

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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St. Augustine High School

Saintsmen Charge into the Playoffs



By Manny Butler ('22)
STAFF WRITER

As we approach the end of the season, several of our fall sports teams are firmly entrenched in league play. Cross country is struggling in a tough league, but they ran well at the Mt. SAC Invitational. The beach volleyball and football teams have been bitterly disappointed recently by a pair of tough losses.

Despite the hostile environment at Cathedral, Saints struck first on an 80-yard touchdown from junior running back Byron Cardwell, his 19th rushing touchdown of the season in the Holy Bowl. After being tackled for no gain on the first play, Cardwell burst through the right side and sprinted untouched down the right sideline to send The Pit into delirium.

Later in the first quarter, senior quarterback Angelo Peraza connected with sophomore Jalil Tucker for a 24-yard touchdown. Tucker made an impressive catch, going up over the Dons cornerback in the right side of the end zone and coming down with the ball, causing the already-raucous Saints crowd to cheer even louder.

Unfortunately, it all came crashing down around the team in the fourth quarter, as injuries to the Saints started to pile up, including an injury suffered by the star cornerback, senior Tyson McWilliams, in the second quarter. The Dons offense answered with 23 points to win the game.

“They just wore us down,” Coach Kremer said. “They had no guys playing two ways and we had four. We just got tired toward the end.”

Between the losses to Helix and Cathedral, though, the Saints played well, thrashing Morse 56-0 and defeating Lincoln 42-31. In the game against Morse, Byron Cardwell



Saints will face Helix once again in the first round of playoffs.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

led the way with five rushing touchdowns. Eavan Gibbons also made two interceptions, and Malcolm Williams had a fumble return for a touchdown.

Against Lincoln, Cardwell again led the offense, amassing 95 rushing yards and two touchdowns on 15 carries and adding two receptions for an astonishing 100 yards. Senior linebacker Connor Heffler racked up nine solo tackles, and senior Sam Scaife IV had two interceptions to go along with a touchdown reception.

“The offensive line has been playing much, much better since the beginning of the year. They’re getting better and better every day,” Coach Kremer said regarding the offensive line’s contribution to Cardwell’s re-

cent success.

Coach Kremer said the Madison game was very important to the Saints because they needed to win in order to have a chance at the Open Division playoffs. It would be difficult, however, with Cardwell out with a concussion, Tyson McWilliams with a dislocated shoulder, and starting quarterback Angelo Peraza having left the team.

In front of the homecoming crowd filled with alums, the Saints handled things very well, defeating Madison 35-18, with the new starting quarterback, junior Richard Colmenero III, throwing for four touchdowns and only one interception. Sophomore Jalil Tucker had the most productive receiving day, with four receptions for 180 yards and

two touchdowns. Additionally, seniors Sergio Bermudez and Sam Scaife IV each had touchdown receptions.

Sophomore Gracen Halton scored a touchdown on a kickoff return, and senior Connor Heffler had ten solo tackles to lead the team. Senior linebacker Michael Ambagtsheer had two sacks.

Saints football has earned the 4th seed in the Open Division playoffs and will face Helix in a rematch on November 15.

Another Saints team that has seen remarkable success this season is cross country. At the Mt. SAC Invitational, the Saints took third in their team race, with senior Jack Klem finishing fifth, senior Joey Buzzella

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Homecoming 2019 Was a Safe Bet



By Nolan Steinbuch ('21)
STAFF WRITER

Every year, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and alumni look forward to homecoming week, one of the many beloved traditions here at Saints.

This year, homecoming featured several major activities. For students, homecoming was kicked off with an exciting rally on Thursday, October 24th, which included many phenomenal performances from the OLP cheerleaders, the OLP dance team, and a reappearance of the legendary ventriloquist and former Augustinian volunteer, Steven Funk. A familiar face in the Saints community, Funk was welcomed back with great applause.

On Friday, October 25th, the homecoming festival was hosted on campus from 2-6 PM. The festival had over 20 cars featured in the car show, live music, a haunted house hosted by the Key Club, and much more. There was a raffle at the festival, which raised over \$2,000 for the Hogar Infantil de la Guardia Orphanage. After the festival, there was a viewing party at 7:30 PM to watch the homecoming football game against Madison, which Saints won with a score of 35-18.

During half-time, the homecoming court members were officially announced and crowned. The selection of the homecoming court, which many consider to be one of the most exciting aspects of homecoming, saw students from Saints and OLP taking part in the vote. This year, the sophomore class prince was Andres Aguirre, the sophomore class princess was Camila Mendivil, the junior class prince was Noah Muñoz, the junior class princess was Gabby Bacino, the senior class king was Diego Chavarin, and the senior class queen was Kekoa Ulufanua. Other nominees for the senior class homecoming queen were Alex Pacheco, Alazar Parker, and Julia Macawali.

Beginning early on the morning of Saturday, October 26th, preparations for the homecoming dance commenced. This year, the theme was Casino Classics, bringing Las Vegas to all attendees of the dance. The classic Las Vegas casino feel was captured in a large ballroom in the Sheraton Hotel where the event was hosted from 7 to 11 PM.

Although the original theme was set to be Tokyo Nights, ASB came to realize that the theme Casino Classics would be much better suited, feeling that students would better understand and relate to the new theme.



Junior Dominic Pacheco enjoys himself at the homecoming dance. Angel Perez ('21)

The event was led by Mr. Osberg and Mr. Cudal, junior class ASB members Alex Alcalay, Cooper Lance, Santiago Miret, Zane Frisia, James Stepovich, JD Delacruz, Malcolm Williams, and Joseph Selfani, who organized the dance.

