



## Jesuit Tigers March in D.C.



Photo courtesy of Pete Young

The Pro-Life Club gathers outside St. Aloysius Church during their trip to Washington, D.C. in January.

**Carlos Michael Rodriguez '15**  
Staff Writer

The March for Life is an annual peaceful protest of the Supreme Court's decision in 1973 to legalize abortion in the Roe v. Wade decision. The Jesuit Pro-Life Club traveled to Washington D.C. weeks ago in order to join the fight with over 500,000 pro-life supporters. With 44 students, the Club hoped to continue to inspire students to find value in the fight for the right to life.

Cameron Alexander '15, Pro-Life President,

stated regarding his experience that "the March for Life was way different this year compared to any of the three previous years I attended. Having almost 40 underclassmen looking up to the other seniors and

I made us all a little bit more aware of how serious the cause of our marching is." Tim Dolan '15, who went on the March for Life for the first time this year, stated that his reason for wanting to go his last

year was that "I hoped to achieve the realization that the Pro Life Club is not just limited to the Pro-Life Club...it involves hundreds of thousands of people across the nation."

The fight to end legalized abortion, however, has rarely been publicized in media, potentially discouraging students to wonder what the goal of the March for Life truly is. However, Cameron argued "no peaceful protest that has 800,000 people standing up for what is right will go unnoticed."

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Photo courtesy of Pete Young

(Left to right): Juniors Brian Kelly '16, Kieran Mahoney '16, and Jason Reynolds '16

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## SIGMEC Returns in School Tradition

**Andrew Mullan '16**  
Layout Editor

Every year, as the winners of the Saint Ignatius Gold Medal Essay Contest read their prized essays from the ambo in the chapel, appearing as solely an annual tradition. Students watch their classmates year after year as they listen to the essay winners read their essays. How many people,

though, stop to ask, "What is this tradition?" The history of the Saint Ignatius Gold Medal Essay Contest is, today, little known among students and faculty.

Currently known as the SIGMEC, the contest has evolved from the SIGMOC, the O standing for "oratorical." The competition was, in the past, called an oratorical contest, with students writing and

memorizing speeches. Each top writer memorized his speech and recited it in front of a panel of judges. From there, the winners of that round advanced to presenting their essay in front of the entire school, from memory.

Presenting in front of the school required not only an impeccable memorization, but also strong emoting, dynamic

speaking, and ample gesturing. "The speeches were very demonstrative," explained junior and senior English teacher Ms. Rosalie Brennan. "The students who really embraced their piece and gestured well always were the best." Although it seems very different to think of the winners memorizing speeches and reciting them from memory,  
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# U.S. Army Soldier Becomes Teacher at Jesuit

**Emmanuel Diaz '15**  
Features Editor

This year students may have noticed a new face walking around the campus, meeting with new teachers and classes. Carter Houndas '05 is currently teaching juniors American History and seniors American Foreign Relations.

Mr. Houndas '05 is a Tampa native who attended Jesuit from 2001-2005. Houndas '05 was a major sports contributor by playing football for four years and track and field for three years. He said, "One of the most important parts about Jesuit, when I was a student, was the community and brotherhood I experienced with my fellow classmates."

After Jesuit, Houndas '05 attended Loyola New Orleans, but was forced to change plans after Hurricane Katrina devastated Louisiana. Houndas received his

undergraduate degree from the University of South Florida and later commissioned into the United States Army.

Houndas '05 worked in the army for the last five years on active duty, even be-

ing deployed overseas to Afghanistan. His troop was in charge of patrolling different towns and areas to ensure that these areas were not attacked or overwhelmed by violent militants. Houndas '05 enjoys

his role with the military but hopes to teach at Jesuit for a few years while he is away from the army.

When asked Mr. Houndas '05 why he wanted the job at Jesuit, and he replied, "I really love and enjoy Jesuit and I'm an alumni. I

enjoy teaching Social Studies classes and I wouldn't want to teach at any other school than Jesuit." Houndas credits Coach Mike Boza, a former Jesuit teacher and cross country coach, as one of his biggest inspirations for pursuing his job as a teacher. He also acknowledged that his time with the football team and coaches helped him make the decision to join the army because, "It is the ultimate and best team you can be a part of."

