



The Carolian

Cardinal Soccer Rolls

QUICK NEWS:

- Football team off to slow start and fighting for a victory
- NFL backlash over Trump's comments
- Weiner put behind bars amid scandal
- Rick Pitino fired from Louisville

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By Isaac Krakowka '18

After losing a heart-breaking championship to St. Ignatius High School last fall, the Cardinals are poised for another run in the state playoffs this year. Many senior leaders from last year's near-championship team have since graduated; then seniors Ryan Huelsman, Kristo Strickler, and Joey Gianakopulos now highlight collegiate varsity squads at Ohio Wesleyan University, Virginia Tech University, and the Rochester Institute of Technology, respectively. "It puts a really big responsibility on all the returning seniors," senior defender Gabriel Bordron says. "It's really exciting to be able to have such great weight put on my shoulders to help carry [this] team." Of the returning seniors, Bordron, Ian Smith, and Matt Martin highlight an

already star-studded 2018 St. Charles team. Other seniors, such as forward Paul Hensley's committing to play soccer at the University of Wooster, seek to continue their soccer careers in college.

Saint Charles soccer has become a benchmark of athletic accomplishment with their success over the past few years.

The current varsity roster has great underclassmen depth that should be able to strongly continue the Cardinal legacy of excellence. When asked about the future of the program, Bordron only had positive remarks about his fellow teammates' ability to be successful. "Tyler Cunningham has never been on varsity before, and he's really turned it around and showed why he deserves to be starting," Bordron says. "He brings a lot of effort and intensity."

As far as junior leadership goes in the locker room, Owen Sullivan embodies St. Charles values. "This year he's improved even more. He's already a leader on this team, so next year as a senior captain he'll be fantastic," says Bordron.

After a tough 2-0 loss in CCL match against DeSales the Cardinals are now focusing on ending the regular season with a strong run in the final four games. After that, the Cardinals expect to gain a top seed in the annual state tournament.

Stay tuned and see how far these Cardinals progress over the next few weeks.



*The 2016 State runner up Cardinal Soccer team
(Courtesy of St. Charles website)*

When Will They Stop?

By Tommy Horner '19

Will North Korea attack the U.S.?

Do the North Koreans have the missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland? Are we at risk of all out nuclear war? These are all questions you might have heard or asked recently if you follow the news. North Korea has been trying to demonstrate its power to the U.S. and to the world by boasting about nuclear warheads and threatening U.S. territory both near and far from the mainland. Frankly, the United States government and its citizens are tired of Kim Jong Un's relentless effort to establish his country as a serious threat to the largest world powers. However, the U.S. is not the only country that has had enough. Other world powers have begun to join the struggle to silence North Korea.

In the past couple of years, North Korea has reached its peak in their development of weapons of mass destruction including nuclear warheads. After the testing two ICBMs or intercontinental ballistic missiles in the Pacific, North Korea really caught the eye of the U.N., along with the rest of the world. A committee that included Nikki Haley, U.S. ambassador to the U.N., drafted heavy sanctions that would prevent North Korea from further strengthening its missile program. The most recent revision of the sanctions limits large oil exports and warns of taking "further significant measures" should North Korea continue to test missiles. The North Korean government then warned the U.S. that it would pay for leading the efforts to place heavy sanctions on their missile program. President Trump then promised to fight back with "fire and fury," if North Korea threatened the U.S. North Korean plans to attack the U.S. territory of Guam were then leaked. This, along with a military parade in North Korea and the North Korean government saying they had a missile that could reach the U.S. mainland, brought North Korea to the center of American media. However, this obsession with North Korea quickly died down until just recently when North Korea launched an advanced hydrogen bomb test on September 3rd.

The threat of military conflict between the U.S. and North Korea has increased, and other countries have begun to step in. Japan has increased military spending, placed troops on the southern islands of Japan, and developed new antiballistic missile technology. South Korea, with the help of the U.S., has established a new missile defense system called THAAD. China has also stepped in, and although they have not used their military or created missile defense systems, their actions may be among the most influential and important. China's monster state-owned oil corporation, the China National Petroleum Corporation, or CNPC, has cut off oil supplies to North Korea, crippling their missile program. China said this action was not a political move, but a business decision, because the North Korean missile development has raised great concern among neighboring states who are also customers of CNPC. By any means, North Korea will have a very difficult time recovering from this decision.