The dance featured a DJ who played all the latest hits, hours of dancing, delicious

appetizers and desserts, plus a photo booth to capture all the amazing memories. With over 450 students attending, it was a huge success.

“It was definitely worth the price,” junior Randy Hild said. “I had a ton of fun,

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Road to 2020: Quid Pro Quo Means Trump Should Go

 **By Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)**
EDITOR

The opinions expressed in articles on the Editorial page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the student body, faculty, or staff of St. Augustine High School.

Throughout American history, only two presidents have been impeached: Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1998. But just what is impeachment?

Although an impeachment is commonly misconstrued as Congress voting to remove a president from office, it is actually only the first step toward that goal. It is officially “a charge of misconduct made against the holder of a public office,” but in simpler terms, it is the formal filing of charges and opening of a professional trial and investigation into the president.

Generally, the impeachment serves to find evidence proving presidential misconduct, which could eventually lead to the president’s removal from office but does not directly unfasten the president from his position. Shockingly, America may soon witness its third presidential impeachment with its most recent political experiment, Donald J. Trump.

On September 24, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi opened an impeachment inquiry into President Trump after receiving an anonymous tip from a whistleblower concerning his suspicious foreign interactions.

In general, a whistleblower is any employee who exposes the crimes, corruption, or wrongdoing of their boss. In this case, the whistleblower is someone who worked in the Trump administration. Thus far, his or her identity is anonymous.

One might think that the whistleblowing process is dangerous for those exposing misdeeds, but there are federal laws in place to protect them, such as the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012. This act protects them from both retribution and the



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and President Donald Trump. Sky News

leakage of their identity, provided that their transfer of information was made through proper and secure channels.

The whistleblower complaint against Trump contained evidence of an inappropriate and illegal abuse of power and claimed that the White House attempted to conceal the evidence. More specifically, it charged that Trump abused the power of his office in a phone call with Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

According to the whistleblower, Trump was holding back military aid to Ukraine unless Zelensky promised to investigate the business dealings of Hunter Biden, the son of Joe Biden, his political opponent in the 2020 race. Hunter had business dealings in Ukraine, and Trump wanted to do an exchange, a *quid pro quo*: dirt on Hunter for weapons—no dirt, no weapons. It should be added that Ukraine desperately needed these previously promised weapons in their struggle against Russian aggression.

Upon learning of the whistleblowers charges, Nancy Pelosi declared an official impeachment inquiry looking to hold Trump re-

sponsible for “a betrayal of his oath of office, a betrayal of our national security, and betrayal of the integrity of our elections.”

On October 8, Trump was accused once again of irresponsibly abusing his power as he refused to participate in the impeachment inquiries. His refusal, an impeachable offense in itself, ironically only intensified the inquiry and, if anything, worsened Trump’s situation

Trump claimed the impeachment inquiry would be a “positive” factor for his 2020 presidential run, which begs two questions: first, the identity of the bizarre faction of voters who would consider an impeachment inquiry as a necessary and beneficial characteristic of a president, and second, Trump’s understanding of the word “impeachment.”

The White House’s lack of cooperation in the impeachment process contradicted Trump’s previous agreement to comply with inquiry regulations.

“I always cooperate, we’ll work together,” Trump had said. However, when Gordon Sondland, United States Ambassador to the European Union, was called to testify about

evidence that Trump withheld military assistance in exchange for political dirt, Trump quickly dismissed his administration’s engagement in the inquiry, maturely denouncing the professional government service as a “kangaroo court.”

Sondland recently testified that there was indeed evidence of *quid pro quo*, an exchange in which one party gets something and concedes something else in return, between the Trump administration and Ukrainian officials. His key testimony swayed Trump from his initial claim that there was no illegal exchange to now claiming that such *quid pro quo* is not an impeachable offense, evoking Trump’s wonderful hypocritical nature.

Recently, to make matters worse, two men associated with the Trump administration were arrested for misdeeds connected to the whistleblower’s charges. Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman were both close associates to Rudy Giuliani, the personal lawyer of Trump, and both were involved in the Ukraine scandal. Law officials arrested the two criminals at an airport as they tried to flee to Frankfurt, Germany. It would be more fair to say that they were fleeing the consequences of their unjust and illegal actions in the service of the Trump administration. Trump claimed ignorance. “I don’t know those gentlemen,” he said, despite physical evidence of a relationship proving otherwise.

It is more of a surprise that Trump is only now being formally investigated for illegal actions. The Mueller investigation into Trump’s dealings with Russia showed instances where he obstructed justice, but since he was not formally indicted on those charges, he wasn’t impeached.

It is finally necessary that Trump be penalized for his “above the law” attitude and abuse of power. His actions have done more harm to this country than help it.

In the past four years, Trump’s ignorance and irresponsibility has not only paved the way for his impeachment, but it also allows me to campaign a different slogan for the 2020 election: Let’s Dump Trump.

Kill the Death Penalty in the USA

 **By Joseph Selfani ('21)**
EDITOR

Despite the United States being one of the most developed countries in the world, it is among only twenty nations that still practice the death penalty, grouping us with the brutal dictatorships of China and North Korea.

To many Americans, however, capital punishment seems logical: if someone committed homicide or some other horrendous atrocity, then clearly they are a danger to society and must be put to death, right? The answer is no, for as Mahatma Gandhi said, “An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind.” It is not only illogical but immoral to believe that capital punishment is justifiable in this modern era.

