

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

Issue 4 January-February 2012 Saint Augustine High School

Saintsmen Clean Up Mission Bay ASB Update

By Alex Danilowicz ('15)
STAFF WRITER

There was no time for Shamu or SeaWorld when the Saints student body showed up at Mission Bay on February 3rd. The famous tourist destination got an early spring-cleaning from 715 Saintsmen wearing ridiculously bright, neon yellow t-shirts, courtesy of Mr. Hecht. The charitable initiative was part of Saints 90-year anniversary effort to give back to San Diego.

With the sun shining brightly through the clouds at a warm 80 degrees, it was a perfect day for service.

“Although every student is required [to complete] 25 service hours a year, there’s nothing like the entire student body coming together to give back to the community,” said Mr. Inzunza.

Students were organized by homeroom. Before the trash pick-up even started, Mr. Issak told his students, “Remember to have fun!” Most students did their best to follow his directions. Games were organized among homeroom classes to encourage a fruitful cleanup. Mr. Inzunza named his assignment to clean the beach “Operation War Horse.”

Mrs. Arn’s homeroom had a competition with Mr. Bernens’ homeroom on who could pick up more cigarette butts. Cigarette butts are the most frequently littered objects in the world. It’s no surprise the winning homeroom—Mrs. Arn’s—accumulated a whopping 300 filthy filters.

Students reported having the most fun from the interesting objects they found.

“You wouldn’t believe the weird objects you find on a beach,” said Freshman Ricardo Castillo.

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Michael Rougas ('14) paints a gazebo at Mission Bay. Photo credit: Aaron Balin

By Michael McRoskey ('14)
STAFF WRITER

ASB is back in gear with some great events for the road ahead.

Believe it or not, class elections are coming up pretty soon. That’s right, you can have the opportunity to secure a position on the class or executive council. Talk to an ASB member or Mr. Hecht about running. If you’re willing to commit to serving your fellow classmates and attend morning meetings three days a week, then ASB is a fantastic avenue to help out on campus.

The talent show is just around the corner. If you can sing, juggle, or just want to watch AJ dance, then this is for you. In fact, it’s a win-win because all proceeds benefit the Hogar Infantil Orphanage in Tijuana. The date for that is April 3rd.

And don’t forget that the school is being evaluated in March. The Western Association for Schools and Colleges and the Western Catholic Educational Association are coming to Saints. WASC and WCEA will help Saints progress in the years ahead. They’re the reason we have all those ESLR’s in each classroom and get days off school while teachers don’t. So be sure to be on your best behavior for the committee. As Saintsmen, we should represent our school in a manner befitting Christian gentlemen.

Also, at this time of year the administration reviews changes to the handbook. Therefore, we need suggestions from you. Do you want something changed in the dress code? Do you disagree with a policy? Do you want better questions for Are You Smarter Than a Freshman? Drop us a line at SaintsASB10@gmail.com and be sure to check out our Facebook page for more updates on the events ahead.

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Saintsmen Sirvieron en Guatemala

By Robby Baughman ('13)
STAFF WRITER

Each year, Saints adds more and more classes to their intersession program. This year, Fr. Kirk developed a service learning course whereby he and Fr. Alvin would lead a group of students to Guatemala. This offered the students an opportunity to learn while engaging in Christian service in a different cultural setting. While there have been other intersession travel opportunities offered at Saints, the Guatemala trip was the first to allow students to experience what it is to live with less. I was lucky enough to take part in this unique opportunity to learn about the Mayan culture and perform service alongside my classmates: Miguel Rodriguez ('13), Eli Ashenafi ('13), Joe Zehentbauer ('13), Bobby Jertberg ('13), Will Smith ('14), Fernando Galan ('14), Koichi Ishino ('13), Rico Dominguez ('13), Phil Park ('14), Jose Fernandez ('13), and Mark Wolford ('14). The majority of the time, we worked at a mission in San Lucas Tolimán, nestled alongside beautiful Lake Atitlan. Our entire trip was spread out over fifteen days.

Our group of students stayed

at a small hotel only a block away from the mission. Since the entire community of San Lucas was built around the mission, many of the townspeople worked with the mission and a very large number of them attended Mass weekly. Each day, we worked during the morning and the afternoon for almost two weeks. We ate at the parish and, for the most part, had


our evenings free to ourselves for the most part. The volunteers working at the parish and the Mayan people were very welcoming to us. Everywhere we went the people were smiling and hospitable.

We did not travel to Guatemala to perform humanitarian service, but rather, we worked

SEE Guatemala pg. 8



Visit to UK and France Was Linvigorating

**By Andrew Gaylord ('13)**
STAFF WRITER

This year's Intercession European trip offered the opportunity to experience the awe-inspiring countryside of Ireland and Wales while also seeing the grandeur of the cities of London and Paris. Undeniably, it was an experience that will not soon be forgotten.

Most of the group was unsure of what to expect, but as soon as the landscape of Ireland graced our eyes, we were in awe. We circumnavigated the Ring of Kerry, surrounded by beautiful lakes and vegetation lush from nearly constant rain. Remains of once towering castles littered the landscape of the land of the Leprechauns. Our hexalingual tour guide, Ailbe Coffey (no relation to Mr. Brendan Coffey), explained to us that Ireland has one of the highest densities of castles per square mile in the world.

The first major city we visited was Dublin. There, the grounds of the Guinness Factory are seen as holy ground. Upon arriving, we walked the main avenue of town, O'Connell Street, to Trinity College, the center of the city and also the college from which our very own Mr. Brendan Coffee hails. The Monument of Light, a thin, metal tower, dominates the skyline of the city. We discovered that every monument in Dublin had a nickname: the Monument of Light, commonly called "The Spire," the statue formally titled Molly Malone, called the "Tart with the Cart," and countless others. The only things in Dublin more common than the monuments were the pubs. Patrick Hagan ('14) encountered a frequent pub-goer who pulled his pants down during a 3 a.m. hotel fire alarm. Scarred for life, the group departed for Wales after two nights in Dublin.

Though we only stayed one day and night in Wales, they became some of the most memorable hours of the trip. Through the land of Snowdonia National Park we traversed, marveling at the stunning mountain region and the waterfalls that cascaded down its cliffs. We explored the Beaumaris Castle, imagining the jousting matches held in its vast courtyard and

(Get it? Because they went with Mr. Linville. Never mind...)

the armies that would have tried to capture the moat-surrounded fortress. We also got to see the small town of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwymdrobwllllantysiliogogogoch (pronounced "that town with the really long name").

