

THE ACADEMY

# TORCH

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY NEWS PUBLICATION

NOVEMBER 2017 ISSUE

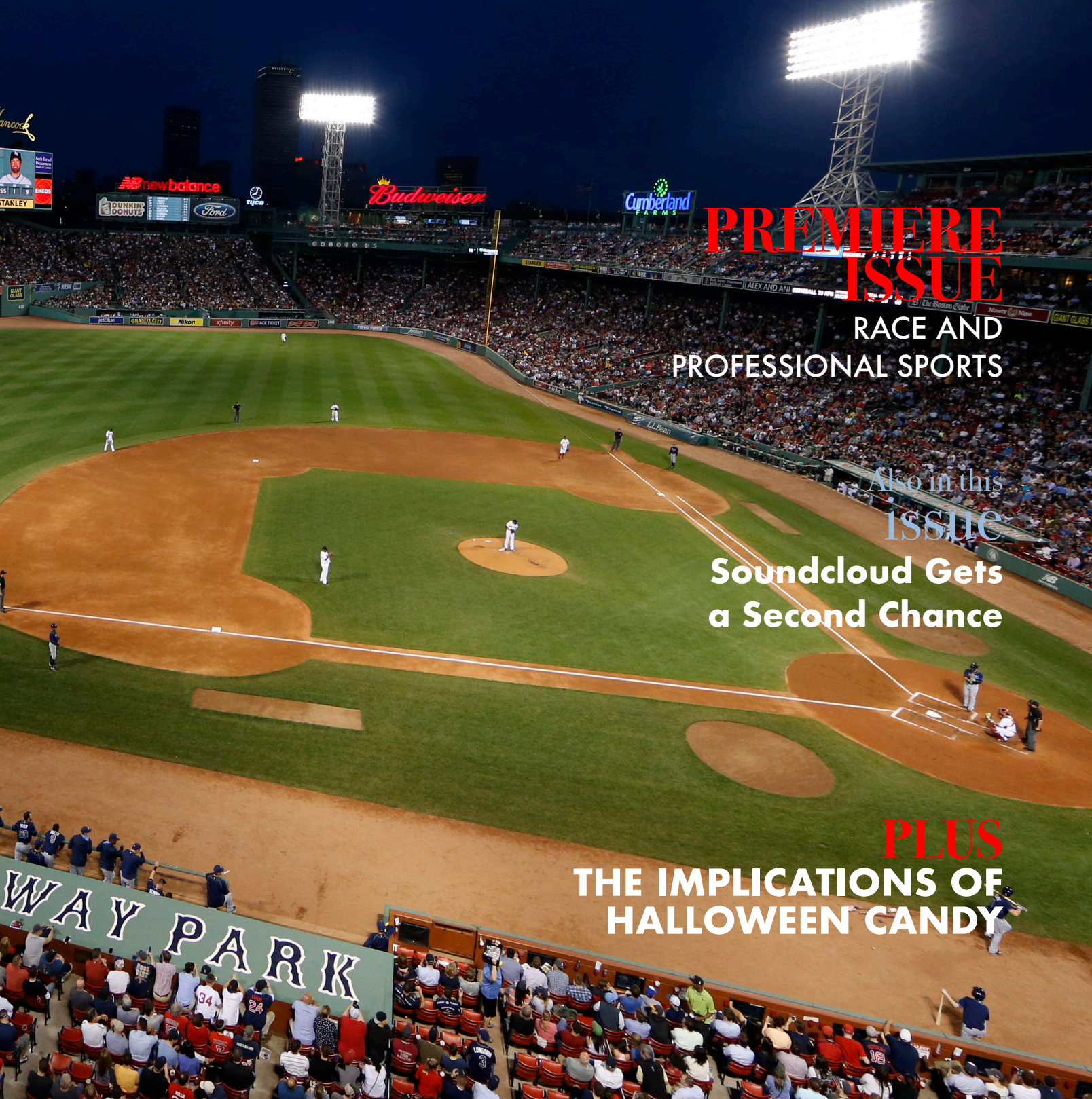
**PREMIERE  
ISSUE**

**RACE AND  
PROFESSIONAL SPORTS**

Also in this  
**ISSUE**

**Soundcloud Gets  
a Second Chance**

**PLUS  
THE IMPLICATIONS OF  
HALLOWEEN CANDY**





# Letter from the Editor / The Academy Torch

## Premiere Issue / November 2017



LETTER FROM THE  
EDITOR IN CHIEF  
**MS. BILOHOLOWSKI**

Welcome to our new Academy Torch News Publication! As most of our readers can tell, we as a staff have decided to go in a new direction when it comes to the publication of the Torch.

Through the years, this publication has evolved from a newsletter printed on the school copiers that covered mainly school-related events to a publication that takes on global issues that are highly discussed topics throughout the country.

