

THE ACADEMY

# TORCH

A CHRISTIAN BROTHERS ACADEMY NEWS PUBLICATION

APRIL 2019 ISSUE

## THE HISTORY OF THE COMIC BOOK MOVIE

Also in this issue:  
A Visit  
to ESPN

PLUS  
THE COLLEGE  
ADMISSIONS SCANDAL

# Letter from the Editor / The Academy Torch

## Spring Issue / April 2019



**LETTER FROM THE EDITOR**  
**KIERAN LEISTER**

**S**pring is the air. After a few, cold months here at CBA, we have finally reached the home stretch of the school year with Spring. With this exciting change in the momentum of the school days comes a sad realization: there is a single digit amount of days left for the

senior class.

The senior class has experienced this change in the season while at CBA too many times to count. We have been through it all together. As the year is coming to an end for not just the seniors, but for the other grades as well, take time to enjoy this issue of the Academy Torch. Like your witnessing the change in seasons during your time at CBA, there will only be a set number of times you will be able to pick up a new edition of the Torch as it comes out. We are nearing the end of the work of the 2018-2019 Academy Torch staff.

Working on this publication is something I will never forget as I move on from my time at CBA. Use this publication to reflect on something you have done at CBA you enjoy and will not forget. Just like reading your favorite high school news magazine, witnessing the change from winter into spring, or your time in high school, all good things do come to an end. Seniors, enjoy this April issue of the Torch while you can, because this is one of the last issues you will be able to experience in the short time you have left as a student of Christian Brothers Academy.

Below and Cover Photos by Larry Levanti



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#WE ARE CBA



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# Top 10 April Fools Shenanigans

Gary Fletcher '20

We may attend a Christian school, but that's no reason you couldn't appreciate a little tomfoolery this past April 1st! If you want to get in on the action but don't know where to start, then this article is for you. Ranked below are the ten great April Fools Day jokes to pull throughout the year.

## 10. Autocorrect Shortcuts

A simple but effective prank, these shortcuts will leave your friends believing their phones are broken. If your friend has an iPhone, go to the Settings app, and then the Keyboards setting. Under Text Replacement, add shortcuts to swap in words for their antonyms. The next time your friend tries to type anything, he or she will be faced with an autocorrection of the opposite of what he or she is trying to say!

## 9. Pie in the Face

Nothing is better than throwing a pie in the face for April Fools Day; it is a classic. Fill a tin pie pan with whipped cream and eagerly hide until a friend approaches. Surprise them at the last second with a messy surprise! Just make sure he or she doesn't try to get you back!

## 8. Nicolas Cage Google Chrome Extension

A more light-hearted prank, this Google Chrome extension from the

Chrome Web Store transforms every picture loaded onto Google Chrome into a picture of Academy-Award-winning actor Nicolas Cage. Simply launch the Chrome browser on the victim's computer. This hilarious and random joke is sure to be a hit!

## 7. Nail Polish and Soap

For this prank, it is better if you pull it on someone whom you live with, so you will be able to hear his or her frustration. First, grab a bar of soap. Coat a layer of clear nail polish on the soap. Place it in the shower and you're done! The next time he or she uses the shower, the soap will never lather, much to his or her dismay! An annoying but harmless joke to be sure—perfect for April Fools!

## 6. Put Possessions in Gelatin

Popularized by television hit *The Office*, this prank is sure to elicit a reaction. Put something of that belongs to the victim in a batch of gelatin. Just make sure whatever you use isn't a technological device or some other non-waterproof product. Refrigerate it, and place it in a noticeable spot and that's it! Double points if the victim eats all the gelatin!

## 5. Replacing Oreo Cream with Toothpaste

Have you ever had an Oreo cookie with toothpaste instead of Oreo cream?

It doesn't taste good. Grab a few Oreos, remove the white cream, and replace it with white toothpaste instead. Repackage them and serve them to your friend and watch hilarity ensue. This is a perfect treat for April Fools Day!

## 4. Insects in Lamps

No, we don't mean actual insects. Print a silhouette of a cockroach and cut it out. Tape it into the inside of a lamp shade, and wait. Within no time, you'll be sure to give somebody a nice jump followed by a sigh of relief when he or she figures out it's fake. Nothing like getting the heart pumping!

