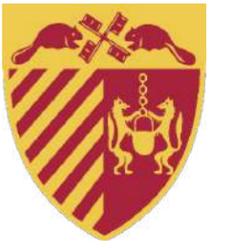


# The Blazer



VOL. CXVII No. III

Loyola School, 980 Park Avenue, New York, NY

January/February 2020

Fiat Veritas

## THIS YEAR'S VISION IS 2020

### WHO'S GOT SPIRIT?

BY GRACE COPPS '22

It's the most wonderful time of the year... no, not Christmas. Spirit Week! Every Loyola student knows and loves the school week leading up to the legendary Sports Night, where we dress up according to a different theme each day. It's like every day is the Met Gala! This year mixed old and beloved themes like Twin Day and Maroon and Gold Day with some new ones such as Pop Culture Day and Decades Day. We started the week with Pop Culture Day on Tuesday, and the student body sure did not disappoint, dressing up as everything and everyone from VSCO girls to Arthur to JoJo Siwa to the cast of Duck Dynasty. Wednesday brought another new theme, Decades Day, which was my personal favorite. Fresh-

men brought back the early '00s in their best Juicy Couture, sophomores dressed like everyone from Cher in Clueless to Will Smith in Fresh Prince for the '90s, juniors broke out the scrunchies and shoulder pads for the '80s, and the seniors donned their best bell bottoms for the '70s. The fan-favorite Twin Day was Thursday's theme, and students paired up with their friends to dress alike in a variety of outfits. The week closed with Maroon and Gold Day, where the whole school turned into a sea of our school colors to show support for our Knights as they headed off to face our infamous archrival Columbia Prep in basketball games that afternoon. The grades fought hard against each

other to prove which class had the most school spirit in the traditional pep rally that afternoon. Students from each grade were chosen to battle in challenges such as a relay race and a "Finish the Lyrics" competition,

as well as 3 on 3 basketball and dodgeball. Spirit Week 2020 was one of the best ones yet, and The Blazer would like to sincerely thank Student Government, Ms. Watkins, and Ms. Meyers for putting it all together!



L-O-Y-O-L-A! Knights! Knights! Knights!  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Instagram.

### SPORTS NIGHT!

BY LEXA HONECK AND AMANDA MCGREAL '21

Sports Night, the night that many students consider to be the most fun night of the year. A night where all of Loyola comes together as one to support all of our athletes, Varsity and JV, as they face our biggest rivals, Columbia Prep. The days leading up to Sports Night are always full of school spirit, and Sports Night is just the cherry on top. The Varsity teams play at home, while

the JV teams play away at Columbia. The Varsity girls played well, until they let their guard down in the second half, allowing Columbia Prep to take the lead with a final score of 63-26. The Varsity boys played immediately after, and by this point, the bleachers were covered in supporters wearing maroon and gold. The knights, despite only having six players, continued to persevere and played

some great defense. At half time, Loyola and Columbia Prep were tied 23-23. The fans were going crazy after every basket and allowing the team to keep the energy. As the third quarter came to a close, one of the Knights best players fouled out, but that did not stop them. The crowd was even more antsy to see how this game would play out. The rest of the third quarter was cold, and there were not

many shots being taken by Loyola which caused Columbia to get ahead. However, the Knights continued to play their hardest until the last minute. Although it was not enough to save the game, the knights made a good comeback with a final score of 57-70. Even though both varsity teams lost, sports night will always be special because of the unique way that the school can come together and support each other.



Star Player Ava Culoso during the Varsity Girls' Game.  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Instagram.



Kevin Coffey on Offense during the Varsity Boys' Game.  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Instagram.

### WHICH TEACHER ARE YOU?

BY ALEX DERAMO AND KATE LUI '20

#### 1.) Describe your favorite pair of shoes.

- A.) I'm not the fancy shoe type. I'd rather wear no shoes at all. Fuzzy socks all the way!!
- B.) Thirty year old oxblood and black saddle shoes from England. I was going to throw them out but I couldn't bring myself to do it. I wore them to school today.
- C.) My periwinkle Brooks running shoes because I can be sporty (run some trails) AND chic (not feel like a shleb)
- D.) There's too many to choose! Actually they're probably under my desk. Something with a high heel and a funky color. My purple block pointy toe heels are pretty cute.
- E.) My blue disco platform shoes in the 70s were quite a look. I sprained my ankle in them, but I looked great while doing it.

#### 2.) What's one thing you dislike about high-schoolers?

- A.) Posting selfies. So odd.
- B.) People walking with phones in their hands. Especially when they climb the stairs, is something really that important to look at? Don't get me started about those bozos on the subway.
- C.) The need to photograph everything. I don't want to know what you had for breakfast- I get it you eat!
- D.) That google is your answer to everything. What ever happened to dinner table debates about who was in what movie!?
- E.) Why don't you guys talk through email?

#### 3.) Describe your dream retirement situation.

- A.) Somewhere warm... Hawaii sounds nice... Hawaii sounds really nice...
- B.) Saratoga, New York. It's not one of those dead towns. They have horse racing up there.
- C.) Traveling to the tropical places on my Instagram feed
- D.) New York City brownstone full of books (Beauty and the Beast style).
- E.) Traveling somewhere warm and taking piano lessons. I want to relax but I don't want to veg out!

#### 4.) What would be your superpower of choice?

- A.) Seeing what goes on in your heads. Really, what is happening up there?
- B.) Reading my student's minds. Scares you, right?
- C.) Ability to see the best in everyone, even when they're being a jerk. It's a superpower and a half, there are a lot of jerks out there.
- D.) I wish I could make people feel my pain. No one understands me!
- E.) I'd love to be walking on the beach while simultaneously being at Loyola

#### 5.) What is your strangest fear?

- A.) Being tied up in a garbage bag (dark... stuck... suffocating...)
- B.) Being attacked by sharks.
- C.) Swimming in large bodies of water. Don't be fooled- sharks could eat you, whales could eat you, squids could drag you out to sea...
- D.) Any kind of fish. Small. Big. Even goldfish, I just don't like the way they move.
- E.) Getting stuck in an elevator. And dropping. Dropping all the way down.