Currently, Houndas '05 is working on his Masters Degree in Teaching from the University of South Florida and plans to finish his work next semester. After he earns his degree, Houndas says he plans to continue teaching and wait for his wife to come from Australia. In two years, Houndas '05 will make his decision whether to continue his work in the army or retire from his military service, and he will have to decide whether he plans to continue to live in Tampa or move to Australia with his wife.



Mr. Carter Houndas interacts with villagers in Afghanistan during his deployment before joining the Jesuit faculty.

## Tigers Look Ahead to Summer Pilgrimage to England

**Ryan Ricco '15**  
Managing Editor

A group of Jesuit students will embark on a pilgrimage to England this summer to visit sites of historical and religious importance. The trip is being led by Fr. Hough and will also be chaperoned by teachers such as Mr. Scicchitano and Mr. Flores. It follows a successful series of mission trips and pilgrimages for Jesuit students. Annually, students will travel on mission trips to locations both in the United States and abroad. Just this past summer, Jesuit students performed service in Nicaragua, Georgia, and South Dakota. In addition, Jesuit's well-attended pilgrimage to World Youth Day with Pope Francis in 2013 was also seen as a great success for the school and for student travel programs.

The trip will consist of several days of sightseeing and cultural experiences in the United Kingdom. It is expected to be a spiritually enriching and knowledge-building journey. Said Mr. Scicchitano: "Studying in Europe while I was in college was a life-changing experience for me. It gave me a new perspective on things, and also helped me appreciate many of the things I took for granted back at home. I can think of no better

context for a student trip; visiting historical sites will allow our students to more fully appreciate the English history that they have or will study. It's one thing to read about Sir Thomas More or watch *A Man for All Seasons* – visiting the Tower of London, seeing where he was imprisoned and executed, is a whole new level."

Students interested in making the trip should contact Fr. Hough for more information.



Students gather on the day of the March.

## Pro-Life Club Participates in March for Life

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Students on the march participated in a variety of peaceful acts of spreading the pro-life message, including walking on the march itself, praying the rosary outside abortion clinics, and engaging in conversations to pro-choice supporters at the march. However, while the image is generally portrayed that the "Pro-Life" movement is strictly about the fight against abortion, students find that

being "Pro-Life" means much more than that. When asked about this, Cameron '15 stated, "being pro-life means to be just. Just to all life. Just to the ones who never had a chance to see the light of day... we also speak up and speak against the ones who believe any other forms of destruction of life is okay."

The Pro-Life club remains vigilant in spreading this message and will continue to forward the cause in whatever means possible.



The Jesuit banner was one of many on the day of the March for Life.

# Hockey and Crew: Club or Sport?

Michael Troy '16  
Staff Writer

Sports are a trademark of Jesuit High School. After the all-season sweep of district titles last year, it is clear that Jesuit's teams are highly competitive and expect nothing less than success. That being said, there are two Jesuit club sports, hockey and crew, which have enough participants to upgrade from club to official sport. But are they good candidates to become sports in this highly prestigious athletic establishment? Here's why or why not:

We hear about hockey nearly every morning in convocation, so why not just make it a sport already? While it does seem obvious that hockey should become a sport due to the obvious and overwhelming success of the club over the last few years, there are other factors that key into the final decision. Money is not an issue. Nearly all of the money necessary to fund a hockey team is already used to fund the club. Besides the cost of adding the team to whatever league it will end up being a part of, ice time fees are already paid for by the team, and the equipment for the players is already purchased and being used in the club, so money should not be the main point of concern.

Also not a problem is participation. The club has enough members to go through the cycles and still have players left over, and they win games, so coaching seems to be in good hands. That being said, there are rarely large Blue Tide appearances at games, and student involvement in the sport outside of the athletes. However, these things can be easily reversed if the club becomes a sport, so I'm going to lean towards the "yes" on this issue.

Rowing seems like an obvious rejection as a sport in hindsight. The club is almost

“Money is not the issue, and neither is participation, so what's keeping the two from being school sports?”

unknown; no announcements about accomplishments are made in convocation, it is rarely talked about outside of the group of rowers themselves, and there are rarely even club meetings. But more thought goes into this decision past the surface interpretation.