The Catholic Church’s teaching on the death penalty has undergone development over the centuries. While the fifth commandment does say, “thou shall not kill,” the Catechism taught until recently that capital punishment was acceptable if it was “the only practicable way to defend the lives of human beings effectively against the aggressor.” (CCC 2267, 1992)

Context is hugely important in understanding the Church’s prior teaching. Since the first millennium and even up to recent times, there have been instances of individuals committing atrocities against innocent people. If keeping the peace meant putting the criminal to death in order to save others’ lives, then it was seen as acceptable in the eyes of the Church. This teaching was based on St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas’s thoughts on capital punishment.

The Church’s original teaching on



Pope Francis speaking out against the death penalty in St. Peter’s Square. CNS Photo

the death penalty was modified recently in 2018 when Pope Francis changed the wording in the Catechism, clarifying that capital punishment is not acceptable under any circumstances, as our world possesses the wealth and means to incarcerate criminals for life and even to attempt to rehabilitate those who have committed heinous deeds.

While the Catholic Church and many other countries have abolished the death penalty, it is still practiced in the United States for the simple reason that we believe it is still just. For some reason, our mentality still follows the “eye for an eye” teaching. We believe that if someone commits an act that we as humans deem monstrous, it means we as imperfect individuals have the right to make the “just” decision and take the life of another person. Our egos put us on a pedestal to judge who lives and

who dies based on our standards—at times leading to tragedy.

A team of legal experts and statisticians from Michigan and Pennsylvania in 2014 claimed that approximately one in 25 individuals who have received the death penalty were innocent. That is about 4% of inmates, and, although it may seem like a minuscule number, these are human lives at stake.

There are countless other examples of people put on death row being eventually exonerated after evidence arose that they did not commit the charged offense. It is heart-wrenching to know that there is someone right now on death row that was unjustly convicted. It is an imperfect system that needs to be abolished—mistakes that have led to the loss of innocent souls would be avoided simply by banning capital punishment.

The clear solution to the problem would be life in prison, but the counter-argument by most is that it is more expensive to the taxpayer. This reasoning is perhaps the most immoral and evil response any human being could give. The argument that people should be put to death, whether they may be innocent or not, just to save some money is disgusting and should not even be considered.

Materialistic items should never be placed above the life of an individual, even if that person is deemed a public danger. But since this is the major objection to life in prison, there is a powerful rebuttal: it is actually more expensive to house death row inmates than regular prisoners.

Since more lawyers are required in a death penalty case due to the long, grueling, and costly process, the expense for typical inmates can be \$50 to \$90 million less than for those serving on death row. The average wait time is twenty years from conviction till death in California, and that price skyrockets as lawyers continue to fight to save the lives of the accused.

In the end, the death penalty is a costly and flawed system that should be abolished. Even if the system were considered “perfect,” there is no denying the moral issue at stake: the taking of another human’s life. Capital punishment is not only broken, but also completely and utterly immoral.

As followers of Jesus, the Catholic Church, and as decent human beings, we should drop our support for the death penalty and urge for a renewed awareness for the value of human life.

A Few Good Men Debuts on the Saints Stage



On November 7, actors took the stage in the debut of *A Few Good Men*. *Joaquin Torre ('21)*

 **By Ty Woods ('22)**
STAFF WRITER

With the debut of the Saints fall play on November 7, the actors and crew members are excited to announce the immense success that is *A Few Good Men*. The Saints production is based on the Broadway play directed by Aaron Sorkin. It is about a court case in which three marine lawyers, Daniel Kaffee, Joanne Galloway, and Sam Weinberg, must work to uncover the truth behind the mysterious death of marine William Santiago. The show, having received a nomination for Best Actor at the 44th Tony Awards, took Broadway by storm in 1990. In the Hollywood production, the roles of the main characters were filled by top-tier actors: Tom Cruise, Jack Nicholson, and Kevin Bacon. The movie version was a sensation, winning four Academy Awards. To say the Saints production had large shoes to fill is an understatement. However, because of the talent of the Saints thespians, they did not disappoint. The leading roles included senior Luis Corona playing Lt. Daniel Kaffee, junior JD Delacruz playing Col. Nathan Jessup, and OLP junior Catherine Tarlov playing Lt. Joanne Galloway. The story also in-

cludes many other characters, embodied in an ensemble of marines. For the first time since his recruitment, Mr. Blumer took charge as the new director for this play. Pouring his heart and soul into his work, Blumer is grateful for the opportunities that he was presented with in *A Few Good Men* and has enjoyed seeing the fruits of his labor. “This is truly a fun night out, not only to enjoy a good play but to support your brothers and sisters as well,” Mr. Blumer said. In anticipation of the show, each actor auditioned for his or her role but remained open to possible shifts in casting. Then, they met almost every day after school and started to get a feel for the flow of the play. The marines practiced marching cadences and learned the proper body and hand movements as well. Mr. Manley, a math teacher here at Saints, assisted in the choreography of the marine ensemble. He created all of the marine marching patterns and closely considered every twist and turn. He was also in charge of assisting Mr. Blumer with any stage issues, which came as a major advantage during the hustle and bustle of rehearsals. “There is something magical about