## 3. Water "Magic" Trick

For this one, you will need a water bottle and a penny. Tell your friend that you can do magic by placing a penny inside of a water bottle. Unscrew the bottle and tell them to close his or her eyes. When he or she does, place the penny under the water bottle. When he or she opens his or her eyes, tell him or her to look closely into the bottle. When he or she does so, squish the bottle and splash water in his or her face! This prank has a large build up, and an equally large reward. Enjoy!

## 2. Post-it Notes

They may be Post-it Notes, but they can do so much more. Buy a bunch and stick them anywhere on a possession of a friend. Some options include his or her: car, desk, bed, kitchen, or entire house (you'll need a lot). Like the previous prank, the more setup you do, the more the joke pays off!

## 1. Rick-Roll

This is it, the mother of all pranks. A Rick-Roll is when someone sends a link to something seemingly normal, but when the victim opens it, it is a link to Rick Astley's 80s phenomenon "Never Gonna Give You Up." The prank has been going around for years, but April Fools Day is a perfect time to send it to all your friends!



# THE GREAT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL

Brian Hack '19

Very recently, a massive scandal broke out in college admissions across America. It has been revealed that wealthy families, especially those of celebrities, have been paying third parties as well as college athletic coaches to get their kids into the top schools in the nation. According to the New York Times, "Thirty-three well-heeled parents were charged in the case, including Hollywood celebrities and prominent business leaders, and prosecutors said there could be additional indictments to come." Even scarier than the prospect of buying spots, however, is the lengths to which some achieved this end. A girl's family paid for a third party to photoshop her face onto a soccer player. Another family faked their son's mental disorder so that he could get a special proctor to give him the answers to the SAT. While many were shocked by this revelation, many others were not surprised that these wealthy people have been doing this.

As a high school senior, I am completely baffled by this scandal. After applying to colleges, I have to ask myself: was it even worth applying to schools when the game was rigged from the start? Should I really have been denied admission from certain schools, or was I forced to relinquish my spot to someone who didn't deserve it? It seems very discouraging for people our age to see stuff like this, after all the hard work we put in each day here at CBA. Think about it. Your hard work for a college spot could get sold out to the highest bidder with some cheap Photoshop skills. However, current high schoolers aren't even those most affected by this scandal. That status goes to the current college students. The last generation of kids to get into college have been robbed. Some of them got rejected from their dream schools. These spots were bought out by these wealthy families. See, when these families were essentially buying their kids' ways into college, they forgot to

realize that the spot that their kids are taking is in fact a spot. Someone who worked tooth and nail to get to a good school fought to try to get that spot, only to have it taken from them by a person without the merit. What's probably even more frustrating than this is the fact that some of these rich kids who bought their way into college completely ignore their education. Lori Loughlin's daughter, Olivia, would spend her college days skipping classes, posting on Instagram, and heading out for a night on the town. While she did this, there were many people of her generation who would have loved to have had that college spot to actually further their educational careers instead of lavishly squandering their life.

Luckily, people haven't been sitting idly watching this unfold. Two Stanford students have launched a multi-billion dollar lawsuit against the colleges involved with the scandal which they applied to and attended for devaluing their education by being a part of this crime, and rightfully so. Now, what's my advice to all of the juniors who will be starting the admissions process in the coming fall? I would say to just try to brush past it. Don't let it stop you from putting a hundred percent effort into everything you do. Just because someone can buy their way into college doesn't mean that merit isn't worth anything. In the real world, merit is what truly matters. Olivia Jade and those other wealthy kids aren't gonna make it in the real world because they have everything handed to them on a silver platter. As for you and me, we have to work, and we work hard. There are no shortcuts to true success and greatness, and if you think there are then you're probably wrong. Lori Loughlin thought there were shortcuts, but she's now on trial for fraud.





# Debunking and Watching Leaving Neverland

Alistair Hackett '19

Unless you've been living under a rock, you know that HBO aired the two-part documentary *Leaving Neverland* on the evenings of March 4th and March 5th. The documentary features Wade Robson and James Safechuck who allege that Michael Jackson sexually abused them in the 1990s.

The documentary starts out very slow and bland, as it is simply Robson and Safechuck giving their background life stories. Robson begins to give detail regarding his allegations at about 40 minutes into part one of the documentary. The allegations are very disturbing, and easy for one to believe as viewers are not given all of the facts.

Before the specifics, it is important to understand that both Robson and Safechuck swore under oath during Michael's trial in 2005 that they were not abused. Technicalities prevent them from being charged with perjury. It wasn't until 2013, when Robson changed his story to say that Michael had abused him. This change of story directly followed his rejection for the lead choreography job in the Michael Jackson themed *Cirque du Soleil* show.

