we wanted to benefit from it for a long time. The bipolar ionization just cleans the air. Even without COVID, it still removes things that cause odor. It removes over viruses. The thing that students will notice the most in terms of back to normal is the masks, sports, and the social events. I think that those will be much closer to normal already [by] next school year, but I hesitate to say how much.

Texas Blackouts (Cont'd)

reserve of electricity to send out if demand skyrockets and production isn't able to keep up. However, they underestimated the severity of the cold that was coming.

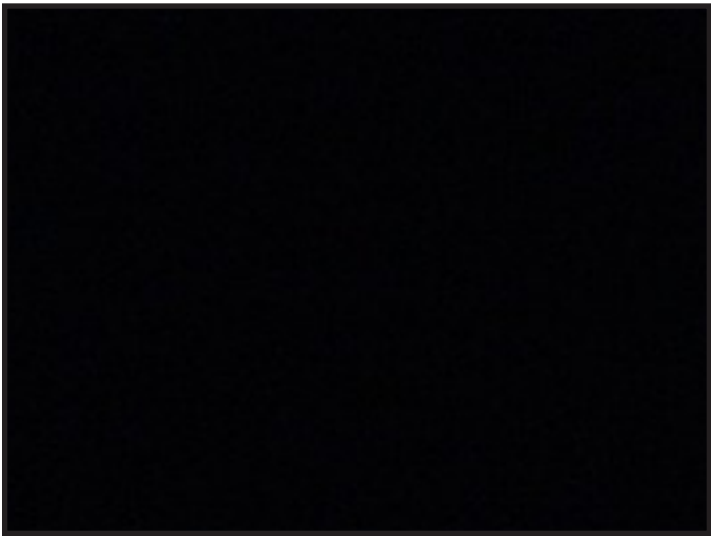
The failure of Texas' power grid wasn't solely due to a historic ice storm; it was due to deregulation and governmental failures. Texas' power grid operates independently from the rest of the nation and is mostly controlled by ERCOT. The council operates within state boundaries so that it is not subject to the Commerce Clause in the Constitution, which allows the federal government to regulate interstate trade. In an attempt to avoid oversight by agencies like the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which would regulate wholesale electricity prices and force producers to refund consumers if they're being grossly overcharged, Texas decided to keep its power grid separate from the rest of the nation. While this was fantastic news for the power companies that were allowed to make millions of dollars in profit with minimal government oversight, it was clearly a short-sighted move. In 2011, an ice storm similar

to our recent one struck Texas and caused rolling blackouts; while not as deadly as the one in 2021, it still alarmed experts who warned that another one of those storms could arrive. ERCOT issued guidelines for various power producers to winterize their equipment, but without the authority to enforce it, these guidelines went largely ignored. After all, Texas is essentially a desert climate. For a corporation focused on earning a profit, winterizing is an unnecessary and wasteful investment. Power companies were able to gorge themselves while selling electricity to Texans, but when a crisis arrived, none of them were able to provide for our citizens.

The best example of the state of Texas' failures lies in the city of El Paso, which was (and is) connected to the Western Interconnection, a grid that encompasses 11 states, two Canadian territories, and part of West Texas. After the 2011 cold snap which left its residents without power for almost an entire week, the city winterized its power production and built more renewable sources to power their city. They ensured nearly by wind turbines were equipped to

handle the cold, pipes in coal and natural gas plants were insulated, and heat lamps were installed in existing power plants to prevent a potential crisis. Their newest power plant, completed in 2016, was equipped with costly precautions to stave off similar disaster. Clearly, it worked! El Pasoans were warm yet watched this deadly calamity unfold.

Texas' failure doesn't only lie in the fact that it was unable to respond to this disaster. No matter how preventable it may have been, the GOP can (and probably will) brush it off using the fact that something like this was historic and won't happen again for a very long time. In letting large power companies run amok, Texans have been paying more for power than they should have to. The *Wall Street Journal* found that, by shifting services away from local utilities services and forcing almost 60% of consumers to buy their electricity from large



Get it? Photo From Creative Commons

power companies, Texans have paid \$28 billion more for electricity since 2004 compared to those paying the rates of a local utility service. Not only that, by refusing to connect to the rest of the nation, Texas is losing money it would otherwise have made by selling the excess power we generate, especially in the spring. El Paso has been doing exactly that, selling their excess power to their neighbors during the springtime and generating a profit. The current government in Texas has not only failed its people by spreading lies, fleeing during times of crisis, and being ineffective in its disaster response, but also by allowing corporations to charge us higher rates and by losing money that we would otherwise have made for our state.

