TheAUGUSTINIAN Saint Augustine High School

October-November 2011 Saint Augustine High School Issue 2

So, When Are We Getting That New Gym? | ASB Update

The Augustinian looks ahead to the second phase of Saints construction.

By Robby Baughman ('13) STAFF WRITER

The mission statement of St. Augustine High School reads, "Our mission is to provide a Catholic liberal arts education for young men in an environment that promotes the development of mind, heart and body in the Augustinian tradition." In keeping with this goal, St. Augustine High School is working on a number of changes and updates to the school, collectively called Phase II. Phase I focused on the improvement of Saints' academic facilities. Meanwhile, Phase II aims to improve the various extracurricular activities at Saints.

Ultimately however, the purpose of Phase II is to bring the Saints community together as a whole.

Phase II has various improvements in store for the athletic program, the drama program, and the band. These improvements include a new gymnasium, a multipurpose theatre, and a new all-weather field. The plans for Phase II also hold a major reorientation of the North half of campus. The new field will be built in place of the current gymnasium, and the gymnasium will be moved to the space occupied by the current athletic field. The theatre will be built in the general location of the current utility field and

faculty parking lot. This new layout will be conducive to future phases and to the overall mission of St. Augustine High School.

Many of the issues addressed in Phase II concern athletics and physical education. Currently, the gym is small and heavily used. The new gym is to be outfitted with a number of team rooms for meetings and viewing film, a new wrestling room, and a modern weight room. The future field will be turf with a standard length track that would give Saints the ability to hold track meets on cam-

New facilities for the band and drama

SEE Phase II, pg. 4



A computer generated representation of Saints after the Phase II construction.

Photo Credit: Mr. Hearn

By Thomas Davies ('12) VIEWPOINTS EDITOR

November and December are going to be packed with events, and it's all thanks to your ASB. The rest of the semester will include events like the Turkey Trot, the Teddy Bear Drive, and No-Shave November, just to name a few.

Let's start off with what will be happening this month. The Turkey Trot will be held on Tuesday, November 22. \$7 will get you a long-sleeve t-shirt, a patch, a chicken pot pie, a runner tag, and a Gatorade. This will be the last Turkey Trot to be held on a real field, so we need to get as many sign-ups as possible. Make sure to visit the Saints website to fill out your form early.

Next up is the Teddy Bear Drive, which will continue through early December. Your ASB will be delivering the bears to Rady Children's Hospital to make sure every child gets one for Christmas. We really want to break our goal from last year which was 862. There's no doubt that we'll be able to get over 863 new or unused bears, so make sure to tell your friends and family about the event.

The No-Shave November contest has been going well, and we've raised over \$100 for the orphanage thanks to the competition. Many students paid the \$20 entry fee and have been preparing their facial hair for the final day of the competition. Remember, No-Shave November ends the day before the Turkey Trot. Also, teachers will give out dress codes for students with beards that did not pay the entrance fee.

ASB has a lot more events lined up for December as well, so keep reading The Augustinian to learn about some of the great Christmas themed events that will be happening soon. Remember, the ASB can only be successful if it has the support of the students, so keep sending feedback and advice to your class officers.

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Football Team Sets CIF in Their Sights

By Anthony Tangredi ('12) STAFF WRITER

Saint Augustine has had an excellent season so far with no loses entering Friday's game vs Cathedral. Everyone thought that after the departure of last year's Seniors Saints would not have the ability to keep up with the big teams. That has turned out to be incorrect since the team has won 9 straight games. This year's team pulled an amazing fourth quarter comeback against Eastlake and destroyed every team in the Western League leading up to their final game against the Cathedral Dons. The last team to have such a winning streak was the 2006 team with 7 wins, led by former coach Jerry Ralph. However, Saint Augustine looks to keep their heads amidst all the success and remember what Coach Sanchez so often drilled into them.

There was nothing boring about Friday's game against Cathedral; tickets were sold out Tuesday morning by 7 am! Students were running around crazily attempting to find a classmate who had an extra ticket they could buy. When the game finally rolled around on Friday, the play-



Saintsmen show their colors at the Cathedral game.

Photo Credit: Mrs. Dickerson

ers knew they would have the support of the students. Numerous Saintsmen were tailgating for the game as early as 4 in the Cathedral visitor parking lot. About

two hours before kickoff a line started to form to enter the stadium with the line that looped the parking lot. Not to be forgotten,

SEE Meet you at the "Q", pg. 6

The Procrastination Problem



By Joe Keane ('13) STAFF WRITER

This article was meant for the September-October issue of

The Augustinian, but being a dedicated procrastinator, I put it off as long as possible. Ironically, this article is dedicated to the art of procrastination, and is a tribute to all those students who practice it. The word comes from the Latin roots pro, meaning forward, and crastinus, meaning tomorrow. Appropriately so, one of the catch phrases of a procrastinator is, "I'll do it to-

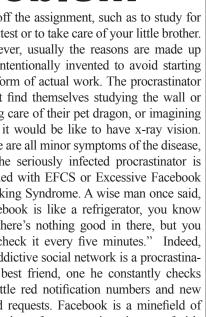
As teenage guys, we have trouble with taking the initiative, so we tend to wait for someone else to make the decisions, whether it be planning a party or choosing what kind of pizza to order. This anxiety carries over into our school work, making us dread picking up the pencil and jotting down that first sentence of an essay or the first problem of a math assignment. To be honest, getting started can be the hardest part of the job, but

we procrastinators know that putting it off for just five more minutes can make you so much happier (not really).

It's the night before your big English paper is due, and you just started writing. Sound familiar? Well this kind of thing usually goes one of three ways: 1) You have an epiphany and somehow scrape together the best piece of literature the world has ever seen. 2) You cave under the pressure, and give up after writing a pitiful half of an essay. 3) The late hours get to you and you fall asleep at your desk after writing the first paragraph. For the experienced procrastinator, the pressure of a looming due date actually helps them to perform better. The diligent and proactive student might ask, "How does one find themselves in such a predicament?" or, "Doesn't it bother you that you will eventually have to do the assignment anyway?"

Well, the first question has many answers, but for the sake of paper here are the main causes of the "night-before stand". It may be that you have a legitimate reason for putting off the assignment, such as to study for a big test or to take care of your little brother. However, usually the reasons are made up and intentionally invented to avoid starting any form of actual work. The procrastinator might find themselves studying the wall or taking care of their pet dragon, or imagining what it would be like to have x-ray vision. These are all minor symptoms of the disease, but the seriously infected procrastinator is plagued with EFCS or Excessive Facebook Checking Syndrome. A wise man once said, "Facebook is like a refrigerator, you know that there's nothing good in there, but you still check it every five minutes." Indeed, the addictive social network is a procrastinator's best friend, one he constantly checks for little red notification numbers and new friend requests. Facebook is a minefield of distractions, from attractive pictures of girls you may or may not know, to links for videos on YouTube, another procrastinator friendly website.

