

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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Saint Augustine High School

The Unsung Heroes: An Ode to the Subs



By Jason Mapa ('13)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Normally, the newspaper would dedicate an article to the “Teacher Feature.” However, this issue we wanted to give tribute to the unsung heroes who, in the absence of teachers, swoop in to save the day. These irreplaceable individuals are the shoulders on which the teachers lean for support. If you haven’t guessed already, we are referring to the substitutes, or according to Mr. Curiel, “visiting teachers.” However, even though they have done much for the school, their job lies hidden in the shadows. Today, we are going to bring to light the enormous amount of work these individuals put forth and commemorate their service to the school.

Though some students may not realize it, there are at least two substitute teachers on campus at any moment and at times even more. Called as often as 2-3 times a week, they have a distinct presence on campus. One can often see them walking to their assigned class or talking to another teacher during their lunch break. If you’re lucky, you might even be acknowledged by your first name if you happen to know them.

“I’ve subbed so often that I can name about 2/3 of the students and would be able to recognize almost all if I saw them at the grocery store,” Mr. Wallace said.

Recognition does not necessarily indicate fondness of the students, but the subs assure me that they do care for every one of them.

“I can’t ever remember being annoyed. I love teaching and the interactions I make with the students,” said Mr. Curiel.

In addition to the warm welcomes they



Artistic conceptualization and creation by Jason Mapa ('13) and Alex Larson ('13)

receive, the subs especially appreciate it when students take the initiative to introduce themselves and chat.

“I love listening to the students’ banter and the “wisdom” that comes forth from their mouth,” Br. Barney said. I often find myself biting my tongue to keep from laughing.”

Though the subs very much enjoy friendly conversations with their pupils, their main priority is the education of the students.

“Whenever I have to sub, I make sure to familiarize myself with the current lesson. It is important to continue the current momentum of the class,” said Mr. Wallace.

The mark of a good sub is one who arrives to class, having already prepared for the day’s lesson. As evidenced by their testimonies, Saints has a surplus of outstanding subs. Even when they are tired, they still manage to maintain a positive attitude and provide a fresh perspective on the material. Certain subs have been required to teach consecutive classes, such as Brother Barney. According to him, “It was a great opportunity to flex my muscles and experience true teaching. My only complaint was that I had to watch a lobotomization video three times.”

However, no subs have any complaints

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about the students themselves. In fact, many seem to have fond memories of teaching and are appreciative of the opportunities Saints gives its students.

“It may seem simple, but as I used to teach at a public school, I love the fact that we can pray before every class,” said Mr. Curiel. Having been here for numerous years, Coach Downey also recognizes the value of a Saints education. “I know them, and they know me. I even learn from them sometimes,” he said smiling.

Students have also had fond memories of their “sub experience.” Michael Ebeling ('11) had the pleasure of having Mr.

SEE Subs, pg. 2

Saints Changes 2012 Curriculum



By Joe McCabe ('13)
STAFF WRITER

What do War, the Holocaust, the Arthurian Legend, Mythology, Science Fiction and Fantasy, and Christianity have to do with each other? These diverse topics will all be English classes available at Saints next year. Each will be offered as single semester courses and are senior exclusive.

Yes, you heard that correctly. You may now take English as an elective. Better yet, if you take two of these classes, you will fulfill your English 4 requirement. However, even if you choose to take AP English as a senior you can still take one or even two of these classes. Ms. MacVay created the War and Holocaust courses and will take a new approach to the material through film and literature. Meanwhile, “Mythology,” “Science Fiction and Fantasy,” and “The Arthurian Legend” will be taught by Mr. Weber. Finally, Mr. Coffey will be teaching “Modern Catholic Literature.”

I know what you’re thinking: “A class based on watching movies?” Yes, you actually get to take a class where watching movies counts as English. “War Through Film and Literature” will only cover modern war, which

SEE New English Courses, pg. 8

Volleyball Claims CIF Title



By Jason Mapa ('13)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Pass, set... Smash! Repeat. Using this formula, the Saints Varsity Volleyball team were victorious against Francis Parker in the CIF Finals for Division IV.

At first, the Saints were off to a rocky start, losing the first set to Parker. However, the players lit their inner fires and took the next set. Building upon that momentum, Saints took the subsequent set. As the third set began, the crowd was now at fever pitch. Saints was now twenty-five points away from the first CIF Champions banner in seven years. As the game progressed, the game became even more heated. Yellow cards were given, along with many shouts of encouragement. Finally, the Saints was at 24, one away from the CIF title. A perfect pass, an on-target set... and the hit was blocked. However, the other team was called for touching

the net. Admittedly, it was not the most exciting ending, but the response from the crowd was incredible. As parented rocked the stands, a group of students rushed the court to embrace the elated team. Reilly

Marin ('11) received the Sportsmanship Award as Coach Hecht tried not to cry. The team started to chant in victory and their cries of, “No one is better than us!” were

SEE CIF Volleyball, pg. 6



Kevin Dixon ('11) spikes one across the net against Santa Fe Christian.

Saints Yearbook Gains New Moderator



By Michael Infantine ('12)
STAFF WRITER

Whether you just aced your AP tests, you have no idea how you're going to pass your finals, or you're already checked out for summer break, one thing all Saintsmen share at the end of the year is the yearbook. But even with this most stable end-of-the-year ritual, there is going to be some change. After ten years of serving as the yearbook moderator, Mr. Healy is stepping down and passing the torch to Mrs. Dickerson.

Mr. Healy first became interested in working on the yearbook while he was a student. He recalls a classmate of his, Steve Jones, who was involved with it.

"He always had a camera, and I was envious that he would always get out of class and had special access to all kinds of things," said Mr. Healy.

Once he became a teacher at Saints, Mr. Healy was looking for a way to get to know students outside of his office. When the position of yearbook moderator opened up, it was a perfect fit.