Back in 2013, Robson claimed that the reason he did not come forward was because he was ashamed. He then claimed that the reason was because he had repressed memories of the abuse, and they only came back to him following a breakdown. He now claims that the reason is because he didn't realize it was wrong until now, and that Michael Jackson told him that they would both go to prison if anyone found out about what they were doing.

So one might still ask, why did Michael want to spend all of this time around young children? Well, the answer is truly right in front of all of our faces. Michael was making up for a lost childhood. He was living the life of an adult since he was five years old, and never had a normal childhood. In addition, he felt that he could relate much more to children, as adults were motivated by many things that he did not see value in.

It is also worth noting that Macaulay Culkin and Brett Barnes were two young boys who spent a large amount of time with Michael Jackson. Both claim that nothing ever happened to them. If one watches the documentary, it attempts to imply that the abuse carried over to those two, but they both maintain to this day that no abuse occurred. Additionally, the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated Michael for ten years, and found zero evidence of any sexual abuse to children. They also raided his Neverland home twice. So when one puts everything together, they can't come up with much to put against Michael.

Despite these facts, it is obvious that the two alleged victims are dealing with trauma as they recount their stories to the cameras and to the world. This high profile case will continue to be debated and discussed as long as people are willing to watch. The Jackson estate has condemned the documentary and the alleged victims. As the story continues to unfold, viewers and fans of Jackson will continue to wrestle with his tainted legacy and the consistent allegations that are rehashed.

A dark, textured rectangular area with the title "LEAVING NEVERLAND" in large, bold, blue capital letters at the bottom right.

**LEAVING  
NEVERLAND**

# The Fandom of Game of Thrones

Kieran Leister '19

With the influence of Netflix and other streaming services creating shows meant to binged, there is one show that needs to be binged by everyone that has not yet tuned in, and that show is Game of Thrones. While only available on HBO, GOT has been one of the most successful television shows ever produced. The show was a gamble for HBO when it was first pitched as it was based on the Ice and Fire book series by George R.R. Martin which did not have the largest fan following compared to other fantasy series like Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings. The show was filled with relatively unknown actors and had an unusual concept compared to successful dramas at the time. After its first season however, the show has become a worldwide phenomenon. The show has accumulated over 130 Emmy nomination and 30 wins, and has made stars out of its actors and writers.

While the story itself is incredible on its own, the fandom of the show is what has made it such a phenomenon. There are countless fans of the show. It is extremely difficult to find anyone who has not watched the show, currently watching, or planning to watch GOT. Millions of watchers tune in on Sunday to watch the newest episode whenever they air. The best part about this large mass of people tuning into an episode is the aftermath on social media. If you have not watched yet and plan on doing it, do not go on any social media after April 14th. The only trending topic on twitter after a GOT episode is GOT. Millions of people from celebrities to an average watcher, everyone reacts to what they just watched and the countless theories they have for next week's episode. While most people watch on their own and then tweet about the show, there are people that get together to watch each episode. Yes.... there are GOT "Watch Parties." While this may

include just some friends getting together to watch a show, this also includes hundreds of people getting together in a theater or bar, sometimes even dressing up in costume to watch an episode. I am not saying there is anything wrong with people's interests in the show, I am just showing how influential the show is on the world.

One of the drawing factors of Game of Thrones is the predictions. The show writers and the source material offer a story that has countless outcomes. This approach by the writers draws the viewers in and allows them to come up with their own theories on what will happen in the coming episodes with their favorite characters. Countless theories have been made by fans of the show, many of which have come true, others which could come true. One of the most argued theories of the show is who will win at the end of the show and end up on the throne. This question has even led to the Las Vegas odds being created for the characters. People are willingly betting money on their favorite characters to win in the end of the show. This is not something that is seen in a television show audience. Game of Thrones fans are different.

The show is not just a show, but a story in which the audience emotionally invested itself into. Something else the show does well with is drawing in fans of all genres. Fans of fantasy will say that Game of Thrones is one of the best fantasy stories out there. Fans of dramatic stories, even if fantasy is not their preferred genre, will say that GOT is one of the greatest shows ever produced. The creators of the show are able to take risks in their story due to the overwhelming amount of fans. The actors and the writers owe everything to the fans, as they made this journey possible. Like I said, if you have not watched this show yet, do it now. The show is back for its final season and will no longer be produced after this final season. It is the end of a phenomenon that may not ever happen again. Join the fandom of this amazing show.



