

The Mandolin

St. Francis Catholic High School

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"Spread the Word."

Issue 104

The Loss of a Legend

BY HAILEY KOPP '21

On Sunday, January 26th, Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna, and seven other people were killed in a helicopter crash near Calabasas, California. Many grieve the nine victims aboard the helicopter that were killed while on the way to a youth basketball tournament at Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy in Thousand Oaks, California. There had been speculation that the helicopter's engine failed; however, evidence leans more towards pilot error. The weather reports state that the area was saturated with heavy fog, clouding the pilot's ability to see the surrounding terrain. According to the National Transportation Safety Board, the helicopter was not equipped with a system to warn pilots if they are approaching the ground.

The pilot, Ara Zobayan, had been flying aircraft in Southern California for twenty years. Mr. Zobayan even taught others as a certified flight instructor. One of his flight students, Darren Kemp, explained that Zobayan had been Bryant's private pilot: "He doesn't let anyone else fly him around but Ara." In his last message before the crash, Zobayan told air traffic control that he was climbing to avoid a cloud layer.

John Altobelli, head coach of a junior college baseball team in Costa Mesa, was a victim of the fatal crash alongside his wife and daughter, Keri and Alyssa, respectively. Alyssa Altobelli was scheduled to play in the youth tournament. Mr. and Mrs. Altobelli did not want to miss their daughter's game, so they hitched a ride with Bryant to avoid an eighty-mile drive in traffic. The death of the Altobelli's devastates their family, leaving behind their son



Shrine of flowers outside Staples Center in Los Angeles.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES



Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna Bryant.
PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

and daughter--J.J. and Lexi--and the Orange Coast baseball community.

Sarah and Payton Chester, a mother and daughter, also died in the crash. Payton had played for Bryant's team for several years and planned to develop her basketball skills in high school and college. Her mother, Sarah, also leaves behind her two sixteen-year-old sons.

Christina Mauser, a defensive specialist for Bryant's team, was another victim of the crash. She had flown in a helicopter with Gianna and Kobe many times before. Christina leaves behind her husband, Matthew Mauser, two daughters and son. In an interview on the "Today" show, Mr. Mauser talked about his children's grief: "We watched 'Sports Center' for two seconds, and everything was about how much everybody was mourning and hurting, and she [his oldest daughter] said it was nice to know that everybody was hurting along with us."

Kobe and Gianna's death has stunned fans from around the world who have watched and supported Kobe when he first joined the NBA. Straight out of high school, Kobe joined the Los Angeles Lakers--his team for his entire twenty-year NBA career. In his career, he won five NBA championships. After retiring in 2016, he went on to coach Gianna's basketball team. In 2018, Kobe won an Oscar for his animated short, "Dear Basketball," based on a letter he wrote to the Player's Tribune to announce his retirement.

On and off the court, Kobe had a heart full of passion that inspired others. During his games he played with determination, he dedicated his free time to his daughters, and he assisted those in need. For example, over the past two decades, he granted 200 wishes for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

He also dedicated his time to coach Gianna's basketball team. Gianna was a budding basketball star, determined to play for the University of Connecticut. "She looked out for the underdog and never left anyone out," a representative of her school, Harbor Day, said in a statement. "Gianna was a strong leader, had a work ethic that was unmatched, and had a level of maturity beyond her thirteen years."

Kobe and Gianna's memorial will be held on February 24th at the Staples Center, where Kobe played for most of his twenty season career. His wife, Vanessa Bryant, stated: "My girls and I want to thank the millions of people who've shown support and love during this horrific time. Thank you for all the prayers. We definitely need them."

The memorial will be a "Celebration of Life," remembering the life of a legend who influenced others, and his daughter, who demonstrated great dedication and perseverance. Kobe Bryant once said:

"You know, if you do the work, you work hard enough, dreams come true. Those times when you get up early and you work hard. Those times when you stay up late and you work hard. Those times when you don't feel like working, you're too tired, you don't want to push yourself, but you do it anyway. That is actually the dream."

Sources:

New York Times

CNN

CBS News

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The Impeachment Trial

BY AUBREY SPOWART '23

President Trump has been impeached and now faces the next steps in a process that could potentially remove him from office, depending on levels of support in Congress. Mr. Trump became the third president in U.S. history to be impeached after two articles of impeachment were approved by the House of Representatives, which leaves the U.S. with little precedent to look to during the trial. This trial runs full steam ahead in the Senate on the two articles of impeachment, which includes abuse of power and obstruction of Congress -- criminal bribery and wire fraud charges are incorporated in the abuse of power charge. The trial could end in two weeks, or it could stretch on much longer, depending on how much time is used by each side and how much additional evidence senators vote to review. In the meantime, events such as the introduction of witnesses and new evidence will arise, and senators will decide whether to vote in favor of removing President Trump from office.