Trump Populism (Con'd)

fluency. According to a 2016 study, 38% of Americans subscribed to this restrictive form of nationalism and over 50% of Americans espouse these views of true membership.

Shockingly, this number has not changed much at all in the past decades. Nixon pitched his campaign towards these groups. He talked of the "silent majority" and "law and order," two terms that Trump has used often as well. Nixon used these terms to talk down to those protesting against the government, which was especially powerful during the riots of 1968. Those in the South often saw those rioters as anti-American and Nixon appealed to this with his rhetoric, like Trump has done with the George Floyd riots.

And yet, if these examples from history show us that Trump was not unique, why was his election such a shock? The 2016 presidential race between Trump and Clinton was unique because, for the first time, it truly was a fight for the meaning of America. Trump championed a restrictive nationalism, highlighted with his talk of building a wall, draining the swamp, and

attacking the previous Obama administration. Clinton, on the other hand, campaigned on a platform of creedal nationalism, with principles of pride in the American government and the idea that anyone, regardless of creed, race, or language, can be a part of this nation.

While over the last few decades we have seen radical polarization of the political parties, this split over the basic identity of America is even more dangerous than the party divide. This split threatens the basic tenets of our democracy, such as mutual toleration or the idea that those elected want to truly help the country. We need no better example of this than 2020.

Trump and his supporters were unable, or unwilling, to accept the newly elected Biden administration as legitimate. Instead, they launched into frivolous lawsuits and incendiary rhetoric, coming to a head with the Capitol riot. This is the consequence of attacking the basic principles on which our democracy stands.

The second basic tenet of our democracy that Trump endangered was the idea of procedural forbear-

ance. This is the idea that those in power should not target their political opponents to try to remove them from office or defame them for frivolous things. Trump did this with the investigations into Clinton and Biden, as well as the election lawsuits. While these may have been constitutional, they endanger our democracy because they threaten to undermine the good-faith debate which democracy is built upon.

Now looking at the 2020 election, what changed? Did these long-held beliefs magically go away over four years? I think the answer to this is obviously negative. However, unlike in 2016, America had a singular event around which the nation could be rallied. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Trump administration's response to this gave many Americans the chance to look beyond their idea about America's nationhood and vote for a candidate who they believed could be better for America in this time. However, if this is the case, who knows what will happen in 2024. Will there be another candidate like Trump or even Trump himself? No one can say for sure,

but these next years will be vitally important for the continuation of our democracy. Now that Trump has torn down many of the norms of our democracy and opened the door to this new type of rhetoric, this could become the new normal for our system. We may continue to see party lines be drawn on our ideas about the nationhood of America and not on policy. In this case, I worry that the logical next step is civil war if the fundamental views of different Americans are incompatible.

Not wanting to end on that sour note, I am hopeful that American democracy will right itself. We have weathered the storm for 244 years, and this will hopefully just be a bump in the road. We need both parties to recognize that, while exploiting these nationalist ideas may be temporarily beneficial, they will tear our great nation apart. If the old norms of democracy are restored, hopefully these harmful ideas will die out as both parties recognize that they are not helpful in any way to the continuation of this great experiment of American democracy, the last best hope on earth.

Burmese Distabilization

John Paul Jacob, '24, who recounts the motives leading up to this coup.

Burma and Myanmar actually refer to the same thing, but the changing of the country's name in 1989 had been somewhat controversial, as many world leaders did not support the military junta that instituted the change. British officials even refused to use the name originally, but at this point, the name Myanmar is broadly accepted. "Burma" remains just a more colloquial form of the word "Myanmar." Many think both of these words derive from the name of the region, "Brahma Desha" (which translates to "country of Brahma").

In recent years, Myanmar has made great strides toward a more democratic government, especially led by Aung San Suu Kyi, a woman who was instrumental in creating the Burmese National League for Democracy (NLD). She served as State Counsellor (Prime Minister) of Myanmar, and even received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. San Suu Kyi was under house arrest

for much of the time from 1989 to 2010 and has been compared to Gandhi for her principles of non-violence. However, she has also received much criticism, specifically for accusations of inaction against genocide on the part of the Burmese military. Surprisingly, she has not acknowledged any military massacres occurred, but this could be for various reasons.

