
THE SCARLET AND WHITE

Written by : La Salle High School Newspaper Team

NOVEMBER IN REVIEW

The Lancers started off the month of November by strengthening their relationships with God with an All School Mass. Then, two groups of seniors spent a few days on wilderness retreats, learning to grow in Mind, Body, and Spirit. We also had a successful Open House for all of the future Lancers. Our incoming freshmen show great potential!



Football, Cross Country, and the marching band all closed off their seasons strong with their final games, performances and meets. Swimming, basketball, and bowling all began their seasons this month as well. Students in our sports marketing class got the opportunity to visit the brand new TQL stadium and talk to a few FC Cincinnati representatives. The Lancers also got to spend time with their families over Thanksgiving break, enjoying a short, but very much needed, recess from the classroom.

Written by Isaiah Roman



AN ALL BUT SILENT NIGHT

The Vocal Ensemble held a Christmas concert on an all but silent night on December 9. They performed over nine lessons and carols including fan favorites like "Silent Night" and "Joy to the World." After the concert, a social was held in the new Alumni Heritage Room for families to celebrate together over food and drink. For the next few months, these VE students will be sharing a few nights a week with past Vocal Ensemble alumni members to get ready for their world tour where they will be performing a pre-show right here at La Salle High School.

They then will be moving on to a 14-day trip to Normandy, France. These past and present Lancers will not only be performing in Normandy they will be traveling and sightseeing in Paris and London! To wrap up their trip they will be visiting Disneyland Paris! This is a prestigious and noble opportunity that only one other choir in the entire nation! They will be taking donations to fund the trip through our school website. Let us join in wishing them good luck!

Written by Leroy Hodge



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Holidays are a good time to take a break and spend some time with our loved ones. It's also a special time to gather around and celebrate this special time with family and friends. A lot of people may have many beautiful memories with a loved one that they haven't seen in a while and spend time together to catch up on what they've done this year.

Some people may do different things like decorating trees, baking cookies, going out of town and exchanging gifts spending this time is such a gift for many of us. It's a time where we invite friends and family to have fun and bring happiness.

Holidays bring joy and comfort to everyone's life, children and adults look forward to holidays after a ridiculous amount of work and studying.

A student or working person deserves to take a break and refresh their minds. The holidays can also improve if someone had a messed up schedule on the break they can feel more relaxed and reduce some stress they had in work or school. We should always spend this time wisely with our families.

Written by Brian Aulis Romero

FUTURE OF THE MCU

Eternals is the third Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) movie to release in 2021. The movie takes place after Avengers Endgame (2019) in a world that is still adjusting to everyone being brought back into existence. At the end of Avengers Endgame, we know that Iron Man brought back everyone who Thanos snapped away in Avengers Infinity War (2018). I enjoyed Eternals because it introduced us to a larger part of the MCU and sets up a lot for the future, but the movie also lacked key elements.

The Eternals are beings created by the Celestials, the gods of the Marvel universe and are sent to various planets across the universe to protect life forms against ravenous beings called the Deviants. The Eternals fought against these Deviants but were told to never interfere with human conflicts. Once all of the Deviants were wiped off the face of the planet, the Eternals diverged and started their own lives. A potentially cataclysmic event forces them to leave their comfortable lives and save humanity.

The Celestials include Sersi, Ikaris, Kingo, Gilgamesh, Sprite, Druig, Phastos, Makkari, Ajak and Thena. The Celestials with the most screen time are Sersi, Ikaris, Sprite and Thena. The Eternals have their own unique abilities given to them by the Celestials. Sersi has the ability to change the molecular structure of any object she touches. Ikaris has Superman-like abilities including flight and laser vision. Sprite has the ability to create mirages and allow objects to become invisible. Thena has the ability to form weapons with her cosmic energy.

Eternals was also filled with many easter eggs and references throughout the movie ranging from ancient artifacts to pop culture. Dane, a foreshadowed hero, asks Sersi if she is a wizard like Doctor Strange. Phastos' son mistakes Ikaris for Superman, which could prove that the DC universe exists within the Marvel universe. To further this theory there is also a nod to Alfred and Batman. There was also a Star Wars coloring book in Phastos' living room, meaning the franchise is popular even in Marvel's universe. One of the Eternals, Makkari, collects historical artifacts including the Excalibur and the Emerald Tablet. The Excalibur is the sword supposedly used by King Arthur and the Emerald Tablet is said to be capable of giving its user eternal life.