Beginning the week of January 23rd, White House lawyers presented opening arguments defending the president. After this, Trump's team will have the chance to attack the House's case. Under a clause inserted by Senator Mitch McConnell, the rules allow Mr. Trump's legal team to object to pieces of evidence the House impeachment investigators gathered in their inquiry. It is not yet clear whether Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. will rule on these objections or if the Senate will debate and vote on them, but the process could take some time. After each side has presented its case, with the Democrats allotted the same amount of time to present, senators will submit questions in writing, which will be directed to the House managers or to the White House legal team. If they use all 16 hours allotted for questions, this stage will finish sometime around the January 30th.

Following this, the trial moves into a crucial point regarding the impeachment process. Senators will decide whether to subpoena witnesses and seek additional documents that could be relevant to the impeachment inquiry. There will be a four hour debate on whether these actions are in order, followed by a vote. If Republicans succeed in this debate, they will quickly move to vote on the two articles of impeachment. If Democrats succeed in this debate, they will likely subpoena witnesses they have recently insisted upon: John R. Bolton, the former national security advisor; Mick Mulvaney, the acting White House chief of staff; Robert B. Blair, a top aide to Mr. Mulvaney; and

Michael Duffy, a White House budget official. The Senate would debate and vote on each one. Mr. Trump's lawyers would also have the option to request witnesses such as Hunter Biden, the son of former Vice President Joseph R. Biden. If senators agree to call witnesses, this would extend the trial well into February, pushing out other important steps for the impeachment process to a much later time. Senators must take a final vote to decide whether to allow the testimonies. It is difficult to say when such votes might take place.

After the witnesses testify, the senators will vote on the two articles of impeachment, which includes abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. This resolution calls for no debate -- only final votes, which would conclude the third Senate impeachment trial of a president in U.S. history. When the final votes will take place is tentative. Depending on time spent on Trump's lawyers, senator questions, and witness testimonies, the vote could happen days before the President's union address on Tuesday, February 4th, or much later. If the Senate fails to convict, Mr. Trump will be considered impeached but not removed, as was the case with both Clinton in 1998 and Andrew Johnson in 1868. While the Senate trial has the power to oust a president from office, it does not have the power to send a president to jail, as this is merely a political trial and not a criminal trial. While presidential removal is unprecedented, the current Vice President Mike Pence would assume office under the 25th Amendment should Trump be removed from office. The new president would then appoint a Vice President, who would have to be confirmed by a majority of both houses in Congress.

Trump is on trial for high crimes and misdemeanors, which has historically encompassed corruption and abuses of public trust, as opposed to violations of criminal statutes. This stems back to a call to Mr. Trump's Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky on July 25, 2019, to congratulate him on his election victory. But an anonymous whistleblower, a CIA official, claimed there was a more serious element to the exchange, and filed a formal complaint on August 12, 2019, claiming the president was "using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election" (BBC News, 22 Jan. 2020, par. 21). Details of the call were disclosed by the White House, but not the full, verbatim account. These notes, and details that later arose through an exchange between Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani and former U.S. Special Representative to Ukraine Kurt Volker, con-

firmed that the men "explicitly and repeatedly discussed the possibility that Trump wanted to dangle US military aid to Ukraine in exchange for politically beneficial investigations on the Bidens" (Business Insider, 18 Oct. 2019, par. 5).

During this ordeal, Mr. Trump ordered his administration to withhold a \$400 million military-aid package to Ukraine days before the phone call. Mr. Trump also pressured Mr. Zelensky to probe a cybersecurity firm retained by the Democratic National Committee to investigate Russia's hack of its servers in 2016. Later, in the midst of the impeachment inquiry, President Donald Trump called on China to look into former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter, on the eve of restarted trade talks between the two countries. Biden has called Trump's push to have him investigated by a foreign power "disturbing" and said "it shows Trump is unfit for office". On the other hand, at the UN General Assembly meeting in late September, "Zelensky denied that he felt pressure from Trump to investigate the Bidens, and emphasized that he did not want to be involved in American elections" (Business Insider, 18 October 2019, par. 19).

Nearing the end of January, impeachment managers presented their opening arguments, using audio and video tape to support their oral presentations, quoting the president's own words in their effort to prove him guilty. On January 24th, the managers tackled the obstruction of Congress charge. They argued that "Mr. Trump's refusal to allow certain members of his administration to answer questions from the House of Representatives was akin to hiding information from a grand jury investigation" (BBC News, 25 Jan. 2020, par. 19). After the conclusion of Democratic opening arguments, the Republican defense team mounted an aggressive offense by attacking Democratic accusers as "partisan witch-hunters trying to remove him from office because they could not beat him at the ballot box" (The New York Times, 25 Jan. 2020, par. 1). The president's lawyers presented a radically different view of the Ukraine facts and the Constitution, seeking to turn the Democrats' own charges against them while pronouncing the whole process as unfounded. The goal was to "poke holes in the House managers' arguments in order to provide enough fodder to Senate Republicans already inclined to acquit him" (The New York Times, 25 Jan. 2020, par. 4). On Monday, January 27th both sides wrapped up five days of presentations and arguments on the Senate floor.