# THE HISTORY OF THE COMIC BOOK MOVIE

Matthew Vaccaro '19

Recently, it feels as though you can't enter a movie theater without seeing adverts for spandex-clad superheroes. Since 2008, over 50 films based on comic book superheroes have been released, averaging out to 6.3 films per year. Superhero movies hold 25 spots on the top 100 highest grossing films of all time, as well as eight spots on Rotten Tomatoes' 100 highest rated films. Although these films are immensely popular, for the majority of the genre's history, comic movies were denigrated as 'low arts' and as such were rarely nominated for major awards. Of course, this all changed in 2019, when Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther* was nominated for no less than seven Academy Awards including the coveted Best Picture award, marking a major shift for what was once considered a niche b-movie genre to a centerpiece of the cultural zeitgeist. In honor of the continued success of comic book movies, and in anticipation of *Avengers: Endgame*, we present a brief history of the superhero movie genre.

Both of the major players of today, DC (*Superman*, *Batman*, and the *Justice League*) and Marvel (the *Avengers*, *X-Men*, and *Guardians of the Galaxy*), had produced movies based on their properties within ten years of their conception. In 1944, Marvel's predecessor, Timely Comics, produced a fifteen-part serial based on *Captain America*, three years after the character's debut, while the first *Superman* movie, the independently made *Superman vs. The Mole Men* appeared in 1951. While Marvel would not create another theatrical tale until 1986's critically panned *Howard the Duck*, DC released

a string of successes throughout the Cold War era, including a 1966 spinoff film based off of Adam West's *Batman* series, and Christopher Reeve's four-part *Superman* series, which began with the 1978 cult classic also called *Superman*. *Superman* was nominated for three Academy Awards in Best Sound, Best Film Editing, and Best Original Score, and ultimately received a special award for its revolutionary special effects. Christopher Reeves' movies continued to be a success throughout the next decade until the dynasty was at last toppled by the critically and commercially failing *Superman IV: The Quest for Peace*. Although DC also produced a *Supergirl* spinoff and two films based off the character *Swamp Thing* during the '80s, *Batman* and *Superman* took the lion's share of studios' attention, a trend which continues to this day.

Owing to Marvel's near bankruptcy in the 1990s, the company sold off the film rights to most of its most popular characters to various studios. Universal Studios bought the *Incredible Hulk* and the rights to make a *Namor the Sub Mariner* film; Sony to this day retains the rights to all associate Spider-man characters; while Twentieth Century Fox purchased the *Fantastic Four* and the *X-Men* franchises, giving them shared custody over every alien species in the Marvel universe and exclusive rights over the term "mutants." If Marvel wished to produce their own in house films, as they eventually would, they would be forced to do so without most of their A-Listers. This partitioning of intellectual led to a myriad of creative directions in the first of two superhero booms in







the twenty-first century: Sony produced five Spider-man movies featuring two actors in the eponymous role; Universal sought to revitalize The Hulk franchise with a 2003 movie, but after its failure reverted the rights to the character back to Marvel Studios; Fox made three moderately successful to failing Fantastic Four movies, along with eleven X-Men films in a loose continuity.

2008 was a watershed year for the superhero film genre thanks to two major motion pictures: Firstly Marvel Studios, the company's attempt at creating their own production company, release Iron Man, launching the massively successful Marvel Cinematic Universe. The MCU, in addition to being a commercial bombshell (the studio's now 20 films have grossed a collective \$17.530 billion), has revolutionized storytelling through film, paving the way for multi-film spanning character arcs and a massive cast of recurring character. This serialized storytelling previously had

only been seen (to a far lesser extent) by a run of Universal Studios' monster movies between 1931 and 1951, but today many films can be seen imitating the formula of the MCU, from DC's own DC Extended Universe (which began in 2013 with Zack Snyder's Man of Steel), to Legendary Entertainment's upcoming MonsterVerse.

The second watershed superhero film to hit 2008 was Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight. Although, The Dark Knight is a sequel, the strength of writer/director Nolan's storytelling, along with a raw, haunting performance by Heath Ledger as the Joker have not only caused this movie to be deemed to be one of the best comic book movies ever made, but also deemed by some to be one of the best films of the twenty-first century. The film was nominated for no less than seven Academy Awards, winning both the category for Best Supporting Actor (the first comic book movie to do so), and Best Sound.