Despite all this, on February 1st the Burmese armed forces along with their commander-in-chief, Min Aung Hlaing, once again took control of the country of Myanmar. The coup d'état was based on allegations that the November 2020 election results, which were a landslide victory for Suu Kyi's party, were fraudulent. The military has again put Suu Kyi under house arrest in addition to many other NLD officials.

The United States' position in all of this is difficult. Although Suu Kyi did many good deeds for the country, she was also being pushed to rely more and more on China, which would probably not be a good thing in the long run. As we have seen in the past, China

will do almost anything to extend its influence and borders. On the other hand, if we turn a blind eye to the matter then the military will continue to oppress the people. In the past, the military has been seen to be harmful to some ethnic minorities, especially Rohingya Muslims. The most effective method (to find some sort of middle ground), would be to increase sanctions and economic restrictions concerning Myanmar. However, this would most likely continue to push Myanmar's leadership, no matter which side, to rely more on the CCP. In 2018 33% of Burmese exports were already going to China, which proves that Myanmar depends on China heavily for its economic stability no matter who is in power.

The best way to look at these events from an American perspective is short-term versus long-term. Although sanc-



Photo By Utenriksdepartementet UD
tioning Myanmar might make it rely increasingly on China in the short-term, we may be able to aid them in becoming more economically independent in the long term. It would also be foolish to ignore the fact that a military junta will not support the country's long-term growth and will be oppressive in the short-term. Clearly, this demands swift action from U. S. and international governments to shut down the military's coup and reinstate democracy.

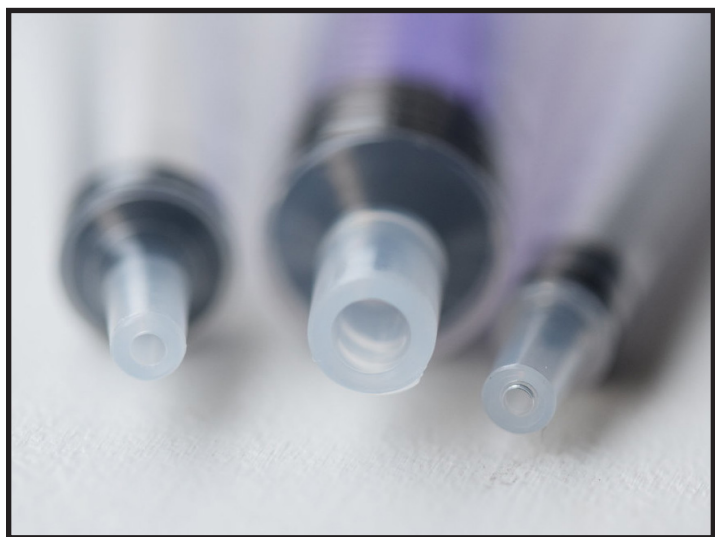


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Aidan Smith, '24 who hopes that herd immunity is near.

Vaccines are relatively familiar to us, but the ones battling the current virus are very different. They have to cope with the severity of the pandemic and the short amount of time in which they need to be completed. Amazingly the companies currently making these vaccines have been able to accomplish all this, all while redefining how long it should take to create a vaccine.

As of February, two vaccines have been approved by the FDA – Pfizer and Moderna. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have a steady 95% efficacy rate and involve 2 doses over a 3–4 week period.

Pfizer's required temperature. Many other vaccines are in stage 3 clinical trial, and still others are awaiting approval from the FDA. However, many of these vaccines have been seen to cause harmful side-effects, thus impeding their trial. One such vaccine, AstraZeneca, has displayed intense side effects. These complaints came from the several European countries that approved it. Reported side effects from this vaccine include strong flu-like symptoms, intense fevers, and in a few cases harmful allergic reactions. When contemplating about whether or not they should take the vaccine, people also consider long-term effects. Since these vaccines are brand new, studies cannot give us a detailed enough view of what long-

Vaccine Overview

Moderna may have an advantage over Pfizer since it does not have to be stored at ultra-low temperatures. Most pharmacies do not have freezers competent enough for

term effects there could be. Additionally, some minority groups and people with certain infirmities were not used as test subjects or were underrepresented in the vaccine trials. Fortunately, many vaccine companies are working to broaden the scope of those they analyze.