Please take your time to peruse this new issue and take a look at what our staff is doing. We are very proud of the offerings that we have presented and we hope to move forward with even more topics in the future.

If you are interested in being involved with the Academy Torch, we meet during the Enrichment Periods and are always looking for new staff members. Stop by and get involved!

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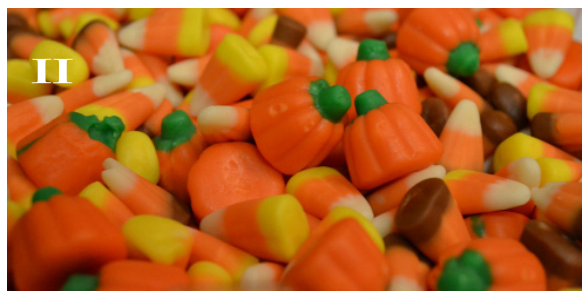
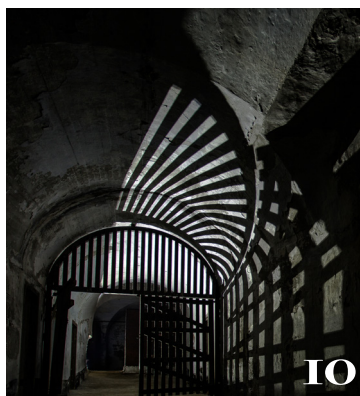


Photo by Larry Levanti



**#We are CBA**

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# An Introduction to Mr. Meehan

Francisco Roig '19



*"I want the student body to know that I will offer them my support and guidance in the difficult journey to manhood. I will hold them accountable to the rules so that they achieve their potential and so that they build one another up."*

*-Mr. Meehan*

As you all know by now, CBA has a new Dean of Student Affairs, Mr. Meehan. Mr. Meehan's philosophy is that discipline is the key to one's success. He believes that discipline allows us to tap into the God given potential that is inside us all, although some people need to put in more effort than others to release that potential. That is where Mr. Meehan plans to help. He believes that once a person can master the virtue of discipline, they can achieve anything they set to their mind. Mr. Meehan's goal is to help the students of CBA achieve their goals. "My first goal for the school year is to foster an environment where mutual respect and dignity are the norm in how all CBA men treat one another. Additionally, I desire that each CBA man recognize the value and goodness of self discipline. That each student can come to recognize that discipline enables us to achieve our God given potential."

Mr. Meehan is a very kind man, however he is not afraid to enforce the law of the Academy. Some students may think that he is "easygoing".

However if he senses that you are trying to take advantage of him, you have another thing coming. "I want the student body to know that I will offer them my support and guidance in the difficult journey to manhood. I will hold them accountable to the rules so that they achieve their potential and so that they build one another up."

Mr. Meehan may be our new disciplinarian, however the CBA way is in no way new to him. His whole philosophy based around the four tenets of our creed. He believes that the Oath is a "foundational promise that every CBA man makes". Its purpose is to remind and guide them throughout their walk down the street that we call life. It challenges every CBA man to be the best version of himself that he can be in our pursuit of knowledge and wisdom.

Mr. Meehan works hard to fulfill the responsibilities that come with his role as disciplinarian. He is human and does have to take breaks sometimes. He likes to travel with his wife and 3 year old daughter whenever he gets the chance to. It helps him take his mind



Photo by Larry Levanti

off of the work he has as many of us do. He also likes to play golf, which he has been playing since he was 5 years old. He finds it to be a great way to relax and appreciate the gifts that God has given him.

# Soundcloud Gets a Second Chance

Jack Coleman '18



Over the summer, the music streaming service SoundCloud was rumored to be expected to close within the next eighty days. Inside sources claimed that the company would be laying off forty percent of its workers, and that the company only had enough money to last them to their fourth, final quarter. With all the speculation, there were opposing statements said by the CEO that made it seem like the company would survive and was even thriving. The ordeal ended up involving famous rappers, possible donations, and a crackdown on copyright issues.

When the news broke, twitter was in an uproar. Rappers who had achieved their fame through the app, which is mainly popular due to its pushing of independent and underfunded artists, took to Twitter over the speculation. While many indie artists have been heavily associated with SoundCloud over the years, such as Post Malone and

Bryson Tiller, none have been as reliant on the streaming service as Chance the Rapper has been.

Chance still is not signed to a major label, and so an app like SoundCloud which freely distributes his music to fans is very important. Having accumulated over 403million plays between his first two mixtapes, it is clear to see why the service is so important to Chance. His third album, *Coloring Book*, amassed 160.03 million plays, 335 thousand likes, and 63.9 thousand shares.