A combination of Japan's, South Korea's, and the United States' military actions, along with China's oil cut off, has temporarily stalled North Korea's military growth, and therefore its struggle for power. At this time however, no one knows what the future holds. Will the North Korean government back off from its obsession with power? Will the country of North Korea merely fall apart as it loses the ability to import? Or is war the only solution to this conflict? The world will just have to wait and find out.



*The women of North Korea's army marching in a parade.
(Courtesy of Google Images)*



*North Korea's stern dictator,
Kim Jong Un
(Courtesy of Google Images)*

The Wisdom of Markus

By Will Prophater '19

Over this past summer, a group of adventuresome members of the Class of 2019 journeyed into the mountains of West Virginia for a weeklong service trip. These 11 young men, supervised by both Mrs. Leukart and a parent chaperone, spent the time working at a summer camp for the less fortunate children of the area. I was able to sit down with Markus Almstedt, one of the leaders in the Class of 2019, and discuss his experience on trip.

Q- How was the trip?

A- Very enjoyable.

Q- Where did you go?

A- Big Laurel, West Virginia, which is on the Kentucky border.

Q- How long were you there for?

A- Seven days.

Q- What did you do while you were there?

A- We were able to help some of the impoverished parts of town, teaching the kids at the daycare center about health and ecology.

Q- How many service hours did you complete?

A- All of them (24 hours of service through one agency are required for Junior year).

Q- Would you recommend the trip to others?

A- I would greatly recommend the experience.

Q- When you were not working at the summer camp, what did you

do?

A- We stayed at Big Laurel Nature Center, which is on top of a mountain. Every night we would start a campfire; it was a BLAST! One night they served us rabbit, which was raised right there at the nature center.

Q- Were there a lot of animals there?

A- Yeah, they had dogs, cats, chicken, horses, turtles, rabbits, fish, and snakes.

Q- How long was the drive there?

A- About six hours long

Q- Do you have a general reflection about the trip?

A- It made me take a step back and realize how lucky I am to have so many great things in my life.



The group excited to be sharing in the experience together

(Courtesy of Will Prophater '19)



Markus Almstedt, Class of 2019, enjoying his time at the camp

(Courtesy of Will Prophater '19)

National Anthem Protests

By Drew McClimon '19

Last fall, San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick began taking a knee during the national anthem prior to his NFL games to protest racial discrimination and police brutality. Though many NFL players joined him throughout the 2016 season, most notably Seattle Seahawks star defensive end Michael Bennett, Kaepernick took the major role. Therefore, the blame of the movement fell on him. Kaepernick is now a free agent despite constantly being named a great quarterback by many. In fact, many people are now blaming Kaepernick's current state of unemployment on his controversial use of the freedom of speech.

On Wednesday, August 23 of this year, multiple civil rights groups rallied outside of NFL Headquarters in New York City on behalf of Kaepernick. They argued that certain players who have been charged with crimes such as domestic abuse are getting the opportunity to sign contracts to play in the NFL, while a player who was simply exercising his right and also fundraising over \$500,000 for families struggling with the results of racial discrimination and police brutality, has not had the opportunity to do so.

Meanwhile, on August 29, a white supremacy march in Charlottesville, Virginia turned deadly due to a car driving straight into a crowd of

counter-protestors and killing one person. This caused more NFL players to use their platform to raise awareness regarding the racial discrimination throughout America. As a result, more than 31 NFL players demonstrated their support for the cause in some way.

National anthem protesting has already become the major story of the 2017 NFL season. However, the controversial practice obviously rubs some people the wrong way. To some, the national anthem pays respect to the people who have risked their lives, been injured, or died defending the United States. Carole Isham, a great-great-great-granddaughter of the writer of the national anthem Francis Scott Key, stated that "it just blows my mind that somebody like Kaepernick would do what he does to dishonor the flag of this country and the national anthem when we have young men and women overseas fighting for this country, people that have died for this country." Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints quarterback, supported Kaepernick's message but disagreed with the delivery: "It's an oxymoron that you're sitting down, disrespecting that flag that has given you the freedom to speak out."

While the practice is in no doubt controversial, only you can contemplate what the anthem means to you, and if you feel as though society is doing harm, then the Constitution of the United States specifically allows non-violent protest. If racial discrimination and police brutality were not such prevalent issues facing our society, national anthem protesting would not be happening so often throughout the NFL.