Participation is at an all time high for crew, with a group of about 20 Jesuit boys and about 30 boys and girls from public schools around the area. The real issue

comes into play around the cost. Quality eight-man boats, which are the most common boats to race, cost upwards of thirty thousand dollars, and the team would be without the boats used by the club, which are not owned by Jesuit.

Along with boats, Jesuit would need to hire a coach, and experienced coaches are both difficult to find and expensive. The question is not whether or not it is affordable, but whether or not

the team is a good investment for the school, and while there is active participation in the sport, the students will be better off rowing for the club rather than a team. Therefore, the logical answer is “no”.

With all that being said, people will undoubtedly argue against all that I have proposed, and until both of these clubs are ever an official school sport, the debate is sure to rage on and on.



Photo courtesy of Pete Young

A Jesuit hockey player faces off against a player from Wiregrass Ranch.

## The Tiger

Jesuit High School  
Since 1899

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# Track Looks Ahead to Another Strong Season

**Blake Rey '15**  
Editor-in-Chief

Runners, lined up for the next race, anxiously poise themselves on their marks. Waiting for the referee's signal, they are ready to spring at any moment. The referee fires the blank, and the athletes jump off the blocks to race. This is far from a unique experience in the Track and Field season, but every athlete on the team knows that feeling, that adrenaline that rushes in their veins before and during that run.

Athletes are feeling that rush again as the

season has returned. Conditioning has begun for the athletes, and many are feeling the soreness each practice as they get back in shape. Practices are held each day after school at the Alumni Track & Field at Corral Memorial Stadium and also across the street in Al Lopez Park for the distance runners on the team. Field athletes are a little harder to pick out when viewing from the bleachers, but are all practicing hard in their own corner of the track. Pole vault, shot put, discus, and jumps are all practiced separately. Each section of the team has their own assistant coach to

urge them on. They are eager for the actual meets to start up, and that is reflected in the passion of their coaches. Track and Field Head Coach Andrew Wood is excited and ready for this year. "I feel it is a disservice to our kids if the staff is not prepared to coach with excitement and a plan," Coach Wood said as he described his philosophy for tackling the season. Wood is eager for his athletes to take charge and lead each other when the season officially starts. Dante Newberg '15, Jason Caldwell '15, and Jack Hughes '15 are outstanding senior leaders that "truly

demonstrate what it means to be a student athlete" and are top candidates for leading the team into the district, regional, and state championships. Newberg '15 is known for his tremendous speed in 110m Hurdles and his jumps and is also looking to pursue Track and Field into his college career. Caldwell '15 has had a surge of improvement over last year, leading the Cross Country team last semester into states. Hughes '15 has also worked year long to improve his pole vaulting, in which he placed in States last year for Track and Field. But for Coach Wood, that's not all that Track

and Field is about. "Each year I am excited to see the progress of each and every athlete. From the athlete whose goal it is to meet his single letterman standard to the athlete who has aspirations of a state medal. To me that's what makes track and field great."

The Track and Field season officially begins on February 7 with Jesuit's Blue and White Meet, with the next meet following on February 16. The track season is certainly poised for a great run.

## Jesuit vs. TC Rivalry Continues Throughout Basketball Season



Photo courtesy of Pete Young Jesuit defeated rival Tampa Catholic 65-48 in the Tiger Palace.

**Matt Cohen '17**  
Staff Writer

On Jan. 9, the Jesuit Varsity Basketball team blew out rival Tampa Catholic by a final score of 65-48. Christian Whidden '15 led the way with 16 points and 10 rebounds followed by 15 points from

Stevie Darst '17. Jesuit played great defense, swarming to the ball and limiting Tampa Catholic's top scorer to 5 points. The Tigers' offense proved incredibly efficient, moving the ball with precision and finishing the game with no turnovers. Both Head Coach Neil Goldman and the entire team credit the

Blue Tide's invigorating presence and energy instrumental in giving Jesuit the upper hand and allowing the Tigers to win.

