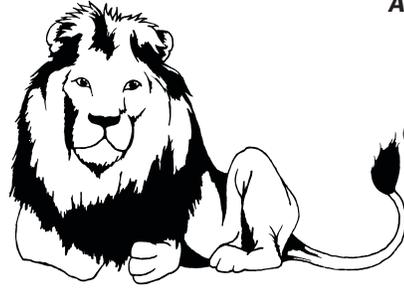


Merry Christmas

The Crown Prints

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Roh, Aschoff and Sparrows reign *Thespians bring home the gold*



TOP LEFT: The cast and crew accept the state championship trophy for their production of "Sending Down the Sparrows" by Laura Lundgren Smith. Additionally, juniors Travis Roh and Libby Aschoff earned the best actor and actress awards in in Class C1.

LEFT: Sophomores Josh Uhrmacher, Jude Yindrick and junior Travis Roh discuss the upcoming rally for the Hilter Youth.

ABOVE: Senior Emily Dalton reads the letter informing of the transfer of her mother to the Hartheim facility. The production explored Hilter's T-4 program to rid society of those unable to care for themselves. *Photos by J.Brown*



A growl... or a roar. Monarchs sound off...

What is your favorite part of Christmas and why?



Senior Sydni Sylvester
"It's just the love that Christmas brings between family and friends. It is just a good time."



Junior Braden Smith
"Spending quality time with family, opening presents and being lazy."



Sixth grader Finley Zook
"Going to see my family in Montana or Pennsylvania."



English teacher Teresa Pokorny
"The traditions: family, snowfall, and being able to watch 'A Christmas Story.'"

Advent, not just your Christmas countdown

By Jayci Roh

Christians all around the world prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent. Advent prepares the faithful to be both worthy and ready for Jesus' arrival.

Freshman religion teacher Deacon Alan Phan describes advent as "a period of time where we prepare for the coming of Christ." According to Phan, Catholics should approach [Advent] as a reflection or a little Lent. The Church finds the season important to grow in humility during Advent to show all Catholics the need of the Savior according to Phan.

According to Justin Holcom from Christianity.com, "the word 'Advent' is used from the Latin word adventus, meaning 'coming,' which is a translation of the Greek word parousia. Advent last for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on Jan. 6. Advent 2018 began on Sunday, Dec. 2 and ends on Monday, Dec. 24.

Advent is intended to be a season of fasting, much like Lent, and a variety of ways exist for the faithful to prepare themselves throughout the season. Reflection on the violence and evil in the world can cause the faithful to reach out to God to make things right according to Holcom.

During Advent a wreath with four candles is placed near the altar or at the front of

the church to represent each Sunday before Christmas. The Advent wreath first began in Germany in 1839 from a Lutheran minister working at a mission for children.

The wreath was created out of the wheel of a cart. The minister placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually the wreath was made out of evergreens and four candles were placed inside rather than twenty. The evergreens symbolize everlasting life throughout winter and death. The circle is a reminder of God's unending love and eternal life. Normally the candles consist of three purple candles and one rose or pink colored candle.

Advent can mean different things to people in the Catholic community. According to Phan "advent is a nice time for me to reorient my heart to God." Christians all over will do charity work or give items to the poor.

Aquinas also has an attitude of charity during Advent with the "Angel Tree" project to help people in need. Aquinas SOUL Club sponsors the annual project to collect money and items for the less fortunate.

Phan also tries to find ways to bring help to people by collecting an item, wrapping it, and giving it to the poor for the Advent season.

A night full of Christmas carols



Sixth graders Elizabeth Roh, Katie Burwell, Brooklyn Stutzman, Garret Novacek, and Isabel Grady play in the 2018 Advent Program. The program was held Wednesday, Dec.12, and involved both High School and Middle School bands and choir. The Advent program was under the direction of Mrs. Cathie Mimick and Mrs. Helen Ostdiek. Photo by K. Lavicky



Dancing up a 'swinging' storm

By Jayci Roh

Aquinas Fire lit up the dance floor with new swing dance moves. The event held at Aquinas High school involved adoration, ice breakers, swing dancing, and line dancing.

Junior and senior religion teacher Fr. Ben Holdren and campus minister Mrs. Beth Nemecek created the event for the faith based group. Students from Bishop Neumann also joined the fun. "Neumann heard that this school in Kansas did [swing dancing], and I started laughing when they told me the school because that's where my brother lives," Holdren said. St. John's Catholic School in Beloit, Kansas, taught the various dances.