It comes as no surprise that when the news came that SoundCloud was shutting down after eighty days, that Chance was one of the first artists who took to Twitter to react. In a very cryptic series of events, Chance first tweeted how he was talking with SoundCloud execs and not to worry. In between this he asked his followers to tweet him any of their songs on SoundCloud that had over a

thousand plays and to tweet at artists who they would not know about were it not for SoundCloud. Following this, Chance replied that SoundCloud was here to stay. This is all very unusual given that when the CEO was asked to comment he stated that there had never been any financial troubles in the first place and rumors were running about. Alex Ljung, SoundCloud's CEO, tweeted as well that users should not worry and that their music was here to stay; this was after his call with Chance. If this all was not enough Chance released a song with another prominent SoundCloud artist, Young Thug. Their song "Big B's" has 9.24 million plays and showed a spike in users spending time on the app. While no information was given surrounding the circumstances of the song drop, it seems likely that it could have been part of a deal between Chance and Ljung.

SoundCloud's troubles could have been seen coming

prior to the rumors, due to the lackluster subscription numbers, as well as the crack down on copyright issues. While companies like Apple, Spotify, and Pandora offer free services that dim in comparison to their premium services, SoundCloud provides a great one. Perhaps the reason for SoundCloud's 175 million monthly listeners is because they are provided with a free listening experience to well-known artists, as well as undiscovered, on the rise artists.

The premium service ends up only being purchased by the actual artists themselves. With the service charging only seven or twelve dollars a month for services that are not all that important to a consumer, it makes sense that they were suffering. The only real difference in premium is that upload time is doubled from 180 hours to 360 hours with the seven-dollar subscription, and unlimited upload time with the twelve-dollar subscription. Besides this main facet of the premium subscription, there is not much else offered. To account for some of these losses, SoundCloud also saw a recent rise in taking users' songs down for copyright issues.

To combat these issues SoundCloud must continue to work diligently through these hard times. The only way the company can survive is through the continuation of their new projects, and bettering service.

# “RACISM: AS AMERICAN AS BASEBALL”

Aidan Broderick '18

This September at Fenway Park, during a regular season game between the Red Sox and the Oakland Athletics, the fans' attention was briefly drawn elsewhere, as three attendees draped a sign reading “Racism is as American as baseball” over the Green Monster, the giant wall in left field. While the sign only remained there for a few minutes before the three fans were ejected from the game and escorted out of the stadium, the effects of this political comment were felt around the nation, as Americans everywhere turned to Twitter to give their two cents on the situation. These fans were ejected not because of the sign's message, but because the sign hung in fair territory and interfered with the game.

While the sign that hung in Fenway Park on September 13th was not stating that racism is necessarily present in baseball, racism is definitely present in other sports, specifically football, and no one exemplifies this more than the polarizing Colin Kaepernick. Many people forget that Kaepernick originally sat during the National Anthem in August 2016 to protest “the oppression of people of color and ongoing issues with police brutality,” as reported by SB Nation. This protest originally went unnoticed, but as more attention was drawn to the 49ers quarterback during the 2016 NFL preseason, he decided to speak about why he was protesting. “I’m going to continue to stand with the people that are being oppressed,”

Kaepernick stated in a press conference on August 28th. “This is because I’m seeing things happen to people that don’t have a voice, people that don’t have a platform to talk and have their voices heard...I’m in the position where I can do that and I’m going to do that for people that can’t.”

On September 1, 2016, teammate Eric Reid and Seattle Seahawks defensive back Jeremy Lane became the first NFL players to join Kaepernick in protesting the National Anthem, as Reid knelt with Kaepernick on the 49ers’ sideline, while Jeremy Lane sat down on his team’s bench. As the 2016 regular season began, this theme continued to spread through the NFL, as multiple teams had players who knelt while the American flag was raised. At the end of the 2016 NFL season, Colin Kaepernick’s protest led to athletes across the nation, in more leagues than just the NFL, taking a stand for their beliefs during the national anthem. However, the 49ers had the second-worst record in the entire NFL, only winning two of their sixteen games, meaning that Colin Kaepernick’s team had not made the playoffs. In addition, Kaepernick chose to opt out of his contract with the 49ers, a decision that allowed him to enter free agency and have the ability to sign with any team. Kaepernick is still unsigned today even though the majority of NFL players believe he deserves a spot, according to current Titans backup quarterback Brandon Weeden: “He’s had a







heck of a career...I think us as players, we all kind of firmly believe that he's a good enough player to play in this league." But while Kaepernick himself remains without a team, the protests that he began are gaining even more popularity this season, with players from every team participating in some kind of protest during the national anthem, including kneeling, sitting, raising a fist, and even staying in the locker room while the anthem is being played.

While NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has allowed the protests by his players to take place despite mixed responses around the nation, NBA commissioner Adam Silver wants there to be no disrespect shown towards the national anthem before NBA games. "We have a rule that players stand for the anthem," Silver said, and he also published new rules stating that stretching, holding a basketball, talking or gesturing, and chewing gum are all violations of how an NBA player should act while the national anthem is being performed. These statements and rules from the NBA came after some of basketball's superstars, including Stephen Curry and LeBron James, responded to offensive comments by President Donald Trump towards athletes disrespecting the American flag and national anthem. President

Trump originally caused this tension between himself and African-American athletes by tweeting that any player who disrespects the American flag should be fired, while also rescinding the invitation to the Golden State Warriors, the 2017 NBA Champions, to visit the White House. This decision came after Stephen Curry declared that he would not attend his team's White House visit due to his disappointment in the current President of the United States. In response to this, LeBron James and other top athletes fired back at the President for his comments, with James referring to Trump as a "bum" in a tweet of his own. With the NBA season underway, no player has protested the national anthem just yet, but from the stand that global superstars such as Curry and James have made through social media against racism in sports, it seems likely that NBA players may follow Colin Kaepernick's lead despite the rules that commissioner Adam Silver has established.

While players from other sports leagues such as the NFL and NBA speak out against racism, is racism present in baseball today? While no organizations show any overt racial discrimination towards anyone in the MLB, and while only one player has knelt for

the national anthem before a baseball game, racism has still found its way into baseball as well, as shown very recently on national television. During the third game of the 2017 World Series, the Houston Astros' Cuban first baseman Yuli Gurriel made a racist gesture directed at Yu Darvish, the Los Angeles Dodgers' Japanese starting pitcher. This sparked more outrage across social media and provided yet another example of how racism is present throughout sports and throughout the country. So, the message that the Boston protesters intended to convey was that racism is as present in America as baseball is, and racism's presence in sports such as football, basketball, and baseball definitely supports their argument.

<https://www.sbnation.com/2016/9/11/12869726/colin-kaepernick-national-anthem-protest-seahawks-brandon-marshall-nfl>

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<https://www.cbssports.com/nfl/news/>

# The End of an Era: Henderson's Closing

Michael Wittich '20

As you may know, Henderson Hall stopped all classes, as of this year. There are many reasons why the building shut down classes. One of the reasons was the space was simply not needed. "There is enough room in the main building to keep everyone inside for all of their classes," said Brother Frank when I asked him why it was closed. The second reason was it made more economic sense: "Why spend all that money on lights and heating for all of those classrooms, when you can just keep the rooms in the main building heated and lit up."

Henderson Hall was originally a horse-barn. In 1959, when the farm was turned into a school, Henderson

was the only school building for the first two years. After the main building was finished, Henderson was used as the "Freshmen-only" building. Freshmen would only walk to the main building for lunch and gym. This lasted until 1987, when expansions to the school were made. After this, Henderson was just used as a storage facility until it was eventually reopened to classes.

"Henderson is not being closed. It will never be closed, due to its historical significance to the school," Brother Frank mentioned during our conversation. Henderson will now be used for after-school activities, including the pipe band and chess team, as well as the clubs already in the building. Henderson

Hall will also be used for underclassmen retreats.

In short, Henderson Hall is simply being repurposed. Brother Frank concluded by saying "If we once again have a rise in the number of students, we will reopen Henderson to classes."

# Enrichment: A Period for All Clubs

Matthew Vaccaro '19

One of the most exciting new changes to the curriculum here at CBA is the introduction of the Enrichment Period, which has allowed students the opportunity to attend an academic club during the school day.

The Enrichment Period occurs for 40 minutes during an extended home-room period every Wednesday, provided that it is a full school day and no other assembly is scheduled. The program's primary purpose is to boost the attendance of more academic based clubs, however, any extracurricular lacking an academic focus has been left out of the offering. Nevertheless, students enjoy a myriad of options to choose from, including over twenty-seven different clubs, a film in Henderson Theater, such as *Invictus*, or a quiet study in the library. Additionally, the new period

has brought with it the introduction of several new clubs, including Calligraphy with Mr. Broehl, Speech and Debate with Mr. McCulloch, Experiencing Life Fully with Mr. Tortorici, and Scrabble Club with Dr. Frank.

The program is still in its infancy state, and as such there are some kinks to be worked out, but all in all the reaction has been overly positive. The major appeal of the program is that it allows those students who are preoccupied with sports in the afternoon to experiment with clubs they otherwise would not have had the opportunity to try.

The only drawback, if it can even be called such, is that there are too many clubs to choose from, and so certain clubs may need to alter their schedules to accommodate. All things considered, the Enrichment period is

shaping up to be an excellent addition to the CBA school day.



Photo by Larry Levanti



# Action for Animals Awareness

Robert Sandbach '18

Each year roughly six and a half million animals enter shelters. Of those, almost a fourth are put to death. The Action for Animals Club wants to change this, through a variety of different methods. One of the main ways the club is working to help comes from the adoption and foster walls, which serve to increase the awareness of the amount of pets in this country that need homes. In response to Hurricane Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria, the club is working to create an entire wall of animals who are in dire need of a home.