Before teaching at Saints, Mr. Healy spent twenty years in broadcasting with the last ten at Channel 10 News, putting together visuals for news segments. This experience transferred over very well, as creating a yearbook involves a similar process.

Being a part of the yearbook all these years has been something Mr. Healy has really enjoyed. "I've really liked the process of creating the yearbook and promoting the Saints experience," he said.



Mrs. Dickerson is already planning next year's yearbook.

Photo credit: Jason Mapa

Over the years, Mr. Healy has contributed many ideas to the yearbook program. In addition to taking thousands of pictures and going through the entire process of creating each yearbook months in advance (work on the 2010-2011 yearbook started thirteen months ago), Mr. Healy also enters the Saints yearbook in an exposition at the Del Mar Fair every year. In fact, one of Mr. Healy's favor-

ite memories of his yearbook experience occurred a few years ago when the Saints yearbook with the theme "Saints Illustrated" won Best in Class.

"It was really great to create something worthy of being celebrated," said Mr. Healy.

Mr. Healy plans to focus more time on counseling and teaching with his newfound free time. He is also in the process of devel-

oping a year-long Digital Photography class that will be available within the next couple of years.

After learning that the yearbook moderator position was available, Mrs. Dickerson was eager to volunteer.

"I worked on my own yearbook my senior year of high school, and I had a blast," she said.

Having only worked on her yearbook in high school, one possible challenge she sees looking forward is her lack of experience.

"I don't want to let the boys down," Mrs. Dickerson said.

With this in mind, however, Mrs. Dickerson is very excited for her new position.

"I'm looking forward to working with the boys. They're very excited and enthusiastic."

Mrs. Dickerson already has plans for the yearbook going forward.

"I want to make sure everyone is represented, and I especially want to make sure the Seniors are seen a lot since it's the yearbook they'll graduate with."

Although we are a long ways off from next year's yearbook, planning by Mrs. Dickerson and her crew begins right away.

"First we have to contact the photographer and figure out the theme," she said, "The theme really guides the yearbook."

Building from Mr. Healy's great work, Mrs. Dickerson has high hopes for the future, and we can all expect some great yearbooks in the years to come.

On Being a Green Saints Driver



Joseph Barnes ('13) realizes he parked the wrong way. Not knowing how to drive in reverse, he calls for help.

Photo Credit: Jason Mapa



By Evan Suda ('13)
SPORTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

One of the perks of being in high school (apart from endless hours of homework) is getting your driver's license. And it seems like it has become something of a rite of passage between boyhood and manhood. If you were to take a walk around the neighborhood surrounding Saints, you would see an overwhelming number of dented bumpers, broken tail-lights and wheels with curb marks on them. You can find parked cars that are far from parallel to the curb, cars that are far from the curb, and even cars that are actually ON TOP the curb. And hey, if you're especially lucky, you might even narrowly avoid being hit by a car. New drivers are everywhere at Saints. Here are a couple of tips that have developed from accidents or near accidents from students around Saints.

1. *When the sign says stop, just stop.* It really isn't that hard. It's simple really. Even if there are no cars around you, there is still always that slight chance that something will happen or a super stealth cop will see you

run the stop sign. Alexander White ('11) described being followed by a cop car for a quite a while because he "may or may not have rolled through a stop sign." And Alex considers himself a great driver. Just take a field trip down to the corner of Nutmeg and 32nd and virtually every car that pulls out of the underground parking structure performs the so called "California stop." It's almost as though the stop sign is not even there.

2. *When the light turns yellow, slow down. Don't speed up.* I realize there is always that split second when you are close enough to the light as it turns yellow that you could maybe just make it through the intersection before it flashes red. Most of the time, however, you're not lucky enough to get that exact second. New drivers struggle with this the most. I still have times where the light changes and I think to myself, "You should have stopped, Evan. You just ran a red light." Andrew White ('13), having only received his permit recently, has also had a similar experience. He repeated the incident by simply saying "I ran a red light once." Luckily though, he knows he did wrong and admits it without trying to be-

little the fact. Even Michael Cali ('13) whose father is a cop, ended up messing up and running a red light while he still had his permit. "I was driving on my way to a cast party and, because I was looking for the street sign, I ran the light."

3. *Learn how to park.* When you get out of the car, and you're about 3 feet away from the curb, you don't look cool. Just try again. I used to have trouble with curb parking. Most of the time, I ended up too far away from the curb. So my dad made me practice parking his truck on the curb outside our house. After a few tries, I was parking like a stunt driver.

4. *If the speed limit is 65 and your speedometer says 90, you're going too fast.* Jerry Provencher ('13) knows all too well about these problems. "I almost got in trouble with the 'Fuzz' when I was on the freeway. I was trying to get to lax practice with my bros so I was doing about eighty. Then I see this cop up ahead and I have to slam on my breaks so I'll slow down. I was so scared. I think I might have peed little." Andrew White, being that he is still learning, says that he often finds himself slowing down whenever he goes to make a lane change on the freeway. So just to be safe, I recommend that whatever the speed limit is, follow it.

These four very basic tips should help with the some of the most common problems with new drivers. So to you all you new and up-coming drivers out there, congratulations on your new found freedom, but please use it wisely and try to keep others out of danger.

► Subs

Continued from page 1

Wallace teach him Honors Philosophy in the place of Mr. Vignol.

"Honestly, I thought the purpose of subs was to babysit the class in the teacher's absence. I was pleasantly surprised when Mr. Wallace got into the discussion and started quoting Aquinas," said Michael.

This is further proof of the amount of preparation that goes into subbing. Just because they do not have to grade papers does not mean it is an easy job. Even one day of teaching an unfamiliar class can take a toll on the sub.