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seeing your friends perform live right in front of you,” Mr. Manley said. “You feel more like a part of what is happening on-stage.” In the final weeks leading up to the play, the cast and crew rehearsed for three to four hours every day. The long hours, however, did not dampen the enthusiasm of the cast. “The long hours and line memorization can be hard, but in the end, I know that I am helping to put on a great show,” said freshman Nick Aldrete, who plays a marine. Technicians also worked very hard to make sure that the lighting, sound, and stage appearance was perfect. In order to do this, they recorded cues and placed the lights perfectly so that every character could shine. A key component in the formation of this play is the tremendous efforts of Jim Delacruz. He started coordinating plays two years ago when his son, JD, participated in a Shakespeare production at Our Lady of Peace. He has since played a major role as the project manager, taking charge of logistics, operations, parent coordination, and meals for the cast. “I need to keep the cast, crew, and parents up to date on the schedules because showbusiness can be very touch-and-go at times,” Mr. Delacruz said. With the hardworking thespians having seen great success in their series of phenomenal performances, Mr. Blumer and his cast of more than a few good men are excited to see what the future will hold for Saints theater.

► SPORTS

Continued from Page 1 finishing eleventh, and sophomore Evan Williams finishing fifteenth to lead the way. The freshmen and sophomores both took fourth in their respective races, and the JV team was third. Sophomore Michael Butcher came in third in the JV race, an impressive finish for someone who has battled injury and sickness all year. In league, however, the team is experiencing less success. The league is the most competitive in San Diego, but Coach Yoakum said that if the team were to win their league, they would be CIF champions. Beach volleyball wrapped up a very successful season on October 24th. Led by an elite core of seven seniors, the team won the Western League championship and took fourth place in the Open Division. The varsity team consists of five pairs: seniors Matt and Ethan Lagasse, seniors Reece Francke and Aidan Konja, seniors Jonathan Bonanno and Aidan Doheny, sophomore Bodie Kerr and senior Chris Lloyd, and juniors Ryan Melcher and Kyle Wesseln. Coach Palafox acknowledged the importance of having so many seniors and said that the experience on their side was a big factor in their success this season. In addition to the league championship, the team’s top pair, the Lagasse brothers, made it to the quarterfinals in a tournament against the other top pairs in the county. All in all, Saints sports have had relatively successful seasons, and the Saints community will continue to cheer on the football and cross country teams as they make their runs in CIF.

Hot Rods Take Saints by Storm

Saints hosts car show to benefit Hogar Infantil

 **By Angel Perez ('21)**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Accompanied by the distinctive sound of revving engines, a wide array of unique and rare vehicles packed into the faculty parking lot on October 25 as the first Saints car show in a decade commenced. Beginning just before the homecoming festival, the car show served a dual purpose: to showcase the fascinating vehicles owned by Saints families, alumni, and students, and to raise money for the Hogar Infantil de la Guardia orphanage in Mexico. By raffling off goods that were donated by the greater Saints community, the organizers of the car show ensured that 100 percent of the money earned during the event was given directly to the orphanage. Among the raffled goods were a \$250 Visa gift card, a Lucha Libre gift card, a Santos Coffee package, and Legoland tickets. Mr. Granados, a self-proclaimed Toyota Tacoma enthusiast, served as the faculty moderator and oversaw the logistics of the event, but the primary organizers were a group of students led by seniors Frankie Yeo and Michael Colucci. “These guys just had a great idea, and they ran with it,” Mr. Granados said. “I think that’s the great thing about Saints—you can just have an idea and run with it.”



This SRT Hellcat drew immense attention from visitors at the car show. *Joaquin Torre ('21)*

“I first heard about the idea for a car show when I went to a leadership retreat in San Jose,” Colucci said. “There was a school there that did a car show as a fundraiser, but I didn’t know that Saints used to do car shows. When I found out, it was even better, because I was helping to bring back the tradition.” Among the over twenty cars represented at the show was junior Paolo Madrigal’s 1966 Thunderbird. Purchased earlier this year as a project car, Madrigal and his father have been hard at work since June to restore the iconic vehicle. Calling his car a “work in progress,”

Madrigal was excited to display the restoration thus far while noting that there is still lots of work to be done in order to get the vehicle up to par with some of the other cars featured. “What I think is cool is that there’s such a variety of cars,” Mr. Granados said. “Paolo Madrigal’s car is right in the middle of a project, and it’s sitting here in a lot with cars that have six-figure values, but this is how it starts. It really shows the process.” Another notable car was Alex Ramero’s (’89) 1950s Chevrolet Bel Air Wagon with purple and gold flake. The vehicle, sporting

the easily recognizable Saints purple and gold, attracted attention from all those present for its clear ties to the school spirit for which Saints is so well known. Showcasing the essence of a Saintsman 30 years after his graduation, Ramero’s use of Saints colors serves as an illustration of just how strongly the Saints experience can remain with someone even after they have graduated. A rare vehicle from its era, David Heveron’s (’00) 1974 Dodge Charger has been in his family since 1975, never having left San Diego. With 125,000 miles, this Charger is unique for two reasons: 1) the vehicle has a factory error sunroof, and 2) it was one of the first cars engineered to have cruise control. With the parking lot full of car-enthusiasts and mere amateurs alike, the car show proved to be an excellent way to bring the Saints community together. Thanks to the raffle, Mr. Granados and his merry band of automobile fanatics were able to donate over \$1,000 to Hogar Infantil, providing much-needed support to those underprivileged members of the Saints community in our neighboring nation. Kicking off the homecoming weekend, the car show was not only meant to be an exposé for the fascinating vehicles, but rather it served as a prime example of what Saints is all about: community and shared interests for the common good.