Next, Stratford, Shakespeare's hometown, was our first taste of England; the tourist-friendly town glorified Shakespeare and his plays. Stopping next in Oxford, we saw the Gothic architecture of the colleges and were surprised to learn that this year, tuition was free for anyone in the EU. Then it was off to London, a city with a rich history of war and royalty. Along the way to the famous Big Ben, Parliament, and the London Eye, we walked through Trafalgar Square, saw the countdown clock to the 2012 Summer Olympics, explored Piccadilly Circus (London's equivalent to Times Square), and used the subway, or the Tube, extensively. We visited Westminster Abbey and were lucky to see the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace. At night, a hilarious tour guide told us the not-so-hilarious story of the murderer Jack-the-Ripper. Lastly, we passed the Tower of London and walked to St. Paul's Cathedral before crossing the famous Tower Bridge.

On day 9, we left London via the Chunnel (the railway under the English Channel) to arrive in Paris. Ancient imposing structures cast long shadows on the pavement we shared with tourists, Gypsies, and native Frenchmen. To begin our grand tour of Paris, we visited the gold-capped structure of Les Invalides (where Napoleon was buried) and the Sacré-Cœur Basilica. Later we ascended the iconic Eiffel Tower, offering us a beautiful view of Paris at night.

The following day, we began with Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral and found the statue of Quasimodo on the outer-walls of the cathedral. Before spending three hours in the Louvre Museum, we visited the Pantheon and the highly academic Latin Quarter. It was a straight shot from the Louvre's legendary glass pyramids to the Arc de Triomphe along the notoriously expensive and strikingly beautiful Avenue des



Champs-Élysées. We climbed the hundreds of steps up Napoleon's celebrated Arc to see the most magnificent view of Paris thus far. After dinner and some last minute sight seeing, our grand tour of Paris came to a close.


However, the trip was not quite over. Due to weather-related and technical problems lead-

ing to flight delays, we ended up staying a free night in Washington, D.C. at a luxurious golf resort. Though Andrew Gaylord ('13) was the only one of us who got to see D.C. (his family was coincidentally there), the rest of us were happy to stay at the hotel and finally catch up on some much needed rest.

They Weren't Always Teachers, You Know (Part II)



Mr. Christian DaLuz as a bellhop at the San Diego Princess Resort circa 1993.

**By Mariano Laguna ('13)**
STAFF WRITER

Coach Roberts has held a variety of different jobs before coming to teach at Saints. He first secured a position as a waiter for IHOP, but hated it because he received very low wages and gained weight from constantly eating pancakes. He then moved on to work as a security guard for concerts, sporting events, and the transit service. However, he still earned minimum wage, so his next endeavor was to start his own business. In fact, he started two: one promoted parties at night clubs, while the other organized athletic camps.

"The best part about running my own business was being able to dictate my own hours. Just that freedom was amazing," said

Mr. Roberts.

But his love of singing could not be repressed, so he pursued a career as a stage actor. He has performed in numerous plays at the Lyceum Theatre in San Diego such as *Christmas is Coming Uptown* (a Harlem version of *A Christmas Carol*) and *Colour Blind* (a charged musical about an interracial couple).

However, his true calling could not be ignored.

"I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher ever since I was twelve," said Mr. Roberts.

He first took up a teaching position at Mt. Miguel High School. After teaching algebra for two years, he began substituting at Cathedral and coached their track and field team. He eventually made his way to Saints and called it home.

"I very much enjoy being a coach here, and with coaching comes teaching," Coach Roberts said. "I feel like I'm following in the footsteps of my inspirational pop-warner coach when I was little."

.....

Mr. Christian da Luz was an employee at Sea World throughout his high school career. He worked at a concession stand and used his earnings for "spending money." During college, he worked at the San Diego Princess Resort. Originally hired as an employee at the fitness center, he later secured a position as a bellhop.

"The bell captain actually was a Saints graduate and gave me the shifts that fit into my schedule," Mr. da Luz said.

This job had flexible hours and helped pay for his college education. However, his favorite part of the job was interacting with the people that came to the hotel. Occasionally, Mr. da Luz would even run into actors and actresses.

"I was taking a WWII class at SDSU, and at the same time, HBO was screening a documentary on the Tuskegee Airmen at the hotel. Not only was I able to learn about them in class, but I actually showed some of the surviving airmen around," said Mr. da Luz.

In addition, the hotel would host the "Thunderboat Races" on the bay sponsored by Anheuser Busch. The company's top distributors who were staying at the hotel were extremely generous tippers to say the least.

"All my best tips came from those races. At times it was so over the top, you stopped for a second," Mr. da Luz said with a laugh.

Yet no amount of tips could have kept him away from his true calling as a teacher; the siren calls of the Saints classroom proved to be much more enticing.

► Day of Service

Continued from Page 1

Sophomore Tyler Tanaka, from Fr. Alvin's homeroom, found a spoon underneath a pile of leaves. Freshman David Rivera, a member of Mr. Healy's homeroom, stumbled upon a broken TV on Fiesta Island. It was also Mr. Healy's homeroom that found one of the notorious items warned about at the previous assembly: a hypodermic needle. Rex Hammock from Mr. Sipper's freshman homeroom found a red power ranger buried in the sand. There's no word at this time as to whether Rex has added it to his collection.

The Saints faculty discussed the idea of the school-wide service project last year.

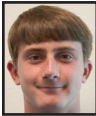
"We wanted to say 'thank you' to San Diego for partnering with us in our mission," Father Kirk said.

Saint Augustine's new athletic field, which should be completed by late March, received the city's approval in part because of Saints excellent reputation in the community. Both Villanova and Mendel Hall were also endorsed by San Diego's Development Services, a process that is not easy. Some teachers were quick to point out that the all-school day of service helped to solidify the relationship between the school and the city.

The recent campus-wide day of service at Mission Bay was the first event of its kind for our school. Hopefully, someday we can do it again. Perhaps for our 100th anniversary?

After all was said and done, the army of students and faculty that descended on Mission Bay made a difference that day. San Diego was grateful to us, and we were grateful to the city. After all, that's why we were there in the first place.

Saintsman of the Issue: Eli Ashenafi



By Joe Keane ('13)
STAFF WRITER

In this corner, hailing out of San Diego, California: Junior Class president, African-American Alliance president, and tennis all-star, the undisputed champion of The Augustinian for the month of February, ELIIII ASHENAAAAAFI!!!

Well, okay, Eli is not a boxer, but he *is* a true Renaissance man. Eli can be found anywhere there is a school event, and he is pretty much the go-to guy for juniors to find out what the heck is going on in their busy school.

Eli is a great student, but when asked to reveal his favorite teacher, he diplomatically replied, “I’d rather not say.” He did, however, say that his favorite class is Biology. He is also a member of the Loyal Sons of St. Augustine, a select club dedicated to the service of our great school. We see them representing the spirit of Saints in their spiffy black vests. I am sure Eli does just as excellent a job in this organization as he does with the ASB.

He is also the president of the African-American Alliance, a non-ethnicity restricted cultural awareness club. About this he said, “It’s a unique experience hearing various viewpoints from other members of the club. I would encourage anyone to join.”