As the opening arguments came to

a close, a pre-publication leak of the former national security advisor's forthcoming book brings new evidence to light -- it reportedly accuses the president of tying military aid to Ukraine to investigations of Democrats. The claims allegedly made by Mr. Bolton could potentially damage the president's defense. The account has immediately renewed calls from the Democrats for the Senate to call Bolton during the impeachment trial. As Bolton's new revelations throw into doubt how Trump's trial will proceed, many Republicans appear to be reconsidering their opposition to bringing in witnesses. During a private lunch, Republican senators discussed a possible one-for-one witness deal as part of the impeachment trial. Trump's team would likely call Hunter Biden or the Ukraine whistleblower if John R. Bolton were called as the Democrat's witness. As of now, Senators must still partake in a four hour debate on whether calling witnesses and seeking additional documents is in order.

While the impeachment trial is a threat to Donald Trump, it has also crippled the campaigns of a half dozen Democratic candidates vying to beat him. The impeachment schedule consumes every Senator's schedule. Under the Senate's current rules, "all senators must be in session Monday through Saturday, starting at around noon each day" (BuzzFeed News, 17 Oct. 2019, par. 3). The trial may last up to five weeks, thus putting several Democratic nominees' campaigns on hold until the primaries start. Sens. Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar scramble across the country in one of their last bursts of campaigning during a brief pause in the impeachment trial. Their untimely lockdown provides an extreme advantage to their leading rivals, including Joe Biden and Pete Buttigieg, who both have dozens of events scheduled before the senators return.

In the upcoming weeks, senators will pose questions, debate on whether to call witnesses such as Bolton or the whistleblower, and ultimately decide whether to vote in favor of removing President Trump from office. For impeachment to occur, the Senate has to convict Trump with a two-thirds majority. With 53 Republican Senators and 47 Democratic Senators, removal from office is unlikely. Nonetheless, Donald J. Trump is the third president in U.S. history to face an impeachment trial, marking a key event in the path of American history and shaping how we view American politics for decades to come.

Australian Bush Fires

BY JANA LUKAS '21

Having destroyed millions of acres of land, the fourteen mile per hour Australian bush fires still rage on, with more than one hundred still blazing in the country. The Gospers Mountain Fire, which is the largest of Australia's fire, was largely contained; however, fires are still devastating Australia's southeast coast, especially in the states of New South Wales and Victoria. Despite heavy rainfall these past few days, fire season is far from over. Hot and windy conditions are expected to return very soon in Australia as a month of summer still remains. What is the devastation so far?

The fires began in September 2019, blazing on for more than three months and still counting. In total, an estimated twenty-nine people have been killed and about sixteen million acres of bush, forest, and parks across Australia have been burned; that is roughly the size of West Virginia. The fires have destroyed more than two thousands homes; people are forced to evacuate and leave everything they have to burn. Compared to the 2018 California WildFires, when even our school took about two or three days off from the unhealthy amount of smoke in the air, Australia's bushfires have burned approximately eight times as much land than the California wildfires.

On Kangaroo Island, roughly twenty-five thousand koalas were killed as flames devastated their terri-

tory. Overall, an estimated one billion animals have been affected by the fires, including kangaroos, koalas, platypus, and cockatoos. They are faced with starvation, dehydration, and many are even perishing in the devastation of their homes. Scientists are racing to identify and save animals that are on the brink of extinction. Similarly, animal rescue workers are making an effort to go out to affected areas like Kangaroo Island and search for any animals that may need help. Many organizations have brought animals that are on the brink of dying back to emergency vet hospitals, where veterinarians take care of them and offer them another chance at survival.

These fires are happening in populated areas, ultimately setting these fires apart from previous ones that sparked global attention. Smoke has blanketed Melbourne, Sydney, and Canberra, sometimes giving them some of the worst air in the world. NASA tracked a plume of smoke from Australia that was the size of the continental United States. By mid-January, smoke had traveled across the globe, giving South America discolored skies and New Zealand hazardous breathing conditions. The smoke that these countries all over the world are facing today are unhealthy, as they can cause a range of health problems from runny, itchy, and burning eyes/noses to aggravated chronic lung and heart diseases. Inhalation smoke from fires can inflame one's lungs and airways, causing them to swell and block oxygen. Eventually, this can lead to acute respiratory syndromes and even respiratory failure.

Most of the fires have been caused by lightning strikes and the spread of the fires are compounded by climate change. Some people wrongly believe that the fires have been caused by arson--an act of deliberately setting property on fire--in order to minimize the links to climate change and the Australian government's inaction on the issue. Others have argued that the continuing drought of Australia is unrelated; however, the warming temperatures of Australia have pushed rain out of parts of the country where rain used to fall. Strong winds, combined with the higher temperatures and dry forests have combined to form strong fires. Thousands of firefighters, including volunteers, are attempting to stop these bushfires. Additionally, many American firefighters have traveled all the way to Australia to assist in containing the fires. Firefighters are called to work long days over extended periods of time to combat the flames. There are many organizations that you can donate to in order to directly fund to help mitigate the disastrous impact of the Australian wildfires, including International Fund for Animal Welfare (<https://www.ifaw.org/>) and GIVIT (<http://www.givit.org.au/>). Hopefully, Australia will experience a decline in the severity of the fires as soon as possible, allowing the countless innocent animals, firefighters, and citizens to be free from risk and exposure to the dangerous flames.