Jesuit played the Crusaders again on Jan. 30, on Rome Ave. While the Tigers fought valiantly in a hostile environment, the team ultimately fell short, losing 62-69. The Tigers never quit, displaying a strong effort through the entire game. With the Blue Tide cheering them on and only seconds left in the game, Darst '17 hit a three-pointer to put the Tigers within 4. However, the Crusaders scored and, with the assistance of questionable fouls, were able to ice the game. Whidden '15 was again Jesuit's top scorer with 18 points. The team looks to bounce back in the playoffs.

Please come out, join the Blue Tide, and be the "sixth man." All who are on the team enjoy and appreciate the presence of Blue Tide at all the games.



Photo courtesy of Pete Young

Head Coach Neil Goldman walks the sideline as he leads the Tigers to a win.

# Lacrosse Takes Center Stage in Spring Sports

**Carlos Michael Rodrigues '15**  
Staff Writer

The Jesuit Lacrosse team is gearing up for an exciting new season this year, as tryouts, practices and pre-season games have already begun. However, being tasked with writing this article proved difficult, as I unfortunately did not know almost anything about lacrosse. So, I sat down with seniors Gregory Aiello '15 and Stephano Mastro '15 to get up to speed on how the team was shaping up.

Mastro '15 stated "The team is looking really

"The team is looking really good this year. We have a strong senior class and a lot of very talented underclassmen. Our team has a lot of chemistry and is the most skilled team Jesuit has had."

good this year. We have a strong senior class and a lot of very talented underclassmen. Our team has a lot of chemistry and is the most skilled team Jesuit has had." When Mastro '15

referenced "chemistry," I was immediately able to identify with the sport, as I had taken that course as a sophomore. Feeling more confident in my ever-expanding knowledge of

lacrosse, I spoke to Aiello '15 about how the team was changing this year. "I think we have better leadership. Our coach has now had a year of experience coaching Jesuit students. I

think that the players have had a lot more experience. If we play to our potential, I think we can make it to regionals."

Mastro '15 finished by encouraging students to come support the team. "I would like a big Blue Tide showing for our big home games against Plant. We need as much support as we can get to help keep us motivated."

The lacrosse team needs support from all students for the entire season in order to continue the streak of excellence in the academic program at Jesuit. Good luck Tiger Lacrosse.

# Tennis Prepares for a Season of Dominance on the Courts

**John Hentschel '16**  
Staff Writer

After the Blessing of Spring Sports, it's that time of year when sports turns its focus to the action heating up like these Florida temperatures,

particularly the action on the tennis court. Jesuit's tennis team opens its season on Feb. 13 with a match against Robinson and is looking strong after tryouts on Jan. 26, featuring talented returning seniors Palmer Evans and Maxwell Azzarelli, the first and second seeds, and

up-and-coming freshman star James Emslie. This week, the Tiger interviewed Gantt Meredith '16, an experienced junior competitor, for his views on the season ahead.

Meredith '16 seemed, in a word, confident. As the fifth seed in a strong team of athletes, he's

hoping for a state title. In his own words, "I'll be in the fifth position for states and I will have a fantastic chance of claiming the state title." However, Meredith '16 remains team-oriented and was quick to compliment his fellow teammates, citing the excellent leadership of the seniors and

readily promoting the skilled underclassmen players. He hopes "to play a season full of growth and experience and to become more prepared for leadership as a senior next year."

When asked about Jesuit's tough matchups against Tampa Prep and Berkeley, Meredith '16 remained sure. "Being that Jesuit is one of the best teams in Tampa, most matches we play won't warrant cheering from the Blue Tide. However, for Tampa Prep and Berkeley, we'll want a real Blue Tide presence, as those will be our most competitive local matches."

Meredith '16 along with the rest of the team remain optimistic about the upcoming season. Great things can be expected from the tennis courts this spring.



Photo courtesy of Pete Young

(Above): The tennis team with head coach Joe Curtis.

# First Jesuit Student Finishes Ironman And Writes School History

**Mark Stine '15**  
Sports Editor

For many people finishing a marathon seems like one of the hardest physical tests that they could put their body through. However, running an Iron Man seems impossible. For one Jesuit student, this feat is his reality.