SAHS Club Guide

With Club Day behind us and the rest of the year ahead, *The Augustinian* encourages Saintsmen to take advantage of the diverse selection of clubs in the community. Not all clubs have been included because of spacial limitations, but Saintsmen are encouraged to reach out to teachers and fellow students for more information.

The Augustinian

Moderator: Mr. Bachynsky
President: Angel Perez
Description: *The Augustinian*, which meets every Tuesday in room 318, produces the school's student-run publication, giving writers, photographers, and artists the opportunity to use their talents in order to better inform the Saints community.

Key Club

Moderator: Dr. Rey
President: Gavin Flynn
Description: Meetings are on Mondays at lunch in room 319. The Key Club is a nationally recognized, service based group which runs our school's blood drives and provides students with opportunities to serve.

Science Olympiad Club

Moderator: Mrs. Walker
Presidents: Kai da Luz and Angel Perez
Description: Members compete in various events that include earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. Meets are at lunch on Wednesdays in room 211.

Academic League

Moderator: Mr. Jezewak
President: Jason Shang
Description: The Academic League consists of students from all grade levels and of all abilities who compete against other high schools in a quiz-show format. Meetings occur each Thursday in room 316.

Youth for Truth

Moderator: Fr. Max
Presidents: Thomas Salem and Jimmy Nafso
Description: Youth for Truth's goal is to deepen the understanding of God and to improve the knowledge of his works by inviting speakers, particularly priests, to the meetings. Meetings are on Thursdays at lunch in Mrs. Crachy's room.

Baja Watermen

Moderator: Mr. Dent
President: Michael Colucci
Description: This club, which announces meetings primarily by announcement, focuses on service for Hogar Infantil de la Guardia and for other worthy causes with beach cleanups and other service events.

Ski and Snowboard Club

Moderator: Mr. Osberg
President: Alex Wenhe
Description: The Ski and Snowboard Club will visit the nearby mountains in order to engage in the highly enjoyable activities of skiing and snowboarding.

Hogar Infantil Orphanage Club

Moderator: Br. Bobby
Presidents: Daniel Gutierrez and Alex Dennis
Description: By announcement, trips are once a month on Saturdays. The Hogar Infantil Club is devoted to supporting a Tijuana orphanage. Support comes from donations, fundraisers and visits to the orphanage.

Bowling Club

Moderator: Ms. Colorado
President: Evan Gerardo
Description: The goal of the Bowling Club is to meet monthly to go bowling with the club members in order to create a sense of camaraderie and bonding over the fantastic sport that is bowling.

San Diego River Club

Moderator: Mr. Wallace
President: Jack Sandmeyer
Description: By announcement, this service club will participate in river cleanups in order to maintain the cleanliness of the San Diego River.

Chamber Orchestra Club

Moderator: Ms. Au
President: Arthur Hahn
Description: The Chamber Orchestra Club will give chamber musicians an outlet to express themselves through music in a variety of settings.

Red Cross Club

Moderator: Mrs. Palafox
President: Jason Shang
Description: Meetings are in room 326 on the first Thursday of every month. This club will feature informative guest speakers and include opportunities to give back to those in need through the Red Cross.

Interact Club

Moderator: Mr. Jezewak
President: Cooper Lance
Description: Meetings are on each Wednesdays at lunch in room 316. This service club organizes efforts to help the Saints community and the community at large with projects including No-Shave November.

Rock Climbing Club

Moderators: Mr. Freestone
President: Reese Hyduck
Description: The goal of the Rock Climbing Club is to learn about rock climbing and to explore its benefits in order to develop the skills and talents of the members in a variety of ways.

E-Sports Club

Moderator: Mr. da Luz
President: Joseph Selfani
Description: Meetings are held by announcement at lunch in room 220. The club is dedicated to providing a fun atmosphere for PC gamers to dialogue about the latest in PC Esports and to establish club level tournaments for members.

Broga

Moderator: Mrs. Palafox
President: Cade Martinez
Description: Broga is yoga for men. If you want an effective, full-body workout that provides overall endurance, core strength, and flexibility, then the Broga club is for you.

Social Issues Club

Moderator: Mr. Okuley
President: Ethan Huynh
Description: The Social Issues Club will meet to provide an open opportunity for nonjudgemental discussion of social issues that we may face in our daily lives.

Table Tennis Club

Moderator: Mr. Davis (Coach)
President: Brian Szczotka
Description: The Table Tennis Club, holding meetings every day at lunch, will include free games and future tournaments at the ping pong tables in the entrance patio.

Mock Trial

Moderator: Mr. Manley
President: Arthur Hahn
Description: Meetings are held Tuesdays after school in room 223. If you are interested in finding out what it is like to be a lawyer, Mock Trial is for you. The team goes to court for a countywide competition in February.

Champions League Club

Moderator: Mr. Alcoser
President: Rodrigo Morfin
Description: The Champions League Club meets in the library to watch soccer games for those who are passionate about the sport. The club will raise money through quinelas and tournaments.

National Honors Society

Moderator: Mr. Lamerato
President: Arthur Hahn
Description: With meetings being held once a month, the National Honors Society is meant for high achieving students to participate in service projects including tutoring at local middle schools.

The People v. Marty's



By Kai da Luz ('21)
EDITOR

In recent weeks, there has been a rise in students boycotting Food Service, known to many as Marty's, due to their increase in prices. Many a Saintsmen seem to have had their fill of overpaying for their daily meals on campus.