*Former 49er Colin Kaepernick kneeling in protest during the National Anthem
(Courtesy of Google Images)*

Interview With a Protestor

By Cole Abbott '21

Columbus resident Joe Motil has been active in politics for 32 years. He has been involved in neighborhood and city wide campaigns related to taxation, a living wage increase, development, code enforcement, historic preservation, crime prevention, recycling, and more. He is a previous member of the University Planning Commission, and a certified write-in candidate for City Council in November. He also knows something about protesting. I recently sat down with him for an interview.

What/Where was your first protest?

I like to think that my first protest was on the first Earth Day in 1970. Our 8th grade teacher gave us an assignment to research a topic related to the environment and the negative impact it was having on our planet. I chose air and water pollution which was a tremendous concern at that time. I wrote to several big oil companies who sent me back various forms of information in order for me to write my paper. But I also had my dad help me build a wooden box that resembled a casket. My classmates and I filled it with various items of trash like empty food containers and so forth. We then marched carrying the casket from my grade school (Immaculate Conception) on E.N. Broadway to Calumet Street, to my backyard where we buried the casket behind our garage. The casket was meant to illustrate that pollution kills.

How many protests have you been to?

I would have to guess about a dozen or so.

Why do you protest?

In no particular order, as a means of self-expression on matters that are typically not supported by our government (city, state or federal) or other issues related to economic, social or racial injustices. Generally protest marches are attended by enough citizens that they will draw attention to its cause which in turn can generate conversation and interest on the subject you are protesting. It is also hopeful that the protest or marches will have some influence on those in power and possibly sway their positions more favorably towards your objectives.

What was your most recent protest?

The Columbus United Against Hate rally that was held at the north oval on OSU's campus. About 150 people attended. The rally was held in support of the University of California-Berkeley because it had been announced that the fascist alt-right were scheduled to protest in Berkeley on that day. The Berkeley community had asked supporters to organize solidarity actions against right-wing hate and violence across the country to coincide with their own counter-protests.

What protests changed since the first one you went to?

Not a whole lot actually. The members of the KKK were on the steps of the Ohio Statehouse and heavily protected by the police and two tall chain linked fences. There were so many people chanting and yelling obscenities that the Klan's message was drowned out. I don't recall being able to hear a word they said. They were making a statement by showing Columbus that they are still here and

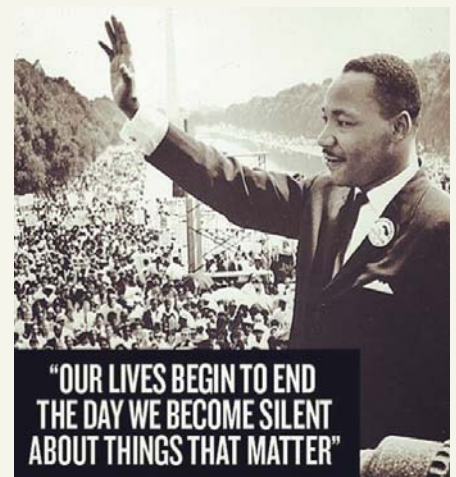
that they have rights to free speech as well. I am sure that their presence also gave their followers a feeling of strength and the event was held as a recruitment tool.

What do you think about what has happened in Berkeley, California these past two months?

For many decades, Berkeley has historically been very vocal regarding social injustice, free speech, racism, Vietnam War protests and other civil rights issues. So I am not surprised of the ongoing protest activity that is taking place there.

Do you have any friends that have political opinions that oppose yours?

I do have some but not too many. I have more friends with conflicting views in my work place than I do outside of work. I try to keep such conversations at minimum while on the job. It's pretty shocking sometimes to hear what comes out of one's mouth from someone who you think you know. Especially when it comes to race.



(Courtesy of Google Images)

MLB Postseason

By George Economus '19, Nate Klingele '20, and Drew Martin '20

American League

AL East:

Predicted Winner: The Boston Red Sox, who are only 3.5 games ahead of the New York Yankees as of September 10 at (81-62), are currently hotter and have an easier schedule than the Yankees. They are led by their outfield, which is one of the strongest and deepest in the league, as well as some veterans like Dustin Pedroia and Xander Bogaerts, who were both on the 2013 World Series team. Alongside those batters, they have the best pitching rotations in baseball with starters such as Chris Sale, Drew Pomeranz, and Rick Porcello, the 2016 AL CY Young winner. On top of all of this they have an AL Rookie of the Year Candidate in Andrew Benintendi.