Joey Russell '15 was challenged by his father in Oct. 2013 to finish an Iron Man. His father, who had finished multiple Iron Man competitions in the past, told Joey that if he could finish an Iron Man, that a new car might be waiting for him at the finish line.

Needless to say Russell '15 began his training. "I wasn't in shape at all. When I started I could barely run two miles." However after training seven days a week for a year, Russell '15 was able to build his endurance and stamina so that he could finish 21-mile runs and over 100-mile bike rides on the weekends with ease when race day came. However, at this point in his training, Russell's motivation shifted.

"It started only being about the car, but it became more about finishing and proving to myself that I could do it."

Enter race day. On Nov. 1, 2014, the conditions in Panama City Beach, Fla. were frigid. The temperature was 30 degrees while gusts hit up to 30 mph. The professionals began racing promptly at 7 a.m., starting with the 2.4-mile swim. However, many were being swept away by rip currents, causing the swim to be deemed too dangerous, and therefore canceled. Many of the racers, including Russell '15, were upset by the news of the cancellation. Some even dropped out of the race, but not Russell '15, who decided that he would battle the elements and complete the last two parts of the race.

Russell '15 officially began racing at 9:30 a.m., and what he experienced was even more difficult than expected. The winds blew people completely off the road when biking; also, the extreme cold caused for many to suffer hypothermia. However, Russell '15 was able to fight the cold and the tough crosswinds and

headwinds and finish the 114-mile biking portion. All that remained was the 26.2-mile marathon to finish the Iron Man.

Russell '15 was bale to brave the elements, and with an emergency blanket on his back finished the Iron Man and heard the words uttered

loud speaker, "Joey Russell, you are an Iron Man."

When thinking back on that moment Russell '15 said with a smile, "I think about how far I've come. I went from being a skinny couch potato to finishing the Iron Man. I know that anything I set my mind to, I can achieve."

Russell '15 actually finished with a very good time. With a final time of 10 hours and 41 minutes, he put himself in the top ten for the 18 to 24 age group and 779 overall.

After finishing the Iron Man, Russell '15 said that the rest of the day was a blur. His day was pure exhaustion. He even fell asleep while walking back to his hotel and needed to be carried by his parents the remainder of the way.

And you might have been able to guess what was waiting for Russell '15 when he got home. A brand new Ford Mustang was sitting in the driveway as promised. Now Russell '15 gets to ride around in style on the weekends, rather than ride 100 miles on the bike.



Photo courtesy of Joey Russell '15



Photo courtesy of Joey Russell '15



Photo courtesy of Joey Russell '15

# Speech and Debate Makes a Voice for Itself

**Sebastian Angel-Riano '17**  
Staff Writer

The Speech and Debate team. It's one of the finest clubs Jesuit offers. Here you'll find some of the best guys on campus to convince you why we should be exploring more of our oceans, why abortion really shouldn't be allowed, or why we should invest several billion dollars in the development of Warp Drive cores and a Death Star

or two. Speech and Debate really is an interesting club, full of fascinating people with different ideas and opinions. At the head of the Speech and Debate team are senior Sylvester Kwo and Juniors Alex Fiore and Jackson Moffett. They stand out from the rest of the team not only because of their experience, but because they have 500 points each to their name, a level of merit achieved by few. Recently I had the chance to sit down with Moffett '16, and talk to him:

Q: Why Speech and debate?

A: When I was a middle schooler, I had trouble talking and making arguments, so I wanted to change that.

Q: During your time in the club, what do you feel was your greatest achievement?

A: For me, it definitely was reaching Nationals twice. I didn't know I had the capability to do so.

Q: What would you have done if you didn't do Speech and Debate?

A: Most Likely Robotics. But truthfully, it's hard to picture myself doing anything else. I just love Speech and Debate.

Q: Would you rather fight a horse sized duck, or a 100 duck sized horses?

A: The horses, because I'd just step on them.

Q: With the seniors leaving this year, how do you think the club will fare next year?

A: I think we'll definitely take a hit, because points are really important, but if we recruit, we'll be fine.

Q: So what's next?