Prices across the board have gone up, as chips and cookies have been raised from \$1.00 to \$1.50 and many drinks have been increased by one dollar or more. California burritos and Marty Boys are now \$6.00 instead of \$5.00. Food Service also increased its specials prices by one dollar on average.

Many believe the increase in prices at Food Service is unjust and unmerited, with those in charge giving little consideration to what students want.



Despite some price increases, business is still booming at Marty's.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

Some argue that the increases in price have been too quick and in rapid succession, leaving many to wonder if there will ever be an end to it.

“It just feels like they keep arbitrarily raising prices in order to get as much money as they can out of us,” said Gavin Flynn, a senior. “Of course, it is a business and that’s what businesses are designed to do, but because Marty’s has a monopoly on food at Saints they can do whatever they want with the prices, which seems unfair to me.”

While Flynn concedes to the natural principles of supply and demand, he points out and denounces the fact that Food Service is able to bend and shape prices at a whim as it is the only food on campus.

A popular solution to these increases is to just bring your own lunch. However, while for some this is a viable solution, others are pushed by convenience to purchase their meals at school.

Still, some Saintsman feel as if they are being squeezed for every last cent they have. From this bitterness and their empty pockets, some have begun protesting these

markups in the form of boycotts. Students have had enough of this “injustice,” and many have begun to bring their own lunches despite the inconvenience.

Many Saintsmen, however, do not support the boycott, believing that the price increases are not as tyrannical as they might seem.

“The price increases have merit because they have to coincide with the fact that prices have not been raised in a couple of years,” said junior Nathan Putris, a student employee at Food Service.

These students view the price increase as necessary for the well being of Food Service. They argue that because of the increase in the price of foodstuffs that Marty’s procures, it is only logical that they must also raise their own prices in order to maintain viable profit margins.

Defenders of Marty's believe that the boycott is simply a waste, a cry for attention. They posit that an uprising without merit or reason borders on anarchism, and

in this case, constitutes a defiance to the natural order of economics.

“It makes sense that when the stuff that they buy costs more, the prices at which they sell them must also rise,” Putris said.

One also has to look at the other benefits Food Service brings to Saints. In addition to providing Saintsmen with warm meals and an outlet to purchase snacks and drinks throughout the school day, it also gives students the opportunity to work in order to help pay for tuition. At lunch time, it is typical to see four or more Saintsmen behind the counter, with one such student describing his own experience working at Marty’s as “delightful.”

“We strive to provide delicious food and service to everyone here at Saints. Saint Augustine High School is our home,” said Marty Rascon ('15), one of the owners.

Marty explains that they at Food Service have introduced less expensive items to accommodate the price increase and the needs of Saintsmen. “We are constantly

reviewing and implementing new ideas to keep prices at an affordable level. For example, we have a new \$4 burger and fries combo as well as a \$1 chip bag option,” Marty said.

It is also notable that while they raised prices on a few items, a large percentage of the prices remain the same.

In a situation like this, one must ask, “Are the price increases fair, or is the boycott the correct and appropriate response?” A business cannot hope to survive with unsustainable profit margins. On the other hand, a business cannot hope to survive by alienating its customers, either.

Issues like this allow for the exercise of democracy, judicious reasoning, and the freedom to passionately express what they believe is right.

At this phase, it is not evident if those fighting for a decrease in food prices will reign victorious, or if this boycotting experiment will fade into the tapestry of this school year and be soon forgotten.

How to Cash in on the PSAT



By Jerome Santiago ('21)
STAFF WRITER

The PSAT, an exam clouded with uncertainty and confusion, serves as SAT preparation for some and naptime for others. However, these sleepy and apathetic test takers may be missing out on opportunities to score major scholarships. On October 16, students across the United States took this test, which is also known as the NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). Scored out of 1560 points, the PSAT/NMSQT tests students on the skills they have learned in high school and on those that they will need in preparation for the more rigorous college curriculum.

Students usually come to the conclusion that the PSAT/NMSQT is simply a preparation test for the SAT. Although this is partly true, another purpose of the PSAT/NMSQT lies in its name; it tests whether or not a student is qualified to be a Merit Scholar. Students across the United States compete for the title of Merit Scholar, with the test determining which students deserve the prestigious title. Taking the PSAT/NMSQT automatically enters third-year high school students into the National Merit Scholarship Competition.

Only certain people are eligible to participate in the NMSC. A student must attend a high school in the United States, the District of Columbia, or any of the U.S. territories. Students who do not attend high school in the United States but wish to enter must meet U.S. citizenship requirements. These requirements typically disqualify



The top-scoring PSAT test-takers at Saints of the class of 2020:
Front row (left to right): Jason Shang, Luke D'Agnese, Thomas Vedder
Back row (left to right): Nick Kennedy, Ethan Kula, Matt Steinberger, Stuart Dempster

2,400,000 of the 4,000,000 students who take the PSAT/NMSQT each year.

The NMSC is a rigorous race, with top students across the nation competing for a chance at a scholarship. The NMSC is no different than other competitions, as it too has runner-ups and winners. There are two tiers in the program: National Merit Program Recognition and Scholarship Winners. Out of the 1,600,000 entrants into the competition, only 50,000 of these students will be commended and recognized.

The NMSC starts by taking the PSAT/NMSQT. After taking this test, participants

are kept in the dark until late-September of the following year when the NMSC sends out Letters of Commendation to the first tier of high-scoring students. Of the 50,000 highest scoring students in the United States, 34,000 are recognized as Commended Students. The top 16,000 students across the country are recognized as Semifinalists, a category made up of the highest-scoring entrants from each state.