Whether the subs are here for one class a week or everyday, they put forth an amazing amount of effort into their work. Though they might sometimes go unmentioned, their contributions are not unnoticed. All the subs say that they wouldn't change anything about the system because it gives them an opportunity to interact with the students.

"There isn't really a sense of competition because we all respect each other, and there's always plenty of work available," said Coach Downey with a laugh.

Without the subs, Saints would not be the same. The next time you have a sub, remember to give them a warm welcome and thank them for their contributions.



Mr. Wallace refused to be an impaled olive head, so we'll dignify him with his image here.

"I love being a part of the Saints community and I have always felt extremely welcomed and at home here. I hope to see you all soon!"

Saintsman of the Issue: Paul Williams

By Esteban Blanco ('14)*
SPECIAL CORRESPONDANT

With the overnight experiment (dubbed operation "frosch slosh") behind me, I have been promoted to Senior Paul Williams Correspondent. I wanted to get into his head—live his life a while. I tracked down his every move, from his daily trips to the hair-care emporium to his late nights moonlighting with a Randy Newman tribute band at the local Super8 motel lobby. For a month, we were like cat-and-mouse, mongoose-and-cobra. He was the Seinfeld to my Newman.

This gave me the keen introspection into the mind of Paul Williams, and I intend to tell-all in what follows, with Paul's take on the subject.

Esteban Blanco: So who is Paul Williams—what makes him tick? Some people say it's the hair, others accuse that there's a man behind the curtain that no one sees. Who's the man, Paul?

Paul Williams: I'm really just a normal person, there's no man.

Esteban Blanco: Well, there must be a man, you know, those voices in your head that tell you to do things that you really know you shouldn't and you can't get rid of them and you tell them to stop but they don't go away. Who's the man Paul?!

Paul Williams: You know, I really don't know what you're talking about. I'm just a regular guy—sure I have some talents: music, drama, writing, comedy—but underneath it all I'm just your average Saintsman.

* Not a pseudonym for Michael Ebeling.

Esteban Blanco: So, you'd describe yourself as an egotist; is that correct? Because I'm writing that down...

Paul Williams: No, I feel like I'm down to earth.

EB: Oh, so it's all about how you feel, how you're down to earth. Let me guess, that earth revolves around...

PW: Why did I agree to do this... (Awkward pause)

EB: Moving on, you're known for being a jack-of-all-trades of sorts, for instance, you play trombone in the regular and jazz band, you're a frequent lead in the school plays, you were an editor on this newspaper, and you're pretty strong academically. Which of these was your biggest mistake?

PW: I'd say they were all fairly equal...

EB: Equal mistakes? Because my answer would be newspaper; I mean, they work us to the bone, they yell at us and send us threatening emails every day, and we can't even unionize. I swear, in another three years I'm gettin' out of this place. Are you feelin' me here?

PW: I'm not feeling you, I mean, I had a great experience on newspaper for the last four years, and I felt the sum of all of our work, despite all the consternation...

EB: Despite all the what?

PW: Despite all the consternation.

EB: Well, the meetings are pretty long, I



SEE Paul Williams, pg. 8

The Movies We Watch in Class



By David Lloyd ('12)
STAFF WRITER

There are a lot of things that one can expect when walking into a classroom at Saints: the quiz you forgot to study for, kids waiting around for class to start, or maybe even the smiling face and rockin' music of Mr. Haggerty. The best of all, however, is when the lights are off and the screen is down, because then it can only be time for one thing: a movie, or, in other words, two hours of napping and nothingness. Movies, however, can be a tricky beast, because there's a big difference between watching Red Dawn in AP World History and some documentary about the life of plants in bio.

Over the course of my years at Saints, it seems that some classes are more liberal with the projector than others, and this seems to be the case not only with individual teachers but different subjects as well. On the whole, history classes tend to show more videos and movies for a number of reasons: there's more material available on the subjects covered, movies tend to help support classwork, and who doesn't like to hear the awesome voice of the History Channel narrator? Having taken my fair share of history courses, I can definitely back this up, as I've probably watched more clips, videos, and movies in AP World and APUSH (A.P. U.S. History) than in every other class combined.

This said, what are some of these fine feature films shown in Saints classrooms across the campus and which

ones are the most popular? In the Spanish department, Destinos dominates the classroom, the dramatic tale of Raquel Rodriguez's search for Rosario, the lost love of Don Fernando, and her trip around the Spanish-speaking world. A very close second comes from Mr. Sipper's AP World class with Red Dawn, a Cold War era film about a pack of hardy young American teenagers resisting the occupation of Soviet and Nicaraguan (how?) forces in Colorado. Aside from being totally manly and having Charlie Sheen, Red Dawn boasts the almighty Carnage Counter, a glorious platinum box at the bottom of the screen that keeps an annotated and organized record of all acts of winning and awesomeness for the ease of students taking notes. Aside from these two heavy hitters,

there are a slew of other films, documentaries, and clips shown in Saints' religion, English, and science classes, as well as my personal favorite, Jesus Christ Superstar, in Guitar Performance with the Maestro.

But is all the time that we spend watching the Romans conquer everyone in World History or is learning about the miracle of life in health well spent? The consensus seems to be yes.

"Movies are another way to learn the material covered in class," says Alex Swider ('12).

"Yeah," agrees Bryan Tarantino ('12), "they're a good visual representation of what we're studying instead of just a ton

SEE Saints Cinema, pg. 8



The movie Red Dawn captures Cold War sentiment during the 1980's—and Charlie Sheen (middle) carrying a rifle! Oh, the horror! Photo (and Photoshop) credit: Jason Mapa

Chaplain's Corner



By Fr. Bob Gavotto, O.S.A
CORRESPONDANT

Marvel at Yourself

Do you want to be viewed as selfish, lazy, and hedonistic? Well, unfortunately, those who take time for leisure are more often than not viewed as such. They waste their time; they should be working!