In the past few years, studios, especially Fox have begun experimenting with superhero films in the R-rated bracket, leading to a string of course and violent but very highly received films.. The original Deadpool currently ranks as the second highest grossing R-rated film of all time, second only to The Passion of the Christ.

Meanwhile the Marvel slowly regained the film rights to its prodigal characters. Over time, the films rights for Daredevil, the Punisher and Ghost Rider reverted back to Marvel, and the characters had found homes in the successful Netflix series. In 2015, Marvel arranged a deal with Sony Pictures to utilize hold creative rights over Spider-man in exchange for Sony reaping the box office money of any films produced. As recently as March 19th, 2019, Disney's acquisition of Twentieth Century has finally brought Marvel's mutants and aliens back into the fold. Love'em or hate'em, comicbook movies have become a cultural staple, and there seems to be no end in sight to the offerings of DC and Marvel (who have a combined 35 upcoming projects for the next five years). Excelsior!

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# AVENGERS: ENDGAME

## PREVIEW

Ralph DeSevo '20

The 4th installment of the Avengers series is slated to premiere on April 26th, 2019. This movie comes after Avengers: Infinity War, one of the most ambitious films in Marvel's history. Endgame will be looking to continue the story after a very deflating ending to Infinity War. But before going to see Endgame on April 26th, we need prepare ourselves for what lies ahead.

The end of Avengers: Infinity War was one of the most shocking endings in movie history. In almost most movies, the good guys always defeat the bad guys, but not in this case. Infinity War is based around super villain Thanos trying to obtain all 6 Infinity Stones as the Avengers desperately attempt to stop him. At the end of Infinity War, Thanos finally acquires the 6th infinity stone, the Soul Stone, by ripping it out of the android Vision's head. With all 6 Infinity Stones, Thanos became the most powerful being in the universe, and gained the ability to wipe out half the population of the universe with a single snap of his fingers. Thor tries to prevent Thanos from doing so, but is unsuccessful. After the snap, many of the Avengers start to disintegrate

including Black Panther, Spider-Man, Winter Soldier, Scarlet Witch, Nick Fury and Falcon. The only surviving heroes include original Avengers Iron Man, Hulk, Thor, Captain America, Hawkeye, and Black Widow, along with Ant-Man, War Machine, Okoye, and Rocket Raccoon.

After the new trailer for Endgame that has been released, it seems one new character that will be joining the Avengers' ranks. Captain Marvel is seen in the trailer talking to Thor. The Captain Marvel movie was just released on March 8th, 2019, to give the fans a preview of what to expect from her in Endgame.

There is a ton of speculation on what Avengers: Endgame will be about. Although, it does seem to appear, that the movie will be about trying to save the lives of those lost in Infinity War. The only way that the Avengers would be able to pull this off is by taking the Soul Stone from Thanos. The Soul Stone is theorized to contain the souls of the dead. It is possible, that the Avengers would be able to find a way to bring back those who died in Infinity War.

Although there is no sign of Thanos or the Infinity Stones in the Endgame trailer. It is plausible that the producers do not want to release too much about the plot of the movie. There is a ton of excitement building-up for this movie. It will be very interesting to see what happens in Avengers: Endgame on April 26th.



# Eclipsing Fortnite's popularity?

## Will Apex kill Fortnite? Francisco Roig'19

The "Battle Royale" genre has been blowing up ever since Pubg entered the scene in March of 2017. The category as a whole has consistently grown in popularity as it shifts from one game to the next. The latest addition to the genre, Apex Legends, has been taking the world by storm for the past month and a half, gaining a player count of about 50 million players in seemingly overnight. Although it gained such a huge following, the game's biggest rival is still Fortnite.

So the question that everyone is asking is: will Apex kill Fortnite, or is the battle royale titan here to stay? Fortnite is not conceding to Apex without a fight. Although Apex brought on 50 million players in its first month

alone, Fortnite has also broken record player counts in February. Epic games, Fortnite's developer, is still keeping the promise they made at the start of the game, constantly adding new content every week. However, the game is finally showing signs of slowing down.

A prime example of this is the fact that the season 8 battle pass is free. For the past year the battle pass has always been a main source of Fortnite's income. Being a free to play game to begin with, Epic relied heavily on the microtransactions in order to keep the game running. This obviously seems like a desperate attempt to keep players from leaving the game and migrating to Apex.

