

VOLUME LVI



HILLTOPICS

NEWS IN ISOLATION

Issue Four

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*New
 Year,
 New
 Faces*

Khôi Hoàng

Ethnicity: Vietnamese (Ethnic name: Kinh)
 Hobbies: Surfing the internet
 Favorite Class: World History
 New Year's Resolution: "I want to get a 4.0 GPA."
 Who introduced you to St Lawrence? "Kiet Do
 (Class of 22') introduced me."
 What's your favorite aspect about St. Lawrence?
 "I like the friendly nature at SLS."



Nam Nguyen

Ethnicity: Vietnamese
 Hobbies: Playing the guitar and video games
 Favorite Class: World History
 New Year's Resolution: "I want to get better at
 playing the guitar and want to get fit."
 Who introduced you to St Lawrence? "I heard
 about St. Lawrence through Mr. Bartel
 and Fr. Zoy."
 What's your favorite aspect about St. Lawrence?
 "The friendliness of people on campus."



Noah Reither

Ethnicity: Guatemalan
 Hobbies: Wrestling, Basketball
 Favorite Class: Algebra 1
 New Year's Resolution: "I want to max out my
 bench press and eat less junk food."
 Who introduced you to St Lawrence? "My aunt
 told me about SLS."
 What's your favorite aspect about St. Lawrence?
 "I like the sports offered here."





“Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God.”
– Joel 2: 12-13

We are once again in the holy season of Lent—a time of penance, prayer, and fasting. One of the hallmarks of Lent is the practice of fasting and abstinence. In our Catholic tradition, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are designated days for the common observance of fasting and abstinence. Fasting is defined as having only one full meal in a given day. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. In addition to the full meal, the person may also have two smaller meals but no snacks. However, those extra meals, when combined, should not equal to a full meal. Persons aged 18 to 59 are obliged to observe fasting. Abstinence, on the other hand, means refraining from eating meat. Fridays during Lent are designated days for the practice of abstinence. Persons aged 14 and onwards are obliged to practice abstinence. Fasting and abstinence are among the time-honored practices in the Church. You might ask, *“Why do we fast and abstain during Lent?”*

There is a Scriptural foundation for fasting. One of the reasons for doing so is to obtain an answer or help from God, or to prepare oneself for a very important task. Moses fasted before receiving the Ten Commandments. Queen Esther fasted in preparation for her meeting with King Ahasuerus in order to plead for the safety of her fellow Jews. Jesus fasted before embarking on his public ministry. The other reason for fasting is to repent for sins committed against God. Ezra, the religious leader of the Jews after their return from exile in Babylon, fasted in order to mourn the transgressions of his people. The people of Nineveh proclaimed a fast after hearing God’s message announced to them by Jonah.

Fasting, therefore, prepares our hearts and our souls for God. It also brings us closer to God by disciplining our bodies and turning our appetites or desires not to earthly things but to things of heaven. As Jesus says, *“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God”* (Matthew 4:4). Jesus also said, *“It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life”* (John 6:63). So during this season of Lent, may we grow in greater appreciation for fasting. May we also participate in fasting with an open mind and with our whole heart. Through fasting, may we show our desire to repent of our sins, turn away from our evil ways, and return to the Lord, our God.

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As it gets colder and the snow starts to fall, the students of St. Lawrence get excited for their favorite winter tradition: Winter Carnival. Winter Carnival has been around for over forty years, started by Brother Dismas Seward in 1974. It began because students were bored so Brother Dismas came up with the Winter Carnival that the students know and love today. This year was no exception to the ageless tradition, although due to scheduling changes, Winter Carnival had to be moved to the end of February, rather than the end of January. Nonetheless, students eagerly awaited February 20th. On the morning of Winter Carnival, the students enjoyed a later wake-up time. After breakfast, the students gathered for a prayer and announcements by the student council president. And then it was time for the games to begin.

The morning events included classic sports such as soccer and flag football, all played in the snow, giving the games an extra fun challenge. During the events, fraternities were awarded points for games that they won. the morning events, the students had a break for lunch, and time to change out of their wet, cold clothes and get ready for the afternoon events.