In California, the typical qualifying score to become a Semifinalist is 1470. In February, 15,000 of the 16,000 Semifinalists are honored as Finalists. Finalists, the

final tier of recognition, are determined based on achievements and skills beyond the PSAT/NMSQT. All Commended Students, Semifinalists, and Finalists are not guaranteed scholarships but are likely to receive one or more based on their title.

The NMSC then selects 7,600 Merit Scholars, the highest achieving and scoring entrants out of the 1,600,000 students who participated. Merit Scholarship winners are given one of three types of scholarships: The National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship, a corporate-sponsored scholarship, or a college-sponsored scholarship. Corporate-sponsored scholarships range from a one-time payment of \$2,500 to \$5,000, with other scholarships giving money over time. Similarly, college-sponsored grants may pay for four years of study at the sponsor institution or other forms of stipends.

Even if a student does not become a Merit Scholar, the student can still earn a Special Scholarship, offered to 1,100 students. This scholarship is provided by corporate sponsors, and each scholarship is unique in its criteria, though a participant must be in the top 50,000 students to qualify.

This year, Saints is honored to have seven students who placed in the top 50,000 scorers in the nation. With these students continuing to bolster the reputation of our school, the NMSC provides a unique opportunity for students to stand out amongst the masses based on their immense academic success. Congratulations to seniors Luke D’Agnese, Stuart Dempster, Nicholas Kennedy, Ethan Kula, Jason Shang, Matt Steinberger, and Thomas Vedder.

Chaplain's Corner

The Day of Service



By Fr. Max Villeneuve, O.S.A.
COLUMNIST

There is a certain paradox in the fall semester in which the bliss of an endless summer gives way to week after week of the routine of daily life. At some point, as the nights grow longer, and the days colder, we want to yell, “Stop!” and plead for the holidays to arrive.

As we prepare to give thanks later this month, I also want to call attention to our annual Day of Service on December 3rd, which will be a good day for ourselves as a school community to “hit pause” from our scheduled learning and activities and enter into something completely different.

The Day of Service had been a once-every-four-years tradition to ensure that every Saintsman had an opportunity to participate at least once during their time here. However, last year, I approached the administration and asked if we could make this a yearly tradition for several reasons.

First, it will allow us as a school community to be participating in our own way in “Giving Tuesday” by going to five county and city parks. Second, it allows students, faculty, and staff alike to work together with one another towards the same goal of beautifying our parks through tree planting, mulching, the removal of invasive species, and other projects deemed necessary by the park rangers. Lastly, it allows each of us to take a break from our own routines: the classroom will move from indoors to outdoors, our pens and pencils will become shovels and rakes, and the incessant light of phones and monitors will be replaced by the warm glow and warmth of an early December sun as it breaks through the morning chill.

I can not think of a better way for us to give thanks for our routine at Saints than to celebrate a day in which we break from it in order to give back to our community. That is at the heart of Augustinian spirituality, that we come together as one for the sake of going out as one. It is for this reason that I look forward to our Day of Service and our opportunity to give thanks together as a school community.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Br. Bobby for coordinating and overseeing the event. See you there!

Saintsmen Recall Trip to India



By Mr. Dillon
GUEST WRITER



By Angelo Riodique ('22)
STAFF WRITER

With the traveling Saintsmen having returned from their summer excursion in India per last May's issue, the group, led by Fr. Kirk and Mr. Dillon, was able to recount a wide array of stories regarding their journey. Among these travelers were current Saintsmen John Thatcher, Phil Schabarum, Brian Szczotka, Alberto Espinosa, and Eric Fries. Some of their activities included experiencing the Taj Mahal, visiting the Sisters of Charity in Kolkata, and learning about the different religions in India, most notably Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism.

This was the first Saints immersion trip to Asia and the farthest distance that Saintsmen have ever had the pleasure of traveling: over 7,000 miles. The trip lasted a little less than a month with those going able to truly engage themselves in the culture of a foreign land.

The trip started with a tour of Amritsar, on the border between India and Pakistan. The city contains the Golden Temple, which is the holiest site for the religion Sikhism, and it is also a major commercial, cultural, and transportation hub. The group then proceeded to head east and visited many sites: the Red Fortress in Delhi, the city of Rajasthan, the Taj Mahal in Agra, and the Holy City of Varanasi near the Ganges River, where they saw the Ganga Aarti Ceremony. This ceremony includes lighting lamps and setting them out on the Ganges River along with chanting and singing songs in praise of the Mother Ganga, the mother of all Hindu gods.

As the trip spanned most of the subcontinent, the group was exposed to diverse terrains from deserts to jungles. The group spent a few days in the desert fortress city of Jaisalmer, which included an overnight safari, Mass in the desert, and camel riding to and from the city. Additionally, the group spent a night in the Sundarbans Tiger Preserve. While unfortunately no tigers were spotted, the group did see several monkeys



John Thatcher had the unique opportunity to ride a camel. Photo courtesy of Mr. Dillon

as well as two saltwater crocodiles! This jungle getaway also included an epic mud-fight from which no student (or chaperone) was spared.

Spiritual highlights of the trip included visiting the city of Sarnath, where the group saw the temple where the Buddha first began his preaching in the 6th century B.C. The trip ended (other than an unplanned overnight stay in Shanghai due to a flight delay) in Kolkata. Here, students had the opportunity to visit the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity where Mother Teresa lived and worked, as well as visit her tomb. Despite what many in the West believe, Kolkata is a vibrant, modern city and the cultural capital of India, which the group also enjoyed experiencing.