MVP: Chris Sale

MIP: Hanley Ramirez

Best Defensive Player: Mookie Betts

Best Pitcher: Chris Sale

Notable Pickups: Chris Sale (White Sox), Andrew Benintendi (Rookie).

Possible Wild Card: The New York Yankees (first place Wild Card) and Baltimore Orioles (2.5 Games out of second wild card)

AL Central:

Predicted Winner: The Cleveland Indians. The Indians are currently (86-56) and sit 12

games ahead of the Minnesota Twins. The Indians were led by their 5 all stars: Shortstop Francisco Lindor, who is batting .272 and has 29 home runs; Third/Second Baseman Jose Ramírez, who is batting .309 with 25 homeruns; Outfielder Michael Brantley, who is batting .299; Pitcher and possible AL Cy Young winner Corey Kluber, who has 15 wins and an ERA of 2.56; Relief Pitcher Andrew Miller, who has a 1.65 ERA. The Indians are fresh off a 22 game win streak and one of the hottest teams moving towards October baseball. If they remain hot, the Indians will certainly be a contender in this fall.

MVP: Jose Ramírez

MIP: Jose Ramírez

Best Defensive Player: Francisco Lindor

Best Pitcher: Corey Kluber

Notable Pickups: Edwin Encarnacion, who has 34 home runs (Blue Jays), Austin Jackson, who is batting .306 (White Sox), and Jay Bruce, who is batting .264 (Mets)

Possible Wild Card Spot: Minnesota Twins, who currently have second spot in the wild card race.

AL West:

Predicted Winners: The Houston Astros. The Astros are currently (86-56) and 14 games ahead of the Los Angeles Angels. The Astros led by the bat of Jose Altuve and the recent addition of Justin Verlander, the Astros are the favorites to win the

American League West. Houston is currently up fourteen games on the Angels and only twenty-one games left in the season, is in good shape to win the American League West especially with the bat of Jose Altuve. Jose Altuve leading the Major League in Batting Average with an average of .350, leading the team in On Base Percentage at an average of .410, and also leading the team in Hits with 187 this season, has been a major factor of this years Astros success.

On the defensive side, the Astros had recently picked up one of the Major league's top pitchers, Justin Verlander out of Detroit. Justin Verlander had been the League's twenty-second best pitcher this season, with an ERA of 3.74, 183 strikeouts, and Eleven wins is one of the Major League's top pitchers. The Astros led by the best of hitters and pitchers, is the favorite to win this years American League West Division.

MVP: Jose Altuve

Best Defensive Player: Jake Marisnick

Best Pitcher: Ken Gile

Player Pickups: Justin Verlander, who was one of the best pitchers out of Detroit, Norichika Aoki
With a batting average of .272 (Mets).

Possible Wildcard Spot:

The Los Angeles Angels who are 2 games behind the Yankees

National League

NL East:

Predicted Winner: The Washington Nationals, who domi-

nated the NL East all summer, clinched the division on September 10th. The Nationals were led by sluggers Ryan Zimmerman and Bryce Harper, who made another run for the NL MVP. This was relatively easy for the Nationals considering the injured Mets and the Marlins who can't seem to do much better than .500 even with Giancarlo Stanton who is on pace to get close to the single season HR record. With starters Max Scherzer and Stephen Strasburg taking control of batters and heating up at just the right time, they could make a deep playoff run.

MVP: Bryce Harper

MIP: Ryan Zimmerman

Best Defensive Player:

Bryce Harper

Best Pitcher: Max

Scherzer

Notable Pickups: N/A

Possible Wild Card: The Miami Marlins are the best candidate, but are still ten games out of the second Wild Card spot.

NL Central:

Predicted Winner: Chicago Cubs, who are currently 77-66 and two games ahead of the Brewers and Cardinals. This race will be the most interesting going into October as most of the other divisions are basically locked up. Also, the winner of this division will be crucial in getting to October as the NL West almost has the two Wildcards locked up with Arizona (83-60) and Colorado (78-65).

The Cubs and Kris Bryant both got off to slow starts; however, since the All-Star break, they heated up. Their chances of repeating will be difficult having to play the dominant Nationals and Dodgers.