Many of the afternoon events were held in the gym. Each fraternity created a three-person basketball team to compete against the others in a tournament. Following the basketball tournament, the three-point contest and knock-out began. To finish the afternoon's activities, the students, participated in the rat race. In the rat race, students run across the gym while dodge balls are thrown. After the rat race, the fraternities competed head to head in the scavenger hunt and trivia questions. The answers were all around campus. The winning fraternity this year was Fraternity 4. Senior Max Gamino said: "I'm ecstatic that my frat won! We played hard together, but still had fun".

That night, evening prayer was held in the gym and the students found out which fraternity won Winter Carnival. In addition to all the points earned that day, the frat poster contest was also judged. This year, the snow sculpture contest was added. The theme of the sculptures was historical landmarks and each class had about a week to build their landmark. To round out Winter Carnival, there was an All-Star Student vs. All-Pro Staff volleyball game.

With such a hectic 2020 behind us, Winter Carnival was a great start to 2021. Although it was rescheduled, the tradition has still gone on with many of the same events as in years prior. The Winter Carnival was a huge success for all the students and a nice return to normalcy, even if it was only for a day. ♦



DRIBBLIN' THRU COVID

Thomas Nguyen ('21)

Even midst COVID-19, the Saint Lawrence Seminary basketball team is still rolling in stronger than ever. The season is a little different this year because of the protocols and precautions taken to ensure the safety of all the players. There have been a few adjustments to the coaching staff, and the basketball practice times have been modified to keep the gym capacity at a minimum for both the JV and varsity teams to practice. Despite the new changes, the basketball teams are working at full throttle to make the most of their seasons.

There have been changes to the coaching staff this season. Coach Dave Bartel, who returned after a three-year hiatus, and Coach Quan Nguyen are now coaching the varsity team, while Coach George Leroux and Coach Chad Dowland are leading junior varsity. Coach Bartel, who is now the head varsity coach, stated, "I enjoy coaching the basketball team. Coach Nguyen and everyone have been very helpful. The staff has been very good to work with and have made things easier to get back into the game."

Besides coaching changes, there have also been changes to the game. To comply with the CDC guidelines, the WIAA has implemented new rules to keep players and staff safe. The opposing team will always start with the ball and the possession arrow will determine which team gets the ball for the second half. In the first half, each team is also granted an extra timeout. Players and coaches are required to wear masks at all times.

The team has been working hard to adapt to the COVID protocols, Coach Bartel, explaining how his players have responded, stated, "They are adapting very well. I've been very happy with how they've done." With a new coaching staff, team, and schedule, both teams have had an uphill battle. JV practice is held after school while varsity practice is held during the evenings. Between balancing schoolwork and practice, the players have been on top of their work and in gear to improve their game. Senior Jude Stier stated, "The new COVID protocols haven't really affected my gameplay. Despite everything going on, things have been very positive. The coaches are great and my teammates are great too." Senior Aaron Villegas' goal for the season is to play a crucial role in his team's success and to help all of his teammates perform to the best of their abilities. He stated, "We have a lot of potential and can achieve great things if we really work together as a team."

Through all of these circumstances, the team has still been working hard to make the most of what they can. COVID-19 has presented a lot of changes to every aspect of Saint Lawrence Seminary. Basketball has been no different. Despite that, the players are still focused on what's ahead for the future and things are looking very bright for the team.



Varsity

RESULTS

JV

12/11: SLS-Stockbridge 45-59

12/14: SLS-NEWCHAA 46-27

1/22: SLS-Johnson Creek 49-67

1/29: SLS-CWC 26-47

2/1: SLS-Lena 49-46

2/4: SLS-Chilton 29-51

2/9: SLS-Elkhart Lake 23-71

2/11: SLS-Stockbridge 37-74

2/13: SLS-Valley Christian 37-48

12/11: SLS-Stockbridge 43-33

12/14: SLS-NEWCHAA 44-20

1/22: SLS-Johnson Creek 39-32

1/28: SLS-New Holstein 33-39

1/29: SLS-CWC 29-25

2/1: SLS-Lena 39-22

2/4: SLS-Chilton 36-39

2/9: SLS-Elkhart Lake 48-28

2/13: SLS-Valley Christian 53-30

The Campus FRONTLINERS

Joseph Hall ('22)



When benefactors, parents, and visitors see the Saint Lawrence campus, one of the first things they comment on is the beauty of the campus. From the crystal-clear windows to the shining door knobs and railings and the nicely-groomed lawns and gardens, the campus is always a sight that everyone enjoys. The campus is not only beautiful, but also extremely sanitary. Everyone here knows that if it were not for the hard work and dedication of the Saint Lawrence Seminary maintenance staff and cleaning, the campus would not look nearly as good or be nearly as safe as it is today.