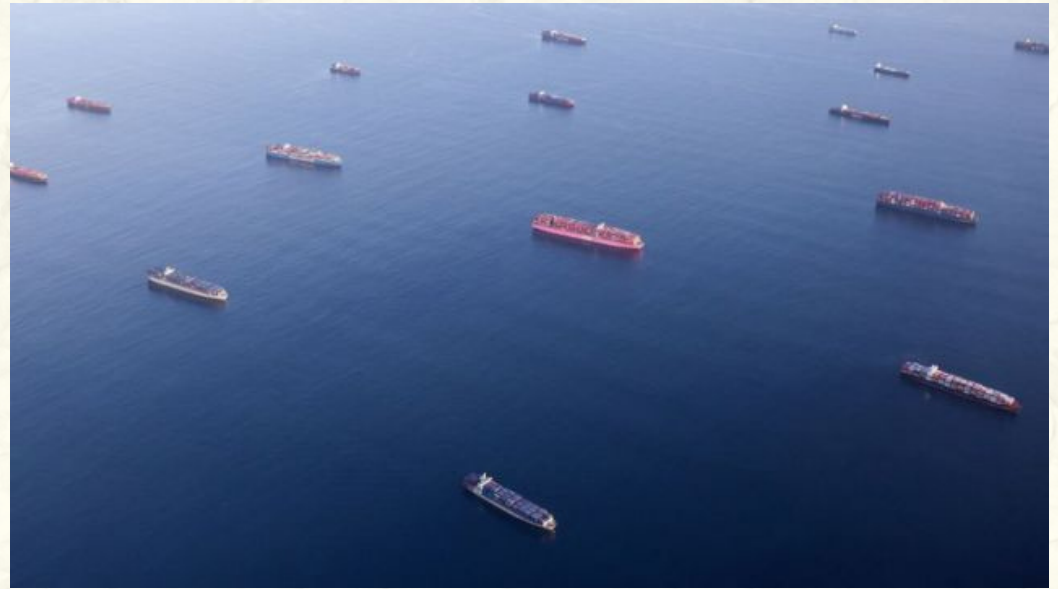
Eternals has many great action sequences and characters but the movie tries to fit too much information into a single film. For example, the villain Kro was a big letdown who had little motive and was not a huge threat to the Eternals. This movie is one of my least favorite Marvel movies. The reason this movie is worth a watch is because it sets up the MCU for future heroes and villains including Black Knight, Blade, Galactus, Starfox, and more!



GIFT ISN'T GOING TO WORK

Although it has fallen behind the forefront of the news, there is still a large disruption with the supply chain. With the holiday season coming up, many small retailers are struggling with receiving goods to sell. In order to combat this, some of these retailers are stocking up in bulk - with the hope that they will be able to sell the excess inventory. This is not a risk-free idea. If these items do not sell, they stand to lose large margins.

Some stores, like Etsy, have been stable even through the crisis. Many of the raw materials that they rely on come directly from the United States. This store does not rely on the global supply to the same extent that many other retailers do. This is part of the reason that their yearly revenue doubled in 2020 and their revenue in 2021 is expected to grow a significant amount as well.



Unlike Etsy, many other companies rely on global trade, specifically ports, for their materials and other imports. Many of these ships come through two ports: Los Angeles and Long Beach - both in California. With so many ships and low staff, there was a long queue of ships wanting to enter the port. Due to this high volume, both of these ports moved to a 24/7 clock with the hopes that it will release some of the pressure. It does appear to be working, but things like this take time.

It is not just the ports that are causing some of these shortages. COVID-19 is still affecting production in many different countries around the globe. Some countries don't have good protection against the virus. When a plant like this shuts down, production usually completely stops. This has happened in Vietnam which caused a shortage of many of Nike's products. Other countries, like India are struggling from the global chip shortages. They produce large amounts of cars, and they are unable to do so without these chips.

Many of these shortages will remain in place through the holiday season. So if you haven't already bought your last-minute gifts for your family or friends, they might not be coming.

ARE EXAMS BECOMING A THING OF THE PAST?

With the fast approach of Christmas being just a few days away, there is only one thing that stands between us and winter break: midterms. That's right, it's the most wonderful time of the year. In honor of everyone's favorite time of stress-filled last-minute studying for their exams, I thought it would be festive to debate the topic of exams and whether or not we should keep or get rid of them. I got the opportunity to speak to Mrs. Miller and Mr. Jarrell, as well as a few of my classmates on what they thought about exams and I received a lot of strong opinions, some that which may shock you.

The first person I wanted to talk about exams with was Mrs. Miller, the associate principal at La Salle, and she gave me a lot of insight as to why La Salle has exams in the first place. Prior to Mrs. Miller's arrival at La Salle, there were no midterms at all. She explained to me that she wanted to implement these exams as a way to measure student progress throughout the first semester of the school year, specifically focusing on areas of English and mathematics. She assured me that exams were by no means intended to harm grades, seeing as midterms and finals accumulatively account for only 20 percent of a student's final grade for a class.