As you can see, the guy takes life by the horns. With all the prestigious positions he holds, you’d think he doesn’t have time for friends or family—but this is not the case. Eli makes sure to balance school, extra-curricular activities, and spending time with his parents and younger sister.

“If it were the last day of my life,” Eli said, “I would have a huge reunion with all my family and friends. That and climb Mt. Everest with the lovely Brooklyn Decker.”

The humor kept coming when I asked him what his favorite Jeremy Lin quote was. He replied, “All I do is Lin Lin Lin no matter what.” In spite of the hype surrounding Jeremy Lin and the New York Knicks, it’s Bos-

ton, MA that Eli profoundly loves, along with all of its teams—except the Patriots.

“I don’t like Tom Brady because he’s totally overrated. Everyone seems to blow him out of the water. And Bill Belichick is a lying scumbag cheater,” Eli said.

How does Eli do all of these things, you might ask? He said that he gets inspiration from one of his role models, Dr. Ben Carson, a world renowned pediatric neurosurgeon. Born in a tough part of Detroit, Carson was raised by his mother, and struggled to get off the streets and create a better life for himself. He learned all that he could, and attended Yale University. Dr. Carson has since won several awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, which was bestowed upon him by President George W. Bush in 2008. Eli admires his determination and courage despite his difficult upbringing, and said, “If he made it to where he is with all that he had going on, we surely can make it, too.”

Eli’s ambition is to become a doctor in the Navy, which brings us to his other source of inspiration: military members.



“They work as hard as they possibly can every day to preserve what millions of Americans take for granted,” he said.

With such amazing figures to look up to, it’s hardly surprising that Eli is such a successful Saintsman. To close my interview, I asked Eli who he would talk to if he could have a conversation with anyone that has ever lived.

“Mohandas Gandhi,” he said, “because he had so much wisdom to share and was an incredible advocate for peace. It may sound corny, but when you think about it, we all need some words of wisdom at some point in our lives.”

Fantasy Intercession Courses

If money were no object, what would be your ideal Intercession course? Here are a few of ours:

Become a 007

Earn a License to Kill in four weeks. Learn to always say your last name first, and then your full name. Drive Aston Martins, use state-of-the-art gadgets, and get your nemesis to reveal his entire evil plan before failing to kill you. Taught by Cudal...Mister Cudal.

Space Travel

5...4...3...2...1...Blast-off! Experience weightlessness, nausea, and a view of the Earth from space (window seat required). Prerequisite: Must have \$200,000 and a rudimentary understanding of the Russian language.

Dream Analysis

Ever dreamed that you had a tattoo on the roof of your mouth that was in love with your mother? Find out what dreams like that mean! For homework, stay up all night having fun, and then bring your sleeping bags to Saints. Then try to guess what your friends’ dreams mean. No answers are wrong!

Time Travel

Save Lincoln’s life! Manipulate the stock market! Go back hundreds of years to see Sir as a rookie teacher! To take this class, follow these three simple steps: 1) become cryogenically frozen 2) wait until time travel is invented 3) go back in time and take this Intercession class.

My Experience at Traffic School



By Michael Infantine ('12)
STAFF WRITER

Really? Katy Perry again?” I thought to myself. I was driving on the 8 East headed to school, like any other morning, with “The One That Got Away” playing on three different radio stations at the same time. I turned the dial in hopes of finding some better tunage when something suddenly caught my eye. I looked in my rear-view mirror and found that I was being tailed by a motorcycle cop with lights flashing. I pulled over to the shoulder, rolled down my window, and nervously awaited that dreaded question. The officer approached my car and asked, “Do you know why I pulled you over?” It turned out I had been speeding at 85 mph. I wasn’t totally unaware that I had been speeding, but I also didn’t realize I was going quite that fast. After a thorough lecture on how dangerous and irresponsible it was of me to speed, I received a fun \$360 ticket and was sent on my way. Little did I know, this financial punishment was only the beginning of my woes.

After explaining the situation to my parents, I coughed up the money and was instructed to go to traffic school. Before long, the morning of my traffic school date had arrived, and I had to pay the piper. Not knowing what to expect, I walked into the building, slunk into a seat against the back wall, and waited for the thing to be over.

As my fellow traffic-violators rolled in as the day progressed, I found that I was accompanied by a host of colorful characters. One man, heavy-set and middle-aged, looked like he could have been in the Mafia. He was a huge man with thin, slicked back hair, big

gold rings on each of his fat fingers, and an unseemly amount of chest hair spilling out of his inadequately buttoned pinstripe dress shirt.

Then there was the frail old man who must have been at least 80 years old. He didn’t even seem fit to drive, and probably wasn’t—he was there for running a red light. Beside him lay an oxygen tank on wheels with clear plastic tubes leading to his nostrils. Every time he opened his mouth to talk, you could almost see dust come out.

Another character was a woman with irrelevant cat stories. Constantly throughout the day, she would tell stories about her cats that had ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to do with what anyone was talking about. However, she somehow tangentially related the subject at hand back to her cats. “So let me get this straight. What’s the rule about turning right on red? Because this one time I was in the car with one of my cats...” Let me explain it this way: if I were to count the number of times she talked that day, and the number of times she mentioned her cats, they would be the same number.

The majority of the day was spent watching fuzzy, long-outdated VHS tapes about basic rules of the road and listening to the instructor, who clearly didn’t want to be there any more than we did. All the while, we couldn’t go fifteen minutes without another cat story. Even though traffic school did suck up my Saturday in the longest, most boring way possible, it was a little bit valuable. By



Michael demonstrates one way to get yourself killed or pulled over. Photo Credit: Aaron Balin

the end of the day, I managed to pick up a few tips on safer driving. Getting a ticket is never fun, and I wouldn’t wish it upon anyone, but should you ever find yourself in my shoes, here are a few helpful hints:

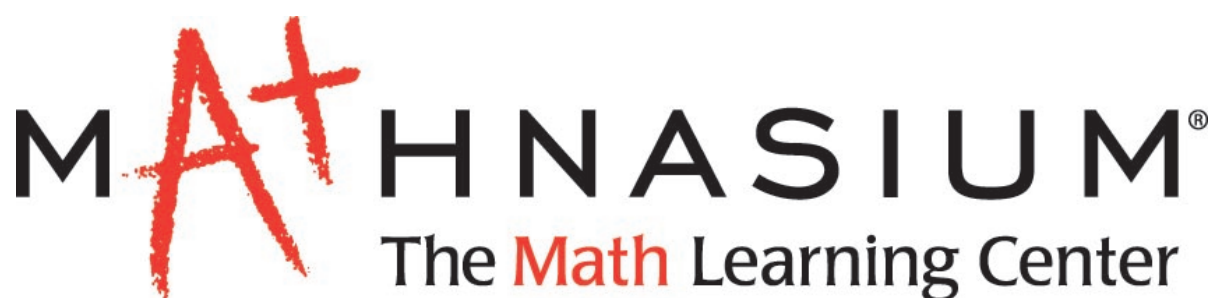
Don’t get a ticket in the first place! Drive safely! It’s really not that hard to make a full stop at a stop sign or drive the speed limit. However, if you do get pulled over, remember to stay cool. When the police officer comes up to your window, just relax, put your hands on the steering wheel, and give the officer a nice smile. If you’re polite and apologetic (even if you don’t think you did anything wrong), the officer might just let you off with a warning. But if you’re flippant and act

like a jerk, you’re definitely getting a ticket. If worse comes to worst and you do get a ticket, you have a couple of options. You can either pay it off and be eaten alive by your insurance company, or pay it off and go to traffic school. My advice is to go to traffic school. Going to traffic school costs about \$30, but it erases the ticket from your record and keeps your insurance rate from skyrocketing. It’s a long, boring day, but it’s definitely worth the money you save.