From cleaning to landscaping, the maintenance staff cares for every aspect of the beauty and cleanliness of the school. Students often see the maintenance crew mowing the grass and cleaning windows in the fall and spring or shoveling snow, salting the walkways and cleaning floors in the winter. "The maintenance crew does an amazing job of keeping campus clean and safe for all of us," said first-year student Endrew Saw. "Without them, the school's beauty would be nowhere near the level that it is."

This year a new risk arose that no one could have prepared for, the coronavirus. Luckily for the students, faculty and other staff members of Saint Lawrence, the maintenance staff rose to meet the challenge. "We spent a lot of the summer posting signs, moving furniture, marking chairs, measuring spaces and rearranging classrooms, all to comply with the social distancing requirements," said Mrs. Bink. Once the school year began, they took the initiative and began sanitizing chairs, tables, railings, and light switches daily; any surface that was regularly touched was regularly sanitized. Because of these precautions, the student body of SLS has remained 100 percent COVID-free while on campus.

Along with the new challenge, the maintenance staff also continued to keep up with the regular upkeep and major projects that were planned. "We had to move some projects around so we could put full attention on sanitizing and keeping the campus clean at all times," stated Mr. Wehner. The staff at Saint Lawrence is always impressed with the speed at which broken apparatuses are fixed and problems solved.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the maintenance staff and cleaning crew, Saint Lawrence is an extremely beautiful and sanitary place to live. Each member contributes to upkeep and cleanliness of the SLS campus. So, thank you to Mr. Tom Wehner, Mrs. Mary Bink, Mr. Jeff Birschbach, Mrs. Sandy Knaus, Mrs. Ann Konen, Mr. Allen Kraus, Ms. Amber Lefeber, Mr. Ross Peterson, Mr. Dan Sippel, Mr. Noel Sippel, Mr. Dean Beckmann, and Mr. Dennis Rieder for all that you do to keep the staff and students safe and the SLS campus beautiful.



Andrew Tran ('21)



In a time of uncertainty and stress, Tết, the Vietnamese celebration of the Lunar New Year, was observed on the Hill. This year, Tet was celebrated on February 12th, but at SLS the festivities took place on Sunday, February 14th, as the year of the ox began.

Tết reminds us to forget the past and start anew. Families take time to gather and celebrate the new year and to pay respects to their ancestors. There are many traditions surrounding Tết. The lì xì, or red envelopes, are a favorite tradition of Vietnamese children. When children visit their relatives, they wish them a happy new year and, in exchange, the adults give the children a red envelope. The red envelopes contain “lucky” money. The color red symbolizes prosperity and luck.

St. Lawrence Seminary exemplifies its diverse cultures by saluting such holidays as Tết. In previous years, parents of Vietnamese students would come up and cook authentic food for the banquet. This year, due to COVID, the banquet was led by the Vietnamese students and Mr. Quan Nguyen.

To begin the Tet banquet, Fr. Zoy Garibay called up each SLS student to receive their lì xì. Before Fr. Zoy handed the students their lì xì, each student wished him a “Happy New Year.” After cooking and eating, senior Danh Truong said, “I felt very happy seeing students experience Vietnamese food for the first time!” At the conclusion of the banquet, students went to the gym for a special evening prayer that included the story of the ox. After the prayer, the “lion dance” was performed. After seeing the lion dance, freshman Elijah Frey said, “It was cool the way they moved. I had never seen anything like that.” The students were then led outside to see fireworks. The Tết celebration was a fun way to start the new year off with a bang!

Time and time again, the Super Bowl has proven to be one of America's biggest sporting events, and this year was no exception. With over 96.4 million viewers watching, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers pulled out an unexpected upset against the Kansas City Chiefs, beating them 31 to 9, and netting star quarterback Tom Brady a seventh Super Bowl title.

St. Lawrence students watched the Super Bowl together in their dorm lobbies, gathering around the television in excitement, cheering on their favorites. Since food is such a big part of the festivities on Super Bowl Sunday, the students were able to order food from different restaurants which were then brought onto campus.