With all of that said, I believe this is the beginning of the end for Fortnite's time in the spotlight. For the time being the game is in a comfortable position. However as times goes on Apex is gonna take longer strides and it will be harder and harder to keep up. People who follow the gaming community, we have seen this happen before with PUBG and H1Z1. In the case of PUBG, Fortnite was doing a ton of cool stuff that PUBG could not keep up with and the same happened with H1Z1. Now it Apex legends taking the glory from Fortnite as it slowly fizzles out.

## The Epic Conclusion: What GOT Has Left for the World Jonathan Heite'20

In television history, there have been many shows that changed the landscape for future television: The Sopranos, Friends, and 60 Minutes to name a few. Game of Thrones has become one of the most popular television shows ever made, and people from all over the world have tuned in for the show on Sunday nights in overwhelming numbers. Although the show is incredibly expensive to fund thanks to its borderline movie-style episodes, sometimes totaling to \$15 million, the show has been HBO's homerun for almost a decade.

The show appeals to audiences for a variety of reasons, but one particular reason that has led to multiple Emmy nominations are the actors of

the characters themselves. Actors such as Emilia Clarke, Kit Harington, and Peter Dinklage have been praised for their performances and have led to over 100 Emmy nominations and 40 total wins. Another thing that contributed to the high volumes of viewership is the unpredictability of the show. Main characters have been killed off frequently throughout the show's history, contributing to the overall suspense of each episode. After the final season concludes this May, fans will have to wait some time before any spin-offs are released, which have been decided to be a prequel to Game of Thrones. Many celebrities are some of the biggest fans of the show, such as actor Seth Rogen, actress Jennifer Lawrence, and even

former President Barack Obama. Game of Thrones may be ending its 8 year run with Season 8, but the show's treasured legacy will live forever

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# THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY: NETFLIX'S 2019 ORIGINALS

Michael Goddard '20

Over the past few years, Netflix has made it a point to frequently release original movies and shows. In doing so, they have become one of the most powerful companies in the world. With the releases of their originals, they have taken over the entertainment industry. In 2019, we have seen movies like *Bandersnatch* and new seasons of shows like *Arrested Development* and *F is for Family*. We have also seen poorly made projects like the *Big Mouth* Valentine's Day Episode, a mediocre second season of *Friends from College*, and an unwatchable show called *Selling Sunset*.

In *Bandersnatch*, Stefan is a young aspiring video game developer, and is pitching his idea for a game in which the viewer has full control. He is making a game based off of the book, "*Bandersnatch*." The game has a choose your own adventure feature, just as the movie *Bandersnatch* does, Stefan pitches his idea to Tuckersoft, and they buy the idea. After working on it, he is always a changed kid, and still has trouble with the death of his mom. The story for *Bandersnatch* is very diverse, making it enjoyable on repeat watchings. *Bandersnatch* is an absolute must see.

*Arrested Development* is a show about Michael Bluth, played by Jason Bateman, a widower forced to keep his family together after his dad is arrested. He has a 13 year old son named George Michael, played by Michael Cera. In season four, the show left tons of controversy, after each character had a separate set of problems, and the group lost popularity, resulting in a hiatus for season five's filming for years. Season five reunites the family, and answers the viewers questions left by the past seasons, while still developing the story line, and leaving room for season six.

Bill Burr makes the animated *F is for Family* hilarious. Frank Murphy is a Korean War veteran living with his kids and wife in the early 1970's. He has a bit of a temper and a foul mouth, but he still does whatever it takes to provide for

his family. *F is Family* is so funny because it is so relatable. Bill Burr, the voice of Frank, is an accomplished comedian, and this is his best work.

*Big Mouth* is the animated show following seventh graders Nick Birch and Andrew Glouberman through puberty. After season two of *Big Mouth*, fans were ready and waiting for season three. Nick Kroll and John Mulaney are comedic geniuses, but they are better than the Valentine's Day special we got. Every episode of the first two seasons had at least a few jokes that you could laugh out loud to every time you watch it. But in the special, something just wasn't there.

*Friends from College* had a promising first season, and the return with season two simply did not live up to the hype. Main character Ethan is an aspiring writer who moves to New York city with his wife Lisa. They move to the city to be closer to old friends, who one of them Ethan has an affair with. The affair used to be long distance, but once they are living in the same city, things are bound to get complicated. The problem with *Friends from College* is not the main plot or the actors, but simply the way in which the show pans out. Everything seems rushed, and each character goes through their own spirals, tearing down each other along the way.