When all was said and done, driving 85 mph on the freeway cost me \$400 and one Saturday that I’ll never get back. Saintsman, save yourself the time, the money, and the cat stories. Drive safely.

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In Search of... The Most Outspoken Conservative Saintsman



By Cole Schenewerk ('13)
STAFF WRITER

Although academic circles generally have a tendency to be associated with liberalism, Saints has a very strong conservative element in the student body. Most students at Saints, it appears, are either conservative or independent, and many are outspoken about their views—especially the conservatives. The Augustinian sat down with Ryan Tweed ('12), perhaps the most outspoken conservative at Saints.

The Augustinian: What is the biggest problem in America right now and what's the best way to fix it?

Tweed: It's hard to pinpoint the biggest problem. I'd have to say that it comes down to the people we have in office not really caring one way or another. Policy-wise, we just aren't being smart economically. We aren't utilizing the tariff whatsoever to help our markets here in America which is what I think we need to be doing. On the homefront, I believe that our central government is becoming too powerful, and this is detracting from personal freedoms. I think the best thing we can do right now is to restore a lot of power to the states and the local governments, make government smaller, institute a flat tax across the board, cut spending, and start utilizing tariffs and excises to generate revenue.

The A: Who do you like best and the least in the presidential race, since you'll be old enough to vote in the November election?

Tweed: Unfortunately, I won't be able to vote in the primary (which I am kind of thankful for), but if I could I would choose Gin-

grich over Romney, but I keep debating with myself over where I stand with Ron Paul. I change my mind on him every other week it seems. It takes me a long time to make a decision about these types of things—luckily, I have time. I dislike Obama the most.

The A: How does religion play into your political views?

Tweed: Almost naught, I fully support the separation of church and state on paper, but I do bear in mind that we are a Christian nation. But I don't believe the federal government has any job in regulating morality. Although, as with most people, I am more naturally attracted to someone who shares my views, religious or otherwise.

The A: If the government isn't going to solve social justice issues, then who do you propose solve those problems?

Tweed: It should be on us as a society to solve our own problems. As a religious person I oppose abortion and I should do everything in my power to aid the Church and other anti-abortion organizations to convince society that abortion is immoral and should not be practiced.

The Augustinian: How would you summarize your political philosophy in a sentence or less?

Tweed: If I could create my own political party it would be described as fiscally conservative, socially libertarian, and would have an unwavering support for our great nation's armed forces. I believe the perfect quote to describe my motives comes from Carl Schurz: "Our country, right or wrong, if right to be kept right, and if wrong to be set right."

The Augustinian

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

Planning ahead for an unordinary time

How many of you like to plan ahead? For school breaks; for fun time; for a party; for a vacation; for study time in preparation for an exam; for family time? The list can go on and on.

It is no longer "ordinary time" in the Church's calendar year (namely, the period between Christmas and Lent), so here are a few "religious" dates to put on your calendar. Keep them in mind so that you may more fully participate/celebrate them when they come along.

Tuesday, March 6 – This is our school wide Lenten Penance service. A time to confess our sins and come closer to God through this Sacrament of his mercy and forgiveness.

Wednesday, April 4 – This day of Holy Week marks the end of the 40 days of Lent.

April 5-8 – The Sacred Triduum: The three days are (1) from the Holy Thursday evening (the celebration of the Lord's supper) to Good Friday evening; (2) from Good Friday evening to Holy Saturday evening (the Easter Vigil); and (3) from the Vigil to Easter Sunday evening. This is a three-day celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the central mystery of our faith. If you mark down nothing else, mark down your participation in the Sacred Triduum. Say "YES" to the Triduum.

April 8 – Easter Sunday – Alleluia!

April 8 to May 27 – We take 50 days (longer than for Lent!) for a continuous celebration of Easter, the Easter season, a season of joy. Listen to St. Augustine: "These days after the Lord's resurrection form a period, not of labor, but of peace and joy. That is why there is no fasting and we pray standing, which is a sign of resurrection. This practice is observed at the altar on all Sundays, and the Alleluia is sung, to indicate that our future occupation is to be none other than the praise of God." (Letters)

May 27 – Pentecost Sunday, the end of the Easter season.

Happy celebrations!

Teacher Feature: Mr. Paul Sipper



By Michael Balourdass ('13)
STAFF WRITER

Mr. Sipper is a prominent presence on the Saints campus, with an imposing build that has struck fear into many a new freshman. But those who have taken the time to get to know him have learned that Mr. Sipper is actually a gentle giant.

"He was my favorite teacher during freshman year," says Kevin Osman of the class of 2013. "He had tons of great stories and always kept our class entertained."

I have had the pleasure of interacting with Mr. Sipper in three different settings. He was my West Civ teacher as a freshman, and also my Junior Varsity tennis coach. Then this year, I took cooking over Intercession where I learned about Mr. Sipper's great love of the culinary arts. Mr. Sipper has also held many other positions in his eight years of teaching at Saints. He is the freshman class moderator and teaches United States History and Advanced Placement World History, along with West Civ. He also coaches soccer and freshman football.

Mr. Sipper was born in a suburb of Los Angeles called Bellflower, and most of his upbringing took place in Lamirada, a town minutes away from both Knott's Berry Farm and Disneyland. As a teenager, Mr. Sipper attended St. John Bosco High School, where his favorite subjects were Advanced Placement United States History and British Literature. He then went on to study History with an emphasis on 20th Century American History at the California State University of Northridge. After college, he went on to marry his wife Polly and they have two children: a four year-old girl and an eight month old boy.

I asked him about his activities outside of school.

"Well, now that I have kids, almost everything I do involves them, but I really enjoy being with them," he said.

He also said he enjoys traveling when he

gets the chance and also cooking for his family and for guests. Mr. Sipper's favorite TV shows include *Modern Family* and *Psych*, which also happen to be two of my favorite shows. He loves country music, especially Tim McGraw, and also likes the band Coldplay. When I asked about his favorite movies, Mr. Sipper said that he can't remember the last time he saw a movie in theaters. But he did say that among his favorites is the movie mini-series *Band of Brothers*.