So to answer the second question, no, it doesn't bother a procrastinator that he will eventually have to do the assignment, because he finds so many nonsensical ways to avoid even thinking about it. Upon polling a number of students, I found that most students who put off work until the last minute have no desire to change their habits, or don't have the time to do homework any other way. Even though it costs sleep and some unnecessary stress, many Saintsmen say that procrastinating is the only way they know how to work, or that they operate better under pressure. The Augustinian advocates being proactive, as do all the teachers here at Saints, but with all that high school students are expected to do to be well rounded young men and get into college, it doesn't always work out the way we plan. But hey, don't let the late nights get to you. "You can sleep when you're dead!"



Club Spotlight: The African **American Alliance**

This year, the African Amer-

By Neil Rens ('12) CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

ican Alliance Club made its debut at Club Day. Many inquired about its mission and wondered if entry was limited by race. Actually, the club is the polar opposite of segregation and racism. The alliance is meant to promote camaraderie amongst the small African American population at Saints (<2%) and to promote awareness of their culture. Co-founders Eli Ashenafi and Mason Brown have not ironed out all of the details. One goal is to bring in guest lecturers to teach club members about the African American heritage. Also, members will help one another find scholarships specific to their race. The club will meet twice a month in Coach Roberts' room while club

The African American Alliance Club seems to be an admirable attempt to develop African American awareness on campus. In doing so, it also hopes to put on fundraisers and work with the ASB in order to grow as a community. However, the club lacks a clear directive, and there is only a small population of African Americans on campus. Combined, these problems could make it difficult for the club to gain traction.

officers will meet on a weekly basis.



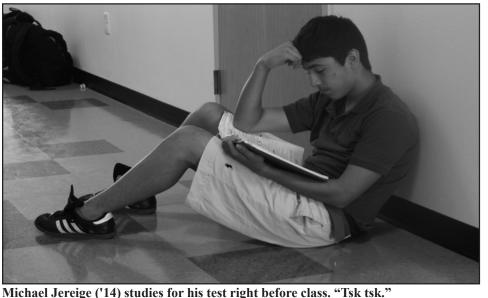


Photo Credit: Aaron Balin

Saintsman of the Issue: Tyler Hadzicki

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Speeding down the road, the wind blows through your hair as you turn the rear handle of a Hornet ©. Your heart races while you drift sharply around the corner, slowly settling after the large adrenaline boost it just experienced. Tyler Hadzicki's ('14) newest invention, a tricycle with front as well as rear steering, is a ride like no other. Wanting to ensure credit for his invention, he recently applied for and received United States Patent No. 8016311 from his attorney, Jim Cleary (85'). Contrary to popular belief, Tyler did not wake up one morning and simply decide to invent something. It was actually a birthday present to himself in the 7th grade and he did not initially plan to have rear steering. "I was riding it one day and I just grabbed the wheel for some reason. I saw that it turned really well so my dad put a handle on the back," said Tyler. From that moment, Tyler and his dad saw a potential business venture that could feature their

By Jason Mapa ('13)

prized invention. After his initial inspiration in 7th grade, Tyler continued to work on his bike. He even entered it in the science fair for an excuse to work on it during school. "I had a horrible premise for the science fair, but all I cared about was improving my bike," remembers Tyler while laughing. However lacking his premise, his invention was so ingenious that his school chose him as one of their representatives. Throughout the remainder of his time at middle school and his freshman year at high school, Tyler continued to work on his bike. Constant experimentation finally resulted in the completed model seen at mass. "A lot of work went into it, especially because we had trouble getting the gears to function. They're not normally designed to fit into

the model we have now so we had to go to many swap meets to buy huge gears," said Tyler. The building process now done, the next step for Tyler and his dad to apply for a patent.

Towards the end of his freshman year, Tyler and his dad stood before an intimidating firm. In order to prove that their idea was legitimate, they had to undergo a rigorous process including numerous forms, artist renderings, and a demonstration. "Obviously, we couldn't patent the bike as a whole, so we tailored the patent to cover the rear steering. That was what made it really unique," stated Tyler. One year later, even he didn't expect to receive the patent. "I thought we were still in the process of applying and that my dad was still working on it," remarked Tyler. Mr. Hadzicki, wanting it to be a surprise, asked Tyler's cousin Alex Larson ('13) to bring in the bike so that Tyler would be left in the dark. He was just as surprised as everyone in the gym when he received his patent.

Now that the copyright phase of his invention is over, Tyler and his dad are in the process of working with a local sporting goods facility. They are currently having issues with the manufacturing cost, but Tyler looks forward to mass production. "Once I can get them for free, I'm hoping to make a Saints' version and raffle it off at school," said Tyler excitedly. He is hoping to get in touch with the ASB to see if he can arrange a give-away for promotion. "The extra circulation at school would be a great help," says Tyler, "especially once we can get our business going." However, like all true inventors. Tyler is not concerned with solely the money. Rather, the most rewarding aspect of his time spent is the pride felt after much hard work. One day, he hopes for his bikes to will be widely available and seen on every street corner.



Tyler Hadzicki ('14) speeds across the gym on his Hornet © Photo Credit: Mr. Healy

Homecoming Was Tiiiiiigghhttt!!"



By Michael Cali ('13) STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, September 22, over 500 Saintsmen and their dates descended on the Hilton in Mission Bay

for Homecoming 2011. The ballroom was converted into a massive display of lasers, lights, screens and a DJ platform in the middle of the dance floor was hooked up to 20,000 watts of sub-woofer bass. Couples who entered were greeted by the legend himself, Mr. AJ Jimenez ('12), and his trusty camera crew. Their entrance was then broadcast live on two massive screens in the ballroom.

"AJ being there made the dance seem more legit, and probably got the girls more excited." said Brock Crecy ('13).

After the dance, The Augustinian asked a few Saintsmen and OLP girls what they were expecting from this year's dance and if those expectations were met.

"I honestly didn't know what to expect at all," said Hayley Goncalves (OLP '13), "but when I got there the atmosphere was fun and everyone was having a great time.

It totally matched and even exceeded my expectations!"

Bobby Caya ('12) said, "Homecoming was tiiiighhhhtttt! Yeah I'd say my expectations were met. The music was kinda 'iffy' at times but other than that, it was fun."

Something slightly different that most dancers probably noticed was the text message feed on the screen. "That was all me and Eli" said Junior Class officer Robby Baughman ('13). Throughout the night there were messages of "I LOVE YOU <3" and "PLEEZ DANCE WITH ME!" that appeared on the screen. There was even a shout out to our two fallen football players, Robby DeCort ('13) and Luke Chapman ('13), who despite their injuries managed to have a good time. Luke assured me, "It was hard getting through all the people but there was so much other stuff to do other than just dancing the whole time. So it was really fun."