St. John's began going around to other schools to teach swing dancing ten years ago. The school taught new students how to do some of the basic moves, such as two-step, along with several flips and turns. St.

John's also taught certain line dances.

According to Holdren the Fire event had a great attendance. "There was a lot of talk and buzz about it the next day." Holdren said he would be willing to start something like this for Aquinas High School, if the students were up for it.

For some students swing dancing was a new experience. Senior Eli Reiter said, "I knew nothing, and I learned everything." According to Reiter his favorite moves are the "can opener" and "flip" because it takes physical strength, energy and "makes you look like a stud."

For some people, the moves may have been harder. Reiter said "[Swing dancing] was very challenging. The technique was hard, and I dropped a girl on her head." According to Reiter the best part of the night was "after everyone left because a bunch of Aquinas students stayed and learned the

complicated moves."

Some students knew the moves in advance, but came for the social aspect. Senior Jill Witter came in knowing the "pretzel," "Heisman," "bread basket," "flip" and "cinnamon roll" dance moves. She however learned a few new moves such as the "popcorn," "cheerleader" and the "floor spin."

According to Witter, the new moves were pretty easy, but it is hard at first to trust people follow through with a move. Witter's favorite move was the "floor spin."

Witter enjoyed meeting a lot of new people from St. John's. "We were both Catholic and care enough about our faith to take off and spend the night dancing," Witter said. Reiter said this Fire event was very different compared to past events. "[The event] was a lot of fun. It all focused around Christ," Reiter said.

Plenty of variety at St. Mary's

By Emily Dalton

Singing, Church Ladies, psychics AND Elvis? Just your typical St. Mary's Variety Show! The yearly variety show raised money, while giving the audience a laugh or two.

At one time St. Mary's hired talent for the fall show. However, St. Mary's fundraising committee realized the parish already had plenty of talent here. According to Deb Dinkleman, a member of the fundraising committee, "Our entertainment varies, but the show runs nearly the same: a variety of comedy skits, singing, dancing, and lots of silliness."

Several of the acts included students and teachers from Aquinas Catholic High School. Junior Elizabeth Aschoff performed in three different acts and has been involved with the show all three years. Aschoff said, "My favorite act was Mr. John Svec as Carnac the Magnificent. That was funny." Svec would 'telepathically' read humorous questions from a closed envelope, then answer them.

For the past three years, St. Mary's has put on the variety show to raise money for various parish projects. This year proceeds



Guidance counselor Mr. John Svec performs his Carnac the Magnificent act in St. Mary's Fall Variety Show. Svec used to perform his act for pep rallies at Aquinas. Photo by E. Dalton

are going to be used to make repairs in the rectory. According to Dinkleman, "Most proceeds in the past went to fix the church

bells or the rectory." Aschoff believes the biggest benefit of the show is how it brings the parish together. "I think it is fun for the community; there are a lot of inside jokes," Aschoff said.

The fundraising committee improves the quality of the show each year. According to Aschoff, "The last few years it has been a chaotic mess. [This year] it was a lot more organized." Dinkleman agreed saying, "Each year we have improved the flow of the show. I have a great committee who helps with everything."

Aschoff and Dinkleman would both love to see more people participating in the show. Aschoff said, "A lot of people take getting on stage pretty seriously; this show is just about community appreciation and fun." Dinkleman added that, "It was amazing to have very young performances [at the variety show] this year."

There is plenty of work to be done behind the scenes as well. Seventh grader Clayton Zavodny helps on the side by carrying props on and off stage. Zavodny said, "We are going to do it next year, so you better come. It's funny."



Teen vaping on rise

By Morgan Littlefield

E-hookas, e-cigarettes, mods, vapes; whatever the name, the risks are the same. Today's teenage population feeds the \$2.5 billion industry and suffers the consequences.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), "approximately 3.6 million middle and high school students were current tobacco users in 2017." Though that number is a decline from the past forty years, more than one in twenty-five high school seniors are daily smokers.

The Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) performed a survey in 2011 on how many middle school and high school teens were vaping, and an estimate of 1% of females and 2% of males admitted to using e-cigarettes. The survey was resubmitted in 2015 and revealed an increased estimate of 13% of females and 19% of males admitted to using e-cigarettes.