Anyone who has had Mr. Sipper for a class can easily see his enthusiasm for teaching and his passion for helping his students. Freshman Alex Stokes agrees.

"Mr. Sipper is really cool and really understands his students," he said.

This passion led me to ask Mr. Sipper the obvious question: what inspired him to become a teacher, a profession for which many people are unsuited?

"My mom was a teacher, and I had really good teachers in high school," he replied.

I then asked him what his favorite subject is that he is currently teaching or has ever taught. He said that he immensely enjoyed teaching Honors Western Civilization, which he wishes were still offered at Saints. However, he still loves the classes he currently teaches. He has now been teaching at Saints for eight years, for a total of twelve years in his entire teaching career.

I then inquired about Mr. Sipper's coaching positions.

"I have had the opportunity to coach three sports at Saints, two of which I never even played, soccer and tennis. I love coaching all of them, though."

Mr. Sipper played football in high school and it is his favorite sport today.

Above all of this, Mr. Sipper is a kind-hearted man who is loved by all of his students. He is a key faculty member on the Saints campus and we all hope that he stays at Saints for many more years to come.

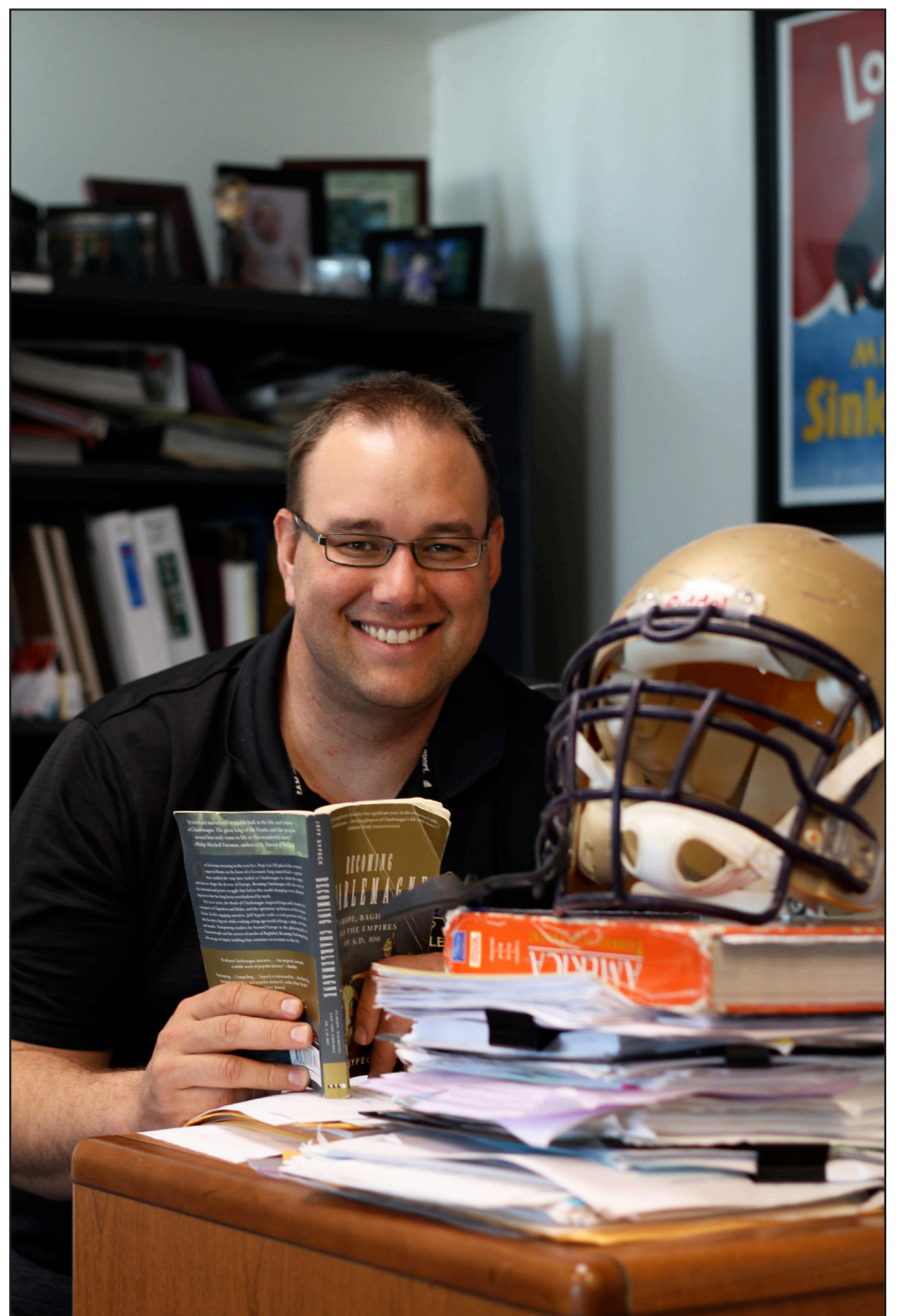



Photo Credit: Aaron Balin ('14)

How to Win the Lottery



By Neil Rens ('12)
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

1 in 3. Those are your chances of getting admitted to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Those are also your chances of picking the right card in 3 Card Monty. And, those are your chances of winning the California Lottery. That is, if you play it right.

The California Lottery first debuted in 1985 as a way to supplement funding for schools, a cause that is only increasing in importance with recent budget cuts. According to calottery.com, only 4 cents of every dollar spent by the public on lottery tickets makes its way to education. However, this results in over a billion dollars of funds for education annually.

Today, there are eight types of lotteries in California. The Daily 3 lottery offers some of the most favorable probabilities for lottery-players looking to win. On a given draw, the chance of winning is 1/1000, which may not seem very good. Plus, the winnings are split evenly among the number of players with the winning number. Therefore, the typical payout is around \$500 before taxes.

So how did 1/1000 become 1/3? Well, if you play the Daily 3 every day for a complete year, you have a 30.6% chance of winning. To have a 1 in 3 chance of winning, you could have to spend up to \$365, at \$1 a ticket. On the flip side, you could win on the first day and turn a profit of \$499. Of course, even with your 30.6% chance of winning in a year, you could lose every penny you spent on buying the Daily 3 tickets.

Theoretically, your “break even” point is 500 days (before taxes). As long as you win within those 500 days, you will turn a profit. The math demonstrates that if you buy a ticket everyday for 500 days straight, you have a 39.4% chance of winning. Therefore,

if you’re determined, consistent, methodical, and have \$500, there’s only a 60% that you will make a complete fool of yourself.