A: I'll continue debating in college, and I have many opportunities open to me thanks to S&D.



Photo courtesy of Pete Young



Photo courtesy of Pete Young

(Center medal): "2014-2015 Qualifier for State Championship"

## SIGMEC Returns For Spring Semester

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many faculty members enjoyed this past format more.

One variable that changes annually is the topic of the essay contest. From quotes to spiritual philosophies, a gamut of topics has been covered over the years. "This I Believe" stands out above all former essay topics as Brennan's favorite. Conceived by former English teacher Mrs. Margaret Baker '98-'13, Brennan said that this was her favorite topic because there were a myriad of avenues students could take when writing. "Rather than being restricted to writing about only the alma mater or only one particular quote, students could write about anything, and what they wrote about was much more personal." She holds that this is one of the top essay topics of all her years because students could write about their individual beliefs, which made essays

contain a much more personal and powerful effect, as supposed to writing about a general quote, in which case many students may share similar and trite interpretations and beliefs. "I have loved many of the topics from the past, but this stands out as my absolute favorite." Brennan then joked that she enjoyed this topic because the essays were much more varied and fun to grade. She was enthusiastic to learn that the topic would be returning for this year.

The high honor of the Saint Ignatius Gold Medal Essay Contest has evolved much in its time at school from memorizing and gesturing during the presentations to delivering a fine speech from the spotlight on the ambo. Changing every year, the varying topics of the essay contest liven up the competition for both the writers and the audience.



(Left to right): Alex Fiore '16, Cullen Finley '17, Dean Lontoc '15, Jackson Moffett '16, Michael Lee '16, Roberto Roches '17, Gantt Meredith '16

## Fodder and Shine's Food Receives High Praises

**William Clewis '16**  
News Editor

Fodder and Shine. A mixture of modern and rustic interior design meets new age food concoctions with an old Floridian twist in this down to earth eatery that will send your tastebuds on an adventure.

Located on North Florida Avenue in Seminole Heights, this former auto repair shop turned eccentric restaurant and bar is eye-catching, but not overly attention-grabbing. Once inside, you will notice the modern architecture and refinished concrete floors, along with the open feel to the interior. The restaurant is adorned with canvas drapes and various metal fixtures, along with wooden tables and chairs and an exposed ceiling. It is simplistic to say the least. There is also outside dining available in front of the restaurant with patio-style seating.

Now onto the important part: the food. With a menu full of unconventional dishes and sides to choose from, you will surely need your food wits about you to choose from, you will surely need your food wits about you to decide what will please your palate. From fried livers and gizzards to grilled

smothered quail, there is a wide variety of meals to test your tastebuds.

To start off your night, try the daily salad, for the lighter food-goer or the grilled frog legs prepared with various seasonings for the more curious eater. As for the main course, feast on the shrimp gravy or the rabbit and cornmeal dumplings. You will need a side dish to round off your meal, so I recommend ordering the Sofkee, a native porridge of fermented rice, cream, and butter, or the delicious crackling cornbread (I had the cornmeal, chicken fat fried chicken with Sofkee, bacon braised greens, and a bit of the cornbread. It was

very tasty!). Finally, round off your supper with one of their homemade desserts.

Overall, Fodder and Shine is definitely the place to try old Floridian dishes with a new spin. And you'll be glad that you did. Be sure, however, to make a reservation in advance to guarantee a table for your group, especially on the weekend, or you may be waiting. Otherwise, the staff is attentive and very friendly and they are ready to serve you. The food may take some time to arrive at the table, but remember, well-prepared food cooks slowly. So, go out and experience a wacky twist of old Florida classics not so far down the road.



Located in Seminole Heights, Fodder and Shine first opened on Dec. 19, 2014

Photo courtesy of William Clewis '16

## The Oscars Enter Hollywood Life

**Joshua Reynes '18**  
Staff Writer

The Oscars are right around the corner and with this comes lots of hype about who will take one home. We have a very strong eight movie list this year in the Best Picture category, including films like: *Birdman*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Selma*, *Boyhood* and *American Sniper*. For Best Actress in a Leading Role we have people like: Felicity Jones for her portrayal of Jane Hawking in *The Theory of Everything* and Julianne Moore for her performance as Alice Howland, a college professor in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease in *Still Alice*.