As a matter of fact, enjoying leisure pursuits is as important for our mental and spiritual health as the ability to work well. Do you know that psychologists recommend that we set aside daily or almost daily a few hours during which we can relax and enjoy ourselves? They describe leisure time as unobligated time which can be spent anyway one wishes.

St. Augustine in his masterful work, The City of God, makes a distinction between "otium" – holy leisure, and "negotium" – busyness, work, and he makes a claim for both. Leisure time can be spent alone or with another, thinking, reading, listening to or playing music, writing, walking, painting, praying (if this is not too much work!), but not sleeping (not a leisure time activity!).

This summertime is a good time to practice, to build up the habit of taking leisure time, while still making sure we get to Mass on Sundays and take those daily ten minutes of quiet prayer with God. Each and every day! Here, again, St. Augustine gives a great insight: "Men go to gape at mountain peaks, at the boundless tides of the sea, the broad sweep of rivers, the encircling ocean and the motions of the stars; and yet they leave themselves unnoticed; they do not marvel at themselves." (Confessions, X,8,15)

Have a great summer!

CONGRATULATION

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Sebastian Revels
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Adam Whalen

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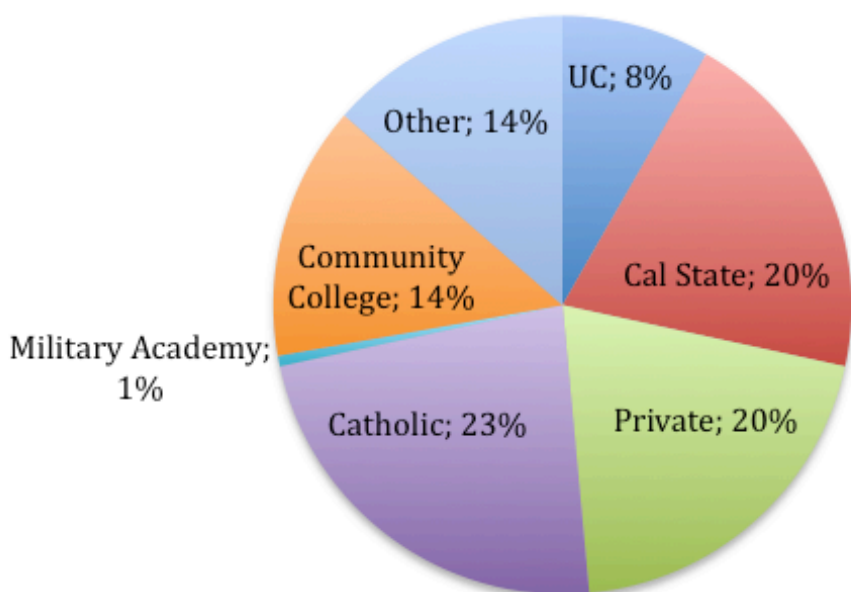
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NS CLASS OF 2011!