On a less melancholy note, helping animals find a home is not the club's sole mission. As a club, we believe in supporting animals in any way possible, and that is where events such as

the Blessing of the Pets on October 4th come into play. The small service is run by Father Zec, and is used to commemorate and celebrate our pets. This short service is always an upbeat kick-off to the year, joining parents, faculty, and students alike.

Overall, a central ambition of the group is incorporating animals into everyone's life. Every few months, students and some animals go to De La Salle Hall to have a pet therapy session with the brothers. It is a great way to communicate with the brothers and learn about CBA and life.

This year the club is hoping to achieve great things and save some of the many animals in need!

Source: <https://www.asPCA.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistics>



Photo by Christian Caceres

## IT Floats to the Top Joseph Broehl '18

After its conception in 1986, Stephen King's horror classic, *IT*, has become one of the most recognizable stories in its genre. With the rise of movie remakes this year, it's no surprise that "IT" was given a second chance on the big screen. With a \$35 million budget, "IT" has become the highest-grossing horror film of all time, earning a whopping \$123 million during its first weekend on the big screen. As of now, the film has produced well over \$400 million world-wide. Although the film's success cannot be attributed to a single person or feature, the "movie-magic" that went into "IT", is certainly worth the praise.

The R-rated horror film has attracted audiences everywhere because of how horrifying the film actually is. Despite the obvious demonic, child-eat-

ing clown, the film follows a band of misfits, self-named the Losers Club. They fight to discover what is actually going on in their town. When each of the kids first encounter Pennywise the Clown, the "IT entity," the child actors express so much emotion, it almost feels too real, most likely because it is. During the making of *IT*, the producers and director had the brilliant idea to keep the child stars away from Bill Skarsgard, who plays Pennywise, for as long as they could, in order to get the kids' genuine reaction. After this revelation, the film seems to become a little creepier knowing that the screams on-screen were real.

In the end, however, the film received King's approval, with King tweeting, "Andy Muschetti's remake of 'IT' [...] succeeds beyond my expectations."

King, further urging movie fanatics to go see 'IT', promised that, "You'll float too."

Sources: <http://variety.com/2017/film/news/it-stephen-king-highest-grossing-horror-film-1202566209/> <http://beta.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-ca-mn-sneaks-it-pennywise-20170901-story.html> <http://www.digitalspy.com/movies/news/a831401/it-movie-stephen-king-r-rating/> <https://twitter.com/StephenKing>

# Appeasing My Phobia of Horror Movies

Kieran Leister '19

For many, this is the best time of the year to head to the movie theater and see a nice, scary horror movie. For me however, this is the worst time of the year. I have been deathly afraid of horror movies for as long as I can remember. I cannot recall a personal experience that has caused me to have this fear. I just do not like being scared.

This year I decided to join the trend, put my fears to the side, and review two horror movies. First, I decided to warm up with a classic staple in the horror genre, *The Silence of the Lambs*. Although it may not seem very frightening in comparison to today's serial killer movies, this was one of the craziest movies I have ever seen. For me, this movie was easy to handle when it came to the horror aspect, but it might not be for all people. Overall, this movie was thrilling from the first minute to the last minute and made me regret not watching it sooner. It is easy to understand why Jodie Foster and Anthony Hopkins won Best Actor Oscars in their respective categories.

After warming up with the *Silence of the Lambs*, I decided to take the ultimate challenge. A few fellow "wimps" and I went to the movie theater on Friday, September 22nd to see the highly regarded movie adaptation of author Stephen King's, *IT*. I felt confident within the first few minutes that I would be able to make it through without yelling at the screen, but my confidence was immediately destroyed. Bill Skarsgård, who plays the character of Pennywise the Clown, is absolutely horrifying. The best part of the whole experience was "walking" home from the movie theater in which I actually sprinted the entire way. Putting my fear of jump scare and gore horror aside, this movie was fantastic. The child actors are incredible. Sur-



prisingly, there were a few moments in which I was laughing hysterically at some of the lines from the "Losers Club." Although the intention of the movie was intended to unnerve audiences, I noticed an underlying theme that I did not expect. I felt that the makers of the film displayed that friendship can help defeat any obstacle, even if that obstacle is a creature that takes the form of a creepy clown. Despite not having slept for weeks, my experience overall has been fearfully fulfilling and I look forward to challenging myself even more next year.



# TRICK OR TREAT

Aidan Picadio '18

Everyone hates that one house, the one that would hand out anything but candy year after year for Halloween. Everyone remembers this from their childhood, the people who would hand out “healthy alternatives” in lieu of that nice Hershey bar, or would just pass on food altogether and hand out something like pencils. Everyone knew to either avoid these houses, or people would go there year after year hoping candy would finally be brought out. However, has anyone stopped to think that these people were doing a good deed with this? Probably not, and I doubt that anyone thinks that Halloween can be all that unhealthy. After all, there are other holidays where people stuff their face with food, so why should Halloween be any different? Well, it turns out that all the sugar that is consumed on and after Halloween isn't good for your health. This alone makes Halloween arguably the unhealthiest holiday in the entire year.