For Best Actor in a Leading Role there are: Eddie Redmayne for his acclaimed

performance as Stephen Hawking in *The Theory of Everything*, also Steve Carell drops his position as Regional Manager of Dunder Mifflin and his Dundies for a more serious role in *Foxcatcher*, playing a rich man named John Du Pont who takes a wrestler under his wing. Rocket Raccoon (Bradley Cooper) becomes human again, but keeps his guns in his role as Chris Kyle, a troubled sniper in *American Sniper*. Michael Keaton proves that he's not just known as Batman in *Birdman*, playing a washed up movie star who makes a risky attempt to make a comeback on Broadway. Who will win these awards along with others? We will figure out on Feb. 22 when the 87th Academy Awards take place on ABC.

website called Pastebin, which allows for anonymous posts to be made and for people to copy them freely. The threats on Dec. 16 and the messages to Sony on Dec. 25 and 26 were made on this website, so the IP address was not recorded. But this discovery differed from the threats to the theaters, which were sent in English rather than in Korean that the hack and messages were sent in before. Also, some cybersecurity analysts blamed the attacks on Sony employees, and stated North Korea was simply taking the spotlight. Hector Xaviar Monsegur, a so-called "ethical hacker" who specializes in testing an organization's technology for the purpose of securing it, said in an email that "an attack of this caliber, being 100 terabytes, would take a year or a few months if computers were sophisticated enough."

So let's say that some of these analysts were right, and it was a couple of people from within Sony. What does that leave to the theater owners? Well, some theater owners were not afraid of the threats. Tim League planned to show the satirical film *Team America: World Police*, which pokes fun at Kim Jong-Il. In an email, Mr. League said that he was "not afraid of the empty threats made against theaters." So if he does not fear the threats, then why would anyone else? North Korea issued "empty threats" and President Obama promised a retaliatory attack if theaters were attacked. North Korea may be riding on the coattails of a far larger group, meaning that Seth Rogen can come out of hiding.

It seems as if our evidence points the threats away from the theaters.

## The Interview: Show or Shun?

**Jackson Moffett '16**  
Opinions Editor

Nearly everyone who has been watching the news has heard about the controversy surrounding the recent Seth Rogen movie *The Interview*. It has been the topic of various Internet discussions, coffee shop arguments, and news segments, but were the theaters under any threat? North Korea claimed that attacks would happen at movie theaters playing the movie throughout the nation. But were these threats credible, and were the responses of the government and theater owners appropriate?

The first hint that North Korea, whose leader Kim Jong-un is assassinated in the film, disliked the movie came in June of 2014. According to the KCNA, North Korea's state-run news service, the United States would

be the target of a "merciless countermeasure" if the movie was released. As reported by the Daily Telegraph, Kim Myong-chol, a spokesperson for the North Korean government, has stated that the film "shows the desperation of the US government and American society. [The] film about the assassination of a foreign leader mirrors what the US has done in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Ukraine." No actual attacks were conducted until cybersecurity personnel at Sony found a hole in their computer security system that was leaking large amounts of data. The hackers claimed their attacks were in retaliation of Sony not changing its stance on the movie. The hackers called themselves the "Guardians of Peace" and threatened "9/11-style attacks" on theaters and Sony for playing the movie. On Dec. 16, many movie theater chains, including

Carmike Cinemas, Bow Tie Cinemas, Regal Entertainment Group, AMC Theaters, and Cinemark Cinemas, pulled the screening of *The Interview* over these threats to ensure the safety of their employees. On Dec. 19, President Obama told everyone in an end-of-the-year speech to "not get into a pattern in which you're intimidated by these kinds of criminal attacks" and that the United States would "respond appropriately."

The size of the attack was also a cause for concern. The hack was discovered in Nov. of 2014, but the origin of the leak was not known. In other words, the IP, or computer name, was not revealed. But later, during the threats given, such a program was not used. This means that we know that the IP came from North Korea. The FBI even confirmed such suspicions on Dec. 17. Also, many of the threats were made on a



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