The goal of vaccines is to use 'herd immunity' to control the spread of the virus. Herd immunity occurs when enough people become immune to a disease and spreading it becomes more unlikely. This allows the total virus content in a population to quickly decline even if not everyone receives the vaccine, as there will likely be some who oppose taking it. It also allows the process of decline to occur sooner, as not everyone needs to take it for the vaccine to be effective.

To complicate things further, the virus has now developed more potent mutations, making it more difficult for a vaccine to be effective. One prominent mutation is the South African variant, which seems to spread more easily and to be more resistant to vaccines. Several such cases have been reported in the U.S. To combat mutations, the

CDC and other health organizations are closely monitoring the spread of these variants and adjusting vaccines and disinfectants to better counter them. Luckily, however, most mutations are generally harmless and may even cause milder symptoms than the normal variant.

Distributing the vaccine is another issue. Operation Warp Speed, initiated by the Trump administration, aims to speed up the development, manufacturing, and distribution of the vaccine. The administration provided over \$18 billion and promised to aid several pharmaceutical companies with the mass production of their vaccines and in the trials for approving it. It is also aiding the Department of Defense for its supply, production, and deployment across the U.S. So far, around 12% of the U.S. population has been vaccinated, and the government plans to vaccinate everyone who wants it by the end of 2021. Since the first distribution of the vaccine, the number of new cases has gone down remarkably, giving hope that the pandemic could be over long before long.

The Biggest EPL Flop

Maxwell Vaughan, '21, who was not expecting this.

Where Sheffield went wrong seems like a mystery. They've kept their manager Chris Wilder and most of their key players from the 2019/20 season. It's clearly not a financial problem, as the club managed to shell out over \$68 million last transfer window, although perhaps where they've been spending their money has been questionable. Wilder and the front office correctly identified one of their team's flaws: goal scoring. The Blades only scored 36 goals in 38 games last season. The player they brought in to help bring attacking power to the squad, however, has not panned out like they had hoped. The Sheffield front office spent \$28.6 million, a club record fee, on unproven Liverpool youngster Rhian Brewster. Brewster's made 18 appearances in the Premier League so far this season and has yet to score a goal. He's only 20 years old, but as a striker that they paid \$28.6 million for, that's not exactly great production.

On top of this purchase,

they had to replace loanee Dean Henderson, who was sent back to Manchester United to backup David De Gea. Dean Henderson ranked third among goalkeepers last season in two key statistics. He had 13 clean sheets (shut-outs) and a save percentage of 75.2%. To replace Henderson, Sheffield brought in Aaron Ramsdale for \$22.55 million. Statistically, Ramsdale's performance has not been much less effective than Henderson's performance. He has a save percentage of 68.1%, which is not that much worse. What does not work in Ramsdale's favor, however, is a decline in performance from the defenders in front of him. Ramsdale is on track to face over 180 shots on target this season, which is a large number, especially since Henderson only faced 129 last year. This increase in shots on target combined with Ramsdale's lower save percentage means that Sheffield will let in more goals. This has held true, as after just 24 games they've let in 40, which is already four more than they let in all last season.

But what has caused this downturn in defensive form? Tactically, not much has changed with

Chris Wilder's side. Last year, Premier League defenses struggled to deal with Wilder's innovative "overlapping center-backs," a style which requires the left and right center-backs to get further up the pitch, playing as wingers, which in turn allows the outside midfielders to cut inside and play more like withdrawn forwards. This style of play requires a 3-5-2 formation and aims to force the opposition to make a decision: either they must drop forwards back to help defend, effectively neutralizing their own attack, or they keep their attackers forward, leaving their defense at a numerical disadvantage. Defensively, the formation acts like a 5-3-2, with the outside midfielders dropping like wingbacks. The three central midfielders then force the opponent to one side and cut off their passing lanes. Unfortunately for the Blades, teams have begun to figure out how to defeat their defensive block. All it takes is a chipped



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ball over the midfielders or a simple ground pass between them. With teams getting into their final third more often than last season, they are giving up more chances, more shots, more shots on target, and more goals. On top of this, the absence of left center-back Jack O'Connell due to a season-ending knee injury has left a seemingly unfillable hole in their defense.

This goes to show that clubs like Sheffield who lack the depth of top teams like Liverpool or Manchester City will struggle when they lose several key players, who in fact seem irreplaceable. Perhaps they can be labeled a "one season wonder," but Sheffield's drop-off in form is one of the biggest surprises of the 2020-21 Premier League Season.