The show *Selling Sunset* is the most pointless show Netflix has ever made. Some people enjoy watching real estate shows, which is understandable, but this show gives it a weird, unexpected, and outdated style of scripting. The show is about two brothers who run the Oppenheim Group, a real estate firm that sells houses on Sunset Blvd. The houses are all worth over five million, making the show sound enticing. The problem lies where brothers Brett and Jason Oppenheim often refer to their employees as their, "girls," which is only part of it. The women on the show act as if they were on a housewives reality show, making the show seem very scripted.

The Netflix logo is displayed in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly 3D with a dark shadow on the right side. The logo is centered on a solid red rectangular background.

# My ESPN

## Trip Experience

Josh Scharf '19

In the world of journalism, connections can be a big key to success. Professional connections could help you find a new job, or an internship just based on a recommendation. On March 12, Ms. Biloholowski's Journalism class was lucky enough to be invited to the ESPN studio in New York City to meet CBA alumnus, Tony Realí. Mr. Realí has been the host of the show, *Around the Horn* for a little over 15 years now. It is a taped show where Mr. Realí gives points to four panelists based on how well they debate different sports topics. On the way there, we did not know what to expect for day. While there we got to meet some talented people that worked for ESPN that you see on television and social media every day.

The first people we met were the researchers and editors. The researchers were constantly on their computers waiting for a new story to break for it to be told on the next show, while also preparing the scripts for the next show. While we were there, one of the main focuses of their work that day was to create stories based on the Le'Veon Bell signing news. Mr. Realí then showed us the three sets they have in the New York studio. The first was a television and radio studio for the Stephen A. Smith show and Jalen and Jacoby. The set was so small, but packed in so many pictures and details for when the cameras are rolling. The next

two sets were much bigger. The first was one for *High Noon* and *Get Up*, and the other was for *First Take* and *Around the Horn*.

The biggest takeaway from these sets were the amount of cameras and lights. Each set had at least six cameras and 15 lights to shine on the hosts. It shows how much actually goes on behind the scene that is not shown on camera.

After that, we got to meet the people that are on the side of the camera. The first people we got to meet were Stephen A. Smith and Max Kellerman, who are some of the most well known sports analysts today through their show *First Take*. We also met the host of *First Take* Molly Qerim, who was able to give us some advice. Her advice was when reading a script for television or just for a speech, start slow. You will gradually pick out speed as you go naturally. We then met New York sports writer, Frank Isola. Frank told us even if you want to go into broadcasting, you should always know how to write. Many of the analysts and broadcasters we met got their start from writing sports reports. We then got the privilege to meet the great Bob Ryan. He gave some of the most simple, but important advice: read; read what you're interested in. It will help your vocabulary in that subject grow, which will make you sound better when talking about the subject.

Lastly, Mr. Realí gave such great advice himself. First, he told us his backstory and how he started at Fordham University. In the beginning he said the biggest thing is to try everything, even if it is not on camera. You become a much bigger asset if you know how produce, edit, and be on camera. It might also show you a position that you might come to enjoy that you did not think of. Growing up, Mr. Realí said he wanted to be a play-by-play announcer, however he took every job he could and ended up being a television show host for ESPN, which he came to love. The most memorable message

Mr. Realí told us was to be a broadcaster of any kind, and that your goal, is to tell a story. That is your job as a broadcaster is: to tell a story.

While telling this story you should also be two qualities: relatable and unpredictable. The more relatable you are the more people feel comfortable with you and enjoy listening to you more. If you are predictable though, you will become boring, so you must be able to change it up to keep viewers on their toes at all times.

The wisdom that I got from these people is something I will carry with me and try to use everything if I am on the air or writing an article. If you are thinking of pursuing a career on television, radio, or writing, remember some of the advice I shared with you in this article. It will help you gain that extra mile that is needed in this industry to be successful.



# Dave Gettleman's Plan(?)

Shane Brennan'20

Dave Gettleman was expected to be a breath of fresh air for the New York Football Giants as a new General Manager. He just came off building a successful franchise in Carolina with players like Cam Newton and he looked to save a spiraling team. Talented players like Odell Beckham Jr and Landon Collins led a promising future after the 2016 season. Despite a loss in the playoffs, the Giants had stars to take them into a successful future. When Gettleman took over, the Giants were in the midst of a season that was the polar opposite of expectations.