If you picked MOSTLY As, you are... MS. MEYERS  
 If you picked MOSTLY Bs, you are... MR. SULLIVAN  
 If you picked MOSTLY Cs, you are... MS. CINTRON  
 If you picked MOSTLY Ds, you are... MS. WATKINS  
 If you picked MOSTLY Es, you are... MR. LYNES

## STATE OF THE UNION

By KATIE SPILLANE '22

As expected Trump's third State of the Union was eventful. From going through his typical talking points to addressing new issues, Trump definitely gave an insight to what he plans on running on in 2020. So here are some of the biggest takeaways from the speech. Partisan drama: With a congress as divided as this one it was pretty much a guarantee that someone was going to be angry. The center of the tension came from Speaker Nancy Pelosi and President Trump himself. Starting with Trump's refusal to shake Pelosi's hand at the beginning. She was also seen shaking her head and even rolled her eyes during various points in the speech. There was chanting from both sides of the aisles on different issues. The democrats made their feelings about Trump's drug cost and healthcare plans known. The republicans reassured their commitment to Trump,

chanting "Four more years!". However, the most dramatic point of the whole night came at the very end. Pelosi decided to visibly rip a copy of Trump's speech. While it may be just as dramatic as her sarcastic clapping in the last state of the union it was definitely less subtle. Healthcare: Trump spoke on the issue of healthcare and used it to comment on the status of socialism in America. He commented on how many senators support the elimination of private health insurance saying, "...we will never let socialism destroy American health care." However, he also promised to always protect those with preexisting conditions. Something that many found odd considering the current administration has yet to provide such a plan. Prescription drug pricing was also an issue Trump stressed. Explaining that lawmakers must, "get a bill on my desk, and I will sign it into law im-

mediately." This promptly many democrats to stand up and reference H.R. 3, which is a bill the House has passed in an effort to lower drug costs but the Republican controlled a Senate has not looked at yet. Economy: Trump reflected on the economy and what he believes to be the, "great American comeback." Obviously a strategic move considering the support his economic policies have received. It is easy to assume the economy is something Trump will reference often in the 2020 election. While no one can deny the obvious improvement in many areas, some fact checkers have a few concerns about some of the things said. Guests: As always many guests were invited to attend the State of the Union from both sides of the aisle. Trump invited Limbaugh, a famous conservative news figure, and even announced that he would receive

the presidential Medal of Freedom. He also invited a military family who were surprised by the return of their father. His other guests include: Kelli Hake, whose husband was killed in Iraq; Iván Simonovis, who was jailed in Venezuela; Raul Ortiz, the deputy chief of border control; Jody Jones, whose husband was shot by an undocumented immigrant; Robin and Ellie Schneider, whose birth at twenty one weeks was consid-

ered a medical miracle; Janiyah Davis and Stephanie Davis, an advocate for school choice; and two veterans, Paul Morrow and Tony Rankins. Some notable guests of the members of congress include: Courtney Wild, one of Jeffery Epstein's accusers; Rushan Abbas, a Uighur activist; Hatice Cengiz, fiancé of the deceased Jamal Khashoggi; Nathan Law, a pro-democracy advocate in Hong Kong; Hailey Seals,

daughter of a detective killed in an anti-Semitic attack; and Andrea Chamberlee, whose husband was killed at The Capital Gazette shooting. The State of the Union represented exactly how our nation looks in today's political climate; petty and polarized. With no one able to agree it seems everyone has resorted to using any method necessary to make the other side look bad. Not surprising but still disappointing.



The President addressing the Union.  
Photo courtesy of abcnews.com.

## ROSENCRANTZ, GUILDENSTERN. "THE CHILD".

By CAROLINE ADAMS '21

Philosophy is the result of an abundance of time. The luxury to consider global questions of existence, morality and humanity comes from the stipulation that one's basic needs are met with no indication that they will cease to be so. This is easy to understand; if a person had not eaten for a week, their mind would be entirely consumed by the primal need to fuel, not the question of the nature of the human soul. The point of this hypothesis is not to discredit the value of philosophy as an educational pursuit, in fact, asking these questions is a triumph of the human condition and ultimately what sets us apart from other living things. Literature is typically the breeding ground for such considerations. As characters battle evil, they focus of survival, but as they sway in limbo between sleep and waking in their comfortable bed, they ask the questions that lurk in the corners of our minds and on the blackboards of dimly lit college classrooms. Of course, in rare circumstances, a character in a story, faced with an imminent and dier situation considers questions of philosophy ie: life, the universe and everything when confronting aliens who have come to destroy your planet. One of the most

widely contemplated questions in fictional worlds and indeed in real life philosophy revolves essentially around the words "Why am I here?" "Why am I here?" Harry asked as he faced Voldemort in a darkened graveyard. "Why am I here?" Thought Wilbur as he lay beneath Charlotte's words on her web. "Why am I here?" asked Thor when he was sent to Earth by Oden. "Why am I here?" Jesus implored in the garden of Gethsemane. Ultimately we, like these four, must accept that whatever the purpose of our existence, we remain completely powerless to the ineffable movements of the universe. That is, as the title sequence in my favorite movie Heathers so eloquently put it, "Que Sera Sera; whatever will be will be". One of the most obvious examples of complete powerlessness to the whims of fate is that of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are plot devices; they exist not to have character arcs or to explore some internal aspect of humanity, but to move the plot of *Hamlet* forward. Furthermore, none of the other characters seem to be able to distinguish one from the other, as Shakespeare demonstrates when Hamlet

first greets them. Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are unimportant; they do not have lives of their own. They exist within the covers of *Hamlet* as a dual entity with little purpose other than to take *Hamlet* to England and then to be killed. Readers and philosophers have speculated on the nature of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern ever since the play was written, with some even going so far as to give the two a "spinoff". Some have speculated that Shakespeare included these characters with little to no real thrust to offset *Hamlet's* complete bounty of thrust. In *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* by Tom Stoppard, we, the audience of *Hamlet*, are allowed a peek into the almost blank minds of the two, and at several points, we watch as the two consider the very question that philosophers have scratched their beards over for years: why are we here. Ultimately, what both *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* and *Hamlet* allow us to understand is that we, the main characters in our own story, at times serve as nothing more than nondescript tertiary characters in a broader narrative with no more control over our fates than a lamb

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## The Blazer

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The Blazer is the official newspaper of Loyola School, produced and published by the students of the school for the Loyola School Community.

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Students are encouraged to contribute to the school newspaper at any time by sending their articles to:  
20adelfranco@loyolanyc.org.

Students should be aware that their contributions, if printed, may be edited to fit the available column space of *The Blazer*. Content may also be edited to conform to newspaper norms.

The staff of *The Blazer* holds monthly meetings to plan upcoming issues. Students are strongly advised to attend these meetings to get a sense of what articles need to be written. We are most in need of straight-reporting articles about school life. We are least in need of editorials or other opinion pieces.

Articles of general interest not specifically related to school life will also be considered but will be printed at the discretion of the staff. Such articles include, but are not limited to, movie reviews, book reviews, horoscopes, editorials, and humor. All decisions made by the staff regarding the suitability of an article are final.