Photo From Wikimedia Commons

Michael Peterman '24, who comes to an unsurprising conclusion.

Does Tom Brady deserve MVP? Most would say yes. He just won a super bowl with a team that was terrible last year. Although that is true, there are several other factors that need to be taken into account. This past season, the Buccaneers finished with seven wins and nine losses. Their quarterback, Jameis Winston, led the league in interceptions (30) as well as passing yards (5,109) and passing touchdowns (33). This seems to indicate a decent quarterback with a very good receiving core, which included Mike Evans and Chris Godwin, both excellent players. So, with Rob Gron-

Did Brady Deserve MVP?

kowski and Antonio Brown both signing on to the team in 2020, their receiving unit was stacked. The Bucs also signed former Jaguars running back Leonard Fournette, and continued to develop their 2018 second-round draft pick, Ronald Jones II. Between the two, they now had a quality run game going as well. With all this, and a very capable defense, the only thing they seemed to need was a consistent quarterback. Brady, even at the age of 43, could supply that better than Winston.

The Tampa Defense ranked eighth overall in the last season, and this year they ranked first overall. In each of their playoff appearances, they played teams with one very dominant wide receiver. For the Redskins, it was Terry McLaurin, for the Saints—Michael Thomas, for the Packers—Devante Adams, and for the Chiefs—Tyreek Hill. By always doubling these superstars and keeping multiple safeties high, they

managed to shut down these receivers, forcing their opponents to use weaker options. This greatly weakened the passing game for most of the Bucs' opponents, combined with their ninth ranked defensive line putting pressure on quarterbacks.

As many saw in the Super Bowl, the Bucs' D-line had no issue besting the Chiefs injury-ravaged offensive line, and Mahomes was often scrambling as soon as the ball was in his hands. The Bucs' defensive line also ranks number one in rushing yards allowed and rushing touchdowns allowed, so the run game of their opponents was very limited. In the NFC championship game, the Bucs were up by five near the end of the fourth quarter. The Packers were given three chances to start a drive from within their own 30 yard line. These slip-ups were caused by Brady, who, while his team was defending a one score lead, threw two balls deep down field which were intercepted. Twice more he gave the ball back to Aaron Rogers, leaving no one to blame but himself. That could have been the end for Brady, but the defense, once again, held off the Packers on

all three drives until the end of the game. So, sure, the Bucs won, but Brady gave the Packers every chance to start a drive and score a touchdown. Only by the consistency of the defense did that game go to the Bucs. Now, I understand that Brady had played a great game before that, but he failed when it mattered most, meaning that the Buccaneers could have met a massive defeat at the hands of Tom Brady. In the Super Bowl, Brady continued to sling balls to his top notch receiving core. All he had to do was get the ball near them; they would get open and reel in amazing catches by themselves. The Chief defense could not contain the passing game or the run game, which was equally effective, and so dominating was the Bus defense that the Chiefs offence didn't once set foot in the Bucs end zone. So, I believe that a leader and key player in the defense should have been chosen for MVP, not the infamous and overhyped Tom Brady.

Garbage Guru

Doordash Spent \$5.5 Million to Advertise Their \$1 Million Charity Donation

Communists are empirically the most annoying people on the planet. They constantly bombard your ears with ideas of a “classless, stateless society” and if you ever bring up nations like the USSR, you’ll be forced to read a 500-page essay detailing how the Soviet Union was not what Marx envisioned in his Communist society. While many of them mean well, talking to a Communist can be one of the most insufferable things ever. Most of them seem to be absorbed more in theory than in practice. However, after seeing these headlines, perhaps one can see their point.

Top Idaho Republican: “Voting Shouldn’t Be Easy” In Attempt to Outlaw Ballot Harvesting

There are so many things wrong with this one, including the fact that this man is an elected official who is 100% serious. No offense to the millions of Idahoans that I’m sure are reading this, but perhaps this official should stick to growing potatoes instead of opening his mouth. He wants to make it a felony, IN A RU-

RAL STATE WITH ALMOST NO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, to drop off someone’s ballot for them (like a family member’s). Someone play the national anthem—I think Thomas Jefferson and this man should have a talk.

Man Passes Away Inside Milwaukee Apartment and Is Still Responsible For Next Month’s Rent

What are they going to do, evict him? I think a higher power may have already taken care of that. I’d love to see the landlord try to get the money from the dead man. Perhaps he’ll take him to court? Sue him for all he’s worth?