MVP: Kris Bryant

MIP: Javier Baez

Best Defensive Player:

Javier Baez

Best Pitchers: Wade Davis, Jake Arrieta

Notable Pickups: Jon Jay (Padres)

Possible Wild Card:

Brewers and Cardinals who are both three games away from a Wild Card spot.

NL West:

Predicted Winner: The Los Angeles Dodgers who are currently having a historic season with a record of (92-50) leading the entire league in winning percentage. The Dodgers are currently up only ten games behind one of the league's best teams, the Arizona Diamondbacks led by Paul Goldschmidt. The Dodger's led by the bat of Justin Turner, with the team's best batting average at .328, Cody Bellinger leading the team in homeruns with 36 and also a team best of 83 RBIs this season have one of the best offenses in the league. Along with the powerful bats of the Dodgers, Los Angeles also has the Major League's best pitcher Clayton Kershaw. Clayton Kershaw leads the league with an ERA of 2.15. A teams best

of sixteen wins, and team best of 182 strikeouts. The Dodgers are the current favorite to win the National League West and could potentially be the first team since 2003 to reach the 100 win mark in the regular season.

MVP: Cody Bellinger

MIP: Yasiel Puig

Best Defensive Player:

Yasiel Puig

Best Pitcher: Clayton

Kershaw

Player Pickups: Yu Darvish, the best pitcher with n ERA of 3.49 (Rangers), Mike Freeman (Cubs), Curtis Granderson with a batting average of .104 (Mets).



The hometown favorite Cleveland Indians are looking strong going into the postseason.

(Courtesy of Google Images)

Heisman Race 2017 Preview

By Thomas Jeffrey '19

“Hello, Heisman.” These iconic words from Keith Jackson have become symbolic of, of course, the most prestigious award in college football, the Heisman Trophy. The award has been won by some of the greatest to play at the college level, from legends like former Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie and Ohio State running back Eddie George, to more modern athletes such as former Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel and Alabama running back Derrick Henry. Now that this college football season is underway, we are ready to see who will join those athletes and many others who have won the distinguished award. Expect these four players to be in New York at the end of the season.

This one is an obvious and easy choice: Louisville quarterback Lamar Jackson. The reigning Heisman winner took college football by storm last season and is picking up right where he left off. In Louisville's first two games against Purdue and North Carolina, Jackson threw for over 300 yards and ran for over 100 yards. The crazy thing is he did it in both games, becoming the first player in history to accomplish that feat. If he keeps that up, expect him to make history again by joining former Ohio State running back Archie Griffin as the only two-time Heisman Trophy winners.

The Sam Darnold hype train dominated the college football offseason, and for good reason. Darnold, a quarterback, was a Heisman favorite ever since his incredible performance in USC's Rose Bowl victory over Penn State. Many people had him as the favorite to win the award over Lamar Jackson this season. In USC's season opener against Western Michigan, Darnold did not have a great start

to his Heisman campaign, but he bounced back a week later in a big game against Stanford, going back to his 2016 form. Darnold is good enough to dethrone Lamar Jackson and become the first Heisman Trophy award winner from USC since Reggie Bush in 2005.

One of the most passionate players in the country also happens to be one of the best. Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield is ready to capture the award that he has come so close to getting. Mayfield was a finalist the past two years, and this season is his last chance to change his title to Heisman Trophy winner, instead of finalist. After a big win at Ohio State, Mayfield is one huge step closer to doing just that. If Mayfield leads the Sooners to another Big 12 championship and into the College Football Playoff, there is a really good chance that he finally brings the Heisman back to Norman.

With all of these great quarterbacks, don't forget about the running backs. Specifically Penn State's freak athlete Saquon Barkley. Bar-

kley rushed for nearly 1500 yards in 2016, and is a huge piece of arguably the best offense in college football. That may be the only problem for Barkley, considering all of the weapons that Penn State has on offense. It wasn't a problem the first two games, as Barkley rushed for a combined 260 yards. Barkley has the potential to score whenever he gets the ball, regardless of where he is on the field. With that being said, expect Barkley to continue to put up huge numbers, and don't be surprised if he ends up with the Heisman at the end of the season.



*The Coveted Heisman Trophy
(Courtesy of Google Images)*

Hurricane Season Hits Full Force

By Chris Dixon '19

Recently, we have all heard about the devastation with Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Together, they became the first consecutive US Category 4 land-falling hurricanes. For reference, Harvey was the most recent Category 4 to hit the US since Hurricane Charley back in 2004. It may help to look at a map of the Atlantic Ocean as I narrate these next four storms.