The CDC stated, "Nearly 20% of young adults believe e-cigarettes cause no harm, more than half believe that they are moderately harmful, and 26.8% believe they are very harmful." E-cigarettes and vapes are technically safer, for they have a mix of less

than the seven thousand harmful chemicals found in regular cigarettes. However, the four thousand chemicals found in vapes are still dangerous to the developing body.

According to the HHS, Office of the U.S Surgeon General and the CDC's Know the Risks: E-Cigarettes and Young People, the abuse of aerosol at a young age can affect the part of the brain responsible for decision making and impulse control. Teen use may also cause "vapor's lung" from second-hand vaping.

With E-cigarettes, an atomizer heats the coil and "e-juice" to create an aerosol that is inhaled and released. Aerosol is a vapor full of addictive nicotine, cancer-causing chemicals, volatile organic compounds, ultrafine particles, and flavorings such as diacetyl. This flavoring is harmful to airways.

Butler Believes in Youth Council (BBYC) is a local group run by Mr. Nate Rhoda to create a community within Nebraska's Butler County and to help facilitate information between the three county school systems: East Butler Public Schools, David City Public Schools, and Aquinas Catholic Schools.

At Aquinas Catholic Schools, Mr. Mat-

thew Grady, Fr. Ben Holdren, and several students of the Stop and Think group represent BBYC. David City Public Schools also has the StayU group. East Butler Public Schools also has a prevention group.

BBYC reaches out to the students of East Butler, David City, and Aquinas Catholic Schools through their three social media accounts: Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. The accounts include updates on the schools' sports teams, performances, and important messages for students.

Grady believes that there is a "definite problem" with vaping in Butler County, and BBYC helps spread awareness by printing materials and posters and through supporting the Stop and Think group during Red Ribbon Week. "The key to BBYC helping schools is to help the various groups through the schools," Grady said.

The CDC pushes for parents to talk with teens, explain the facts, and try to reduce the students' exposure to vaping. The CDC also requests that parents and family members set a good example of being tobacco free.

Red Ribbon Week is celebrated the last week of Oct. every year.

Watch out for the 'eye in the sky' *Drones change many areas of society*

By Braden Smith

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's an... unmanned aerial vehicle! Drones are changing modern society in numerous ways.

In the world of aviation, a drone is considered an unpiloted aircraft with many useful applications. The United States military often uses drones to oversee questionable areas and combat zones, which keeps pilots' lives safe. Drones are much more productive than a plane because of their ability to start up more quickly.

In America, millions of uses for drones exist, some more interesting than others. Amazon Prime announced in 2016 they have started testing package delivery via drone. This could be an efficient applica-

tion, as a delivery could happen within thirty minutes of the order's placement.

Another interesting application for drones is being developed at the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands. The drone is called the "ambulance drone" because the developers plan to use the drone to solve problems in sudden severe medical emergencies.

Drones are not always used in big projects or companies, but can also be found locally. Senior Daniel Stara owns a drone. Stara said, "[Drones] are pretty dope and can do some cool things, such as take pictures and drop things from 200 feet. I mainly use [the drone] to take pictures, drop stuff, and survey land for my dad's company, Stara Earth-

moving."

Drones also have even been used around Aquinas. In the fall, the Butler Believes in Youth and Community provided a drone to take the school's picture in the shape of a double ribbon. Moderator of the Stop and Think group, Mr. Matthew Grady said, "The idea was brought up at one of our meetings. It was mentioned that there was a contest where [schools] would take a picture in the shape of a double ribbon."

Grady added the reason a drone was used over a basic camera was that a drone would get a better angle of the double ribbon from an aerial view - a feature a basic camera does not have.



Going for take downs

By Keegan Lavicky

The Aquinas Catholic wrestling team brought home hardware from early season tournaments. The team also showed well at early season duals.

The Monarchs took on their rival the Columbus Scotus Shamrocks in the only home dual of the year. The Monarchs won the dual by a score of 55-21. Coach Mr. Roy Emory said, "We wrestled really well; we went 14-4 with a couple of JV's filling in."

The team took part in the Wood River invitational and competed very well. Senior 182-pound wrestler Joseph Reimers said, "We won the meet by over 100 points, so that was good to see." Reimers hopes that the team can qualify for state duals and finish top four at the Nebraska state wrestling tournament held in Omaha in February.