Now let’s pretend you did make a complete fool of yourself (which according to the numbers, you probably will). You have altruistically donated \$500 to California’s edu-



cation system. Way to go! (No, that doesn’t count as a tax write-off.) Think about it: as long as you win before you spend another \$500, you’ll be better off than you are right now. Currently, you’re out \$500. But, if you spend another \$499 on Daily 3 tickets, you could earn back one of those dollars that you originally lost.

Surely, the statistics should be in your favor now. At this moment, McKinley Elementary just got \$500 worth of new *How to Draw Arthur* books thanks to your Daily 3 purchases. Now you’re going to endure another 500-day run of purchasing lotto tickets. As long

as you win within this 500-day period, you won’t be in a worse scenario. Cumulatively, you have invested \$1,000 and 1,000 days in your Daily 3 endeavor. You now have a 63.2% chance of winning. Finally, a favorable statistic! If you play for one thousand days, your chances are moderately greater than 50/50. Of course, that’s a 40% chance that you will have squandered \$1000. Wait, I mean that’s a 40% chance that you bought new desks for the 1st grade classroom at McKinley (Congratulations!).

Ultimately, Wall Street is still a better bet. Just a few years ago, you could get an interest rate of over 5% on a 3-year Treasury Note. Unfortunately for us (but fortunately for the economy as a whole), with the recession still looming, the Federal Reserve increased the money supply to drive down interest rates. While that may help people looking for loans, which will increase investment and output, it’s a problem for investors. The current interest rate on the 3-year T-Note is only 0.4%, so you will actually lose money since the inflation rate hovers around 2%. Even with the tides against you, investing in stocks is still a better bet than the Daily 3. Let’s say your \$500 investment in a mutual fund will earn between ±5% interest over three years. You could lose up to \$70 dollars (assuming the fund compounds yearly) or make up to \$70. Either way, you will keep most of your money.

In retrospect, don’t play the lottery to win, play it to have fun. Playing the lottery is gambling, and like all gambling, the house always wins.

Next issue: how to win at Russian Roulette (A.K.A. The Soviet Party Game)

What's Up With Our Upper Field?



By Michael Cline ('15)
STAFF WRITER

As you all well know, over the past two months the upper field underwent a major change. Grass has been replaced with dirt, and seats and goal posts have been swapped for trucks and construction vehicles. The project is still a work in progress, but very soon Saint Augustine will have a new field and a new track.

The quality of our field before was poor. Much of the field was not even covered in grass, and would become very muddy after storms. The upper field was also missing a track on which the runners could practice.


Before work began on the football field, Saintsmen had heard of a major plan to build a state-of-the-art basketball gym, which would also lead to a new football field. A relocating of many facilities would occur, and a project of this magnitude would be expensive. So patience is needed. But why are we repairing the upper field if a plan for relocating it is on the horizon?

For one thing, the upgrade of the football field will also bring a much needed track for the school. And while the track will be missing some lanes, it will definitely be out for us to use.

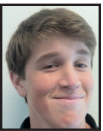
Still, the field upgrade raises more questions: will construction on the new gym will begin soon? If relocating the field is on the horizon, why put all this work into an upgrade?

The answer is simple: even if construction on the new gym were to begin in the next year or so, the upper field would not be moved until the new gym were completed and the old gym leveled—and that would take quite a while. Therefore, the field upgrade is one that will benefit our school for some time to come.

Looking Ahead to Spring Sports



By Will Raines ('13)
STAFF WRITERS



and Joe Howder ('13)

St. Augustine High School celebrates 90 years of Catholic education this year. Along with demonstrating Catholic morals and virtues, we also practice a tradition of athletic excellence. With the winter season coming to a close, we look forward to focusing our efforts on the upcoming spring season. Spring time is jam-packed with seven exciting sports: baseball, volleyball, swim and dive, track and field, golf, tennis, and lacrosse. Let’s all join together as one team of Saintsmen to start this new season off with a bang!

First off, our defending CIF Champs, the volleyball players. Coach Gregory Hecht is excited for the upcoming season and has put in a substantial amount of effort into getting the team ready during the offseason. On top

of a workout routine with Coach Sweat, many individuals participate in club teams of their own. Coach Hecht predicts that the Saints Volleyball team will improve greatly from last year and expects each player to embody the core values of Saints.

Next up on deck, our baseball team—the defending Eastern League Champs. Coach Craig da Luz believes that the Saints Baseball squad will be very strong this year; three seniors have already committed to D1 universities. Among these seniors is Nick Ruppert ('12), who will lead the team on a run for a CIF Championship. Also returning are impact players Austin Shives ('12), Eliot Lowell ('12), Taylor Ahearn ('13), Tyler Hofstee ('13), Travis Wilkie ('14), Kiko Garcia ('14), Lars Leweck ('12), and Elliot Stepanof ('13). Baseball looks to another Eastern League title, as well as to bring home the big CIF banner.

Coach Tom Isaak believes that the Saints Tennis team will have its best team in twenty years. He believes that singles leader Luis

Miranda ('13) and doubles partners Andrew Vazquez ('12) and Connor Keefe ('12) will set the pace for the team. Coach Isaak also mentioned that a transfer student, German Aragon ('14), will play a strong number two spot behind Miranda. The Saints Tennis team looks to knock off the power house La Jolla team and hopes to have multiple entries in CIF this year.

Coach Jerry Downey’s Track and Field looks to hurtle over some challenges this season. The biggest obstacle will be our practice venue, as the upper field is still under construction. The Track team will have to be flexible with practices at Morley as well as other venues. Coach Downey believes that the team will have to step up this year as there are not many seniors returning. Standout athletes include Nick Gonsalves ('12), Cisco Feliciano ('12), Joe Saad ('13), Bernard Schomal ('12), Jaime Charles ('12), and Nick Prato ('13). Gavin Quigley ('13) is on his way to breaking the school record for shotput. Feliciano and Dan Acevedo ('12) will lead the team as captains.

Coach Kevin Manley also believes that the swim team will face a challenging season as they too have few seniors returning for this season. However, Coach Manley believes that if this young team puts in the effort, they will see positive results. The swim team is hoping to move its prac-



Tyler Hadzicki ('14) running at Morley Field.
Photo Credit: Aaron Balin

tice venue to the easily accessible Morley pool. Coach Manley states that the impact athletes Kenny McClenahan ('12) and Tom Mezzacappa ('12) will lead the team. He also notes returning CIF swimmer Charles Reyner ('12).


Lastly, we have the Saints Lacrosse team, only in its second year of CIF. Local LAX-bro Patrick Lavelle ('13) says that the team’s main goal is to win league and possibly slip in as the underdog in the DII CIF Championship. He lists returning players Teddy Bendrick ('12), Matt Ca-

SEE **Spring Sports**, pg. 8



Michael Balourdass ('13) practices for the team Coach Isaak described as “the best in twenty years.”
Photo Credit: Aaron Balin

Should We Protest the Year of the Protester?