Iran Overview

BY SAMMI GUERRERO '21

On January 26, 2020, three rockets were fired by Iranian-backed militia at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, leaving one injured. This is the most recent event in the long saga of strained relations with Iran. Although conflict has been going on for decades, within the past month, tensions have escalated to mass proportions. However, with the awareness that further violence could have unintended consequences, both have seemed to err on the side of de-escalation.

In 2015, under the Obama administration, Iran and six other nations signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), an agreement stating that Iran would slow down its production of nuclear weapons and in exchange, the West would lift some sanctions on the Middle Eastern nation. This agreement stood until May 2018 when President Trump backed out of the JCPOA and in turn promised additional sanctions and regulations on Iran. This decision led to Iranian backlash in the form of further enrichment of uranium--at that point surpassing the maximum levels outlined in the 2015 nuclear agreement. This makes them more capable of manufacturing a nuclear bomb.

The most recent of these events were set in motion by a U.S. airstrike on an Iranian-backed militia installation in Iraq (Kata'ib Hezbollah) on December 29th, 2019. Twenty-five fighters from this group were killed and many more injured. This upset many people and resulted in pro-Iranian demonstrators violently protesting outside of the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad just days later. This prompted Defense Secretary Mark Esper to immediately deploy approximate-

ly 750 soldiers from the U.S.'s 82nd Airborne Division.

By far the most controversial move from Washington was President Trump's order on January 2nd, 2020 to assassinate Iranian General Qasem Soleimani. Trump defended the decision, claiming that the General posed an imminent threat to the United States, though the administration has yet to provide intelligence supporting this claim. Grief and mourning for the passing of Soleimani pervaded the nation, inciting not only sadness but extreme anger and hatred for the United States. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei called for "vigorous vengeance" in response.

Shortly after, on January 7th, Iran fired twenty-two missiles into American-occupied Iraqi military bases without killing or injuring anyone. Because the missiles yielded no casualties and only limited damage to the military bases, Trump and his officials considered this an attempt at de-escalation, saying that Iran "appears to be standing down," but he still promises that new sanctions will be put in place.

Sources:

ABC

CNN

The Washington Post

NPR

The New York Times



Mourners attend a funeral ceremony of Iranian Major General Qassim Suleimani and others who were killed in Iraq by a U.S. drone strike on January 6, 2020, in Tehran, Iran.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAJID SAEEDI

Troubles in Ghana!

BY GRACE PAYNTER '20

About two and a half months ago, my life changed forever. I was stepping on a plane destined for Ghana, Africa. Through all the fear and anxiety I felt before leaving for the trip, I would have never imagined that my life would be so radically changed by this experience.

The trip to Ghana has been in preparation for almost two years, after Sister Martha from St. Francis in Ghana came to visit Sacramento. Mr. Tholcke explained how the trip to Ghana started once Ghanaian students tried to get visas to come to America and were not accepted, so he found that the best way to keep the sister school bond personal was to send students from St. Francis in Sacramento to St. Francis in Ghana: "After trying twice to bring them [students from St. Francis in Ghana] here, and that not going through, I figured that it was time to go the other way."

Once the idea of the trip started to unfold into a reality, applications and interviews were sent out to the students and six were chosen to represent Sacramento while at our sister school. It was a dream come true to those who were chosen to represent Sacramento and the excitement was immeasurable. From "how am I going to do this?" to "this is surreal, it can't be happening" the members of the Ghana trip felt every emotion before leaving for Africa. It was a journey that will never be forgotten. It's hard to describe how impactful this trip was to someone who didn't go to Ghana, so I asked every member who went to tell me about their favorite moment on the trip to help explain the emotions behind the bonds we made in Ghana.

Katrina Uthoff said:

"From the moment we landed in Ghana, I was amazed by the people. Being immersed in the community was an experience that taught me the importance of their traditions and relationships. Every person we encountered was [a] pillar of patience and exhibited nothing less than the utmost hospitality and generosity. We were greeted and warmly welcomed by the entire student body, and the excitement could be felt through the sticky, stagnant air. While we were on campus, whenever a girl would approach us, she shared with us the most wide and contagious smile, and they proved to be equally as captivated by us as we were by them. From living on campus, I quickly realized the importance of community. The girls, our sisters, at St. Francis Girls Senior High School are hands down, the most incredible, well-functioning group of people

I have come to know. They were eager to get to know us, but in doing so they gave of themselves what they could to help us adapt and feel comfortable. Not only were they the perfect embodiment of giving of themselves so that they may receive, but also they so flawlessly captured the prominence of sisterhood. The universal language of love and compassion was conveyed to me through their interactions, which never included technology. They used basic communication and a baseline of respect and dignity for all people, and regardless of what year they were, or other hierarchical determinations, every single one of the girls I encountered would acquaint themselves with one another. Even with our close access to so many material things, these girls were among the wealthiest I have ever encountered in human experience, gratitude, and selflessness."