This year, the DJ platform was in the middle of the dance floor and when the Augustinian asked the ASB about it, we were told it was done because of student request.

SEE Homecoming, pg. 4



Edwin Corpus ('12) with Sabrina Escobedo ('12) Photo Credit: Michael Jereige ('14)

THE SAINTS PLAYERS PRESENT:



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Showgirls! Gambling! Booze!



By Michael Cali ('13) STAFF WRITER

This entire weekend, the Saints Players present the American classic "Guys and Dolls!" This

upbeat, comical love story is centered around a motley gang of gamblers and their dilemma of trying to find a place to hold the "Oldest New York." This show is a combination of high energy, acrobatic dance numbers, and classic Star as Nathan Detroit and Sky Masterson, the next best thing to Vegas!

two biggest gamblers in the NYC. Opposite of them are Miranda Hart ('12) and Ashlyn Thomas as Nathan's fiance Adelaide and the "Mission Doll" Sgt. Sarah Brown. They are accompanied by a gang of colorful gangsters, a band of determined missionaries and a Hot Box full of stunning showgirls.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity Established, Permanent, Floating Crap Game in to see a show that will have you talking for days! An amazing story line coupled with breathtaking choreography and timeless music hits the stage. 1940s jazz music played by the 32nd Street Jazz If you're lookin' for action, we've got the spot! Band. Sean Hicke ('14) and Irish Giron ('12) The heat is on so get your tickets now. It's the

They Weren't Always Teachers, You Know



By Mariano Laguna ('13) STAFF WRITER

Before St. Augustine's teachers attained their dream working at Saints, they were once young adults who had to work through high school and college at a few less-thandreamy jobs.

During high school, Mr. Lamerato worked as a deli meat cutter at the Boston Market. His job was fairly simple, but very busy. He remembers one week being especially terrible for him. It began with gashing his right thumb on the meat slicer. The slice was too deep to simply put on a
In high school he was an employee at band-aid, so he was forced to get stitches. Soon afterward, he had to return to work. Later that week, Mr. Lamerato was using the same machine and he slit his thumb at the same spot as before. Once again, he had to return to the hospital and get another set of stitches. His thumb would eventually heal, but when he returned to work, his boss fired him. In college, he became a bouncer for O'Kelly's Sports Bar in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. One of the top sports bars in the country, the majority of the nights were calm and uneventful. However, when the untamed nights crept up, Mr. Lamerato was there to save the day! He used his signature wrestling move, the "Full Nelson," to lead his uncooperative victims from the premises.

Mr. Coffey, likes so many others, had to work each summer throughout college. The first two summers, he taught film production to high school students. He then moved to Manhattan and worked two jobs in order to afford his life long desire to visit Ireland. One of his jobs was

working for RR Donnelly, where he made food and served it to VIP customers and visitors of the company. His second job was working for J. Crew as a stock boy for its Fifth Avenue store. Mr. Coffey was fascinated by the teams of professionals who were hired to come in and prepare the mannequins. He worked long, tough days at RR Donnelly and even longer and tougher nights at J. Crew. His hard labor paid off, however, as he was able to visit Ireland and not have to worry about catching a leprechaun to afford it.

Fr. Alvin had many jobs in his youth. Burger King where he was a "jack of all trades." He was a member of the customers service crew, which involved cleaning the kitchen, dining room, and bathrooms. Fr. Alvin was also the cashier, which entailed taking orders, placing food and drinks onto the trays. As a cook, he placed patties onto the automatic griller and deep-fried French fries. Fr. Alvin worked at Burger King for a total of two years. After Burger King, he was hired at UC Davis for arranging conference housing. This job required him to provide hospitality to visiting students and to make sure that their visit was comfortable and ran smoothly. Fr. Alvin was later employed at Mrs. Fields' Cookies in Seaport Village, San Diego. He was responsible for making the cookie dough and baking the cookies. Their signature cookie was the famous chocolate cookie, which is a secret recipe of Mrs. Fields'.

Next issue, we'll find out what jobs other teachers held in their past. No skeleton will be left unturned!

Attending Saints from across the Border



By Julio Garcia ('14) STAFF WRITER

Students coming all the way from Mexico cross the border on a daily basis to attend Saints; these students make a great sacrifice to attend our school.

I can tell you first-hand it is difficult not only because of the commute, but also because of being in a different country every day. Speaking a different language is difficult. Spanish is my first language and I have problems with English pronunciation. It is easy to feel out of place. When asked about attending a school that is in a different country from his own, sophomore Hector Castellanos said, "I know it's difficult, but it is just a sacrifice I make so I can have better education. Life is full of little sacrifices."

For me the major difficulty of attending Saints is having to cross the border every day. You can expect a 30 to 90 minutes wait daily and that is with

a SENTRI card (special card that allows people to wait less to cross the border). Students like me who do not have a SENTRI card can expect anywhere from an hour and a half to three hours. Next time you complain about 7:00 AM being too early, just think about having to wake up at 4:30 AM. As a student who crosses the border daily I can say it is very difficult to avoid being tardy. Just the other day I got to school at around 9:00 after going through 3 hours of lines at the border and one hour of freeway traffic. Many times I have also not been able to turn in an assignment for not being able to print it on the morning. I only wish teachers could be a little more lenient in these types of

For similar reasons, attending after school events can be difficult for Mexico commuters. Iztac Flores says, "I love attending Saints, but I am sometimes disappointed that I cannot be involved in more

SEE Across the Border, pg. 8



A view of the border crossing on the way to Saints. Photo Credit: Julio Garcia

➤ Phase II

Continued from Page 1

program are also listed under the Phase II plans. The theatre will offer a new and exciting venue in which students will be able to interact through the drama club or the band. The theatre will be built with a flat floor in front of the stage to allow for other events, which would otherwise be held off campus, to be held right here at Saints. After Phase II is completed, all Saints productions will be enjoyed on campus, which will draw a larger crowd and save money.

While these improvements sound promising, it may take longer than expected to begin actual construction on the new facilities. In fact, the school plans to replace the current field with artificial turf later this year. This signals that the Administration does not anticipate Phase II to break ground for a number of years (otherwise the new field would be a waste of money). The current plans for the field call for a standard sized field, lined for football and soccer, with a large, spirited "STA" centered in the middle of the field.

Most importantly, the plans for Phase II will help bring the Saints community together in new and exciting ways. From fostering more exciting sporting events to epic drama productions to tantalizing band concerts, Phase II is designed to help the Saints community grow and thrive.

➤ Homecoming

Continued from Page 3

However, once it was actually put into reality, it was not too popular. "It was kinda dumb that they stuck the DJ right in the middle of the place" said Bobby Caya. And judging by the way most people shied away from it like it was some sort of contagion, he was not the only one feeling this way. Although this was a student body request, it probably wasn't one of the better ones.