Dave Downey, Class of 2017, and myself both agreed that a devastating category 4 monster, Hurricane Harvey would occur in Texas, and it turned out as a very sad but true prediction.

Hurricane Irma began in just the same way as Harvey and rapidly intensified. This means that it dropped 24 millibars (of barometric pressure) in 24 hours. Pressure is an indicator of wind speed which means in a brief time, Irma went from 70-mph to 110-mph. A

little while later, Irma became a Category 5 devastating hurricane and became the second longest lived major hurricane at 8.5 days, tied for the longest lasting Category 5 hurricane (at 3.25 days), and became the longest lasting hurricane with winds 180+ mph (at 1 day). Irma also is tied for the second strongest Atlantic hurricane based off wind speed at 185-mph and 12th strongest based off pressure at 914mb. Irma also set the record for the longest lasting tropical cyclone with 185mph winds at 37 hours. Additionally, Irma has the most ACE (defined below) generated in 24 hours.

Irma became the first Category 5 to impact the islands of Barbuda (in which 100% of the homes and 90% of the structures were destroyed), St. Barthelemy, and St. Martin. Irma also did over \$500 million in damage to the Bahamas and was the first Category 5 to hit Cuba since 1924. Irma's landfall in the Keys was tied for

the 7th strongest US landfall on record (by pressure) behind the greats such as Andrew and Katrina.

Hurricane Jose formed shortly after and behind Irma and then hit the same islands destroyed by Irma. It then turned north and is currently stalled out and waiting for Irma to move before it moves. It will likely miss the US. While Irma was closing in on the US, the National Hurricane Center (which normally issues updates on tropical weather), shifted the responsibility of Jose to the Weather Prediction Center (which was nicknamed NHC North because it is the backup location). Hurricane Katia formed at the same time as Jose and was a hurricane at the same time as Irma and Jose. The last time there were 3 hurricanes was in 2010 and this marked only the 3rd time ever that this happened. Katia went on to make landfall in Mexico as a hurricane.



Above: Hurricane Irma as seen from space

Left: A view of some of the flooding from Hurricane Harvey

(Courtesy of Google Images)

Dr. Kaplan Interview

By Jacob Mayhew '19

With the new school year underway, there is a fresh new face working alongside Señor Peña in the Spanish Department. Dr. Carolyn Kaplan received her undergraduate degree from Lehigh University and her doctorate degree from The Ohio State University. Over this past summer, she decided to join the St. Charles community and I was able to sit down with her in an interview to discuss her new role as a St. Charles teacher.

Question: Are you originally from the Columbus area? If not, what brought you here?

Answer: No, I am not. I grew up in Akron, Ohio. I went and lived in New York for several years but came back to Ohio where I have lived for the past seven years.

Question: What convinced you to teach at St. Charles?

Answer: A few things actually. I learned about St. Charles when I heard about it from Mr. Gruber who I had met in school at one point. I was already a little familiar with St. Charles because of this so naturally I was interested in the school when I heard there was an opening in the language department. I decided to check it out more because of how highly Mr. Gruber spoke of the school, as well as my own interest.

Question: How would you compare teaching at the all-boys boarding school in New York to teaching at St. Charles, another all boys school?

Answer: It's different. Students here at St. Charles want to learn, and I appreciate that. Students are willing to work super hard and get their jobs done and loved to be challenged which is great because that

challenges me. By working with smart and determined students, it makes me want to be a better teacher. The boys at the boarding school were nice kids who were well behaved always but most of their goals were to get school done. The kids at school here want to achieve and excel at school.

Question: What made you decide to teach Spanish over other languages?

Answer: I started learning Spanish when I was in Kindergarten and I was good at it. Later, I tried learning different language but knowing many languages was too confusing for me so I continued with my best language which happened to still be Spanish.

Question: Outside of teaching, what would you consider to be your favorite things to do?

Answer: I love to go hiking around Columbus, especially near Metro parks. I also love to read and watch television, which I probably should not be admitting to in this interview.

Question: If you could live in any different era, which era would it be and why?

Answer: I love reading historical fiction novels so I think that would contribute to what era I would like to live in a lot. I think I would like to live in the World War II era. There was an abundance of patriotism and it seemed that everyone had some amount of patriotism and many people were concerned for each other.