## THE COWBOY PIANIST

By RYAN HOGAN '20

The pianist walks out before the crowd, and stops before his instrument. They cheer, and grow quiet. He calls out to them in a tongue he does not know, only just memorized, and takes his seat. There is a long pause, and his show has begun. The horns sound their call, and are cut short by the clang of the timpani drums. The horns again rise, now in concert with the violins, cellos, oboes, flutes, and brass, and the pianist takes charge upon the keys. His tone is whimsical, and he leads the rest of the orchestra in train. With three triumphant chords in each measure, the stings intone in his own time, following along as he quickens and slows the pace, swaying the audience with his lullaby of absolute music. His name is Harvey Lavan "Van" Cliburn, Jr., and his rendition of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat Minor put a hiatus on the Cold War. Van Cliburn wasn't originally from Texas, but by 1960 he was one of the Lone Star State's greatest heroes. On July 12, 1934, he was born in Louisiana to Rildia Bee and Harvey Lavan Cliburn, Sr. His father was an executive oilman, and his mother a piano teacher. Like Socrates to Plato, Franz Liszt trained her original teacher, Arthur Friedman, and when Van was all of three years old, his mother found him playing on his own, a natural Alexander the Great. She became his Aristotle afterward, mentoring him in the way of the ivories for most of his young life. The family moved to Kilgore, Texas, in 1940, and after a few years of practice, Van was ready to compete.

At twelve years old, Van Cliburn was the best pianist in the state, winning a chance to play with the Houston Symphony Orchestra. At 17, he moved to New York to study at Juilliard, where he learned the songs and techniques of Russia's great composers, like Rachmaninoff and Musorgsky. At 20, he won the esteemed Leventritt Award, at the time an award so prestigious it was not given out if the competitors did not meet the Leventritt Foundation's standards, and he played at Carnegie Hall. From 1952 to 1958, he won in competitions across the country, and was invited to play in Moscow, USSR. In October of 1957, a decade into the Cold War, the Soviet Union launched the satellite Sputnik into orbit, not only initiating the Space Race, but starting off with a lead over the USA. As an expression of Russian superiority, the leaders in the Kremlin organized the first International Tchaikovsky Competition. Pyotr Ilych Tchaikovsky was the composer of Russia's most well known works, writing during Russia's Romantic period in the 1800's. His oeuvre includes orchestral pieces like Romeo and Juliet and the 1812 Overture, which features the sound of sixteen cannons blasting, as well as ballets like Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, and The Nutcracker, among other tunes and operas. He was the first Romantic composer to reach international fame, playing all across Europe, and renown in the Americas as well. So, when the competition was announced to the world, and the panel of judges made of contemporary Russian composers released, and

the Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev set to attend, the world's best and brightest pianists sailed, rode, and flew to the USSR. In April of 1958, the contestants took to the stage, hailing from both behind and outside of the Iron Curtain. Pianists came from China, Japan, the Balkans, Scandinavia, and the Rus itself. They came from England and France, Canada and the United States, all playing for national glory. Cliburn was nervous, like any 23 year old would be in technically enemy territory, but was greeted right off of the plane by a friendly personal assistant. She rode with him around Moscow, showed him the theater the Ministry of Culture selected for the show, the Red Square and the Kremlin, and left him at his loft. Shortly thereafter he was invited to meet the judges, and although intensely intimidated, he found that they were just as interested in his ability as he was in their work. The contest began in the mid-afternoon on April 14, 1958. He practiced with a full orchestra the night before, along with the rest of the contestants, and knew that he was ready. The crowd was excited. They had heard plenty of excellent pianists that night, and were filled with the pride of the great composers of their land. Now at the end of the show, they were ready to watch this American they had heard was highly skilled play before them. Van Cliburn was the last to take the stage. He walked out to the crowd, stopped before the piano, and waved to Khrushchev in his box. Before sitting, he called out to the audience in Russian, dedicating his

performance to Alexander Goldenweiser, another great Russian pianist. Cliburn pulled the bench in toward the keys, sat, and the music began. The entire performance lasted thirty seven minutes, typical timing for professional concerts. But this performance was far from typical, as Cliburn jumped from chord to chord, controlling melody and rhythm with every press of the keys. After twenty minutes of Tchaikovsky, he launched immediately into Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3, which took up the next seventeen. When he had finished, hands aching, sweat drenched, and out of breath, he rose to take his bow. The ensuing eruption of applause from the standing ovation carried for eight minutes. The audience's favorite was clearly determined, and soon after the judge's favorite was as well. They sent an envoy to the Premier's box to ask if an American victor would be allowed, to which he replied "Is he the best? Then give him the prize!" Returning home, Van Cli-

burn was lauded a hero. He had traveled into enemy land and reinvigorated American patriotism with his success. He was given a ticker-tape parade in New York City, the only musician ever honored as such. He was the cover story of Time magazine, billed as "The Texan Who Conquered Russia." A recording of his Rachmaninoff was released as a single, and he met with President Dwight Eisenhower to discuss US-USSR relations. The subsequent album he recorded of the entirety of the Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff pieces won him a Grammy for Best Classical Performance, and the hearts of Americans and Russians across both countries, as it was certified gold by 1961. Cliburn even established his own musical contest. In 1958, he was honored at a dinner event, where a contest in his name was announced, and would be funded by the National Guild of Piano Teachers. The inaugural competition was held in Fort

Worth, and has been held every four years since, with focus not only on piano but on strings, woodwind, and vocals as well. He was invited often to play for dignitaries and national leaders, holding concerts for every President from Harry Truman to Barack Obama. Cliburn would rest on his laurels relatively early in his career, leaving behind the fame and glory in 1978. His father's death prompted the hiatus, but he came back to the spotlight in 1987 to play for President Reagan and then Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev. In the following years, he would go on tours, open concert halls, and play for world leaders, and though his first album would go triple-platinum, his music never found the same following as had when the tall Texan took the tourney in Tchaikovsky's town. Harvey "Van" Cliburn died peacefully in 2014. His titular foundation carries on his legacy, and the legacy of history's many classical composers, hosting the next Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2021.



Eraserhead anyone?  
Photo courtesy of wikipedia.com

## ROSENCRANTZ. GULDENSTERN. "THE CHILD". (CONTINUED)

By CAROLINE ADAMS '21

beinh led to slaughter. Characters like Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are not atypical in literature and indeed, media as a whole (see Neville Longbottom in the majority of the Harry Potter Books, and Jane in *Pride and Prejudice*). In fact, I was reminded of such lovably flaccid characters during my viewing of John Favreau's *Mandalorian*, specifically in the character of "The Child". At this point, "The Child", hereafter referred to by his proper title: "Baby Yoda", essentially exists as a plot device for the Mandalorian. Without giving away too much, none of us have any idea of where he came from. None of us know why he's so important, other than the fact that he bears a striking

resemblance to a certain three-foot-nothing, sentence-inverting, swamp-living Jedi master. In the dark, we are. Now, obviously, the TV show has not concluded its story arc yet, and this writer is absolutely positive that all will be revealed in due course. With the minor exception in episode two, (spoiler alert) when the child uses an early indication of the force, and the penultimate episode in which we are introduced by the child to "force healing", and the final episode, in which baby Yoda blocks a stream of fire shot by a stormtrooper, Baby Yoda exists to be acted upon. The child acts, for all intents and purposes, like your average seven month old. The child is not in

control of its fate, and his existence is not explained and rarely speculated upon. While The Mandalorian's writers make it quite clear that Baby Yoda is a central, if not pivotal part of the plot of the show, and Shakespeare treats Rosencrantz and Guildenstern with the dispensable sleight of hand typical of any tertiary character, one cannot help but remark at the parallels of fate between the characters. Sent to the protagonist by duty or something to that effect, this character or characters serve as a catalyst to some astronomical revelation and something resembling self discovery, whether that be in the form of a deeply buried paternal

instinct or a single-minded lust for murder. Approaching the logical conclusion of this runaway train of thought, this writer is beginning to think that this entire hypothesis is very likely nothing more than a caffeine fueled mania trip taken in the wee hours of the morning when the parts of the mind that need sleep are stripped of reason and secrete purest insanity. Is Baby Yoda actually anything like Rosencrantz and Guildenstern? Most likely not. The very desire to compare such a clearly important green child to history's most neglected characters is akin to the ravings of a madwoman. I believe, however, that this comparison speaks to the very nature

of our shared narrative in this world discussed at the beginning of this nonsense. Whether the author intended you to be the central protagonist of your ten episode Disney+ TV show, or he placed you unceremoniously within one act of a play