The combination of bumpin' bass, laser lights, text messages and "dancing" made Homecoming 2011 a night to remember. Mr. Inzunza and the Junior Class officers really outdid themselves with this one. The majority of the over 500 Saintsmen in attendance would probably agree that this year's dance raised the bar a notch. Will we be able to top it next year? I'm not sure about that, but this year's will be in the minds of Saintsmen for months to come.

By Robert Baughman ('13)

STAFF WRITER

In Search of... The Scariest Senior



The photographer had to stand thirty feet back to fit Cisco's biceps in the picture.



By Evan Suda ('13)
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

Francisco Feliciano. The name itself strikes fear into the hearts of all on campus. The man (I say "man" because you could never mistake him for anyone younger than 21) himself intimidates freshman to such extremes that they can often be found cowering in trashcans as he plods along the halls, fracturing the floor with his heavy footsteps. And truth be told, there are still sophomores and even juniors that shiver at the possibility of ever making him cross. "When I was a freshman, I first saw him and thought he was a football coach," said Miguel Rodriguez ('13). His massive biceps (and every other muscle for that matter)make him the most intimidating man on campus besides Mr. Cudal. But does this giant man, with arms the size of a small freshman, deserve his reputation of terrifying

all Saintsmen? Is he really any more intimidating than a Jack Downey wielding all the political power that comes from being sopho-

more class president? Perhaps he wants to make himself less intimidating by going by the nickname of "Cisco" instead of the fierce sounding Francisco, or maybe he just likes the way it sounds. I don't care what his name is. If he called himself "Meredith," I would still get heart palpitations when I see his hulking frame. "Puh-tay-toe. Puh-tawtoe." Rumor has it that he's 7 feet tall and 250 pounds, which is incredibly intimating to me. His full neck beard, which most Saintsmen could spend their entire November attempting to grow, simply adds to the effect. He is a huge, burly gi-

ant that has to look down at you to simply say hello. Most little freshman simply run off when he calls them, "Foo." It is most likely that this physical manifestation alone creates the aura of fear that seems to emanate from him on a daily basis.

What most people don't know is that Cisco is actually a really nice person who (hopefully) would never do anything to scare you. Why else would he be surrounded by so many other seniors at lunch, all of whom are smiling and showing no fear when he glares at them? Even senior members of the newspaper staff encouraged me to go talk to him with things like, "Oh don't worry, even though he probably could tear your arms off your body, he won't. He's like a giant teddy bear." His close friend and fellow teammate Robby deCort ('13) can attest to his easy-going personality. "At first glance, he seems really scary, but when you get to know him, he's a gentle giant," says Robby. Once you get past his overly large muscles and extreme facial hair, you realize that he's just a really nice guy.

Teacher Feature: Hail to the Chief!

Many Saintsmen see Mr. Chief' Johnston around campus teaching their English or Latin classes, manning the counter at the turtle shop, or coaching the soccer team. But who is Chief, really? It all started in the year 1990, when Chief stepped on the Saints campus as a mere freshman. As a student on this campus, he received the same Catholic education we affectionately call the "Saints Experience." For Mr. Johnston, the best things about the Saints Experience were the lasting friendships and bonds built at Saints. Chief reminisced about his own Saints Experience, saying, "Many of my best friends, including my brothers who also happened to play soccer, were students with me in these

Throughout his entire time at Saints, Mr. Johnston played for the soccer team. Chief is a natural born athlete and has been playing since the age of 5. "There simply is no other sport like it," he claims, "It's a great developmental sport and I love it." When Chief graduated from Saints in 1994, he was looking into a number of colleges including St. Mary's. However, his high school soccer coach introduced him to Marquette University. From that day forward, Chief has been a mighty Marquette Golden Eagle.

very halls."

Chief excelled in his studies during his time at Marquette and loved his time in college. He explored a few different majors including Business but ultimately chose to earn a degree in English. In addition to his studies, Chief continued his career in soccer, both on the school's team and through coaching the local New Berlin Eisenhower High School team. Shortly after graduating from college, Chief was contacted by Fr. John Sanders, OSA about an open teaching position back at Saints. Excited to be back on his old "stomp-

ing grounds," Chief accepted the offer and asked to teach English in addition to the requested Latin class. He also began coaching the Saints soccer team. Under the coaching prowess of Chief, the Saints have won numerous league titles and three CIF championships. Along with coaching the Saints team, Chief also finds time on top of his teaching to coach the Crusaders club team and the soccer teams of both his son and daughter.

Mr. Johnston's nickname, Chief, is a mystery to many. The tradition began during his first year of teaching at Saints. "The name started floating around and it was something that just 'stuck," he said. This interesting nickname along with his very unique lexicon (big guy, dicey, legit, etc.) is primarily used to help students stay engaged during class. "Over the years, it just seemed to catch on," said Chief. "It helps them stay engaged in the discussion which, in the long run, improves their overall grade."

On top of Chief's very busy life at school, he still sets aside specific time for the things he loves. Chief plays indoor soccer for his local men's league and enjoys working out at the gym. Another pastime of his is reading literature, which is fitting for an English teacher. Interestingly, all the books Chief teaches in his class are all books that he enjoyed but was not able to read in high school. However, Chief wishes he could spend more time wih=th his family.

Robert Baughman: What is your biggest fear in life? Why?

Chief: My biggest fear is flying, by a longshot, more specifically, the fear of a bad flight. I'm all good with a smooth, easy flight, but when you start to throw bad weather and turbulence into the mix, I get pretty freaked out

R.B.: If a movie was being made to chron-SEE **Chief**, **pg.** 6

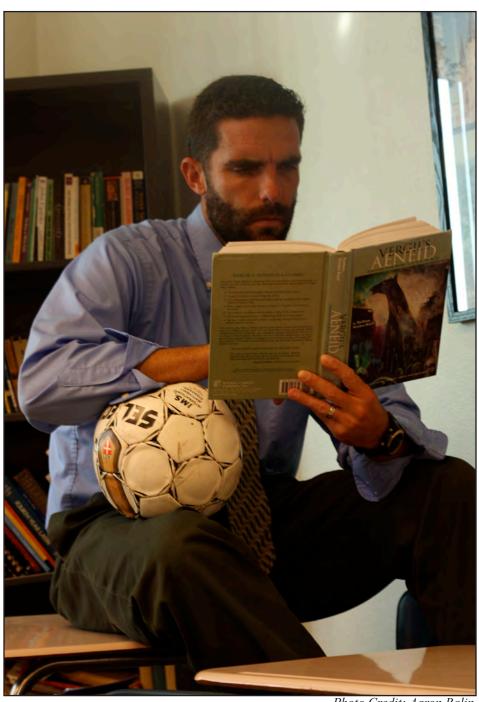


Photo Credit: Aaron Balin

The Hidden Life of the OSA



By Rex Hammock ('15) STAFF WRITER

Do you ever wonder what the Augustinian friars do when we don't see them around? Do they sit

around praying and reading the Bible all day? What is their daily routine? What do they do for fun? The answers might surprise you.