Dr. Kaplan happily teaches Spanish in Room 301 every day here at St. Charles. If you greet her in the halls wish her a buenos dias.

The Taste of Red, Part 1

By Jose Segura-Bermudez '19

Outside of Metz, France November 1944

New replacement soldiers have arrived at the camp outside of Metz after the battle of Verdun. Replacement Allen Hayes gets put in the experienced 4th platoon because of his great achievements during training. During his first day, he was lost, clueless, and afraid.

I have always loved the feel of an early morning. Back home, I would wake up early to go fishing with my dad. The normally blue sky instead lit with various shades of oranges and yellows always looked dazzling. The sound of crickets chirping melodically would always soothe me. This morning had begun with everything that I usually love. Except this morning had an ominous feel to it.

My commanding officer, Lt. Arthur, ran over the objective of the mission with my platoon. Many of the other soldiers were saying they did not need to be here, because it was too easy. There are not supposed to be German troops in or around Metz. They kept on saying, "Replacements should be sent on these missions, not us! Half of them would probably crap their pants if they saw a Kraut." I smirked at this comment and then heard "You're also a replacement pretty boy, don't forget that," suddenly getting whacked on the back of my head. We then put everything together for what was supposed to be a routine mission, and headed out.

We were walking on the side of

the road that runs south of Metz, in a ditch made by the constant water that runs through it. Everyone but us replacements seemed so calm. The closer we got to the objective, the shakier I felt. My first mission ever and I felt as if I would faint. A soldier near me, whose name was Larry, must have been able to tell how I was feeling and said, "Allen, grow a pair before you get yourself killed." I gave myself a slap on the cheek, looking almost like a troubled child.

We arrived at the point where we needed to cross the road. Since there were no Germans around some men just frivolously walked across. One by one, some taking it more seriously than others, we crossed. Then it became my turn. I was right behind a soldier who was just mockingly walking across. Suddenly, he dropped to his knees crying for a medic. Screaming in agony he looked up at me to help him. I froze. Then another bullet was put right through his throat.

I immediately felt a hand on my shoulder, which yanked me like a rag doll back into the ditch. I could still see the agony in the dead soldier's eyes. Then Larry exclaimed, "Get yourself together, Hayes!" I immediately began to listen to Lt. Arthur on what to do next. They were shooting at us from a small farmhouse to our northeast. We were surrounded by flat ground so we needed a diversion tactic. Cover fire was ordered and we began to approach a bundle of trees near the farm house.

Still recovering from the horror that I had just witnessed, I ran for my life to a nearby tree where we were supposed to take cover.

Some of our men dropped dead as the Germans continued shooting us like wooden ducks at a fair. I was able to catch my breath while my back was pressed tightly against the tree's rough bark. We could now pick out the three Germans in the house. Larry, right next to me, took out a grenade and hurled it into the house. It missed the window, but exploded on the roof. This gave us time to approach the house. Only four of us entered, while the rest stayed back and covered us.

After we entered, the first thing I saw was a cross hanging on the wall in the living room, almost like the one my family had back home. We turned towards the staircase and a German came barreling down towards us, with his sharp silver bayonet. I evaded his attack only to trip and have him hurl on top of me.

Larry then fired a shot and all I saw was dark red. When I cleared the blood off my face, I pushed the Kraut's body to the side. We all cautiously walked upstairs pointing our M14s towards the door. Before we opened it, bullets began to fly out of the door. When they began to reload, we hastily kicked the door open and began to fire. Then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a grenade in the left pocket of a German's coat—unclipped.

Come back next edition for more!

THE CAROLIAN

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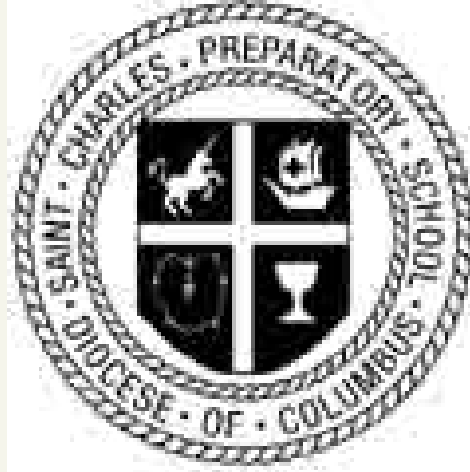
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