Some people don't take sugar into account when talking about this, or just into their daily routine. Yeah, as it turns out, sugar isn't all that healthy, especially when someone has a lot of it in a short period of time. Sugar can lead to heart disease, higher cholesterol levels, obesity, and type two diabetes. Sugar can also lead to increase in fat, similarly to eating foods that are naturally high in fat. There is a reason why sugar isn't supposed to make up most of our calories for the day. Calories from sugar are worse because of all the negatives that come with the sugar. The recommended daily limit for sugar is about 30 grams, but the average American consumes over 83 grams per day. Now it is not hard to see how only a few pieces of candy can get you to the 30 gram recommended limit, and how easy it is to surpass it since no one wants to stop after just two or three pieces. However, Halloween is a competition between friends; the day isn't over until you hit every house in the neighborhood and had the largest pile of candy.

Even if someone thinks that there is a healthier holiday than Halloween, you can't deny that Halloween can possibly

be a healthy occasion. The pure amount of sugar and candy that Americans alone purchase and eat are staggering. We spend over 7.4 billion dollars on Halloween supplies, including candy, each year. Now that includes costumes and decorations also, but nonetheless that is a staggering amount of money spent on a holiday not named Christmas. Americans also buy over 90 million pounds of chocolate, and an additional 35 million pounds of candy corn are made just for this day. That's over 125 million pounds of candy that are consumed and sold for this one day. This doesn't even include all the other non-chocolate candies apart from candy corn. Considering that one Reese's contains 10.5 grams of sugar in it the amount of sugar that Americans eat is many times that number of candy. Now take into account that every kid has a large bag filled with candy, and not only probably ate a whole lot while trick-or-treating, but now also has a large amount to eat over the next week.

Another unhealthy staple of Halloween (and the whole fall season in general) is the abundance of all the pumpkin flavored products. The reason for this is because when companies add pumpkin flavor to a product, they also offset it with a lot of sugar. Take the famous pumpkin spice latte that people won't shut up about, a 16 ounce cup has 50 grams of sugar and 380 calories. This can be found in all the other pumpkin flavored products that flood the food stores every year. This may not be a problem that is directly related to Halloween, but Halloween does lie in the fall, and these products are still all the rage by the 31st of October.

I hate to be the party pooper, but I feel that this topic had to be discussed. Even for us who don't go door to door asking for candy, it is impossible to avoid any for that one day. It doesn't help that Halloween is constantly advertised in the weeks leading up to it, making it even harder to avoid. There is nothing wrong with eating some candy, but there gets to be a point where enough is enough.



We spend over 7.4 billion dollars on Halloween supplies, including candy, each year.

# Smart Helmets: Solving the Problem?

Michael Sullivan '19



*“If the helmets can be introduced to all levels of the sport, football will always be played.”*

How annoying is it when you check your fantasy lineup and your best player is questionable due to a mild concussion in last night's game? Or even worse they are out for weeks and sometimes even the whole season. What if that were near impossible, simply because of new helmets.

Technology in football has definitely come a long way and many are thankful for the helmets that are used now, but what if it could be even better. Although these helmets are not already in all football use they will soon be. These helmets that are being worked on, use very advanced technology which uses the impact of the hit to send data to coaches or medical staff. This data then helps the people determine whether or not to take the player out of the game before they are concussed. Concussions are now starting to overshadow the sport of football. If the helmets can be introduced to all levels of the sport, football will always be played.

The way this technology works is using sensor and magnet technology to separate the force of the impact so it is not controlled to one spot. These helmets are made exclusively for football right now, but Riddell can help many through different sports such as lacrosse and hockey. Although these helmets seem to help so much, if the technology is not perfected it can also hurt. If people rely on these helmets too much, they can use that false sense of security to keep the player in the game. Although this technology is supposed to help coaches with concussions, if the coaches purely rely on what the data says

then the players can seriously get hurt with things as bad of a brain injury if the impact is not picked up by the sensors. If a player takes a serious blow to their head or any part of their body, it should be checked out by a trained doctor then to rely on the data. A study from Boston University, that shows of a test where they studied 91 former football players and 87 of them had brain injuries, which is 91 percent.

This technology can dramatically affected as there is a lot of room for improvement. If this technology can help even half of these players that would make a big difference. Although this technology is not unbeatable, and normal protocol is necessary, it can help the concussions which have been haunting the NFL for a long time. Overall this technology is not about beating the doctors, it is simply about helping football.

Sources:

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<http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/09/tech/innovation/smart-football-helmet-concussions/index.html>



# Alabama Basketball: National Champions?

Conor Cassidy '18

College basketball is right around the corner and that can only mean one thing: it's almost time for Cinderella Teams!