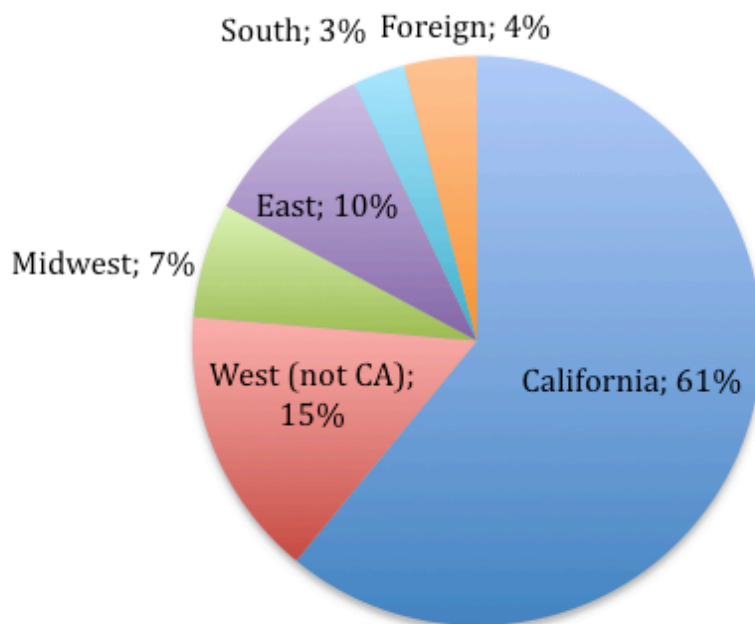


Monterrey
onomo

Type of College



College Location



Saints Spring Sports Are Super Stellar



By Robert Baughman ('13)
STAFF WRITER

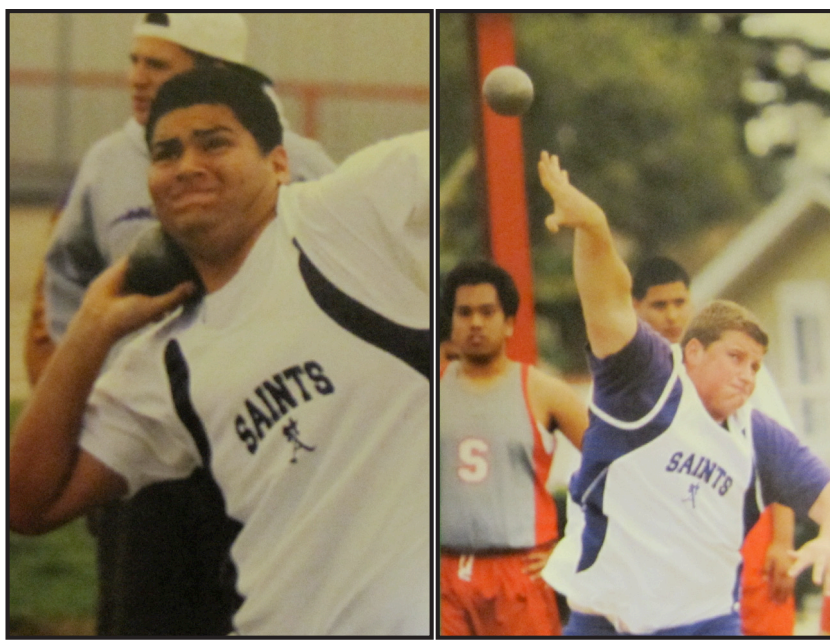
Every year when spring rolls around, chaos strikes the Saints campus. Seniors prepare to graduate, both teachers and students are cram for finals, while extracurricular activities remain in full swing, especially sports. In fact, more than half of the students at Saints participate in one of the seven spring sports. That's right, Saints has teams for a whopping 7 spring sports as opposed to only two sports during the fall. It isn't just the wide variety of sports that makes the athletic program at Saints great, it's the fact that Saintsmen can excel in any or all of the sports they play in one way or another. In fact, Saintsmen have done so well in recent years that the school has attained a championship banner every year since 1995.

Baseball performed exceptionally well this season. Coached by the former pro baseball player Mr. Craig da Luz, they earned the title, Eastern League Champs. They currently hold a great record of 20 wins and 8 losses and a league record of 10 wins and 2 losses. Saints baseball is looking to take their success even farther with their upcoming CIF games. They have a great pitching lineup led by Evan Crower ('11), Kiko Garcia ('14), and Kiki

Medina ('11) followed by an equally great pitching lineup led by Taylor Ahearn, Nick Ruppert, and Michael Coyne. If the team goes into the CIF games strong they will have a good shot at the championship title.

The swim team took the competition to a new level this year, by shattering school records and sending a stellar lineup to CIF and City Finals. Coached by Mr. Manley and captained by Brian Maloy ('11), the Saints swim team placed 4th at City Finals and 6th at CIF finals. Saints finished up the season with a record of 7 wins and 2 losses, 3 all-city times, and a new school record in the 200 IM by Mario Sutka ('12). Swimmers Cole Christy ('12), Derek Snyder ('11), Brian Maloy, and Mario Sutka won all-city in the 400 freestyle relay, and Maloy won all-city in the 50 freestyle. The team put special emphasis on building "athletes of character" this season, which calls back to the core values of "Unitas, Veritas, and Caritas" that the school was founded upon.

Saints has had a strong golf team for many years now with multiple CIF and league championships and even a state championship banner. The golf team is coached by Mr. Ranney, and it finished up the year with a formidable record of 17 wins, 3 losses, and one tie. Golf is unlike other sports in its structure



Shot putters Eddie Medrano ('12) and Gavin Quigley ('13).

because both team matches and individual matches are played for league and CIF. The team is led by Chris Derr ('11), Jose Favela ('12), and golfing prodigy Wally Gonzalez ('11). Coach Ranney noted that the Saints team is a very strong one, and many of its players would be starters on almost any other team in the county. The golf team is currently 3rd in CIF Division II and is playing in a very strong league. Both the

players and Mr. Ranney are still working for a CIF championship. Coach Ranney observed, "We're behind and need to make up ground if we're going to win. It's possible but our players have to step it up a notch."

"This year was a rebuilding year for Saints," said tennis coach Mr. Isaak. The team lost six of their seniors this year, and the team is a very young one. The squad ended up 6th in CIF division III and ended the season with a record of 8 wins and 13 losses. In tennis, however, the record does not do the team justice. Mr. Isaak said, "If I wanted, I could've scheduled easy games for

SEE **Sping Sports**, pg. 8

► CIF Volleyball

Continued from page 1

ever, their improvement did not occur over night. Daily practices and workout regiments built the discipline necessary to win the CIF title. In addition, Coach Hecht constantly drilled his motto into his players. If one were to go into the gym and watch the practice, you would see Coach yelling, "Believe in yourselves and one another!" while the team ran. The purpose of Saints athletics, according to Mr. Hecht, is not only to develop outstanding players, but to develop disciplined young men who are capable in performing in a high-stress environment. Most of all, however, it is their duty as coaches to ensure that the players act as Christian gentlemen both on and off the court. When the team walked over and shook every Parker student after the game, it was evident that Saints produced not only amazing players, but respectful people in general.

Coach Hecht was very proud of his team, saying, "Our team never quit and fought for every point all season long. In the end, however, it's all about the school community." This was evidenced by the full house at the CIF championship and the constant support throughout the year. Saints would not have been able to achieve a record of 24 wins and 9 losses without the constant backing of the Saints community. This year's team was exceptional, captain by four experienced players who never failed to lead their team by example. Saints will lose numerous players as the seniors graduate, but their success will always be commemorated by the banner hanging in the gym. As younger players step up, Coach Hecht looks forward with towards another great season for Saints volleyball and encourages all Saintsmen to support the team.

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Trouble at the Courts



By Neil Rens ('12)
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

For over sixty years, the Saints tennis team has been challenged on the court by teams from the toughest league in Southern California. Now, a group of infant charter schools challenges the teams right to play. Over the past years, a group of charter schools have organized the Frontier League. This coalition of new teams wants to utilize the Balboa Tennis Club as their home field where they can play all of their matches. Yet, Saints has played there for over sixty years and OLP for over fifty. In fact, Saints was already at Morley Field when the Balboa Tennis Club took over the courts in 1966. The Frontier League seeks to share the courts with Saints so that both teams can reap the benefits of the pristine and numerous courts at Morley Field. However, the club has over two thousand members and only twenty-seven courts. The facilities can only accommodate one team, so one party must leave Morley.