While stressing that exams are a good means for measuring progress, Mrs. Miller proposed an alternative to completely removing exams from the curriculum; exemption for all grades from exams. Currently, only seniors are given the opportunity to be exempt from their exams, but Mrs. Miller explained that the reasoning behind this privilege was because seniors are typically "checked out" by the second semester and that they do not particularly care about how well they do on an exam. When I asked Mrs. Miller why this idea of exemption was never talked about before, her response was, "Nobody had ever asked." As we talked about this opportunity a bit more, I learned that there exists an Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), made up of teachers from various departments, as well as Mrs. Miller herself. As a group, they discuss topics relevant to the student curriculum. I also learned that petitions can be started by students and if they accumulate enough attention, the ILT will review and discuss the topics.

Starting a petition is similar to starting a club, all you need is a small group of students and a staff member to help facilitate. With petitions, the opportunity for all students to be exempt from exams is very much possible.

The next person I talked to was Mr. Jarrell, a teacher in the English department of La Salle, and he gave me a very practical approach as to why we should keep exams. Similar to Mrs. Miller's argument, Mr. Jarrell explained to me that exams are a good way to measure student progress and they are also a good practice tool for the future in college. He explained to me that exams make up the majority of a college student's grade, and practicing these test-taking mechanics where you are expected to retain a wide range of information will be beneficial in the future. When I brought up the idea of a petition, Mr. Jarrell said that he felt like exemption could be good for midterms, but exemption from finals should remain exclusive to seniors because students need to practice retaining information throughout an entire year as opposed to studying for a test over one topic and forgetting about what they studied a few days later.

After I talked to Mrs. Miller and Mr. Jarrell, I brought up the topic to a few of my classmates. I shared with them the input I got from my interviews and the overwhelming majority of the group of classmates I talked to felt that exemption was more than fair. "Exams are a measure of what you have obtained over a semester and a 90 percent average already shows that you have demonstrated that you know the information," Robbie Crail, a junior at La Salle, said. "Why should we have to re-demonstrate what we know right before a break?"

Patrick Villamagna, also a junior at La Salle, shared a similar insight stating that “If I were to do good in a class and get an ‘A’ for the semester, then I think that shows the teacher that I understand the subject.” He argued that “If I were to get an ‘A’ on pretty much everything in the class, then there is no point in making me study it all over again just to get another ‘A’ on the exam.” Needless to say, the opposition to exams was at an extreme in my sixth bell United States History class.

Exams carry both positive and negative effects for both students and teachers. On one hand, exams are good for measuring student progress throughout a semester and they are good practice for students going to college.

On the other hand, exams bring about a lot of stress for students taking multiple tests, spending several hours each night leading up to their exams. With midterms, teachers also have to spend time over their winter break grading exams when they could be spending more time with family and friends, giving them a break from work for a few weeks. Giving students the opportunity to be exempt from exams could lessen this stress on both the students and the teachers, all we need is somebody to stand up and start the petition to make this idea a reality.