All the Augustinian priests on campus live inside the monastery in Austin Hall. Each day, they wake up and say a morning prayer together in the small chapel set up in the living room. Next, they head down to a freshly cooked breakfast prepared by Linda, the monastery cook. Breakfast often consists of eggs, toast, bacon, juice, and occasionally, a warm pastry or donut. Afterwards, they are free to participate in their daily activities which include hiking, reading, sight-seeing, and even surfing. (Be sure to ask Deacon Hardick about

his latest adventure in the barrel!) For lunch, they enjoy hot soup and a nice salad, also prepared fresh by Linda. Occasionally, the other teachers and faculty stop in for a free meal. The dining room is always busy during this time, and everyone talks excitedly about their day. At night, the priests gather once again for the evening prayer before heading off to their rooms for bed. There are many things to do inside the monastery, such as playing cards, board games, or watching TV. Although Father Alvin does not watch much TV, he loves watching movies (his favorite is "Up"). Not only is the monastery a fun and amusing place to live, but it also provides a quiet place to relax and prepare for the week's homily. Usually, it will take about an hour a week per prepare for a Mass.

While all the Priests on campus live inside the monastery, they are free to leave



Fr. Kirk and Fr. Keller look over financial records at their monthly chapter meeting. Photo Credit: Aaron Balin

The Augustinian

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Viewpoints Editor

campus whenever they wish. For daily activi-

ticipate in sports of their own, but you will al-

ways see them at your Saints sporting event.

Whether it's the league championship or the

upcoming Cathedral game, you can count on

one of the Augustinians being there to cheer

you on. When they are at the game, you know

very visible role in the community, outside of

their usual Wednesday duties. In addition to teaching and presiding over Mass, they act as

mentors and spiritual guides and maintain a

close relationship with many of the students. The priests and deacons are always around

campus and help to make Saints the great place that it is. In fact, they live energetic,

social lifestyles outside of what most Saints-

The priests and deacons at Saints play a

God is on your side as well.

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Evan Suda Sports Editor

Aaron Balin Chief Photographer

Chaplain's ties, such as going to the store, going to the movies, or visiting a friend or relative, many Corner of the priests will drive to their destination or even ride a bike. For others, like Father Alvin, walking is the preferred mode of travel By Fr. Bob Gavotto, O.S.A. and exercise. Many of the priests are also involved in sports such as tennis or volleyball. Surprisingly though, there are no kick boxers **Count your blessings** in the group Not only do many of them par-

A simple solution...

☞ Do you want to improve your grades?

☞ Do you want to improve your GPA? **☞** Do you want to have more friends?

☞ Do you want to set higher goals?

Do you want to be less materialistic?

Do you want to complain of fewer headaches and stomach aches? Do you want feel more satisfied with

your friends, with your family, with

Do you want to have more desire and time to give back?

Read those questions again.

Which of you wouldn't want to answer 'Yes' to all those questions? Well, you can, if you feel and act and be grateful. Melinda Beck in a recent article in the Wall Street Journal points out that a growing body of recent research suggests that maintaining an attitude of gratitude can improve psychological, emotional and physical well-being for adults as well as for adolescents.

And I would add that maintaining a gratitude attitude is necessary for our spiritual well-being as well. St Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4:7 - "What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not?" Everything is a gift from God: our existence (St. Augustine reminds us: Be always thankful that you exist.), our life, our new life in Christ Jesus, all that we have and are, are gifts of God.

Here are three suggested ways you can maintain a gratitude attitude and have a positive answer to those questions in your life. Count your blessings!

> (1) Keep a gratitude journal in your own Saints handbook. After you have done your homework, write down in your handbook one or two or three things that happened during the day to be grateful for. Count your blessings; be specific; write them down. Look for things around you to be grateful for and you'll start seeing them everywhere.

Take time out for five minutes during each day; settle down; speak to God and listen; focus on the sounds, smells and touches around you; pause mindfully; be grateful.

(3) Before falling asleep this evening, and every evening, review the events and people to be grateful for during the day (don't count sheep, count your blessings!) and thank God for these blessings.

Savvy SAVI Saintsmen



By Michael McRoskey ('14) STAFF WRITER

Apparently our school isn't that unique. At least, there seem to be other Augustinian schools around.

This month, I had the opportunity of a lifetime to travel with five of my fellow classmates to Tulsa, Oklahoma for the third annual SAVI (Student Augustinian Values Institute) conference. The purpose of the conference was to collaborate with the other Augustinian schools around the country and share ideas about leadership. We came back refreshed and ready with ideas that would transform the culture at Saints.

Adam Kosen, Jack Downey, Kevin Bitar, Matt O'Connor, Pat O'Connor, and I went with Fr. Kirk and Mr. Hecht to Oklahoma for a long weekend at Cascia High School. "Each year, sophomores are selected by the participants of the previous year to go to SAVI to meet with the other schools," said Fr. Kirk. "I make sure to wine my hands clean from the selection process."

Around 6:30 am on a Thursday, we met at the airport and boarded a flight for Las Vegas, where Fr. Kirk and Mr. Hecht may or may not have tried the slots and lost. Once we arrived in Oklahoma, one thing was very clear: "It's flat," recounted Pat O'Connor of the land. We disembarked the plane to an oddly humid heat and saw our fellow SAVI participants. People from eight Augustinian high schools, with locations ranging from Canada to New Jersey, were at the conference with us. Over the course of just four days, we were able to connect with the other schools so well that we vowed to visit Oklahoma again and keep in touch via Facebook and Skype.

Obviously, since we were an eclectic group from all over the country, we were all very culturally distinct. Even on the last day, we were still making fun of each other's accents. "Apparently we sound quite formal, according to the Chicagoans," remarked Adam Kosen of the different accents. As Californians, we played into our own stereotype, acting as surfers and getting everyone to throw up the "hang loose" sign by the end of the retreat.

Saints and the other schools shared many qualities, especially in our core values. However, that was not an important part of SAVI. The important part was learning about the different strengths of each school, so we could make similar improvements at Saints. These ideas didn't have to be Augustinian or religious though. For instance, St. Augustine Prep in New Jersey is focused so much on spirit that we've now brought back new chants and rally ideas for the Pit.

Another interesting aspect of the other schools was their relationships with rivals. We found it interesting that some schools sought

to reach out to their rival, specifically in the case when athletes of the rival school died in a car accident. We want to bring that feeling back to Saints. In other words: obviously Cathedral is going to lose in every game against us this year, but we don't always need to rub it in. In fact, we can try to lessen our "hate," while still maintaining an attitude of competi-

One thing I learned was that Saints needs girls. Several of the other Augustinian schools were co-ed, so we were able to see how they did things differently. One way in which we plan to implement what we learned is through greater cooperation with OLP. We hope to add more events, dances, and rallies with the girls from OLP in the near future.