Reimers and sophomore 113-pound wrestler Zach Zitek both took home the gold medal at the Wood River meet.

Senior 220-pound wrestler Tad Naiberk, junior 285-pound wrestler Owen Schramm,

junior 195-pound wrestler Nolan Schultz, sophomore 120-pound wrestler Noah Scott, and freshman 106-pound wrestler Hunter Vandenberg all earned second place at the meet.

Third place was awarded to senior 138 pound wrestler Creighton Redler, junior 170-pound wrestler Ben Kment, sophomore 126-pound wrestler Ben Shonka, and sophomore 132-pound wrestler Cameron Schrad.

The Monarchs were unable to compete in the Bennington tournament due to bad weather conditions. Instead the team will compete at the Friend Invite on December 21.

The team's first dual of the year was at Boone Central. Emory said, "The effort and intensity was great the first time out. We still have a lot to clean up, but we were very aggressive." Scott said, "I'm trying to improve by being more aggressive and getting more take downs in a match." The Mon-

archs defeated Boone Central in the dual.

"I would like to break the state record for take downs this year," Reimers said. The current state record is 451 take downs.

Reimers has recently committed to the University of Nebraska-Kearney to further his wrestling career after his senior year.



Sophomore 120-pound wrestler Noah Scott looks for a take down in the dual against Columbus Scotus. The Monarchs will host districts on Feb. 9. Photo by M. Littlefield

Swishing to sub-state

By Keegan Lavicky

With a first year head coach the Aquinas boys' basketball team looks to improve ev-



Sophomore Keegan Lavicky dribbles down the court. The Monarchs will take on Shelby-Rising City on Dec. 20 at home beginning at 5 P.M. Photo by J. Roh

ery day in order to swish their way to sub-state. Early season games have provided some successes and some challenges.

The boys recently took on Bishop Neumann in a Centennial Conference showdown. The battle featured the Aquinas head coach Mr. Trevor Weiss and his father, Neumann head coach Mr. Mike Weiss facing off against each other for the win. Trevor Weiss said, "During the game it felt normal, but before and after was different. We both want each other to win, and I love to compete against him."

Junior guard Braden Smith said, "We came out and shot really well against a very good team. We could've played better defense, especially in the first quarter." The Cavaliers were led by a three point shooting Kobey Simons, and defeated the Monarchs 66-55.

The Monarchs traveled to Archbishop Bergan for their first conference game of their year. Smith said, "I thought we played

pretty well; they are a top two team in class D-1. Their defense slowed us down and forced us into some bad possessions." The Monarchs lost 43-53.

In their second battle of the year the Monarchs were up against Howells-Dodge. The Monarchs lost a nail biter 44-43. Senior guard Nolan Hartman said, "It wasn't a terrible game. We shot poorly, but played hard and never gave up." The Monarchs first game of the year, against Raymond-Central resulted in a win for the Monarchs.

"The team's strength is the togetherness. [The boys] are good friends, and that makes it easy to compete every day," Weiss said. The Monarchs are trying to get better by competing every day at practice. Smith added, "Our ability to run and everyone is athletic is definitely a strength of ours."

The Monarchs game against Shelby-Rising City was postponed due to weather concerns. The game will be played on Dec. 20.



Girls' basketball team starts strong

By Braden Smith

The Aquinas girls' basketball team has many familiar faces in its lineup this season, after graduating only one senior from last year. The Lady Monarchs have big expectations for this season.

The Monarchs' most recent contest was against a top ten class C-1 opponent and rival, the Bishop Neumann Cavaliers. The girls' team lost a close game 38-45. Senior forward Jadyne Krafska said the team struggled with "physicality and shooting".

The team's first loss of the season came on the road against another Centennial Conference foe, the Archbishop Bergan Knights. Aquinas ended up losing the game by single digits, with a final score of 48-57. Head girls' basketball coach Mr. Tony Smith said starting against two Centennial Conference powerhouses is "very difficult, but it is typical for our conference. It highlights where we stand."

The Monarchs got their first road victory when they traveled to Howells to play the Howells-Dodge Jaguars. They won the game handily with a score of 61-21. Smith said, "It was another solid game against a traditionally good team. We made a defensive adjustment that helped, and our girls executed well."