Theresa Rodgers said:

"The first thing that comes to mind was when we were stuck at the security checkpoint at like one in the morning on our second night of the trip before even getting to the school and we were celebrating Natalia's birthday. I think we were all just deliriously tired and that's when we [the members of the trip] started to bond and create nicknames for each other. Being that tired, we got to be real with each other because you see someone's true personality when you're stuck at a police barrier for almost four hours. Everybody had a very good sense of humor and was flexible and I really felt like that's when we started bonding. I know it sounds silly, but we were all joking with each other and dancing, and I'll never forget it."

Natalia Edgar said:

"After hours of delirious Drama-mine filled travel, our van finally rolled through the teal gates of the front of St. Francis Girls Senior High School in Jirapa at 4 AM. I remember I could finally take a deep breath. This was real. We were there. Climbing out of the car into the humid air, our group was embraced into the arms of smiling staff members, including Sister Martha, who had stayed up in anticipation of our arrival. We were shown our sleeping quarters where girls from the school had decorated the walls with poetry and personally addressed cards for each one of us."

Emma Halloran said:

"My favorite memory from Ghana was our first afternoon at the sister school. We drove out of the school and saw a thousand students standing outside the assembly hall. I didn't know why we were leaving, but right after we pulled out of the school, Charles, our driver, turned the bus back around and drove into the school as if we were enter-

ing for the first time. All of the Assisi girls cheered, and they all looked overjoyed to see us. As we got off the bus, each of us was greeted by a student who took our arm and danced us into the hall, where everyone was cheering for us. It was a surreal experience."

Emma Houle said:

"This many months after the trip, the moments have collided together in a perfect sort of puzzle. One memory however stands out to me specifically; it was during our stay at the school when I wandered off to find students by myself while the others were sleeping. The girls were preparing for the big jubilee celebration and were making food and decorations that I eventually hopped right into with them. We talked for about 2 hours about our similarities and differences and personal interests and I got to know the girls on a closer level. Getting that simple opportunity to talk with such amazing and humorous young women will forever have a place in my heart and I'm thankful for the adventure I had with connecting across the world."

Stephanie Villanueva said:

"It was probably one of the days when we were just sitting in the living room. I was watching you all play games and chat with the girls in Ghana like you guys had known each other forever, not only a few days. Usually when you meet people, there's a lot of awkwardness and people being standoffish, trying to figure each other out, but everyone went in with such an open heart and open mind that everyone was open to what the other had to offer. I didn't feel like I was in an unusual, far away place, it felt like home."

Samantha Davis said:

"The night before beginning our journey back to California, my two favorite girls gave me letters to read and remember them by. Crying isn't my strong suit, but their messages containing their friendship, love, and wishes for me were powerful enough to bring tears to my eyes. At that moment, I knew I had made friends for life. As I was gathering my luggage to put in the car, Emma Houle told me someone came to wish me farewell. I knew who had come to see me, my beautiful Ghanain sister, Marijanata A. Tampouri. We had already said our goodbyes the night before, but after reading her letter, I knew I had to see her again. I cannot count how long or how many times we hugged but forever would not have felt like long enough at that moment. She placed a yellow and white bracelet on my right wrist, which I have yet to take off. I knew that although I was physically leaving, a piece of my heart will always remain in

Ghana with my sisters at St. Francis Senior Girls High School. I remember sitting in the van, looking out the window, waving goodbye to Marijanata, and seeing her beautiful smile with tears running down her cheeks. It's heartbreaking, but it's so precious, too. I left knowing that I'll always have a family, that I had been given a second home, and that I would never be alone because my girls in Ghana would forever be supporting me from two thousand miles away."

The trip to Ghana, Africa was truly the most life-changing experience I have ever had. I had never traveled outside of America before going to Ghana, so I was really nervous about what I would experience, but I never imagined what an impact it would have on my life. The connections and relationships I made with so many girls in Ghana will stay with me forever because we all opened our hearts to each other. I was free to be my true self around them and they loved me for me, just as I love them for them. To this day, we all still keep in contact with our amazing sisters in Ghana and we will continue to keep these relationships for the rest of our lives because, even though the trip may have ended after a short ten days, the memories and connections we made will last for the rest of our lives.



Students in Jirapa, Ghana

PHOTO COURTESY OF SFHS INST-
GRAM

Streaming

BY GRACE PAYNTER '20



A dance from St. Francis' One Act and Dance Showcase: Streaming.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SFHS WEBSITE

"Both parts of the performance were really good and I absolutely loved every second of it. I took a lot away from the show in that we all are addicted to technology and it was cool to see how both the positives and negatives of technology were expressed in the performance." This is how Reagan Eaddy, someone who saw "Streaming", described the show. "Streaming" is both a One Act and a dance performance wrapped into one written all by young women at St. Francis. It explores the different effects of social media and technology on teenage girls today.