Among the Hilltoppers, there were mixed opinions on who would win the Super Bowl. Junior Caulodrino Williams said, “I’m rooting for the Buccaneers to win because I want Tom Brady to get another championship ring.” Mr. Charles Lefeber, who teaches Health, said, “I was disappointed at the results because I wanted the Chiefs to win. I was hoping for the Chiefs to win the Super Bowl. I think they lost to Tampa because they were missing two of their offensive tackles.” In a year of twists and turns, it’s refreshing to see something normal. Despite the coronavirus causing complications, the United States was able to uphold tradition, allowing Hilltoppers to enjoy the game and the wonderful little details that make the Super Bowl an anticipated game for many Americans.

The BRADY BUNCH

Earl D'Souza ('22)



Faith, EXCELLENCE, SERVICE

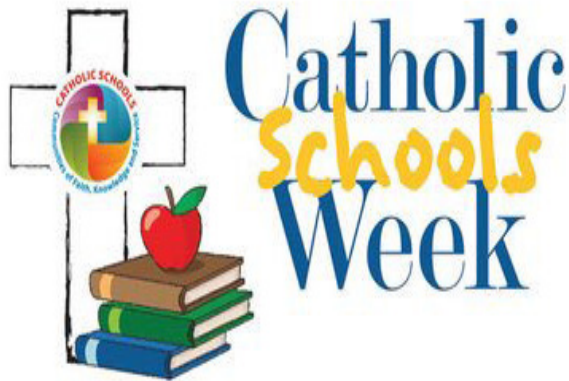
Kiet Do ('22)



Each year, the Catholic School communities of the United States engages in a week-long celebration of the unique identity and distinctive contributions of Catholic education during Catholic Schools Week. The 2020 academic year was a challenge for all educators and students alike, including the Hilltoppers, as everyone took part in both in-person and virtual learning throughout the year. For this reason, the 2021 Catholic Schools Week specifically acknowledged the teachers and administrators who give so much of themselves because they believe in the value of Catholic education.

Catholic Schools Week has always been an essential celebration on the Hill. This year's theme was "Faith. Excellence. Service." When asked about the theme, Fr. Zoy said, "It is a very appropriate theme, especially for us here at St. Lawrence Seminary. It pithily articulates our mission and succinctly describes what we strive to instill in our students." This year, due to COVID-19 precautions, the Hilltoppers only celebrated Catholic Schools Week on campus. Entering its 47th anniversary year, Catholic Schools Week traditionally had been held during the last week of January. This year the Hilltoppers marked the occasion with a Mass and a social on Friday, January 29th, wherein they honored four members of the staff who reached a milestone of service to the school: Mr. Dennis Holm-Biology teacher (45 years), Mrs. Denise Birschbach-Development Office Manager (35 years), Mrs. Virginia Schmitz-Administrative Assistant to the Rector (25 years), and Mrs. Margerie Buelow-Director of Liturgy, Ministry, and Student Affairs (25 years). Together, the school congratulated these teachers and staff members for their dedication to St Lawrence Seminary.

Through these events, St. Lawrence Seminary focused on the value Catholic education provides to young people as well as its contributions to the church, communities, and nation. It was an opportunity to recognize the importance, the value, and the contributions of Catholic education to the Church and the world. By celebrating Catholic Schools Week, the Hilltoppers emphasized many benefits, for instance; the integration of faith with academic subjects, culture, and everyday life; the emphasis on living out the faith as missionary disciples; and an environment that encourages and nurtures prayer and is safe, welcoming, and supportive for students. Although being affected by COVID-19, St Lawrence Seminary successfully celebrated Catholic Schools Week, making the 2021 celebration memorable for all those who attended. ♦



St. Lawrence's Sack of Gifts

Peter Lim ('21)

Mac Kim - "Frozen backpack with makeup (White Elephant game gift)"

Isidro Vargas - "1996 6 ML Sierra Southern Comfort truck"

Mr. David Bartel - "World peace, 2 snowballs"

William Le - "Jump Force game for the Nintendo Switch"

Joaquin Baldree - "Some hoodies, clothes, and a teddy bear"

Mrs. Margie Buelow - "a trip to Norway after COVID, cat socks from Mr. Kevin Buelow's kids, and clothes"

Davi Asberry - "A Ping Pong set, nice coat, clothing, shoes, and money"