SAVI will be held in two years at Saints for the fifth annual conference. "The planning process is already underway," said Kevin Bitar, "we want to build off of what we learned and make it better." Jack Downey has already started work on a dance with Cathedral, and

SEE SAVI, pg. 8



Mr. Hecht, Fr. Kirk, and the Saintsmen take a group shot in Tulsa. Photo Credit: Airport Security

In today's world, who does not want

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

➤ Meet you at the "Q"

Continued from Page 1

the "Pit" was at full strength, with a section of the bleachers reserved for them by Senior leader Peter Hulbert. Everyone was anxious for kickoff and to see who would win the official "Holy Bowl."

Once the game was under way both sides were nervous to see who would strike first. Senior kicker Seamus McMorrow put the first points on the board with a 38 yard field goal to put the Saints up by 3 in the 2nd quarter. That would not be the score entering the half though. Cathedral would kick a field goal with seven seconds left in the 2nd quarter to tie the game.

It would not be until the 4th quarter when someone would break the deadlock.

tantly, there are going to be OLP girls there!

This was the event that Mark Wolford advertised after Mass. All proceeds go to the families with spouses who are currently deployed or who have recently been deployed. **Most impor-**

Unfortunately for Saints, Cathedral would score the first touchdown of the game in the fourth quarter. The only other touchdown of the game was an interception by Cathedral, who ran the pick all the way back for another seven points. The game would end 17-3 in Cathedral's favor.

Saints was not destroyed by the defeat they received, and they're ready to hit the ground running. The number two seed entering playoffs, they have a first round bye and are then ready to go. They will play the winner of Montgomery vs. Mar Vista in the quarter finals of the CIF Playoffs. Saints looks forward to the chance of meeting Cathedral for the Championship game in Qualcomm Stadium, with an even stronger team than before.

➤Chief

Continued from Page 4

icle your life, who would you choose to play yourself, and why?

Chief: I've been told that I bear quite a striking resemblance to Ben Affleck. If I had to choose someone I would relate to better, it would probably be Chris Farley. He even attended Marquette.

R.B.: What is your favorite food to eat or make?

Chief: I'm pretty big on BBQ myself. If I'm out at a restaurant though, you can't go wrong with a nicely cooked steak.

R.B.: What would you say is your favorite thing about teaching at Saints?

Chief: I love teaching at Saints because of its dynamic nature. I teach my classes differently every year, every month, every week, and even every day. This along with the great number of committed and excellent teachers that work here at Saints make teaching an awesome experience for me.

Health Corner: Energy Drinks



By Joe McCabe ('13) STAFF WRITER

to be associated with a rockstar, a monster, or even a bull on the sports field? These are all images that people aspire to attain by consuming energy drinks. Over the course of their high school career, most students will probably feel the need to drink at least one. Although these may seem like fantastic sources of energy, one should

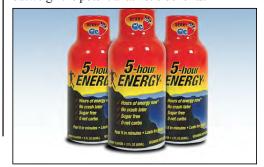
think twice before taking another sip. These drinks claim to give you the energy you need to stay focused. Some newer energy drinks also claim to not give the "sugar crash" associated with other ultra sweet drinks. However, these drinks all do more harm than good to your body. First, the caffeine accelerates your heart rate. This makes your body work harder and puts you at risk for a myriad of health problems. One woman in Tennessee even attempted suing Five Hour Energy, claiming that her husband suffered a heart attack as a result of drinking a Five Hour Energy. While the Five Hour Energy may not have been responsible for the man's death, it easily could have contributed. Caffeine can also have a diuretic effect (it causes dehydration), which never mixes well with sports. Another problem is the tremendous amount of sugar contained in energy drinks. A typical energy drink such as Monster has 54 grams of tooth-rotting sugar, which is over twice the amount in a Coke. Also, as you know, sugar is related to problems such as obesity and diabetes.

If this is not enough to convince you of the dangers of energy drinks, an online caffeine calculator known as "Death by Caffeine" lets you input your weight and an energy drink and will give you the number of drinks needed to kill you. For example, a 130 lb person (the average weight of a freshman) only needs the equivalent in caffeine of 115 shots of espresso to kill them. However, a drink such as a Monster would take the amount of caffeine in 55 cans to kill you. And finally, it would only take 17 cans of the strongest energy drink (ALRI Hypershot) to kill a freshman. If these numbers are not enough to scare you, I am not sure what would.

When faced with the need to pull an all nighter, you may be asking "What can I have that will not harm me but still keep me awake?" Well, believe it or not, a cup of coffee is better for you than a drink such as a Five Hour Energy, even though it purportedly has the same amount of caffeine as an energy drink. A cup of coffee is better for you because you ingest the caffeine at a slower rate than if you were to down a five hour energy. Drinks like Powerade and Gatorade, though filled with sugar, provide even better options as they do not have heart speeding caffeine. Also, apples can actually help you stay awake as they have natural sugars that give you energy, as well as vitamins to help you feel more energized. Finally, a daily multivitamin will give you energy needed to get through the day.

Energy drinks are not just hard on your body. They are also hard on your wallet. The average energy drink can cost you anywhere from two to five dollars a bottle. Two or three energy drinks a week can cost as much as forty dollars a month.

Although these drinks are not very healthy, some Saints athletes claim that these drinks do in fact have some benefits. Varsity offensive linemen James Filley claims, "I drink a Five Hour Energy before every game and it keeps me going in the fourth quarter." Sounds like a pretty good advertising slogan to me. Another Saintsman, Robby Baughman, says that graduate Nick Church used to drink an energy drink before every practice. Coincidentally, Nick holds multiple school records. Did energy drinks help? Perhaps, but the long-term health risks certainly outweigh the potential athletic benefits.





Homefront San Diego Benefit Concert

Featuring

America's Got Talent Top Ten Finalist

Taylor Mathews







OLP's Hannah-Graci

Blessie

Saturday, November 19th, 7:30 pm Cottonwood Golf Club Pavilion 3121 Willow Glen Drive, El Cajon 92019

Tickets must be purchased in advance through Campus Ministry or by calling Jaclyn Ross 619-858-5440 \$10.00 Open Seating show time 7:30 \$25.00 VIP Seating and Pre-show reception with Taylor Mathews 6:30

Teaching the Team, Coaching the Class



By Jack Drapp ('13) STAFF WRITER

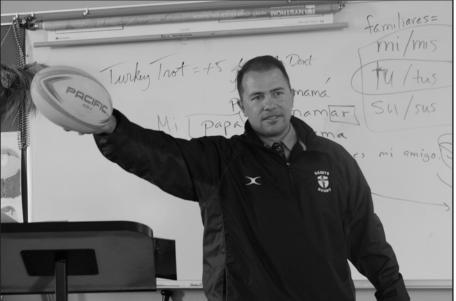
Despite countless hours spent in the classroom, around fortyeight percent of Saints teachers dedicate time to coaching a sport. Many of the teachers played sports in high school and college and some have even played professionally. So why don't they all coach a sport? Coaches invest even more time than the players, many of whom struggle to balance school and athletics. Father Alvin spends hours after school grading enormous stacks of paper, making it hard for him to imagine fitting coaching into his busy schedule. For someone to take up such an endeavor, extreme commitment is required.