Nowadays, social media and technology have many different effects on the world. Technology can either entertain people and make them laugh, as seen in "St. Francis Live: Girls Aren't Funny", the One Act in "Streaming," or it can really damage people and hurt their self esteem, like shown in "disconnected," the dance concert surrounding the One Act.

Ms. Agata, the dance teacher for "disconnected," explained that the dancing portion of "Streaming" was focused on exploring social media through the eyes of teenage girls. The dance performance asks the question whether girls are "disconnected" from their lives because of social media or more "connected" to people because of the advantages on social media. The dancers did an incredence emotional dances that touched many people's hearts.

Mrs. Anderson, the director of "St. Francis Live: Girls Aren't Funny," helped many girls go out of their comfort zones to be loud and go over the top to create a comedy for just girls. This One Act is a playoff of SNL, showing how girls really are funny. The show, despite being a comedy, addresses a lot of issues regarding stereotypes seen in society today. "St. Francis Live" addresses the biggest stereotype that girls can't naturally be funny, so they fight this stereotype putting on a comedy show that had people laughing the whole time.

"Streaming" was a brilliant performance that helped describe the positives and negatives of social media to teenage girls who have struggled or felt "disconnected" while on social media. The strong message was carried home with girls who value the special connections kept on social media, but who also remember that one cannot let it absorb one's life.

29th Annual International Night

BY HAILEY KOPP '21

St. Francis High School's 29th Annual International Night took place on Wednesday, January 29th, celebrating the various cultures of our Troubie community. Students and families were welcomed to take part in the celebration of food, music, and dance offered that evening. There was a diverse array of desserts made by parents, and delicious tacos provided by the Chando's Tacos Food Truck. The night was buzzing with excited audience members and anxious students running about in their traditional outfits. As the opening of the show neared, families and students began to pack into the theater, filling all of the seats of the sold-out event. Grace Barger '20, Laura Freeworth '20, and Grace Harrison '20 acted as the mistresses of ceremony, guiding the audience as they experienced various cultures. The show opened with Senora Diver's Spanish Three class showcasing various flags from around the world. The French Club, Latin Club, Italian Club, K-Pop Chinghu Club, Asian Pacific Islander Club, and Spanish 3 classes were featured in the showcase.

There were also multiple solo performances. Freshman, Sofia Perez-Lanza performed a traditional latin dance. Ena Nayak '20, a member of the SFHS Bollywood Dance Group, presented a classical Bollywood dance. Leticia Nambo '20 and Kayla Mison '20 displayed their musical talents and sang "La Llorona." Kelsi Towle '21 wrote and sang "C'est la Vie," a French song. The night closed with a Tahiti dance led by Mrs. Macugay, the Na Wahine O' Olu Hula teacher. International Night highlighted the great talents, diversity, and international culture of St. Francis.



Madame Picca's French Club

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN CANNON '21



Señora Vargas' Honors Spanish 3 Class

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAILEY KOPP '21

Democratic Debate

BY CHLOE HENNING '21

On January 14, 2020, millions tuned in to listen to six of the top Democratic presidential candidates discuss and debate pressing issues facing the country. Debates are crucial to all candidate's campaigns because they are given the opportunity to persuade voters that they should be the person not only to earn the Democratic nomination but to defeat Donald Trump in the 2020 Presidential Election. To be eligible to debate, candidates needed 225,000 contributors and at least five percent support in four eligible polls. The eligible candidates included: Joe Biden, Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar, Bernie Sanders, Tom Steyer, and Elizabeth Warren.

Joe Biden dove into foreign policy stating that forces needed to stay put in the Middle East, but the consent of the people is essential in entering into a war. He also opposed meeting with North Korea without trade agreements approved by environmentalists, labor unions, and enforcement mechanisms. His arguments against his fellow candidates

revolved around his message that the winning candidate should bring the party together. He also explicitly criticized Sanders' plan to pay for Medicare for All and put his support in universal infant care and \$8,000 childcare tax credit.

Mayor Pete stood his ground on military action, climate change, and education. He agreed with Biden in that staying in the Middle East, but he believes Congress should control whether or not to approve the use of military force. He is ready to move away from a fossil-dependent economy, and to begin to involve farmers and industrial laborers in the fight against climate change. He presented the least expensive health care plan, and opposed free college tuition for the wealthy, aiming to have more low income students graduate debt-free from college.

Amy Klobuchar discussed foreign policy, trade, and health care. She opposed the Iraq War, which gave her a segue into speaking about her experience as a member of the Senate. She supports leaving some troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, but bringing many home. She stated her support for the

United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, building a trade bloc to make the US stronger against China. She also regarded the debate over Medicare for All as not real because of the numerous Democratic senators and governors who are opposed to it.

Bernie Sanders discussed why he opposed his fellow candidates on many issues including war, trade, and climate change. He criticized Joe Biden for supporting the war in Iraq, stating that the "Iraq and Vietnam wars are the greatest modern foreign policy disasters." He opposed Klobuchar in her support of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement because it lacked environmental and labor provisions. He also proposed the Green New Deal, which leads the U.S. away from fossil fuels.