On Tuesday May 20, Saints met the High Tech High tennis team at Morley Field for the opening playoff in the CIF Championship. With over fifty fans in attendance, Saints vanquished the fledgling High Tech High team 14-4. For some perspective, the Saints varsity squad has a record of seven wins and twelve losses. Meanwhile, High Tech's league record is 12-0. Within the Frontier League, High Tech High is undefeated and the Saints team easily defeated them. Not only has Saints played at Morley significantly longer, but they represent a stronger, more established program that is more competitive with top tennis teams like Cathedral and La Jolla.

Although the Frontier League is a group

of charter schools, they are still public schools. Therefore, CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) and the school district are required to provide athletic facilities if a school requires them. With the growing number of charter schools, the Frontier League needs their own courts on which to compete. On May 16, the Balboa Tennis Club held a board meeting where they discussed high school use of the courts. After fervent presentations from Coaches Ruben, Stevenson, and Isaak, as well as a presentation by Andrew Vazquez, the board decided to urge the Frontier League to find other courts. Meanwhile, brand new courts lie unused at high schools like Lincoln. The board comprises a group of twelve individuals who preside over the courts. One of them is the Gompers tennis team coach, who belongs to the Frontier League. If the Frontier League was to usurp Saints and gain the rights to playing at Morley, the team would have no convenient place to play, if any at all. Most high schools use their courts and locations like Barnes are already fully booked. Unlike the public high schools, CIF and the district have no obligation to provide Saints with courts, making it essential that Saints remains at Morley.

Aside from daily practices during the Spring, the Saints team partakes in a variety of team building exercises year-round. During intercession, Saints hosted two teaching days where they invited inter-city schools including St. Patrick's and Holy Family to an afternoon at Morley. Athletes from both JV and Varsity ran drills and games, teaching the kids some of the fundamentals of tennis. In addition to reaching out to the community, Saints coaches

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THE AUGUSTINIAN

Mr. Vladimir Bachynsky

Moderator

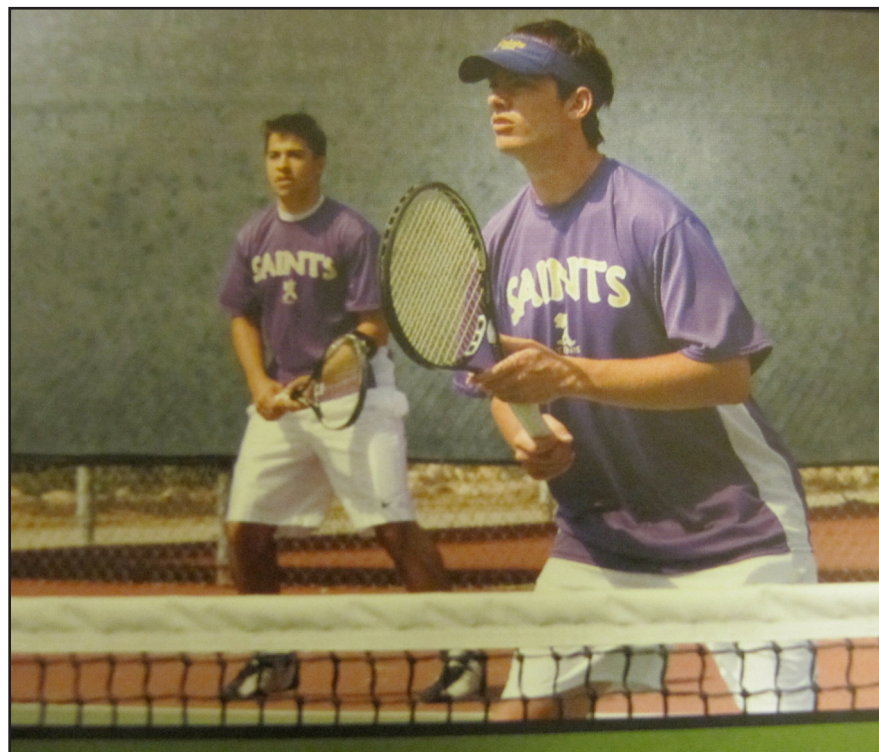
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Seniors John Eebling (forefront) and Jake Gilbert ready for battle at the nets.

Pokemon: Animal Cruelty?



Alec Payne ('12)
MANAGING EDITOR

In the 60s, it was the Barbie doll; For the 70s, it was GI Joe; For the 80s, it was the Rubik's cube. Every decade has had its own popular games, and for the 1990s and 2000s, it was Pokémon. Usually played on the Gameboy, Pokémon was probably the most widespread game for those who grew up in the 90s. The Gameboy adaptation of Pokémon was all the rage for kids in the 1990s and early 2000s. Many a first grader traded and battled with the cards or tuned in every Saturday for a new episode of the anime. Now, these kids have grown up and are teenagers, yet Pokémon is still going strong. Although Pokémon's popularity dwindled in the middle of the last decade, the latest release of the new games (Pokémon Black and White) has once again sparked that nostalgic joy that many high school students remember.

For the uninitiated, the games are about a

10-year-old who is sent out into the wild to do the work of a professor who enjoys enslaving Pokémon. Ironically, this world renowned professor only owns 3 Pokémon, while in the course of a week, you can obtain all different species. The Pokémon he captures (in small capsules called PokéBalls) are essentially mutant versions of real animals. He beats up his selected few animals in order to make them tougher and imprisons all of the other ones in a box. Your character goes on to crush the dreams of his rival, an orphan, break into secret crime boss headquarters, and destroy the hopes of every hapless adult on his way to becoming the best trainer in the world—all in about a week or so of play time. Considering that some parents ban Harry Potter with witchcraft, I'm surprised that Pokémon isn't illegal for its representation of animal cruelty and slavery.