Fraternal Order of Police seeks “accountability bonus” for body camera use

This police union wants their members to get a 5% bonus for turning on their body cameras! Yes, according to the FOP, Philadelphia police officers NEED to get paid extra because they’re being asked to do their job with some level of oversight. Well, clearly, we need to mobilize and march for this 5% bonus! Not getting it is obviously an injustice of epic proportions!

Teenager Emerging From 10-Month Coma Has No Knowledge of Pandemic

SEND THAT POOR BOY BACK TO SLEEP, WHAT’S WRONG WITH YOU? He doesn’t need to see this. Joseph Flavill was hit by a car last year, fell into a coma, caught COVID twice and still had no idea there was a pandemic going on. There may be a supernatural force out to get Mr. Flavill. I suggest hiring a personal exorcist.

Chinese professor: There were no ancient western civilizations; just modern fakes made to demean China

I believe him, and frankly the evidence is stacked up in his favor. There is absolutely no way that someone was pregnant for 9 long months, had to go through the excruciating pain of labor for hours, and then saw their child and decided to name him “Socrates.” Not to mention, the West claims that



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“ancient Rome” was a thing, which is clearly false and stupid. Everyone knows the City of Rome was built by God in the year 2019 and the memories of it being “ancient” have been implanted into our heads. I’m glad this professor is waking people up.

Portland police officers ‘guarding’ Fred Meyer dumpsters as residents seek discarded food

I thought I’d end on a headline that is utter trash. This seems to be the level that the bastion of freedom, the leader of the free world, has sunk to. We’ve assigned police officers to guard dumpsters so that homeless people cannot get food that’s already inedible anyway. Once again, someone play the national anthem—we’ll have to stand for this.

Comic Strip

Canon Blackwell, '28



Music Therapy in Prisons

Tarun Senthil-Kumar, '23, who sees this as a great opportunity.

A scene in the film *The Shawshank Redemption* perfectly encapsulates the effect of music on inmates. In that scene, Andy Dufresne, an inmate at Shawshank Prison, plays a vinyl of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* over the megaphones. The language of music freely expresses complex human feelings abstractly rather than directly and is universally understood by the commoner and convict alike, emphasizing hope in unity as a shared experience between a group of listeners who each interpret the message differently. Every guard and prisoner attentively listens to Mozart, experiencing this moment together, though they could not be more opposite in their walks of life. Regardless of why each of them were incarcerated, the inmates are humanized.

What is music therapy? Relatively new, this type of therapy focuses on the mental, emotional, and physical healing of patients through music. After World War II, veterans were in search of an out-

let to relieve their trauma. Doctors began to research music therapy after observing the global hippie arts movement. In 2008, prisons began to provide music therapy, highlighting a shift to rehabilitate rather than punish their inmates. This therapy successfully treats illnesses such as depression, dementia, schizophrenia, and strokes all across the world because it encourages patients to embrace vulnerability and empathy.

The use of music therapy in prisons offers many advantages. The two main problems music has proven to be effective against are memory loss and addiction disorders as it exercises both sides of the brain, enabling patients to re-establish lost chemical connections. Inmates stave off memory loss using neurologic music therapy, attempt to recall lost senses and emotions using echoic mnemonics, develop an obedience toward rules using procedural mnemonics, recall episodic memories using declarative mnemonics, and coordinate their feelings with proper moods and behavior using associative mood and memory training. When treating drug addictions and psychological disorders, music

therapists employ five stages: engagement, crisis intervention, stabilization, active treatment, and recovery. Inmates usually respond positively to musical treatment showing symptoms of increased self-awareness, respect for others, and greater physical conditioning as well as decreased impulsiveness, mood swings, and negativity. There are many forms of prison therapy, but music therapy allows inmates to discover their best self without using strict or unhealthy methods.

On the other hand, the use of music therapy in prisons also offers its fair share of disadvantages. Many factors determine its effectiveness, including the will, cognitive ability, physical condition, emotional health, psychological state, and history of abuse of the patient. Because most inmates have troubled pasts, they may respond negatively to musical therapy due to harsh memories drawn out by

the exercises. These memories can remind them of the events which led them to the penitentiary, evoking harsh reactions. Some patients also attempt to "escape reality" through music. Though this may seem like an advantage, inmates could interpret their freedom via music as a means to forget their rehabilitation and continue their wrongdoing. They must confront their past mistakes and reflect on their current states to achieve improvement. Overall, however, music therapy focuses on the healing of patients through music, and prisons have incorporated this into their inmate rehabilitation processes by nurturing ailments, breaking past habits, and creating a sense of hope for the future.