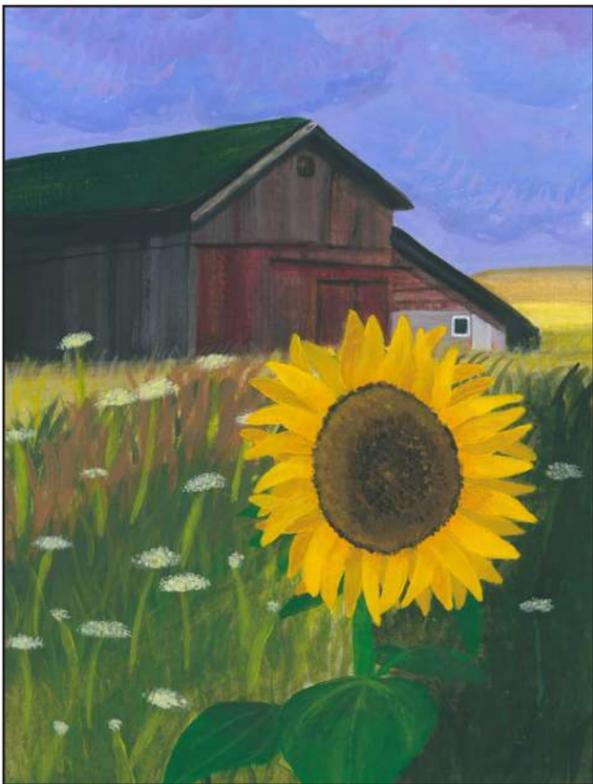
about madness and murder, fate treats you with the same mindless amusement. No matter how pivotal or otherwise we objectively are, we have just as much chance of meeting fate the same way a king or a beggar does.



Question: Is The Mandalorian a Christ allegory?  
Photo courtesy of insider.com.

ACRYLIC PAINTING IN PAINTING 1

BY: CAROLINE ADAMS '21



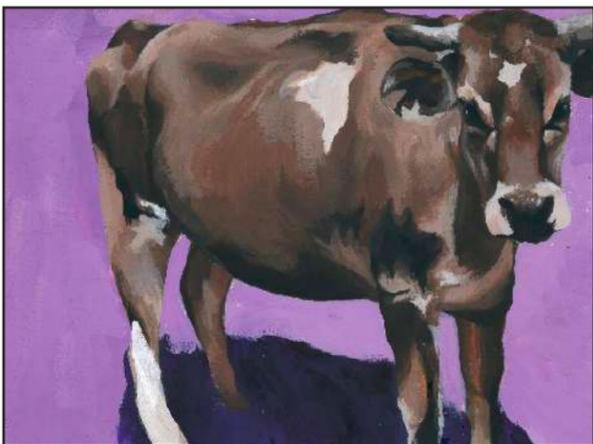
“Sunflower” by Valentina Marini Fichera  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



“Peacock” by Siobhan Twomey '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



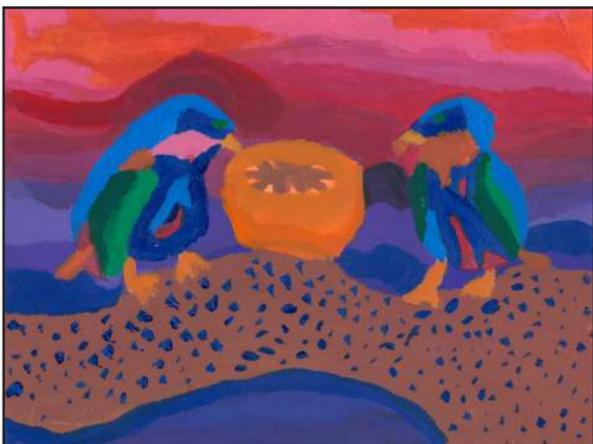
“Pug” by Jacqueline Fiechter '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



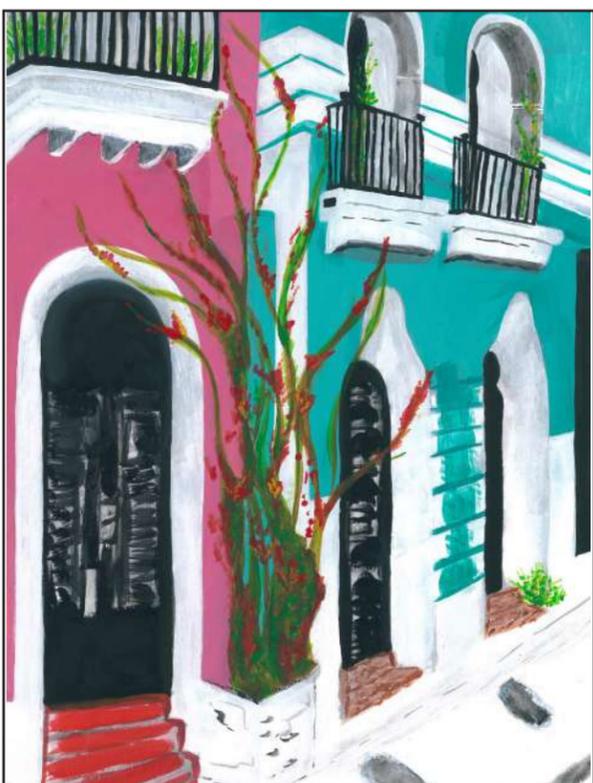
“Cow” by Caroline Adams '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