The Lady Monarchs were scheduled to play the Shelby-Rising City on Dec. 1, but due to the weather has been postponed to

Thursday, Dec. 20.

To open up the season the Lady Monarchs played at home against the Raymond Central Mustangs. The Monarchs started the season off with a huge win, by forty-five points. The final score ended up 60-15. Junior forward Macey Thege said the team played well, but could improve on rebounding. "We started out by playing down to their level, but we picked it up in the end."

This season is Smith's first as the head girls' basketball coach, after being an assistant for four years. However, making the transition from assistant to head coach is no new task for Smith, as he has made the transition four times before. Smith said this particular transition has gone well. "I've been most impressed with how the girls have responded. They've bought in and made it their own."



Junior Macey Thege takes the ball to score against Shelby-Rising City. Girls' and boys, basketball and dance senior night will be moved to Saturday, Jan 8th. Photo by J. Dalton

Middle school girls' basketball wraps up



LEFT Eighth grader Jocelyn Stara breaks through the defence of the Centennial Broncos. ABOVE Seventh grader Jordyn Bohuslavsky takes the ball in a match against Lakeview. "We got a lot better at taking open shots and look up at the basket, I think we played very well against all of the teams," said middle school girls' basketball player Lacie Hartman. Jordyn Bohuslavsky feels that throughout the year the girls have gotten better at rebounding as well as improving their defense. Photos by J Brown



Queen rules the big screen

By Morgan Littlefield

Director: Bryan Singer

Cast: Rami Malek, Ben Hardy, Joseph Mazzello, Gwilym Lee, Lucy Boynton, Aiden Gillen

Synopsis:

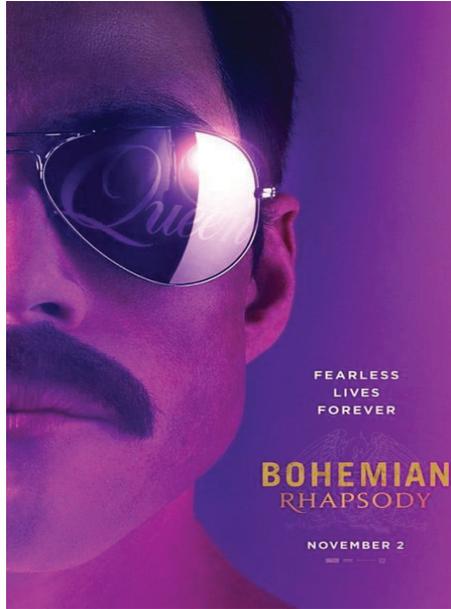
Bohemian Rhapsody is a foot-stomping biography/drama about one of the most recognizable British rock bands: Queen. Queen members and film creators Brian May and Roger Taylor dramatized the life of the band and front man Freddie Mercury.

The film begins with the creation of Queen. Freddie Mercury, an Indian boy named Farrokh Bulsara, speaks to lead guitarist Brian May and drummer Roger Taylor about being the new lead singer when their own lead singer quit. The two were hesitant at first, but agree when they hear his unique voice.

Freddie suggested changing the band name to “Queen,” and the change stuck. The group brought on bass guitarist John Deacon, landed a record deal and recorded their first self-titled album: *Queen*.

Freddie caught a glimpse of Mary Austin at one of the concerts and began a relationship with her, which resulted in an engagement. After the sudden fame of their song “Killer Queen,” he and the other members leave Britain and fiancé Mary for a tour in the United States.

Following months of touring, the band decides it is best to escape to the country to get away from the publicity. Whilst there, Queen recorded their most famous album to date: *A Night at the Opera*.



The album *A Night at the Opera* includes classic Queen songs such as “Bohemian Rhapsody,” “Love Of My Life,” and “You’re my Best Friend.” The film shows the creation of the album, including Roger Taylor’s struggle with the insane notes Freddie

asked him to sing. The band loved “Bohemian Rhapsody,” but the record label did not. Queen left the label to prove that their music could change the world.

After the intense fame of *A Night at the Opera*, Queen had some troubles with the group. Freddie leaves Mary Austin. Paul Prenter, a close friend of the band, convinces Freddie to give up the group for a solo career. After doing so, Freddie’s world comes crashing down in the years to follow.