When one thinks of college basketball, University of North Carolina, Duke University, University of Kansas, and/or the University of Kentucky, are the top schools that come to mind. When one thinks of Alabama, college football is what come to mind.

I'm here to tell you to stop thinking that. Soon, Alabama will be known for its basketball program and this upcoming season will be the main reason why.

This past offseason, the University of Alabama had a great recruiting class as they finished 8th overall in the 2017 recruiting class. One of They finished behind Duke, Kentucky, Arizona, Missouri, UCLA, Texas, and Louisville. Inside of their division, the Southeastern Conference, Alabama finished third overall with their recruiting class.

Top Recruits: Finishing eighth overall for the top recruiting class, Alabama acquired one 5-star player, two 4-star players, and two 3-star players.

The 5-star player Alabama recruited and acquired was Colin Sexton, a 6'2" point guard from Mableton, Georgia. If there is one reason why Alabama is on the verge of becoming known for their basketball program, it will be because of Colin Sexton.

Colin Sexton has the tools to become one of the best college basketball players in the country. He plays the game with a tenacious attitude that most compare to Russell Westbrook and can shoot and score like a Stephen Curry. Sexton is incredibly dangerous and will be a lethal weapon for the Crimson Tide.

The two 4-star players Alabama acquired were John Petty and Alex Reese. The two 3-star players Alabama received were Herb Jones and Galin Smith. All four players at some point

in their Alabama career should get some playing time and possibly make an impact.

Returning key players this season for the Crimson Tide include PF Braxton Key, Donta Hall, and Riley Norris. These three players all had a huge impact for Alabama last season and should continue to increase their production. Combining these three core players with a talented freshman class can make this upcoming team LETHAL!

## Alabama Projected Starters

Point Guard-Colin Sexton  
Guard-Riley Norris  
Guard-Dazon Ingram  
Forward-Donta Hall  
Forward-Braxton Key

The Alabama Crimson Tide open up their season up Friday, November 10, 2017 against Memphis. This should be a great first game for the tide to see how well they can really play against tough non-divisional teams.

## 2017 SEASON SCHEDULE

|             |    |              |          |
|-------------|----|--------------|----------|
| Fri, Nov 10 | vs | Memphis      | 6:30 PM  |
| Tue, Nov 14 | vs | Lipscomb     | 8:00 PM  |
| Fri, Nov 17 | vs | Alabama A&M  | 7:00 PM  |
| Tue, Nov 21 | vs | TX-Arlington | 9:00 PM  |
| Fri, Nov 24 | vs | BYU          | 2:30 PM  |
| Sat, Nov 25 | vs | Minnesota    | 5:00 PM  |
| Wed, Nov 29 | vs | LA Tech      | 8:00 PM  |
| Sun, Dec 3  | vs | UCF          | 2:00 PM  |
| Wed, Dec 6  | vs | Rhode Island | 8:00 PM  |
| Sat, Dec 9  | vs | Arizona      | 10:00 PM |
| Tue, Dec 19 | vs | Mercer       | 9:00 PM  |
| Fri, Dec 22 | vs | Texas        | 9:00 PM  |
|             |    | A&M          |          |
|             |    | @ Vanderbilt |          |

# "TWIN PEAKS: THE RETURN": ANOTHER TV REVOLUTION

Quinn Kiernan '18

It is happening again. After a 26 year hiatus, "Twin Peaks" returned for an 18 part third season, culminating in its two part finale in September. David Lynch and Mark Frost's TV show first garnered acclaim in 1990 when audiences grappled with the show's central mystery, "who killed Laura Palmer?" The short, remarkably strange two seasons attracted millions of loyal followers and confused even more by its end. Years after its cliffhanger finale in 1991, "Twin Peaks's" legacy is still being carved.

Shows like "The X-Files," "True Detective," "Lost," "The Sopranos," and "The Leftovers" are indebted to David Lynch's murder mystery. Quite simply, "Twin Peaks" transformed television. The idea that a major filmmaker would enter the world of TV was a ridiculous notion at the time. David Lynch, one of the great American directors, did so, elevating TV while paving the medium's way into the golden age it is in now. He made TV an art form, raising its standards. As fans of David Lynch know, he has created a new genre in film—Lynchian. It describes any film or show that is surreal, making what one thought was familiar to become wholly unfamiliar. Lynchian themes often include identity, contrasting the dualism of characters while examining the subconscious. Television had not seen dream sequences filled with backwards talking dwarves, nor had they met cartoonish, idiosyncratic protagonists with an overwhelming love for coffee and pie.

"Twin Peaks" modernized TV dramas by being able to captivate audiences using only one central mystery, not weekly crime shows. This gave rise to its cult following that theorized and speculated week to week. According to IndieWire, as co-creator of "Lost" and "The Leftovers" Damon Lindeloff says, "'Twin Peaks' basically proved that there wasn't just one way to make televi-



sion." "Lost," like "Twin Peaks," raises more questions than it does answer them.