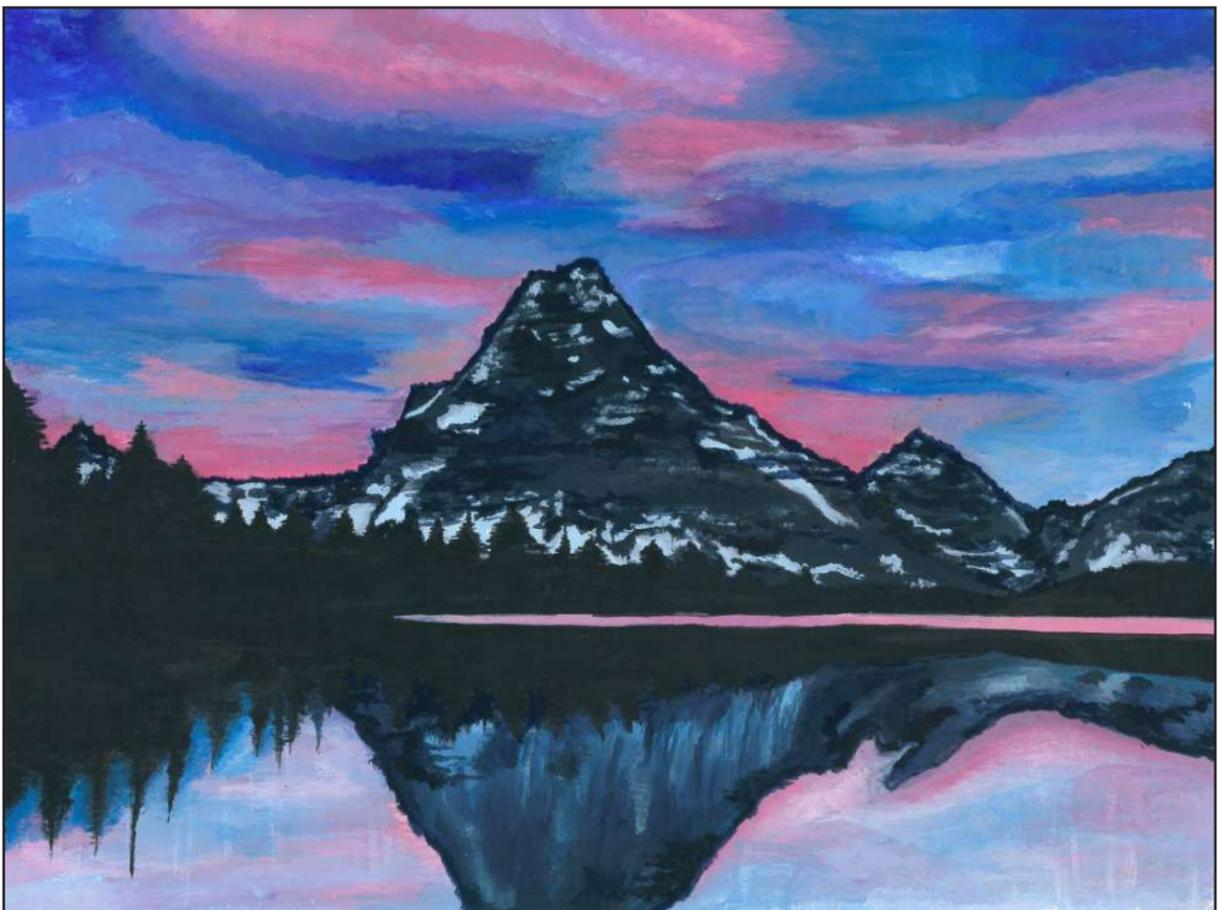
“Wave” by Sophia Griffio '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



“Birds” by Daniel Moreno '22  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



“Buildings” by Natalia Adam '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



“Mountains” by Imani Good '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.

In our October issue, we published a set of paintings done by Ms. Meuler’s Painting 1 class. These were the first in a series of watercolor paintings done by the class. The paintings you see in this issue are done in the acrylic medium. If you were to compare the two sets of paintings, you would most likely notice a few key differences between them, and these stem from key physical properties of the paints and therefore techniques used for application. Firstly, watercolor is made by combining pigments with gum arabic, a natural gum that reacts with water. Watercolor can be manipulated after it dries, but becomes more challenging to layer because paper, the ideal substrate for watercolor, soaks up the compound. By layering watercolors too liberally, a painter will break down the paper substrate that supports the paint. Acrylic paint, on the other hand, is made by mixing pigment with acrylic polymer. Acrylic can not be manipulated after it dries, and it dries quite quickly, meaning that it is idea for layering and creating dimension. Enjoy these incredible works by Loyola artists. Special thanks to Ms. Meuler for her guidance in the Painting 1 class.

ACRYLIC PAINTING IN PAINTING 1

BY CAROLINE ADAMS '21



"Abstract Three" by Caroline Adams '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



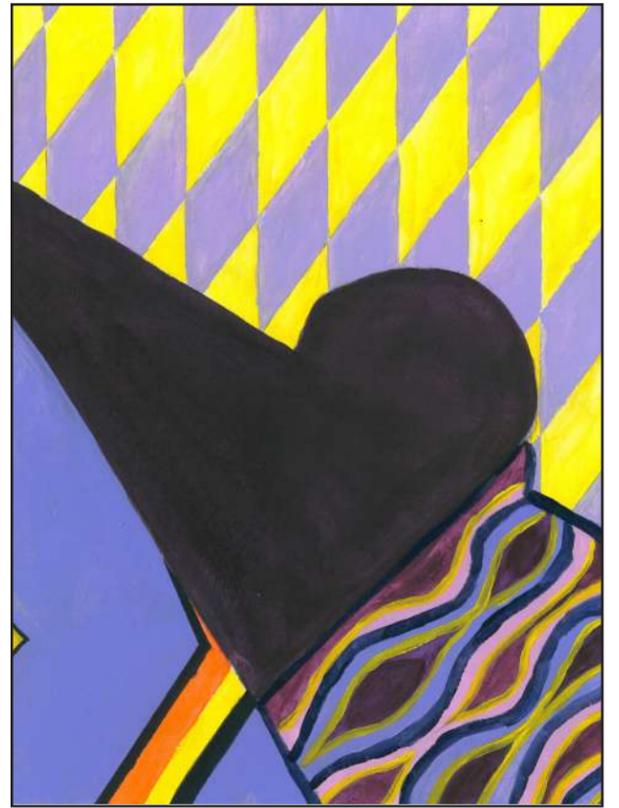
"Abstract One" by Sophia Griffò '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



"Abstract One" by Natalia Adam '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



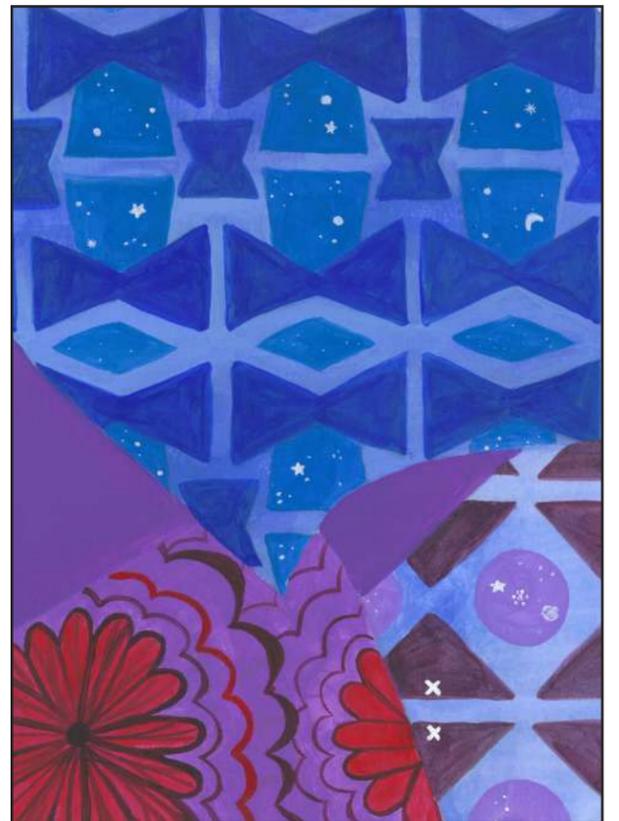
"Ship" by Andreea Grigorescu '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



"Abstract Four" by Juliette DeSpirito '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Yearbook



"Horse and Goose" by Juliette DeSpirito '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.