For Chief, coaching is more than a position; it is a privilege. He approaches coaching as an opportunity to spread his wisdom and experience with soccer. "I know this is the right job for me," said Mr. Johnston, "I never grow tired of teaching and coaching and it makes me appreciate my job more." Like many other teachers, Chief utilizes his skills as a coach to create a dynamic, lively classroom environment. "Knowing when the right times are to be either critical or supportive of a student's performance in class is the most important skill I have learned from coaching that I try to keep in mind within the classroom," said

Coach Johnston. He aims to strike the perfect balance between the informative role of a teacher and the encouraging role of a coach

Most teachers doubling as coaches are extremely proficient at getting a row-dy crowd of teenagers to settle down. Throughout their coaching experiences, they have been able to gain a firm grasp on how to handle students. Like Mr. Johnston, other teachers believe it is much easier to relate to the students because of shared experiences in the athletic arena. Similarly, students understand that the ex-

pectations of a coach also apply in the classroom. They can easily translate a coach's expectations to the classroom environment. This healthy relationship between a teacher and his students is integral to the success of the course. Teachers who coach can take advantage of their two jobs and can intermix aspects of both positions. Mr. Dent even likes to pass a rugby ball around when his students answer questions during class. After a long day of teaching, who wouldn't want to go play or coach the sport they love?



Chico! If you don't pass you have to join Rugby!

Photo Credit: Aaron Balin

Does Faith Inform Your Politics?

By Cole Schenewerk ('13) STAFF WRITER

Today, many people are challenged by the apparent conflict between their religion and society. There are many topics where society takes a viewpoint opposite of religion. These often become hot political issues: abortion, social security, welfare, prayer in public schools, and the teaching of evolution. How should Catholics stand on these issues? And more generally, how should religion be a part of our political views?

In a search for the answer, I first opened my copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Then, I sneezed. This book is much dustier than it should be. After some searching, I found an answer: "The human person needs to live in society. Society is not for him an extraneous addition but a requirement of his nature" (CCC 1936). The Catechism then proceeds to define how a society should function, stating what a government should be in relation to the people. But the essential message is that we must be a part of society while still living out our Catholic morals.

Many see it another way and cite Jesus himself: "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." (Luke 20:25, NAB) This quote had been used in many cases to justify the separation of Church and state all over the world. It is also sometimes used as an excuse for not taking religious views into ac-

count when voting in a political election. The Church, however, sees this interpretation as incorrect. As shown by the quote from the Catechism, we must also be a part of society and our beliefs must influence our actions. In the first quote, Jesus was speaking about paying taxes to the Roman emperor. Jesus is not telling his followers to do whatever they want in their secular lives. Rather, He is telling them that their secular lives are a part of their spiritual lives. He is encouraging them to remain a part of society, not to consider it separate from religion.

The Catholic religion is not something we do for recreation on Sundays. Our faith is an integral part of how we live, especially in the decision-making process. Decisions on political issues should also be guided by the teachings of the Church. Unfortunately, nothing in politics is black-and-white.

Everyone likes decisions where there is a clear choice between good and evil. But in the real world, there are few such decisions. Two hotly debated Church teachings are abortion and the need for welfare. Conservative political parties often oppose abortion and many Catholics vote as Republicans because of this issue. In contrast, liberal political parties are often concerned with social justice, including the need for welfare programs. Some Catholics vote as Democrats because of this. The determination of which candidate is going to uphold the morals of the Church is not always a



simple decision.

Parishes and dioceses in the U.S. don't have to pay as much in taxes as a business because they have obtained a special status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This status is known as a 501(c)(3) organization, after the relevant section in the U.S. Tax Code. A side-effect of this status is that tax-exempt organizations are not allowed to endorse a political candidate or tell others how to vote on a certain issue. This includes sermons, the placing of signs on church property, and distributing printed election guides to parishioners. The

Church is unable to tell people how to vote and must trust that parishioners are making a good decision based on their Catholic values when they vote.

We can't forget that our Catholic faith is part of our everyday lives. When making political decisions, we have to take into account our religious beliefs as well. The Church is unable to tell us directly who should get our vote, but it can guide our conscience so that we make the right decision. So when you turn eighteen and get to vote in your first election, remember your faith and let your conscience guide you.

The Augustinian Wants to Know

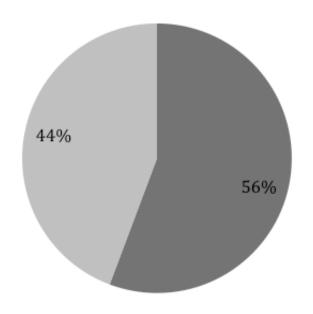
- 1. If you could buy a new computer today, which would it be?
 - a. a Mac
 - b. a PC
- 2. Which computer do you predominantly use at home?
 - a. a Mac
 - b. a PC

A total of 70 Saintsmen were polled across all grade levels.

- 55.7% of people say they regularly use a PC at home
- 44.3% say they regularly use a Mac at home
- Of the Mac users, 93.5% would get another Mac.
- Of the PC users, 56.4% would get another PC.

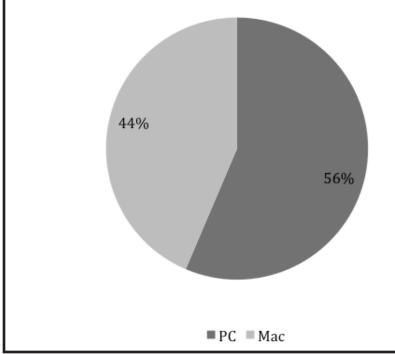
Most of the people who currently have Macs would choose to buy another Mac. However, a substantial amount of students who currently own PCs would prefer to have a Mac. Consumer loyalty seems to be stronger in Macs, while numerous PC users continue to migrate.

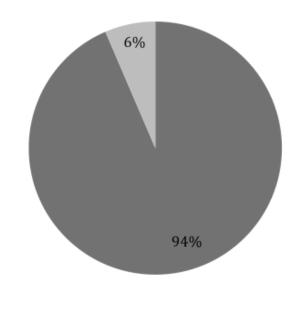
Computer Usage



■ PC ■ Mac

Preferred Next Computer--PC Users | Preferred Next Computer--Mac Users





■ Mac ■ PC

Everything You Know is Wrong

Exposing popular science "facts" for the myths they really are.