Tom Steyer discussed foreign policy, his experience, and climate change. He states he will put economic pressure on Iran, form coalitions addressing Middle East conflict, and would not meet with North Korea without preconditions. He states his business credentials and billionaire status makes him qualified to be commander-in-chief and bring equal

opportunity to low income families.

Elizabeth Warren debated foreign policy, electability, and taxes. She threw her support behind the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement to bring relief to laborers and farmers, and that foreign policy should be driven by diplomacy and economy over the defense industry. She pointed out her advantage of being a woman, bringing up the fact that herself and Klobuchar were the only people who have won every election. She spoke about her plan to reduce taxes on prescription drugs, using taxes to fund her healthcare proposal, which supports generic drug manufacturing.



The six eligible Democratic nominees on stage for the seventh debate leading up to the Democratic primaries.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

Movie Review: *Little Women*

BY ELLA SEBOK '23

Often when literature is turned into a film, it fails to satisfy the viewer. It is even more difficult to produce a stunning film when the story has been previously adapted. But this adaptation of Little Women, which has received six Oscar nominations, defies all stereotypes. Written and directed by St. Francis alumna Greta Gerwig, this film surprised audiences as it brought an unexpected, modern perspective on the classic novel.

Little Women, based on Louisa May Alcott's classic novel, follows the four March sisters, mainly Jo (Saorise Ronan), as they reach the end of their childhood days and venture from the comfort of their home to the reality of adulthood. Throughout this time of change, the March sisters grow into their adulthood, as they gravitate away from each other to pursue separate lives of their own.

The four sisters undergo major development over the course of the film. They all have great ambition, whether it is Jo who wants to be an independent writer, Meg (Emma Watson) who longs

to live in luxury, Amy (Florence Pugh) who desires to be a great and rich painter, or Beth (Eliza Scanlen) who wants to live a quiet and normal life. However, as they venture into adult life, each sister learns that their childish ambitions will be squashed by the reality of adulthood and the expectation to conform to society's standards for women.

But what sets this Little Women adaptation apart from the others is the amazing directing. Rather than following the sisters' lives chronologically, as the novel does, Gerwig's adaptation jumps back and forth from the sisters' comfortable childhood to their harsh awakening of adult life, bringing a refreshing take on the classic story. The warm glow of the March sisters' childhood scenes highlights the innocence and pure enjoyment of their early life and the bonds that will last a lifetime. The adult scenes, however, contrast with the childhood scenes as they demonstrate the harsh world the March sisters leap into, full of prejudice, poverty, and pressure to marry.

Overall, this was a great film not only because of the amazing acting and-

storyline, but also because the film ventured out from its predictable past and made its own, individual name. Gerwig's Little Women is definitely worth your time.



"Little Women" from left to right: Meg March (Emma Watson), Amy March (Florence Pugh), Jo March (Saorise Ronan), and Beth March (Eliza Scanlen).

PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY IMAGES

The 92nd Academy Awards

BY HAILEY KOPP '21



Best Supporting Actor winner; Brad Pitt.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

The 92nd Academy Awards ceremony took place on Sunday, February 9th. The hostless show opened with Janelle Monáe, performing a cover of “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” featuring dancers that donned the costumes that highlighted the various films of the year, such as *Parasite*, *Dolemite*, *Little Women*, and *Midsommar*.

Without a host, the Oscars maintained the momentum of the show with various musical performances. Idina Menzel performed “Into the Unknown,” a song from *Frozen II*, alongside nine women from around the world who sang parts of the song in their native language. Elton John performed “Love Me Again” from his biographical film, *Rocketman*. There was a surprise performance from Eminem, who performed his Academy Award-winning song from 2002, “Lose Yourself.” Eminem had skipped the awards ceremony in 2003, so he thanked the Academy for the opportunity to perform at this year’s ceremony. With her nominated song “Stand Up” from *Harriet*, Cynthia Erivo performed a powerful tribute to Harriet Tubman. Billie Eilish sang a touching rendition of the Beatles’ “Yesterday” alongside her brother, Finneas, who played the piano during the “In Memoriam” segment.

The first award of the night, Best Supporting Actor, was awarded to Brad Pitt for his role as Cliff Booth in *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, a film about a television actor and his stunt double who strive to achieve success in the film

industry. The winner of Best Supporting Actress was Laura Dern, who earned her award for her role as Nora Fanshaw in *Marriage Story*, a film that discusses the struggle of a grueling divorce.

Renée Zellweger won Best Actress for her role as Judy Garland in *Judy*, which follows Garland’s career during the last year of her life. Joaquin Phoenix earned Best Actor for his portrayal of Arthur Fleck, a mentally troubled comedian that embarks on a downward spiral where he discovers his alter ego, in Todd Phillips’ *Joker*.

St. Francis Catholic High School alumna, Greta Gerwig’s *Little Women*, was nominated for various awards. Her film was nominated for Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Original Music Score, Saoirse Ronan for Best Actress as her role as Jo March, and Florence Pugh for Best Supporting Actress for her role as Amy March. However, *Little Women* garnered only one award for Best Costume Design by Jacqueline Durran.