"Abstract Three" by Valentina Marini Fichera '21  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Painting 1 Class.

"Art is what you can get away with."  
-Andy Warhol

## AI SAUCE: THE ONLY SAUCE THAT MATTERS

By CAROLINE ADAMS '21

As I find myself marching, steadfast through the isles of my local Morton Williams Grocery Store, I am consumed with a question that many ask yet so few can answer- in any way that demonstrates a deeper, fuller understanding of what it means to be great. Men, women and children throughout history have been wrong, but never quite so wrong as they are about sauces. It is not, however, the fault of said men, women and children that they are so devastatingly misguided. Indeed, it is the fault of a much greater, more powerful entity, one that reigns from afar: Heinz. While we mere mortals entertain ourselves with our playground games of politics and religion, Heinz looks on, tightening their web of falsehoods in which they have entwined each of us, each of our families, and our French fries. For decades, Heinz has managed to convince the United States as a whole that their finest product is their Ketchup. This is a lie, a boldfaced lie at that. The time has come for us to reject this lie and step into the light of truth. Ketchup is not the best sauce, in fact, it isn't even a good one. The best sauce is Heinz's A1 Steak Sauce. Heinz's A1 sauce is not

only the best sauce, but the only sauce that matters for three reasons: taste, quality, and versatility. Let's talk about it. Firstly and most fundamentally in a sauce, the taste. The true palatability of a sauce should be measured, not by how it complements an accompaniment, but on how it tastes singularly. Ketchup, specifically Heinz's, does not taste good by itself, in fact, it is repulsive. I challenge you, dear reader, to recall a time when you, a sensible person, made the conscious choice to dip your finger in the ketchup on the side of your plate and transfer said finger on the end of the arm of an intelligent consumer to your mouth in order to take a naked taste of ketchup. The thought sickens me to my very core, and I'm sure it does the same for you. A1 Sauce, however, passes the finger test. Once finished with my French fries, I feel no reservations about in turn finishing my leftover A1 sauce. It's bright, complex coagulation of sweetness, acidity, and spice warms my very soul, in a way that a corn-syrupy, fuming, and sickly sweet smear of ketchup will never begin to suggest. Ketchup is a brief fling with a partner who is con-

venient, but not in the least bit reliable or enjoyable to be around. A1 is a deep, passionate love affair that spans the confines of time, space, and energy. It is the kind of love that poets write about; it is a love that lasts. Secondly, let's talk about quality. A1 is a sauce that we can all use and feel good about using. As a vegan and a celiac, I must usually be quite careful with my condiment selection. Some sauces contain dairy, other hidden eggs, others wheat (which could destroy my insides), and other anchovies (those weird fish). A1 does not, and I know this because

I check the ingredient label every single time I use it. It can't be, I say to myself, feverishly skimming the tiny print on the bottle. There has to be something in it: gluten, eggs, pig eyes, caterpillar spines, something. But no. Each time I check, I am reaffirmed in my deep, spiritual trust in A1 sauce. This magic potion, this serum if the gods, this special sauce also comes packaged in a glass bottle, easily recyclable and reusable for anything, making it worlds better than Ketchup, which comes in a flimsy plastic bottle filled with absolute nonsense. Finally, let's discuss ver-

satility. Ketchup is good for about three dishes, those being as follows: French fries and French fry adjacent products, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Beyond these delicacies, ketchup is absolutely useless. A1 Sauce is not. Although its bottle declares it a "steak sauce", A1 is not a one trick pony. I put A1 sauce on everything. I dip vegetables in A1 sauce, I marinade my tofu, I put it on my Beyond Burgers, I put it on my hash browns, I put it on my vegan mashed potatoes and peas. Furthermore, I firmly believe that A1 sauce outperforms Ketchup at its own job.

A1 sauce is better on French fries, burgers and hot dogs. A1 sauce provides the bright, savory sweetness that Ketchup refuses to deliver on, without Ketchup's added disappointment and failure. To conclude this treatise on truth, love, and universal justice, allow me to say this: you, dear reader, are worth it. You are wonderful. You are so wonderful that you deserve so much better than Ketchup. You don't deserve middle-of-the-road, sticky, goopy nonsense. You deserve the warm, gentle power of A1 Sauce. Make the right decisions.



A #1 sauce.

Photo courtesy of enjoyflagstaff.com.

## EXPLORING EARTH ON MORE SOUP BOWL 54 (TRANSLATION)

By CHELSEA CAMPOS AND VALENTINA MARINI FICHERA '21

Vari's Entry #5621 part 1 Our mission to rescue more creatures of our kind in the Milky Way galaxy took longer than Command Center expected. We hopped from solar system to solar system and there was nothing as far as we could see. Around 5250 minutes spent on the journey, with about three minutes per solar system, and there seemed to be no intelligent life that fit our Chief's description. We received a message from Chief L to return to Earth on our route to their sun to refuel our ship. I am not sure why we even had to stop by Earth. We had already visited 45 minutes ago and saw they neither needed our saving nor were they intelligent life forms. Chee-Chee and I orbited Earth and scanned the humans once again, but this time noticed a greater collection of humans tuned into one satellite channel. Chee-Chee suggested that we get closer. We flew to the southeastern peninsula of usa.