Photo By Berklee

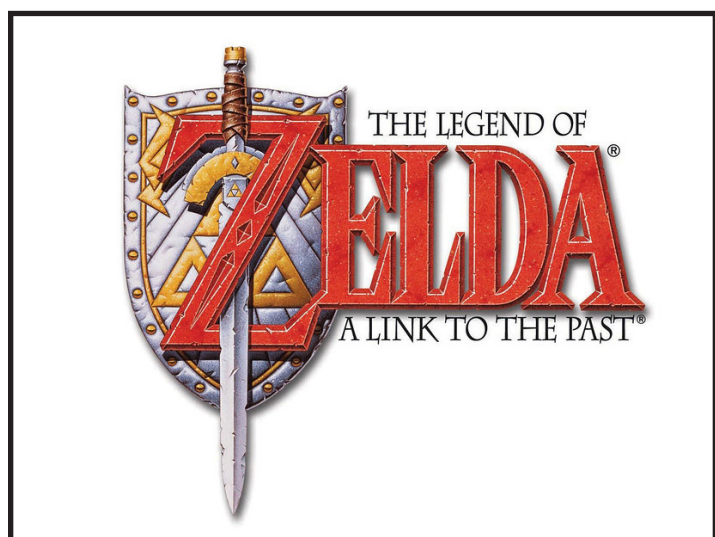


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Luke Herda, '23, who chronicles this famous franchise.

Last month, the fantasy video game series *The Legend of Zelda* turned 35 years old. Ever since it was created by Japanese game designers Shigeru Miyamoto and Takashi Tezuka, it has been known as one of the most beloved video game franchises of all time, as well as one of the best-selling media franchises ever made. Many games in the series have been considered to have impacted the development of video games as a whole, either due to their unique gameplay mechanics, ambitious stories, or soundtracks, and have often found themselves on lists of the greatest video games ever

Zelda while exploring the land of Hyrule. Despite having a simple storyline, *The Legend of Zelda* has been praised for its revolutionary gameplay. When the game starts, the player has no direction on where to go or what to do. Link simply spawns in an open field with the only thing out of the ordinary being a cave at the top of the screen. If you descend into the cave, you will find an old man who bestows a sword upon young Link. However, the player does not have to do this. You can try to play the game without any weapons, going down the various branching paths to explore. It is this open-endedness that gave this game so much praise and notability. The world is the player's "oyster," filled with many other caves and dun-

Legend of Zelda Anniversary

made.

The original top-down game, released in Japan in February of 1986, follows a young boy named Link on his quest to defeat the evil Ganon and save Princess

geons to explore. The game was also the first of its kind to include a system of saving progress, which many other video games included later on.

The franchise's next big leap occurred with its third game, *A Link to the Past*. This installment was released in Japan in 1991 and received much praise. This was due to the game's much improved storyline and graphics, as it was released on the Super Famicom (known as the Super Nintendo Entertainment System in the United States), which utilized better hardware. The fifth game in the franchise, *Ocarina of Time* (1998), is often considered to be the greatest game ever made, due to its revolutionary three-dimensional graphics which had never been used before in the series. 3D was also a new concept that videogames were still attempting to figure out how to use, and *Ocarina of Time* helped to establish the gameplay associated with playing in a 3D space.

Many other games in the series have also been praised, such as *Majora's Mask* (2000), *The Wind Waker* (2002), and *Breath of the Wild* (2017). The latter of these games was especially praised for

its return to the fundamentals of the first game. Much like the original installment, *Breath of the Wild* gave the player a non-linear style of gameplay, with the ability to explore anywhere after the first hour of the game. The story was also revolutionary because the player could experience it through a non-linear fashion. Protagonist Link can travel as much or as little as he wants, or he can run straight to the final boss and attempt to beat the game in under two hours. In 2019, a direct sequel was announced, which fans hope will continue the revolutionary elements of its predecessor.

Overall, *The Legend of Zelda* has contributed much to the legacy of video games as a whole. It has a tremendous track-record of quality and includes many incredible experiences. Its characters and stories never cease to fuel my imagination and the imaginations of many others. As a fan, I cannot wait to witness the future of this franchise, and I am sure that it will continue to inspire generations of gamers to come.