**By Michael Cali ('13)**
STAFF WRITER

Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Greece, Spain, and the United States were engulfed in protests and even revolutions in 2011. Whether it was overthrowing an oppressive dictator in an Arab police state, or attempting to topple the corporate machine that is gripping the United States floundering economy, protestors took to the streets to show their discontent and defiance. There were dozens of protests in over a dozen countries all over the world. People died in the streets protesting for what they believed in and caused quite a stir among news agencies around the world. TIME magazine named their annual “Person of the Year” to be the Protestor because, according to the article, “2011 has been unlike any year since 1848.” Does the protestor deserve to be the person of the year? Does it deserve to share the ranks of Charles Lindbergh, FDR, JFK, The Apollo 8 astronauts, Pope John Paul II and Martin Luther King Jr? Well, that depends on your criteria for Person of the Year.

In 2011, the protests began with a street vender in Tunisia who set himself ablaze in protest of his country’s oppressive government. 26-year-old Mohamed Bouazizi had enough one day after being harassed by police. He walked to the capital building to complain, but was turned away, so he set himself on fire. His suicide sparked the country's uprising against its government.

In Egypt, it was the fraudulent national election of 2010 that caused the people to rise up and call for their leader to step down. They occupied Tahrir Square (Nicknamed “Freedom Square”) and battled teargas and bullets as they called for the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak, which eventually succeeded.

In Greece, the people took to the streets in general protest against the raising of taxes.

It evolved into anti-government protests and social change. In Spain, there was the birth of the “Occupy” concept of protesting with Los Indignados and their march on Madrid in May. In Libya, the people’s protesting and revolting led to the death of their tyrannical ruler Muammar Gaddafi. Even China saw pro-democracy demonstrations. In Mexico, the protest was against the drug violence in the border regions. Finally, in the United States, the Occupy Wall Street protestors spoke out against corporate greed.

There is no doubt that the protestor played a huge role in shaping the history of 2011, but do they deserve to be the Person of the Year? I decided to find out from the two most important parties of the past year’s protests, the protestor and the police. During an Occupy San Diego march on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I asked a few protestors what they thought about TIME’s decision to make the protestor “Person of the Year.”

“Excellent,” said one occupier. “[It] shows people around the world to stand up for what is right.”

This answer was expected. However, when another occupier was asked the same question, his answer was surprising.

“[It] was a good marketing tool. They made a lot of money off of it,” he said. “The media [is] trying to push the movements aside as last year’s news, but in reality, we are still here and we will continue to be here! TIME is a corporate entity and it is making the protest part of that corporate set-up, the very thing we are protesting.”

One would expect a protestor to be happy with the publicity, but he was, in fact, against it.

I then sat down with Assistant Chief Boyd Long of the San Diego Police Department. Chief Long has been dealing with Occupy

SEE **Protest**, pg. 8




Occupy San Diego protesters at a march. Photo Credit: Michael Cali ('13)

Sleep Deprivation at Saints



Photo Credit: Aaron Balin

**By Mitch Borgstrom ('12)**
STAFF WRITER

It’s no secret that teens across the U.S. don’t get as much sleep as they should. Look around the classroom: there’s a good chance you’ll find someone sleeping or about to doze off. A recent study showed that teenagers, on average, only get about 7 hours of sleep per night, and that students who also work often get even less. Other reasons for sleep loss may include various extra-curricular activities, such as sports and clubs, or a rigorous course load. Studies show that teens require 8 ½ to 9 ¼ hours of sleep in order to function fully. Another strange side-effect caused by sleep deprivation is the greater propensity for acne. Yuck.

What impact does sleep deprivation have here at Saints?

In order to see if our Saintsmen are, in fact, getting enough sleep, I conducted a survey consisting of one Saintsmen from each grade

level. From the freshman class we have Tanner Safir, who participates in band and wrestling. We also have Sophomore Mike Rougas, a Drama Club member. For the juniors we have Eli Ashenafi, a member of both the ASB and the tennis team. Finally, we have Senior Mario Sutka, who is in swimming.

To maintain a level of confidentiality, I will just be reporting the total averages of each. In no particular order, the average hours of sleep per student per week was 8, 6.75, 7.5, and 5.8. This averages out to a little more than 7 hours of sleep per night, which is close to the national average. This means that the students at Saints are falling short of the recommended amount by roughly two hours.

My survey also involved taking note of what each student did from 8 PM onwards, in order to see what is keeping them from going to sleep at a reasonable hour. Common activities from 8 o’clock at night onward are playing video games, using the internet (Facebook,


YouTube, etc.), watching television, and doing homework. According to my survey, homework only accounted for approximately 25% of the activities done from 8 PM onwards. For the most part, there really is no reason to be sleep deprived. Teenagers enjoy staying up late while knowing full well that they’ll pay the price later.

A major cause of sleep loss is that pesky teenage pandemic known as procrastination. Facebook, texting your friends, and playing video games often sound much more appealing than problem sets, research papers, and book reports. Putting homework and reports off until the last minute will definitely cause many problems for students trying to get more sleep. For example, if you’re a senior and you’ve waited until the last day to start your Perrine’s, you most likely have an all-nighter in your near future.

But what must we do to get the sleep we need? For starters, we should begin our homework earlier in the afternoon as opposed to later at night. I understand that this can be difficult because when students finally get home, they’re tired. The only thing you feel like doing is relaxing or maybe even taking a nap. But if you were to get your homework done sooner, you’d have more time to kick back, and you’d probably go to bed earlier, too.

If we can’t help ourselves, who can? Our school can. That’s right. I propose that we switch to the block schedule Monday through Thursday. On the days that we don’t have Mass, we can convert homeroom into a napping period! Either that, or we just have school start later on those days. Either way, this would account for almost another full hour of sleep. And well, what do you know? The amount of sleep that we are lacking is about two hours. That’s one hour down, and one more to go!

Traditions: Lost and Found

**By Nick Vitha ('13)**
STAFF WRITER

Over the past few years, some Saints traditions have begun to change, impacting school spirit, education, and the community inside and outside our walls. Chief among these changes (from most obvious to least) are our school schedule, pep rallies and our philanthropic spirit.

Our new school schedule, put into action last year with three “regular” 6-class days and two “block” 3-class days is, obviously, a mix of both Saints old schedule, with five 6-class days, and OLP’s five 3-class days. Along with the new modified block schedule is a one-hour homeroom each week, where (usually) the qualities of leadership are taught by our homeroom teachers, or we participate in school activities such as championship intramural games or pep rallies. The consequence of this is that pep rallies have to be on Thursdays instead of Fridays. Unfortunately, having a day in between the pep rally and the actual game defeats the purpose of having a rally in the first place: to arouse the passions that school spirit creates right before a game.

As for philanthropic spirit, take the canned food drive against Cathedral over the past few years. In 2009, over 10,000 cans of food were donated by Saints. However, last year, in 2010, less than 5,000 cans were donated. We still beat Cathedral at the canned food drive (and the football game), but we did horribly in the canned food drive compared with other years. For whatever reason, we did not have one this year.