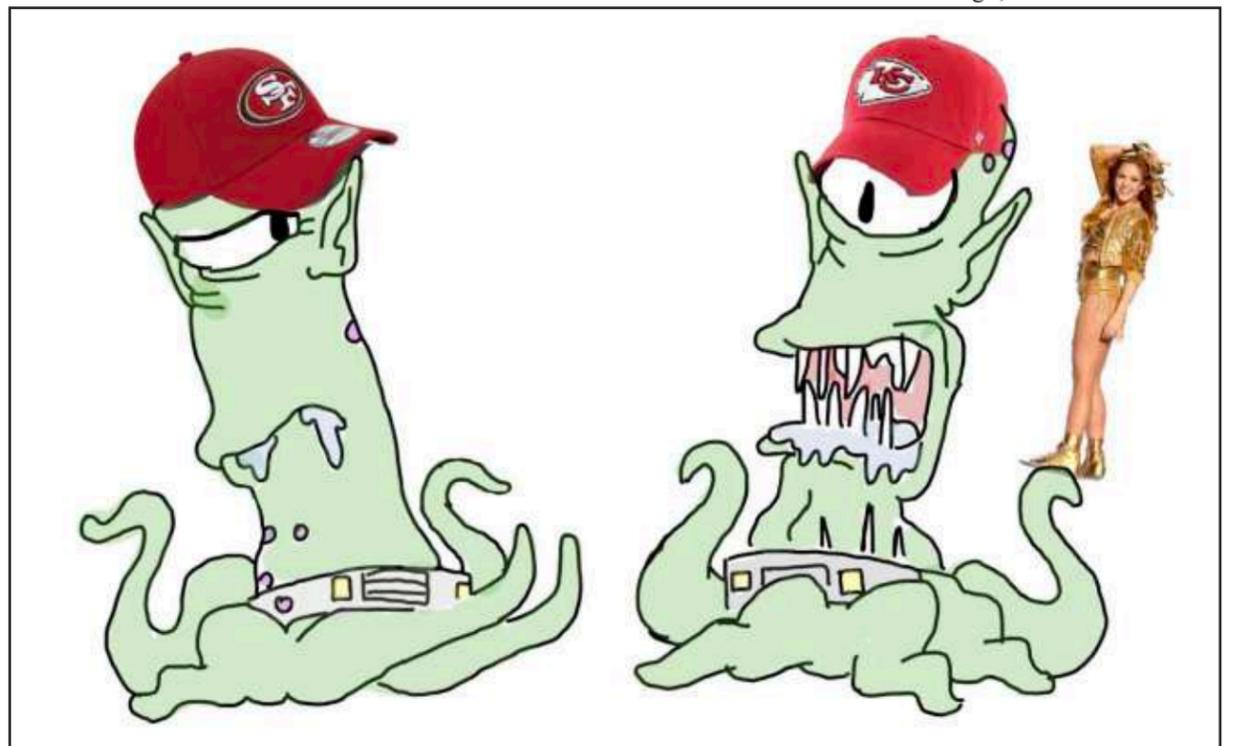
We hovered in our camouflaged crown-shaped ship over this box-looking building full of humans. It was a very odd spectacle. Chee-Chee and I determined it to be some form of entertainment for the humans. I am just puzzled about the purpose it served. We watched for hours, mesmerized by the colors and waves of people. It is so amazing how humans get excited about the most simple, unimportant, earthly things when they could experience so much greater in our galaxy just 12 million light-years away... Chee-Chee's Entry #5621 part 2 ... Having a break was much needed after traveling through the galaxies for 88hrs straight. Beaming creatures from all over the Universe to our home planet can be extremely exhausting. As we were heading closer to little Earth, we noticed thousands of humans surrounding some sort of bright, artificial greenery, grass as they call it. We then noticed that they were excited

about a "Super Bowl." We camouflaged our ship and noticed big tough humans running around the green blob. They kept attacking each other, it was quite entertaining. They never let a human run for more than five seconds. There were many instances in which a large number of humans would attack one

innocent human. I don't understand why they wouldn't let it keep the brown object. I was rooting for the humans wearing red because they were called the Kansas City Chiefs. My loyalty to Chief L will never die out. When the humans stopped attacking each other. The lights turned off a bit. Then an attractive

woman whose name is "Shakira" started singing. Her voice made my mouth drop. She also had very nice dance moves! "I want to make her my wife" I said. Vari didn't respond. I looked at him and he was too busy drooling over the woman singing in the interesting language. I smacked him with

one of my arms. "Hey! She's mine!" I yelled. "I don't think so, I'm making her my 49th wife" Vari replied. "Okay, how about we make a little bet. If the red team wins, I get Shakira. If the white team wins, you get to make Shakira your 49th wife" I suggested. "Ugh, fine" Vari said.



Needless to say, I now am rightfully allowed to marry Shakira. She will be so pleased!

Photo courtesy of the authors.

*SPEECH WINS!*



The Team at UPenn!  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Instagram.



The Team at the Regis Loyola Tournament.  
Photo courtesy of the Loyola Instagram.

*WORD SEARCH*

**Ice Cream Flavors**

Y	M	T	R	L	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E
A	S	K	C	A	R	T	E	S	O	O	M	E	T
P	Y	V	A	N	I	L	L	A	S	N	O	T	E
M	K	D	E	T	D	E	A	C	F	A	N	A	A
C	A	T	N	L	I	N	N	A	O	C	O	O	E
O	K	P	O	A	A	G	O	D	K	E	A	E	T
E	C	U	L	N	C	A	E	F	O	P	L	R	N
D	O	T	A	E	E	N	O	R	Y	W	E	E	E
O	C	B	O	A	W	Y	O	T	T	E	O	I	E
C	O	I	E	A	A	A	R	T	S	A	O	A	R
R	N	T	T	C	R	A	L	E	T	N	I	A	G
E	E	G	D	U	F	O	S	N	I	O	V	L	T
D	A	O	R	Y	K	C	O	R	U	A	C	G	T
A	E	E	T	U	N	O	C	O	C	T	P	E	S

- COTTON CANDY
- MAPLE WALNUT
- PECAN
- BANANA
- TIGER TAIL
- MOOSE TRACKS
- COCONUT
- ROCKY ROAD
- GREEN TEA
- FUDGE
- REESES
- CHOCOLATE
- VANILLA

Play this puzzle online at : <http://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/416/>

*PUZZLES!*

*CRYPTO KEN KEN*

AB		B	C+
C			
		B	D

*SUDOKU*

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				4				
	3	6		7				
1								
				6		9	4	5
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	7	8					5	
				4				3
3						5	9	

				9	1	4		
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		6	3				5	7
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# The Knightly News

## PHOENIX RISING

By CHRIS BURICH '20

The Phoenix Suns are one of the most successful franchises in the history of the NBA. Today they feature a premier starting lineup of some of the best young talent in the league. When healthy, the Suns sport Ricky Rubio at PG,

Devin Booker at SG, Mikal Bridges at SF, Kelly Oubre Jr. at PF, and Deandre Ayton at C. That lineup has an offensive rating of 133 and a defensive rating of 96. However, they have hardly been able to play together

due to injuries to Ricky Rubio and Kelly Oubre Jr., and the 25 game suspension of Deandre Ayton. Deandre Ayton was suspended for taking a diuretic, which is often used to hide Performance Enhancing Drugs.