In truth, this game is widely portrayed as being very childish. However, Pokémon has stayed with the current generation of teenagers and currently is as popular today as it

ever was. Pokémon, in the mind of many teenagers, is no longer just a weird game that only "those weird kids that like anime" play. Portions of the Saints campus have come to foster the incessantly repeating, tinny 8-bit music, but why?

Its resurgence is due in part to what I think is a "mid-adolescence crisis". Most of us are just on the verge of having to become mature adults in college (like that'll happen), so we revert back to our nostalgic roots. Also, Pokémon is just an awesomely addictive game that has an incredible replay value. It's like a watered-down version of World of Warcraft, and was most people's first introduction to role-playing games. The player also feels a personal connection to their Pokémon because the player can raise, evolve, and work through tough situations with them (great substitutes for real life friends).

Pokémon may seem like it is geared towards the children of America, but it is actually the opposite in Japan. While it is true that the anime is for younger audiences, the games are marketed to an older audience in Japan. There is a "cuteness" culture factor for Japanese products that many Americans misinterpret to mean that the product is for children. This phenomenon may also be contributing to the seeming rise in teens and young adults "childishly" playing Pokémon. To the gamers, playing Pokémon is not restricted to being just an adolescent activity, yet to others it seems that way.

Pokémoniacs have become increasingly widespread over the last decade, except now they have matured and many are in or getting ready to go to college. Sure, many people play these somewhat juvenile games for the nostalgia, but the games really are a ton of fun, no matter how subtly malicious the storyline is. So don't be ashamed, Poké-addicts; go "catch 'em all!" Just make sure you don't try to Weedle more money out of your parents if you're Seeking Pokémon merchandise because they won't be able to relate to your generation's obsession with this long-lasting fad.

A Better Way to Celebrate Bin Laden's Demise

By Nathan Penick ('12)
STAFF WRITER

On May 2nd, 11:35 EDT, President Obama confirmed the circulating rumors: after 10 years on the run, Osama Bin Laden is finally dead. Throngs of people in the Capitol and on Ground Zero broke out into celebration. Cries of "we got him" rang out as people waved flags and shouted into the dark sky. News of Bin Laden's death has inspired renewed waves of patriotism—anyone driving east on the I-8 probably has noticed the three Barona Casino billboards which read "USA, USA, and USA."

Tales of Navy SEALs swooping into the notorious terrorist's compound abound, causing many Americans to celebrate. Although it is all well and good to feel relieved and victorious, is reveling in Bin Laden's death an appropriate response? A feeling of animosity towards Bin Laden is understandable. After all, the anger of Americans has been stewing for ten years. Despite this, it seems to me that our time would be better spent honoring those who died as a result of this harbinger of terror.

We should recognize how far we've come since that fateful day in September. Terrorism is not a man, a religion, or even an ideology. Terrorism is a method of control—a form of manipulation that subverts its targets on a mental level. Fear, or terror, is the means by which this system of coercion affects its ends. In that sense, we have dealt a significant blow to terrorism's hold over us. The demise of Bin Laden has given Americans courage and a sense of accomplishment. Yet despite the fact that we have come a long way, we need to realize how far we still have to go. Osama Bin Laden's death is

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Mr. Weber demonstrates what will happen to students who fail his upcoming Arthurian Legend class.

Photo Credit: Jason Mapa

► New English Classes

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comprises World War I to the present. Unlike other history classes that examine causes and effects, Ms. MacVay's focuses on the perspectives of different people like soldiers, those on the home front, and authors who were correspondents during the wars. In addition to the class on war, she will offer one on the Holocaust as seen through literature. Ms. MacVay says, "The death of the Holocaust victims is important but in this class the focus will be on the unsung heroes and all the people that assisted those afflicted by the Holocaust." For example, there were Danish Fishermen that rescued around 7,000 people. This topic is of interest to Ms. MacVay as she is a Fellow with the Holocaust Museum and she wants to pass on the untold stories. She hopes that unfair treatment of others will not happen again in times of crisis. The class aims to "Teach the leaders of tomorrow so that they will be pre-

pared to make ethical decisions." Through the class, students will realize that war is a natural reaction and that there is always an option besides violence. With Ms. MacVay's passion for these topics and the unique approach to history, these classes promise to be interesting and enticing.

While the other classes examine history, Mr. Weber's courses seek an understanding of mythology and the Arthurian Legend. The mythology course will cover a myriad of myths ranging from Norse to Ancient Middle Eastern to Native American. This class also details the influence of mythology on culture, myth, and language. For those of you that have had the pleasure of taking Honors English with Mr. Weber, the class on Arthurian Legend will expand on the material learned during the early part of this course. The new class will teach who the historical Arthur was, how the legend developed, and how the Arthurian Legend is present in all kinds of literature. Quoting Gal-

adriel from Lord of the Rings, Mr. Weber says of the class, "History became legend. Legend became myth." There are even rumors that classic works of cinema will be watched such as Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Also taught will be a class on Science Fiction and Fantasy. This class will cover how the genre developed and evolved and how it portrays the human condition. The mythology class is of particular interest to Mr. Weber, who says that, "Students do not get enough mythology and that this class will help them in their college literature classes."

Mr. Coffey's class will cover Modern Catholic Literature. Students will examine authors from the 20th century onwards and several of their works. Mr. Coffey says that this class will be very interesting because Catholic authors have a distinct style of writing. Throughout the world, Catholics have often been seen as outcasts due to their differing beliefs or status as immigrants. Many of these books recount the struggles of Catholics. Mr. Coffey enjoys Catholic Literature not because Catholics wrote it, but rather because they contain Catholic ideas such as the outsiders' view, Sacramental imagery, and Christ-like figures. Although the books do not require knowledge of Catholicism, Catholics find much more meaning in the books. If you are worried that this will be like other religion classes and fear a heavy emphasis on philosophy and theology, Mr. Coffey assures that the class is, "Completely literature and will use theology and philosophy to discuss the books, but the books will be primarily discussed as works of art." Mr. Coffey has a unique insight into this literature from his classes at the University of Fordham.