By Alec Payne ('12) MANAGING EDITOR

Ok, maybe not everything, but it is certainly surprising how many urban myths people believe. Science is especially prone to misconceptions because it is generally inaccessible and full of jargon. The following is a compilation of prevalent scientific misapprehensions and the reality behind each one. Go through the list, and see exactly how deluded you are

We use only 10% of our brain.

The people who believe this are probably the ones who are using only 10% of their brain. Contrary to the premise of movies like Limitless and Inception, everyone uses all parts of their brain. Of course, not every single neuron you have is used simultaneously. Some are receiving input or are undergoing an action potential, but nevertheless, every part of your brain is utilized. Besides, what would be the point of evolving larger and larger brains if we only use 10% of it? Our brains are 3% of our body weight, but they expend 20% of our energy. Surely, that energy is not being wasted on the 90% that we do not use.

Sugar makes children hyperactive.

This super popular myth is surprisingly untrue. Dozens of double-blind studies have been conducted to explore the link between sugar and hyperactivity, but nothing significant has ever been discovered. Even studies on kids with ADHD have shown no correlation between sugar intake and craziness. However, it has been shown that when parents believe that their kid has had sugar, they

tend to rate the activity levels of their child much higher. It appears that the correlation between the two is just in the minds of the parents. "Sugar highs" apparently do not exist. Maybe a high sugar diet just makes kids extra fat, which would slow them down and mask their hyperactivity?

Different parts of our tongues have specific functions for tasting different things.

The so-called "tongue map" is just not supported by science. Every taste bud you have is capable of sensing the five components of taste: sour, sweet, salty, bitter, and umami. It is true that some people have slightly higher sensitivities to certain flavors in different locations on their tongue, but there is no common

Microwaves can give you cancer.

map of strictly-defined gustatory areas.

Microwaves operate through shooting non-ionizing radiation at your food. Non-ionizing radiation is the kind that is not able to ionize atoms or molecules, thus it is not the kind that can give you cancer. Also, the microwave is a Faraday cage, which means that microwave radiation inside it cannot escape. Operating a microwave cannot give you cancer.

Most of your heat is lost through your head.

People who believe this clearly have overheating brains. Not including clothes, insulation, or friction, you lose heat at the same rate at every part of your body. If this myth were true, then your skull would constantly have an internal temperature of much greater than

SOUR SOUR

SALTY SWEET SALTY

100 degrees Fahrenheit, which is significantly higher than the known, average 98.6 degrees body temperature. Perhaps this myth comes from the fact that the face is one of the most temperature-sensitive parts of the body, which makes it seem like covering it up significantly increases your temperature.

Shaving makes your hair grow back thicker, changes its color, or stimulates new growth.

Sorry, Saintsmen. The excuse that shaving made your goatee grow back thicker will not help you get out of a dress code for having facial hair. A hair that has been unshaved naturally narrows to a point, and cutting it removes that point. It only leaves a hair that has a blunt edge. In fact, the part of the hair that we cut is actually dead. The part that is alive is below the surface of your skin. Cutting the dead part has no affect on the activity of the part that is alive

➤ SAVI

Continued from Page 5

the ASB has been briefed on other changes forthcoming. Other possible findings and changes include the revamp of our bookstore, Halo Joe's, and a conversion into a digital ID card system.

I enjoyed SAVI, not because I got to skip school, but because it provoked thought on what needs to change at Saints and how to change it. Most of the changes that will take place may seem minor, but they add up to become transformational of our culture.

SAVI has inspired us to begin to make the changes at Saints that will make it more enjoyable and rewarding.

An Easy Way to Make LOTS of Money \$\$\$\$



By Nathan Penick ('12) STAFF WRITER

This article is for all my *real* friends. If you're a *real* friend, you'll show this article to ten people. Bill Gates will donate \$3 to the fund to cure orphan baby panda bears of cancer for every person to whom you show this article.

Ever see a message like this cluttering your inbox or invading your Facebook wall? Yeah, it's called a chain letter, and they're infuriating. They're like attaching a giant sign to your back that reads "I am an idiot. Join me so we can further the cause of unintelligence." What kind of person is so gullible that they feel the need to forward such blatant ignorance to you? How do people propagate this stupidity? I suspect these are the same people who click on internet advertisements offering a free laptop (you know, the kind that ask you for your social security number and credit card so they can give you a free gift?)

Now *you*, as an intelligent and informed reader of the illustrious Augustinian, aren't dumb enough to forward a chain letter. However, should you come across such a person, I have put together a comprehensive guide to avoiding the shame of being a part of the chain letter curse.

- If it sounds too good to be true, it is. Sorry, you will not get a free laptop for forwarding that letter.
- Stop. Think. Am I forwarding this because the mean letter is threatening me?
 Or do I just feel guilty? If either of these are the case, *do not* click the "post" button.
- 3. The Make-a-Wish Foundation has no way to track how many times a message has been reposted/forwarded. Not to mention the fact that it is an illegal invasion of privacy. And why would they play games with a child's life?
- 4. The more ridiculous the situation, the less likely it's true. So that kid is an orphan and she has lung cancer and a brain tumor and a dying wish to be a Facebook celebrity? As our dear Mr. Ryan Theodore Ignatius Tweed would say to the person who believes this: "Pity the fool."
- 5. 88+22 =/= 100. These kinds of glaring mistakes really speak to the type of people who write and then spread these chain letters, don't they?
- 6. Most importantly, don't be an idiot. For this example, I draw upon the immortal words of Dwight Schrute: "Before I do anything I ask myself: 'Would an idiot do that?' And if the answer is yes, I do not do that thing."

➤ Across the Border

Continued from Page 3

extracurricular activities because of my carpool." After being asked how he feels about traveling to another country to go to school he commented, "I feel like I'm lucky to attend this school. It is an honor. I love the people I have met and all of the friends I have made."

Most of these students have already attended a school in the U.S. Enrique Von Borstel, who is a new student this year, says, "Last year I went to school in Tijuana. It is very different, I went from speaking Spanish all day to speaking English all day. It is going to take some time to get used to it." As for me, I have gone to school in the U.S. since 5th grade. At first it was a very tough adjustment. School is incredibly different in both

countries. In Mexico you don't change classes. You stay with the same class all year. Only the teachers change. Also, you can't choose which subjects to take.

As these students attend Saints, their culture mixes with several others, creating the diversity present in the Saints brotherhood. Each subculture adds a little to the collective culture of Saints. We can teach each other about our culture and traditions. In this way, students learn from each other. Charles Rayner says, "I love talking to kids who come from Mexico. I mean, it's pretty cool to talk to kids from another country."

This is the journey some students endure. Everyone's journey to school is different. I hope after reading this you have a deeper understanding of students coming from Mexico.

by Mr. Vladimir Bachynsky