Mrs. Katie Daane - "a tumbling compost bin"

Danny Draftz - "Socks"

Gael Palacios-Prieto - "Shoes"

Jacob Lim - "Grow Your Own Girlfriend and LED lights"

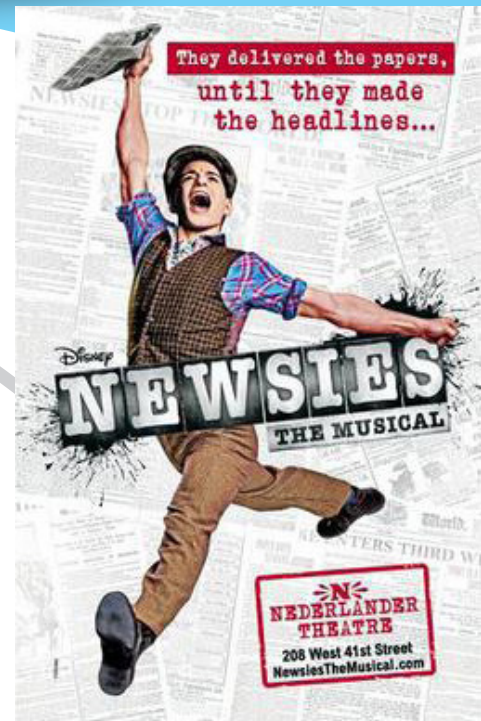
The **KINGS** of NEW YORK

The truth behind the smiles, perhaps this is the phrase that best describes Walt Disney's *Newsies*. Inspired by the Newsboys' strike of 1899, *Newsies* combines the excitement of music and the acknowledgment of cheap labor of the early 1900s. Due to COVID and the shutdown of all schools early last March, *Newsies*, was canceled. But, St. Lawrence Seminary will be performing it this year.

Organized by Mrs. Margie Buelow and Mr. Martin Vu, the cast list was quickly filled. With eight years of experience in singing and acting, senior Benedict Wood took the role of Jack Kelly, a tough leader of the Manhattan Newsies; alongside his best friend Crutchie, acted by senior Benjamin Bartlett. "Things are going smoothly," junior Gael Palacios-Prieto said, who is playing Albert. About forty students will participate in the making of this musical which includes 13 Newsies. A large number of roles are being filled by underclassmen.

This year "With the 'VID' situation, things might be a little bit different," Mrs. Buelow stated, "We might stream the play online this year. If that is the case, then this will be the first-time international parents could enjoy the play from home." The cast practices each week to make the play perfect. The musical is not only a chance for students to express their talents as actors, but also for students with interests in stage management, lighting, sound, props and so on, to have an opportunity to put their talents to work. So, the roles have been casted, rehearsals have been set, props are being made and everyone involved is preparing to put on a show they won't forget. So stay tuned in May 2021, for SLS's musical performance of *Newsies*.

Harvey Nguyen ('22)



MALIGNANT MUTATIONS

Andrew Tran ('21)

As COVID-19 vaccines began rolling out to the public in December, it seemed that the world would be easing its way back into normalcy. Then, news reports began rolling out about COVID-19 mutations that can spread faster and affect more people. Tests also showed that this variant was resistant to vaccines and could reinfect people who have already survived COVID-19. The current COVID-19 vaccines that are available target the spike protein that allows COVID-19 to enter the body. These variants could be resistant to antibodies produced by current vaccines. The variants first appeared in South Africa, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. There have been recorded cases of mutation in New York and Minnesota. The South African variant has been seen in more than 40 countries. While most of the world is still battling COVID-19, the mutations bring in more problems to an already messy situation. So, what is being done to fight these mutations?

A crucial step in combating these variants is vaccination. Although the variants can make the vaccine less effective, they can prevent more mutations from appearing. Regular COVID-19 protocols like masking and social distancing will also play a role in preventing the spread of these variants. Johnson and Johnson began testing a single-dose shot that is supposed to be more effective against the South African mutation. These COVID-19 mutations show that the world has a long way to go before it goes back to normal.



My SECTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Joseph Hall ('22)



I have been wrestling now for at least seven years. Each season has had its unique highs and lows, but this was by far my best season. I won the regional tournament thus gaining a spot in the sectional tournament. So on a cold Saturday morning, a manager, both my coaches, and I set out for Kiel high school for the tournament.