"Twin Peaks: The Return," the Showtime revival, is a return to more than just a show or the town of Twin Peaks. It is the nature of TV coming full circle as "Twin Peaks" has again readied to revolutionize TV. Just as the original run had moved television into a more cinematic style, "The Return" has the potential to further this shift. In a recent IndieWire interview with Peter Deming, a cinematographer on "The Return," he details the shooting process of the show, explaining that "we also shot it like a feature film... When you went to a location, you shot all the action that took place at that location. It's different than TV — there's no episode scripts, there's one director, there's one crew. So we broke it down and scheduled it like a feature film." As most shows film episodes while still writing scripts for later in the season, "The Return" entered the filming process with the entire season written. David Lynch described it, saying, "I see it as a film. Instead of going on a truck to the theatre, it goes on a truck to TV." While this style of creating television is effective in terms of organization, it is time consuming.

"The Return" proves that TV can still be experimental. Lynch often

focuses on world building. Many plot lines are left unanswered; some scenes are largely incomprehensible. These are meant to instill an emotion in the viewer, not to advance the plot. "Twin Peaks" focuses on how you feel watching the show, not solely on creating an intriguing story. A now infamous episode of the new season abandons all familiarity by depicting an atomic bomb test that births evil. With little dialogue, the episode is a cataclysmic tour-de-force of imagery, symbolism, and foreboding special effects. While polarizing, it succeeded in grabbing viewers' attention. As Corey Atad of Slate says, either people will respond with "I can't do that," or with artistic intrigue, saying, "I didn't know I could do that."

Whether or not "Twin Peaks: The Return" will make television's style and production more cinematic is unknown. What is likely, however, is that "Twin Peaks" will again inspire the new wave of great artists and TV shows, just as the original run had. "Twin Peaks" had an immeasurable impact on TV and Film in the 90s and 2000s. "The Return" is set to repeat history. It is happening again.

<http://www.tvovertime.com/twin-peaks/influence-twin-peaks-major-shows>

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# CTE and Concussions in the NFL

Jack Butterfield '18

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE, is found in people who have had multiple head injuries, and more commonly found in athletes who participate in contact sports. For many years, football was played with minimal pads, protection, and very weak helmets (almost like wearing a leather hat) to protect you from getting rocked by another player running full speed at you, leaving your head vulnerable to receive serious damage at any time. In 2012, the NFL made a big push for the players to have safer helmets, and to prevent these head injuries, and it was working out well. From 2012-2014, the number of concussions went down from 261 per year to 206 per year. But what followed the next year, 2015, is shocking. The amount of concussions combined in preseason and the regular season skyrocketed up to 271 concussions in the 2015 season (statistic from [revengeofthebirds.com](http://revengeofthebirds.com))! Why did this happen? It's crazy, right, that the league significantly decreased in the amount of concussions during a 3-year span, and it just took them one year to go back to square one.

Many players now are retiring because of the recent results found in former or dead NFL players. The NY Daily News reported that 99% of dead NFL players that donated their brains to science had some sort of brain trauma. Arguably one of the smartest NFL players, John Urschel, who was a doctoral candidate at MIT, decided to retire from the game he loves on July 27 of this year. He was 26, and in his prime, so why would he decide to quit football? He says that there is "no big story, and appreciates privacy," but he retired two days after researchers find brain trauma in 110 of 111 former NFL players, so maybe there is a reason behind it. NFL players Chris Borland, 24, and D'Brickshaw Ferguson, 32, retired last year due to concern over head injuries. Borland tells ESPN that he "wants to live a long



healthy life, and he doesn't want to have any neurological diseases or die younger than he would otherwise."

Longtime New York Giant Frank Gifford passed away last year, and he had a severe case of CTE found in his brain. Aaron Hernandez, former Patriots tight end and murderer of Odin Lloyd, had severe CTE at age 27. He only played 3 years in the NFL and he had severe CTE.

Our president wants the NFL players to hit each other harder and more violence, but at what cost? The memory loss of players with long lives to live ahead? Aggression, depression, or even suicidal thoughts for these players to encounter down the road? CTE is putting the players and the NFL in danger for

the future, and making the game we all love more violent won't help it.

<https://thinkprogress.org/2-more-nfl-players-retire-early-as-evidence-linking-football-and-cte-mounts-fl70cbe5f4f1/>  
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### ACADEMY OATH

We the men of  
Christian Brothers Academy; do solemnly  
promise before God  
To live always with honor and integrity  
To serve and to stand for those in need  
To strive for wisdom in our  
pursuit of knowledge  
To uphold the legacy and proud  
tradition of our Academy  
St. John Baptist de La Salle  
Pray for us  
Live Jesus in our hearts  
Forever

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