It was December 4, 2017 when the Giants cleared house and fired both coach Ben McAdoo and general manager Jerry Reese the day after McAdoo benched Eli Manning for Geno Smith, much to fans' dismay. Gettleman stepped in to try and right the ship. In that offseason Pat Shurmur was hired as the new head coach and Saquon Barkley was drafted with the second overall pick. Odell Beckham Jr. was then signed to be the highest paid receiver in the league with a long term deal. Gettleman firmly went with a "win-now" formula. Some believed a rebuild was necessary and the Giants should have drafted a replacement for Eli in the draft, but the fans and players trusted Gettleman.

Fans began to doubt Gettleman during the 2018-19 campaign in another lost season. He traded away Damon Harrison to Detroit for almost nothing in return. Eli started despite cries to sit him to groom the next quarterback. Saquon exploded to be an elite running backs, but the offense was not the same without an oft-injured Odell Beckham. In February, Gettleman said "We did not sign (Odell) to trade him." after questions surrounding rumors of a trade. This put fans at ease, but that fell apart when Gettleman refused to extend or put the franchise tag on star safety Landon Collins and let him walk to the Redskins. Gettleman then traded Beckham to Cleveland for some draft picks and a safety. Fans were immediately outraged. In a recent press conference, Gettleman insisted there was a plan to winning now and in the future. Trading Odell was a rebuild move, but they then signed veteran skill players days after. He is currently leaning towards not drafting the future Giants quarterback with the sixth pick in the draft, according to some league executives.

The Giants seem to be building around Eli and Saquon, whose best years may be wasted by a rebuilding Giants team. The Giants are lacking direction at the moment, and right now they do not seem to know what they are doing with the upcoming draft or with a rapidly declining Eli and young star Barkley.



*Some believed a rebuild was necessary and the Giants should have drafted a replacement for Eli in the draft, but the fans and players trusted Gettleman.*





# Super Contracts

William Seijas '20

At what point will the money involved in these extreme sports contracts being signed by players top off? This is just one of the abundant amount of questions that came to the mind of many Americans when they saw the headlines for Phillies right fielder, Bryce Harper. Just recently, Harper signed the biggest contract the country has ever seen in the history of professional sports at the time. The Philadelphia Phillies star is without a doubt a once in a lifetime player in the sport of baseball.

However, is the 10 year, 400 million dollar contract a little extreme? The eventual 400 million dollar payout will range from the money generated from the advertisements around the stadium, to the tickets paid by the fans. Sports are

a huge part of most of the Americans in today's day and age. But honestly, what can anyone do with an annual income of 40 million dollars for playing a sport? Should there be a cap placed on the maximum income a professional athlete can make to prevent teams who generate more money from stealing the better players by offering more money?

Many people may argue on these sort of questions, but with the current rules of the MLB, contracts will forever continue to rise in value. So, for now Bryce Harper will enjoy his 400 million dollars over the course of 10 years.

Although many other professional sports have huge contracts for their players, this practice will continue as long as fans and spectators keep paying

for the privilege of watching and supporting these teams.

With so much money to be made on streaming and cable contracts, merchandising, and ticket sales, owners and front offices need to draw in big talent. At this point, one of the only ways to do that is with money.

# Super Bowl Contenders... The Cleveland Browns?

Michael Sullivan '19

It's about that time of year when NFL trades and the upcoming draft in April get everyone excited for the new season. One team that is showing more promise than most this upcoming season is the Browns. The Browns just two years ago lost every game they played in the 2017-2018, and the year before they they only won one game.

For many New York sports fans, it was very hard to see Odell get traded, although some may say it was not that bad of a trade. The Browns have already gone from the worst team in the NFL to now being projected to finish about 8th. Although that doesn't really seem great it is a big difference than just a few years ago.

One of the most exciting things about the Browns, is their potential. They have a sophomore quarterback who almost won Rookie of the Year last year, and now they have a top three wide receiver to play along with him. With the addition of Beckham, Vernon, and Richardson the browns, although a new team, can only go up.

Another thing, although many people didn't like it, the Browns acquired Kareem Hunt. Hunt is going to miss eight weeks of the season, because of his misconduct, but I think that he will prove to be a good addition to the team. Hunt was one of the best players in the league until he got suspended, and I believe that he will continue to be great as long as he can stay away from trouble.

Overall I think that the Browns show a lot of promise and in a few seasons can be Super Bowl contenders. All they can hope for is to at least continue to build on the little success they have seen in the past two years.



### 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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