In order to improve school spirit, I suggest that the administration change the schedule to either a full “block” schedule, like OLP has, or change back to 5 “regular” school days—either way, we’d be able to have pep rallies on Fridays again. However, such a

SEE **Protester** pg. 8

SUDOKU

Easy

	3			1			6	
7	5			3			4	8
		6	9	8	4	3		
		3				8		
9	1	2				6	7	4
		4				5		
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6	8			9			1	5
	9			4			3	

Medium

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	8				3	1	4	
	4			8				3
	7			5				8
		6	9		8	3		
3				2			5	
5				7			1	
	2	7	1				9	
					4	5		

Difficult

		1						2
7			8				5	
	4			5		7		
		7			6			3
	8						4	
5			4			6		
		5		2			1	
	7				9			4
8						3		

<http://printablesudoku.blogspot.com>

The Rules of Sudoku
Sudoku involves a grid of 81 squares. The grid is divided into nine blocks, each containing nine squares.
The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.
The difficulty lies in that each vertical nine-square column, or horizontal nine-square line across, within the larger square, must also contain the numbers 1-9, without repetition or omission.
Every puzzle has just one correct solution.

► **Protester**
Continued from Page 7

San Diego since it’s inception back in October of 2011. He talked about his experiences with the protestors and explained that he had never seen this type of protest before: one that did not have a clear leader for the people to rally behind.

“This is the way protests will be going in the future” he said. “Twitter and Facebook are the mediums with which the canvas of the world will be painted with unrest.”

When asked whether TIME magazine made the right decision with their Person of the Year, he responded, “I am in no position to say if it was right or wrong; this will be a movement that will be written about in the history books and our future generations will learn about it. I will say that ‘Occupy’ was a significant movement and will be in the future.”

As their past choices show, the magazine’s selection for Person of the Year is based on that person’s influence on the world, be it positive or negative. In 1938, TIME chose Adolf Hitler. Did this mean that the writers at TIME thought of him as a great man who changed the world for the better? No, Hitler was chosen because of his strong impact on world events.

The protesters of 2011 might not have had as significant an impact on history as figures like Hitler, JFK, or John Paul II, but they did successfully capture the attention of the world for a whole year. Some even changed the course of governments. 2011 was indeed the year of the protester.

So did TIME make the right choice? The answer is yes.

► **Tradition**
Continued from Page 7

change is unlikely to happen, because the teachers have just gotten used to teaching their 85 minute classes, and it would be extremely inconvenient to change our schedule again.

Saintsmen are known to lament lost traditions of Saints, so I wanted to get the perspective of someone who has been here a long time. I interviewed “Sir” Wilson. He made it clear that very few, if any, traditions had died out between his Freshman year and now. He did say that some traditions were different from when he was a student, such as Freshman Welcome Week.

“It is now more welcoming than it was when I was a student,” Mr. Wilson said.

Mr. Wilson also pointed out that some traditions are completely new, such as the Freshman Overnight Retreat. “There was a retreat for freshmen, but it was just like any other retreat.” Long story short, freshmen did not stay overnight.

So before we complain too much, consider this: the traditions Saints had in the 40’s are not the ones we have now. Then again, we have traditions now that they didn’t. And in 50 years, Saints will have traditions all their own.

Traditions are living. Just as in life, they are born, they grow and develop, and yes, sometimes they even die. But in their passing, they make way for new ones to be born.



► **Guatemala**
Continued from Page 1

alongside the Mayan people and were able to experience their culture and everyday life. The extent of our service ranged from a multitude of parish projects in San Lucas. One of the main jobs we undertook during our stay was harvesting and processing the coffee of San Lucas, one of the main sources of income for the village. Often times in the morning, we would head out into the hills on a pickup truck and pick coffee until lunchtime. Nearly every day after lunch, we worked at “La Granja”, which served as a garden, nursery, and an area where the coffee could be processed. We also spent much of our time working at the Women’s Center, an educational center that taught basic household skills like cooking, weaving, and childcare. Here we did some “good-old” manual labor, moving rocks in order to make way for a brand new basketball court and park for the children.

In addition to the meaningful service aspects of the trip, the students were able to travel around Guatemala and get a feel for the culture with some sight-seeing as well. We travelled to three towns around Lake Atitlan, Panajachel, Santa Catarina Palopo, and San Antonio Polopo, in addition to the capital, Guatemala City. We also saw the historical capital, Antigua, and Central America’s largest market town, Chichicastenango. In the different cities, we learned about the rich history of Guatemala and the Mayan people, we bought many traditional Mayan crafts and souvenirs, and we ate out and shared our stories around traditional Mayan cuisine. Our second to last day, we even hiked up Volcano Pacaya, an active volcano outside of Antigua which towered a massive 2,552 meters (8,373 feet) above sea level.

All in all, the Saints’ Service Trip to Guatemala was a great experience for the entire group. Looking back on the experience, Fr. Alvin recalled his wonderful interactions with the local people.

“The Mayan people [were] friendly, accommodating, helpful and hardworking,” Fr. Alvin said. “Everywhere we [went], we were greeted with smiles from children to the elderly.”

The trip had a profound impact on Junior Eli Ashenafi.

“The trip was a valuable opportunity for me because, through service and work, I came to find myself, as well as learn more about who I am and who I want to be,” Eli said. “It also helped me realize how privileged we all are at St. Augustine and how sad it is that we so often take what we have for granted.”

Judging by the many positive responses the trip has generated, it seems very likely that the service trip will be offered again for the 2013 intersession.

► **Spring Sports**
Continued from Page 6

marata (’12), Austin Philips (’12), and Nick Kemme (’12) as solid leaders of the Saints LAX-team.

To get a forecast of Saints golf, I sat down Mr. Greg Ranney.

“I feel this year we will be a good team in a good league,” said the Head Coach of Saints Golf. “There will be a good amount of quality teams this year in our league starting with La Jolla. La Jolla will be our biggest competition. They have a state champion golfer on their team so that will make it a bit tougher to beat them. If we can stay competitive with La Jolla this year then I believe we can win league. We lost a lot of seniors last year but I feel confident in our returners, starting with Kyle Edmonds (’13), Will Gonzalez (’13), and Alejandro Favela (’12). This year will not be easy for Saints Golf, but I feel we will be able to step up to the challenge.”

As Saintsmen, we are bred to have that fighting spirit which we express in our sports. Whether you are on the field or in the stands, Saintsmen everywhere all play their part and make an impact on the game. So as this spring 2012 season approaches, we need to “fire up” and get excited. Good luck to all the players and coaches this spring, and “Go Saints! Go!”

If Teachers were

SUPERHEROES

Artwork by
Sergey
Grosser (’15)

MR. MAN-LY

MRS. S-CRATCHY