## WELCOME TO THE XFL

By CHRIS BURICH '20

Football fans always dread the off-season. They wait seven long months for the next NFL season to kick off. They want to see more football. There have been many attempts in the past to build a football league for the NFL off-season. Last year, the Alliance of American Football (AAF) was created. Fans were initially excited to see some more football but without the proper funding, the league collapsed quickly. Fast forward one year. In steps WWE chairman and CEO Vince McMahon. Vince attempted to start his own football league, the XFL, back in 2001. However, he didn't have the right mindset. He tried to blend football and WWE professional wrestling into one sport, which did not work. The original XFL only lasted one season and was seen as yet another failed attempt at rivaling the NFL. Nearly twenty years later, McMahon is

hoping for a better result. He has taken a lot of time to plan out the league this time around. Unlike the AAF, the XFL will be well funded since Vince McMahon is worth an estimated \$2 billion. Here are the details of the XFL. There will be eight teams. The teams are the Dallas Renegades, the D.C. Defenders, the Houston Roughnecks, the Los Angeles Wildcats, the St. Louis BattleHawks, the Seattle Dragons, the Tampa Bay Vipers, and your New York Guardians. There are many different rules that the XFL has when compared to the NFL. The play clock will start at only 25 seconds, in order to speed up the games. The game speed will also be cut down by a short 10 minute half-time, and only two coaches timeouts per half. There are no extra point kicks in the NFL. Instead, teams will have the option to go for one point from the 2-yard line,

two points from the 5-yard line or three points from the 10-yard line. Although there will no longer be extra points, kicking will still be part of the game. Kickoffs have been reimagined to move most players down the field so that they aren't hitting each other at full speed. The kicker will kick off from the 30-yard line, 5 yards further back from the NFL, in an effort to limit touchbacks. Replay reviews are still part of the game, however coaches challenges have been eliminated. The players won't be stand-out superstars, in fact you probably won't recognize any of the players. No one really knows if the XFL will last this time, but it's more promising than ever. If you want to watch the XFL, every game will be broadcast on either ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, FOX, FS1 or FS2. Cheers to more football!

## GERRIT COLE: THE KEY TO 28?

By CHRIS BURICH '20

The buzz of the off-season for the Yankees has obviously been the recent acquisition of the star pitcher Gerrit Cole. Last year with the cheating Astros, Geritt boasted a 2.50 ERA accompanied by 326 strikeouts and only 59 earned runs in a 33 game campaign. Mr Cole will become the clear ace and number one starter of the now an impressive Yankee rotation for the upcoming 2020 season. Cole will be supported by Masahiro Tanaka, Luis Severino, J.A Happ, and another pitcher who will be fighting for that last spot. James Paxton will be out indefinitely until May-June following back surgery. The first year with the Yankees, Paxton proved to be a clear number one or two pitcher in the rotation with a team low 3.82 ERA among starters. The team will be more than happy to slip him back into the rotation in early summer once he is healthy. The Yankees are sitting as +350 favorites to win the 2020 World Series even with the Dodgers recent trade, adding stars Mookie Betts and David Price to their already star studded organization. Before the season starts, however, there are some notable positions battles to be had. With Paxton possibly out through May, that spot in the rotation will be challenged by pitchers Jordan Montgomery and Jonathan Loaisiga, both sub 5 ERA pitchers who have highlighted success during their small outings with the Yankees. 20 year old pitching prospect Deivi Garcia will be someone to watch for, however, starting the season in the big leagues this season will be a long shot. If more injuries plague the rotation, do not be surprised if the promising young stud gets his first shot. The bigger position competition, however, will come from the left side of the infield. Previous near gold glove winner, Gio Urshela, will have 24 year old Miguel Andujar on his tail, chasing the 5 spot in the field. Shoulder surgery after only 3 games in 2019 kept Andujar sidelined for the whole season. The up and coming star was in the running for AL Rookie of

Year in 2018, most believing he was snubbed of the award due to the popularity of Angels dual threat, Shohei Ohtani. Miguel Andujar was literally better in every hitting column hitting .297 with 27 HRs and 92 RBIs. Ohtani only played a little more than half a season but apparently hitting .285 in 100 games and starting 10 games at pitcher in that time frame was more attractive. This season, manager Aaron Boone will need to find a way to get Andujar involved, either splitting time at 3B, 1B, DH or even LF to get full potential out of the high ceiling slugger. Another position change will occur on the left side of the infield. Proving his MVP caliber skills last year with 38 home runs and a .278 batting average, 22 year old Gleyber Torres will have to make the jump from second base to shortstop with the farewell of beloved shortstop Didi Gregorius. The young buck will have big shoes to fill defensively, for Gregorius was acquired for defensive purposes after hall-of-famer Derek Jeter retired. Some scouts say that Torres struggles with footwork that may cause defensive trouble in the 6 hole. The only other option the Yankees have at the SS position is speedy Tyler Wade, a twenty five year old who only had 94 at bats in 2019. Wade will be a lock on the team, however, because of his defensive flexibility at many positions and his speed on the bases, something that the Yankees lack due to most of their star hitters being over 6'2 and 230 lbs. Aside from these changes however, the Yankee will be returning a large portion of their 2019 team. The projected lineup, provided by Bryan Hoch of mlb.com, will include many familiar faces. Gary Sanchez will be the clear starter due to his offensive firepower and defensive-game calling ability. Losing backup catcher Austin Romine due to free agency, 2019 third-string Kyle Higashioka will see more of the plate, while the Yankees signed veterans Chris Iannetta and Erik Kratz for further cushion. At first base, Luke Voit's 2019 late sea-

son struggle at the plate may open up opportunities for powerful lefty Mike Ford, but Voit's experience at the position and with the Yanks makes him a lock going into the season. At second base, the three time gold glover and 2019 Silver Slugger winner David John LeMahieu, aka Le-Machine, will start the season in the heart of the infield and in the heart of the offensive threat for the Yankees. No question here. Moving past shortstop and third base, the outfield has some interesting pieces to be sorted out for opening day. Aaron Hicks will be out until the summer with Tommy John surgery, so long-time veteran and previous gold glover Brett Gardner will be a lock in centerfield. 2019 Wilson Ball Glove Defensive Right Fielder of the Year and homerun machine Aaron Judge will continue to be the face of the franchise, sitting in the short porch in right field. If not at the DH spot, 6'7 monster Giancarlo Stanon will patrol the left field fence. If starting in the designated hitter position, lefty Mike Tauchman and Clint Frazier may get a chance at the 7 spot in the defensive lineup to showcase their range and surprising sparks at the plate. Moving past the starting rotation, the bullpen has high expectations to meet, being one of the best in the previous two seasons. Notable signings and departures include an extension of 2019 AL Reliever of the Year Aroldis Chapman, and the Met's signing of 6'8 giant Dellin Betances. However, Zach Britton, Chad Green, Tommy Kahnle, and Adam Ottavino will continue to throw cheddar, all above 94 mph for average fastball speed, three of them throwing over 96 mph. Even though the Yankees fell short of the AL Pennant in 2019 to the sign stealing Astros, runner up for 2019 AL Manager of the Year, Aaron Boone stated confidently, "We don't feel like anyone should be able to get in our way," (per ESPN). Coming off of a 103 win season, the Yankees will begin the 2020 season with their best chance to conquer their 28th World Series Title.



Gerrit Cole in action.  
Photo courtesy of nydailynews.com.