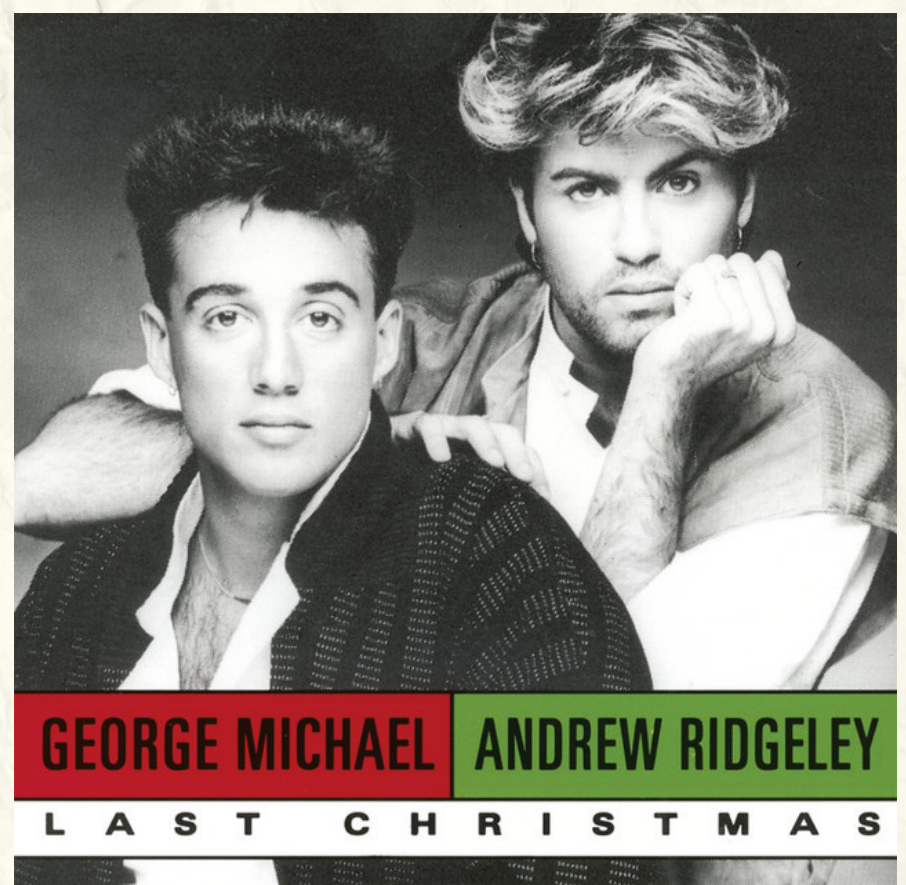
Written by Ethan Riesenbeck

THE CHRISTMAS SONG CLASH

During a recent meeting we held discussing future articles, the topic of the greatest Christmas song came up. I hold a firm belief to myself that "Last Christmas" by Wham! is the best Christmas song ever released and will defend that to the grave.

Leroy Hodge, a fellow reporter for our paper, challenged my belief on that, claiming that "All I want for Christmas is You" was better. I was stunned for a moment, unable to speak. His opinion was just wrong, that was the only way I could phrase it at the time. From the legendary production to the all-time catchy wordplay, how could anyone resist?

"Last Christmas" begins with beautiful vocals from George Michael, who also did everything from producing to performing all the parts to make this song a reality. The “oohs” and “aahs” over the electric piano set the mood as a legendary drum pattern taps in to help us feel the rhythm of the song. The lyrics of the song seem so simple yet are so meaningful. The chorus itself contains enough emotion to make an entire room of babies cry.



Some lyrics from the first refrain are what really set the song apart, with lines such as “Once bitten and twice shy I keep my distance, but you still catch my eye” and “Now I know what a fool I've been, but if you kissed me now, I know you'd fool me again” show the true lyrical masterclass that was coming straight from Michael’s heart. Clearly this man knew a thing or two and had been through some real pain to put together this song.

The last thing I’d like to discuss is the world-wide impact this song had. Released in 1984, the song peaked at number two in the United Kingdom. Something I would like to add to that is that while doing research for this article, I found out that Wham donated all the money they made off the song to the Ethiopian Famine. Talk about the spirit of Christmas! It is the most successful Christmas song of all time in Germany and did amazing in Japan, the Netherlands and the United States as well. The song is also in Just Dance 2017, which really doesn’t mean anything but I thought that was cool.

This song is just simply the meaning of perfection in a Christmas song. It has inspired countless artists to cover it and will never be forgotten. "How could All I want for Christmas is You" be better than this?

Well Liam, while your opinion is overall an opinion I have to completely disagree with your entire statement. It’s like you have never turned on the radio during Christmas at any time. Let’s start off with the fact that every year Mariah Carey’s immaculate song known as All I Want for Christmas is raking in 2.6 million dollars a year! Since 2010 alone she has raked in 680 million dollars of that song alone.

Her song reached number one on the charts 25 years after it came out! If you need more proof of why All I want for Christmas is the best song for the Christmas time, it’s so good that McDonalds dedicated a whole menu to Mariah and the song. Not only do she and the song get an entire menu, but because they're so iconic in the Christmas culture the entire menu is free. I don’t see last Christmas pulling out free food for people at McDonald’s.

The song is the most streamed holiday song of all time. So there you have it, Last Christmas could not hold a candle to the All I Want For Christmas’ flame.



Written by Liam Venia and Leroy Hodge

During the month of December, the Junior LSI class will be working on service projects as a part of the Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy. These projects are part of the “Do Good December” program, in an effort to better their leadership and project managing skills. They were given the opportunity to come up with their own service project and carry it out themselves, with the goal of giving back to the community.

One of the groups opted toward setting up service opportunities for the entire school, organizing a small group to go down to Matthew 25 Ministries on December 18. Another group decided to run a blanket drive for a few different organizations such as the Shelter Home for Men, Mary Magdalene House and the Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky. The donations they receive will be of great help during the cold winter season. The blanket drive will take place during the week of December 13.

Written by William Gavin

Merry Christmas

We hope everyone in the Lancer community has a safe and healthy break this year. Have fun; go sledding, ice skating, or snowball fighting. Enjoy your time with family and friends; hang out, tell stories, go shopping, open presents and eat lots of food, but most importantly make sure not to lose sight of what the true reason for the season is; the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Take a couple of minutes out of your day to send up a few prayers thanking Him for all of His sacrifices for us.

Thank you for taking a moment to read through our articles! We all worked extremely hard on them!! We hope to see you again in January!

Sincerely,
The Scarlet and White Team

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