Years later Freddie discovers Live Aid, a dual-benefit concert held on July 13, 1985, to raise funds for the relief efforts toward ongoing Ethiopian famine. He contacts Queen’s producer to bring the band back together after years of silence for one final show.

Before meeting with the band, Mercury was diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Disorder (AIDS). When the band agrees, they get together and produce the most memorable performance of Live Aid.

Despite *Bohemian Rhapsody* having a few factual errors, the film was a hit. The famous Queen songs scattered throughout the film tied the whole piece together. This editor recommends seeing the film with an open heart and mind, and advises to be wary of the PG-13 rating.

Merry Christmas from the Aquinas journalism staff



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PewDiePie vs. T-Series: Who will prevail?

By Hayden Schawang

Subscribe to PewDiePie! PewDiePie has held the title of the most subscribed YouTube channel for the past five years; however, T-Series now battles for the spotlight.

YouTube launched in February of 2005 and became a highly popular site. As individuals found a location where videos could be shared worldwide, YouTube became one of the most visited websites on the internet. People began using the site for different purposes. Gaming and vlogging channels started to gain interest – the “you” in YouTube finally came to light.

Eventually, advertisements came to YouTube. People gained the opportunity to earn a living by posting videos on YouTube and receiving revenue from ads and support. Now, according to socialblade.com, around five billion videos are viewed every day. Over 1.3 billion people use the site, and over 300 hours of video are uploaded every minute. Consequently, viewers watch a total of 3.25 billion hours of video on YouTube each month.

PewDiePie is an independent original content creator who joined YouTube in 2010 and has been the most subscribed to YouTuber since Dec. 23, 2013. PewDiePie is run by Felix Kjellberg, a Swedish comedian and video game commentator. Kjellberg is best known for his “Let’s Play” gaming commentaries. PewDiePie is only managed

by Kjellberg and two additional editors.

The main competitor to PewDiePie is T-Series. T-Series is an India based music and film corporation founded by Gulshan Kumar in 1983. The channel has gained fame since the internet recently become readily available to India. This, consequently, has caused T-Series’ growth in views and subscriptions to skyrocket.

India’s online population has grown to 500 million internet users; India has since emerged as the world’s second-largest online population behind China, where YouTube is blocked. YouTube alone has over 225 million monthly Indian users. India’s sudden internet movement has contributed significantly to the growth of T-Series, as well as India’s lack of individual content creators.

The battle between PewDiePie and T-Series could be seen as a last stand for individual YouTubers against corporations, like T-Series. Corporations have gained fame on YouTube, and the amount of networks and companies using YouTube solely as a marketing arm is steadily rising. This makes the distinction to see YouTube as a site for individuals rather than a TV channel more difficult.

Both channels provide content of entirely different categories. However, YouTube was originally created as a site for individu-

als trying to express themselves and share their lives - not for corporations to use as a marketing tool. YouTube is not really “you” in the expressive sense, but rather a version of you that has to be manipulated to be seen online at all.

Individual YouTubers from around the world with millions of subscribers, such as Mr. Beast, Markiplier, Logan Paul, and Jacksepticeye are fighting to help PewDiePie stay ahead of T-Series. Large and small YouTube channels both have used PewDiePie’s drama to gain fame on the internet. Even PewDiePie has used the drama to start a project funding uneducated children in India. On Dec. 4, 2018, Kjellberg started a livestream and asked people to fund his plan, which earned \$213,327.38.

As high school students, the best way to aid PewDiePie in his battle is to subscribe to his channel. Realizing what the face of YouTube truly stands for is important to the future of online video platforms: YouTube is a site for individuals, not corporations. PewDiePie is the only YouTuber in the right position to spread and emphasize the “you” in YouTube. And, as he does not abuse the position and preforms morally commendable acts, no reason exists to not subscribe to PewDiePie.



On Dec. 14, 2018, PewDiePie held the lead over T-Series by a significant amount. FlareTV, a channel on YouTube that provides live statistical changes, has provided a live video of the subscriber count between PewDiePie and T-Series since Oct. 1, 2018. Photo provided by FlareTV

CrownPrints

The *Crown Prints* is published eight times a year to inform, educate, and entertain the Aquinas community. We urge letters to the editor. Letters should be given to Ms. Jean A. Brown in Room 16. Letters must be signed; however, anonymity, if requested, will be granted if deemed necessary.

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