Most of these classes will be available next year. However, Ms. MacVay says that it is possible that her classes will not be available in the coming year because students had already organized their schedules. Hopefully the students who wish to take this class will be able to plan their schedule and take it in two years. For all lovers of literature, this is a fantastic and unique opportunity that is not appreciated by many other schools.

► Paul Williams

Continued from page 3

usually use the bathroom before though. (Awkward Pause)

So, I heard your favorite actor is Gary Busey, could you please exponentiate on this?

PW: Actually, my favorite actor, well one of my favorites is Dick Van Dyke, and I had the pleasure of meeting him actually at a production of *Mary Poppins*.

EB: Well that's mildly interesting, you know, I met the lead from *JAG* a few years ago. Well, I'm not sure it was him and I really just saw him in the crowd but he was there, I gave him a little head nod.

(Awkward Pause)

What's your favorite TV show?

PW: I'm a big *30 Rock* guy, and I expect big things for this new series, *Community*, but my favorite show right now has to be *Curb Your Enthusiasm* with the comedy of Larry David.

EB: Yeah, have you ever seen the show, *Glee*? It's a fairly high concept dramatic tragedy about high school life.

PW: I'm not a fan, sorry.

EB: Some critics, if I could quote a few dozen, have called your acting career: "Less legitimate than a Schwarzenegger kid. How

would you respond to these claims?

PW: I don't know of anyone who's actually said that. I actually won the Director's award from Mr. Bernens.

EB: So you're a good director in the performances.

PW: No, I've been the lead in everything from *Oklahoma* to *Bye Bye Birdie* and supporting roles for *Charlie Brown* and *Hairspray*.

EB: But the director's award should be for the best...never mind...is there anything you'd like to add about yourself that people don't know?

PW: Well I'd just like to say that I—

EB: Sorry, we're out of time.

Paul's a truly interesting fellow. Not only can he tell you who starred in a movie from 1947 that only the actors in it remember, but he can also sing, act, and play a multitude of instruments from the banjo to the trombone. His impersonations are also many, from the well known Chief to Robert De Niro and the ever-present Gary Busey. But underneath it all he's also a nice guy, someone who'll cheer you up. So, chances are someday you'll see that hair that's eternally evaded dress codes on the silver screen.

► American Heroes

Continued from page 7

indeed a significant milestone, but it is not the end. We should celebrate the heroes, not the villains, and honor those who have been affected by the global war on terror. We should take this victory as an

opportunity to remember those who have served, those who have fought, and those who have died. We thank those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. And let us remember those who in this hour are in the fight and keep our enemies awake at night.

Letters to the Editor

There were two Saintsmen who each told us they would write a letter to the editor regarding our last issue, and here they are:

We at The Augustinian thank you for your letters. There is an ancient Latin saying that goes *Qui tacet consentire videtur* (He who is silent seems to consent). St. Thomas More used the old Roman axiom to defend himself when he was accused of opposing King Henry VIII's Act of Supremacy. Therefore, since you have not written anything, we assume that you approve of the articles in our esteemed newspaper. We thank you, and we agree that *The Augustinian* delivers quality articles and analysis. And if you were to ask us whether we think those who promise us letters to the editor but then don't deliver are a tad flaky, well...we'll just remain silent on the matter.

► Saints Cinema

Continued from page 3

of book work." This is true. What's better? Talking about the struggles of immigrants, or watching *El Norte* and witnessing their hardships first hand (ok, make-believe first-hand)? Through the visual medium, we are able to put words to faces and arguments to almost real situations; they allow us to see persecution, debate, warfare, and current events in three dimensions, not just the black and white on the page.

► Spring Sports

Continued from page 6

the whole year, but what's the point of that?" For example, during their season, the Saints tennis team played a hyped-up game against undefeated High Tech High (14-0). Saints went in and, to the opponent's astonishment, crushed them with a final score of 14-4. The team was led this year by Luis Miranda ('13) who, "played well and didn't give up." This was a young team, and Coach Isaak hopes to take what they have learned this year and use it next year.

St. Augustine High School has a long and cherished tradition of not only succeeding in sports but also succeeding on the basis of the school's core values. This year was a great one for spring sports and kept in the winning tradition established 90 years ago.

► Tennis

Continued from page 1

offer free lessons to anyone at Saints playing or aspiring to play on the team. Coaches Ruben and Marcos Carriedos went to college on tennis scholarships and Marcos played with Arthur Ash. Now, the two volunteer their time five days a week throughout the year to help improve the Saints team. Their dedication lends credence to the long, proud history of Saints tennis.

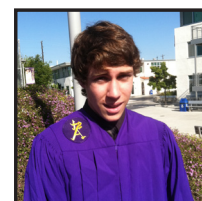
The tennis team demonstrates Saints values both on and off the court. Their average GPA (for Varsity) is the highest in the league at 3.95 and in four of the past six years, the team has included either the salutatorian or valedictorian. Unfortunately, the Frontier League's plans threaten the existence of the Saints tennis program. Without the courts at Morley, Saints would have no place to play locally, and possibly no courts at all. As the team finishes another strong season, they must focus on the possibilities for next year. Make sure you come out and support the team next year, or there might not be a team in the future.

Senior Superlatives (Editor's picks)

The Senior that is most likely to...

Become a stand-up comic:

Brody Leonard



Become a teacher at Saints:

Julian Garcia



Become President of the United States:

Michael Ebeling



Become a soap opera star:

Paul Williams



Become a member of a traveling Russian circus (with bear):

M.J. McKinley



Become James Bond's archnemesis:
Jorge Garcia
(projected appearance in 30 years)