Bong Joon-ho had a night of triumphs—Best International Feature Film, Best Screenplay, Best Director, and Best Picture—for his film, *Parasite*. *Parasite* is a story about greed and class discrimination as it explores the life of a low-income family who plots to become employed by a wealthy family. This movie represents an affirmation of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences diversity initiatives as it was the first foreign film to win Best Picture.

February Horoscopes

BY IZABELLA TAYLOR '21

February 2020 Compatible Horoscopes:

- Aries matches best with Libra
- Taurus matches best with Scorpio
- Gemini matches best with Sagittarius
- Cancer matches best with Taurus
- Leo matches best with Sagittarius
- Virgo matches best with Scorpio
- Libra matches best with Taurus and Libra
- Scorpio matches best with Pisces
- Sagittarius matches best with Aquarius
- Capricorn matches best with Virgo
- Aquarius matches best with Sagittarius
- Pisces matches best with Scorpio

February is the month of Aquarius, whose constellation incorporates the Sun. The sun brings light and showcases love in relationships in February. The Sun is most important in the constellation chart and symbolizes one’s will and sense of vitality. This symbolizes the traits we wish to see in ourselves and our relationships, and can obtain, especially within the month of Aquarius.

Aquarius is the eleventh astrological sign in the Zodiac and ends on February 20th. Altogether there are twelve astrological signs total in the Zodiac.

The zodiac sign associated with March is Pisces. Those born from March 1st to March 20th are members of the Pisces sign. Pisces are known for being generous, amiable, positive natured people with a deep sense of kindness and compassion.

The zodiac sign associated with the month of April is Aries. People born from April 1st to April 19th are members of the Aries sign. Aries are known for being passionate, motivated, and a confident leader to others.

The zodiac sign associated with the month of May is Taurus. Individuals born from May 1st to May 20th are members of the Taurus sign. Taurus are known for being practical, determined, and ambitious.

The zodiac sign associated with the month of June is the Gemini. For those born from June 1st to June 20th, they are members of the Gemini zodiac sign. Gemini are known for being smart, sharp and speedy.

The zodiac sign associated with the month of July is Cancer. People born from July 1st to July 22nd are members of the Cancer zodiac sign. Cancer is known for being sweet, kind and caring towards others.

The zodiac sign associated with the month of August is the Leo. For those born from August 1st to August 22nd, they are members of the Leo zodiac sign. Leos are known for being exuberant, loyal and self-confident.

The zodiac sign associated with the month of September is Virgo. People born from September 1st to September 22nd are members of the Virgo sign. Virgos are known for being analytical, careful and orderly.

The sign associated with the month of October is Libra. People born from October 1st to October 22nd are members of the Libra sign. Libras are known for being serious, charming, graceful and good humorists.

People born from November 1st to November 22nd are members of the Scorpio sign. Scorpions are known for willpower, resolve, grit and tenacity.

Sagittarius are born from December 1st to 22nd. Sagittarius are known for being open, friendly, enthusiastic and energetic. Those are all the future upcoming signs in the 2020 months.

Galentine's Recipe

BY SOFIA SCHUMAKER '21

Valentine's Day may be the day of love, but that includes self-love. Why not pamper yourself this Valentine's season and get to work on some delicious holiday treat that will astonish your friends and family.

Cupid's Strawberry Cake
The standard boxed cake mix can provide a good foundation for a tasty dessert. Here's how you can adjust almost any cake mix to fit this month's Valentine's theme, and whip up a flavoursome delicacy with a strawberry filling.

Ingredients for the basic cake:
(Store bought cake mix)
Prep time: depends on your cake mix

- An extra egg than what is recommended (for richer taste)
- Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar and flour to your cake mix
- Add milk instead of water (any kind of milk is fine. If using dark chocolate cake, I recommend

- coffee for a more intense flavor.)
- Use melted butter in place of vegetable oil.

Follow baking directions from your given cake mix. After cooling, carefully place the cake on a plate and slice through its middle to leave room for the filler.

Ingredients for the strawberry filler:
Prep time: 7 min

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of sugar
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoons of cornstarch
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ of strawberries

Mix all ingredients together in a small saucepan, then let boil while stirring and crushing the strawberries with the back of a spoon. Let boil for two minutes to thicken (the filler should be slightly chunky). Pour into a bowl to let cool. Once cooled spread your filling between the cakes two layers, and carefully place together both halves.

Ingredients for cream cheese icing:
Prep time: 10 min

- 1 cup of block style cream cheese (8-ounce)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

Beat cream cheese until smooth in a large mixing bowl. Mix in butter until well combined and smooth. Add in vanilla extract and powdered sugar until well combined. Then spread your homemade icing over your fabulous cake.



Cupid's Strawberry Cake

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

Valentine's Day Word Search

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

Word Bank:

- Candy
- Valentine
- Chocolate
- Heart
- Flower
- Rose
- Love
- Date
- February