When we arrived, we chose a spot on the bleachers close to a place that I could warm up. The matches started a few hours later and I had a great time with my family watching a few of the lighter wrestlers before warmups. While preparing for the match I thought about everything that I had learned and I was convinced I was ready. Finally, I offered my match up to God and prayed "Win or lose I know that it is for my good, this match is for You". The match was intense and my opponent was strong, but I was able to walk off the mat victorious.

My second match was much more difficult and I was pinned. Even though I had lost I still had a chance to advance to state. My third match started out badly. My opponent controlled my foot early on in the match. In a last-ditch effort, I was able to kick my foot free of his grasp and spin around to face him. I immediately grasped one of his arms then slung him to his back and pinned him. This was one of my proudest moments in my wrestling career.

My final match of the day did not go so well. I was pinned early on and my chance of going to state was gone. But to my surprise I wasn't too upset. I had no regrets and was proud that I had made it as far as I did. I ended up with the fourth-place spot in my weight class. Even though I did not make it to state this season, I learned so much and gained a lot of confidence. I hope to make it even further next year!

A Speech On An

EMPTY MALL

Ricky Conlin ('22)

The Presidential Inauguration is an important - and one of a few - ceremony in United States politics. The president is sworn in in front of the National Mall, where he makes an oath on a book of his or her choosing. President Joseph Biden swore his oath on a 128-year-old bible that has been passed down in his family. The president swore to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.” Then, both President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris spoke about the importance of unity in the country. They also spoke broadly about what they hoped to accomplish in their term.

Equally importantly, Kamala Harris became the first woman, and first woman of color, to be sworn in as the Vice President of the US.

President Biden's inauguration was by no means normal. Following a recent storming of the capital, roughly 20,000 national guard troops were stationed in Washington D.C. to discourage a disruption of the ceremony. The ceremony also had only a select few people watching in person - a precaution against the spread of COVID-19.

The internet took a particular interest in Bernie Sander's appearance during the inauguration. People found his large mittens and his olive-green jacket, which he also wore during his ads while running for the Democratic nomination funny, and people quickly began editing Sanders into a variety of famous movie scenes and locations.

President Joseph Biden was inaugurated during an unprecedented time in US history, and the country is now closely watching to see what he will do in office. ♦

- Alexei Navalny, Putin's main opposition, was arrested and imprisoned following his return to Russia. He had been poisoned and spent five months in Germany recovering. The court found him guilty of failing to execute the conditions of another arrest, and protests followed in opposition to the decision.
- A military coup changed leadership in Myanmar, as the army took control of the state and arrested ruling party's leader – Aung San Suu Kyi – and the president, Win Myint. The country is currently under martial law, and protests have arisen due to the coup.
- Jeff Bezos announced that he planned to step down from his position of chief executive, assuming the role of executive chairman. Andy Jassy, Amazon's cloud-computing head, will replace Bezos as CEO.
- Trump was acquitted in his second impeachment trial after a Senate vote of 57-43. The former president is the only one to ever face impeachment twice, and the only one to hear his case after he left the White House.
- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala was appointed the World Trade Organization's director-general. A former Nigerian finance minister, she is the first woman and African to hold the position.





Editors' *Quotidian Remarks*

ANDREW

For me, the winter season has gone by super fast. The Tet celebration was great and it was really fun cooking with my classmates. It feels super weird now that basketball is over and I won't

be managing anymore. My next focus is forensics where I hope to write my magnum opus piece. Even though my frat didn't place, Winter Carnival was a blast! I hope my frat continues to bond like this to end the year.

This issue of Hilltopics was really fun to make. I like the blue color scheme that Ben chose. I hope you like it too. Stay safe and stay warm. Thank you for reading this issue of Hilltopics!



As we run our second leg of the editorial race, things are starting to get real. It hit me about a week before publication that I was 18 and would be leaving soon. That I am an adult ready to face the real world and all its complications. I only have a quarter and a handful of days left with my brothers, so I'm trying my best to balance my hectic schedule with my class.

Colleges start sending acceptance letters around the middle of March, so until then I can only wait in anticipation for what's to come. The dream is to head East and teach philosophy at a university level; hopefully I can make that come true. I hope this issue looks pretty and that everyone is staying safe!



BENJAMIN