The trip also included an awesome sampling of India's food. While the chaperones were nervous about how the group would fare going in, the students put away a variety of dishes without any major trouble. Popular foods were chicken and lamb curry dishes, chicken tikki masala, mango milkshakes, naan (a type of bread served with many meals), and some delicious kebabs from the streets of Delhi, which is famous for its street food.

The trip was truly fantastic, giving the travelers the chance to see the sites of many world religions. Between their visits to the Ganges, the Golden Temple, and the site of the Buddha's first speech, the group felt very welcomed by the people and enjoyed the food and culture.

“During the three weeks we literally crossed the whole country and we were able to immerse ourselves in a variety of cultures and religions,” senior Brian Szczotka said. “I experienced a whole new culture and way of life and came to know how fortunate I am to live in America.”

He also added that his favorite memories from the trip were the Taj Mahal, the jungle river safari, the Victoria Memorial, the border flag ceremony, the Golden Temple, and most importantly, the food.

The trip was originally designed to be followed with a zero block course taught by Mr. Dillon and Fr. Kirk, but with Fr. Kirk leaving his position as chaplain following the end of last school year, the course was canceled.

The trip earned rave reviews from its participants, and those who can make an immersion trip next year should make it a point not to miss it.

Sophomores Take the SAVI Torch



By Aidan Rickwa ('22)
STAFF WRITER

SAVI, or Student Augustinian Values Institute, is a trip in which six sophomores selected by the faculty go to one of the Augustinian schools in the United States or Canada to learn about the core Augustinian values. Throughout the course of the weekend, the students learn how the other schools teach and integrate said values. This year, the six sophomores were Gary Szczotka, John Lopez, Michael Patterson, Gage Whitton, Luke Fries, and myself, Aidan Rickwa. Fr. Max and Br. Bobby served as chaperones.

The school that hosted SAVI this year was Cascia Hall in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cascia Hall is younger than Saints and includes a middle school as well as a high school. Traveling across the campus, we all saw the influence of the Augustinian values and the similarities between some facets of Saints and Cascia Hall. The chapel was one of the main places where we would all meet and pray together as well as learn about the plans for the day and the activities we would be doing. We were very active, but always had time to socialize and learn more about the other schools.

On day one, after meeting students from all the other schools, we split into smaller groups of six. We talked about what our expectations were for the weekend and heard about the many activities that we



The SAVI students with Fr. Max and Br. Bobby in Cascia Hall's chapel. Courtesy of Br. Bobby

would engage in later in the trip. We went to the chapel and prayed with the football team, learning that they kept a jersey from all the different schools to symbolize the connection that we share as members of the Augustinian community. We went to a tailgate afterwards and then went to the football game. They also had a student section, but, of course, it paled in comparison to The Pit. At half time we watched videos that students made about their own schools, sharing information about ourselves and our communities. We concluded the first day of our retreat and prepared for the next.

On day two, we were up early and head-

ed to Catholic Charities, a nonprofit organization that helps the less fortunate. We split into a few groups, with some organizing food and others clothes. We bonded in service and had quite a bit of fun. Afterwards, we met with our small groups and began to talk about how the service went and what we got out of it. Throughout the discussion, we learned that, although some schools emphasize service more than others, it is a staple of all the Augustinian schools. Later in the day, we went to a park called the Gathering Place. In our small groups, we were tasked with finding locations on the map and taking photographs with our groups at each site.

To celebrate our hard work, we all had ice cream and returned to play some games and bond more before day two was over.

Despite the sunny note on which the second day concluded, we began day three by learning about the Tulsa Race Riot, an event in which more than 300 African-Americans were killed and their homes and businesses were burned. We later visited the John Hope Franklin Memorial Park, which featured a trail reflection dedicated to the memory of the lost souls. Afterwards, we returned back to Cascia Hall and met in our small groups to talk about the park and the event. Then, we met with our school groups to discuss ideas that we could integrate into the Saints community in order to continue bettering our school. Together, we made a poster summarizing what we learned throughout the trip, which is currently hanging in Campus Ministry. Before ending our last full day, we had evening Mass, exchanged numbers, and reflected on the trip.

On the last day, we met in the chapel to receive a blessing and say our final goodbyes. The trip was an incredible experience that included jam-packed days and constant learning opportunities, allowing us to build great bonds with other students and learn all about what makes Augustinian schools special. Overall, it was an experience that we will not soon forget, and the relationships that we formed over a mutual adherence to Augustinian values will remain strong for years to come.



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A Saintsman's Horoscope

Completely accurate fortunes given by The Augustinian's in-house psychic

 **By Aidan Lukasik ('21)**
STAFF WRITER

These horoscopes are most accurate for Saintsmen. Great lengths have been taken to explicitly decipher the positioning of celestial bodies to best predict the future for members of the Saints community.

Aries (March 21 - April 20) - You have great influence over your social life. Take the initiative to seek new bonds through your intramural team with your home-room. Competing in your intramural team will bring comradery and clarity.

Taurus (April 21 - May 21) - Being the bull you are, you need to challenge your math teacher at the first opportunity you get. Even if you know he is right about a problem, dispute it to the best of your ability. He will respect you for this and teach you the secret shortcuts you need.

Gemini (May 22 - June 21) - As the twin sign, something you are just beginning to realize about yourself will come into fruition. You are not the same as you used to be and will connect with a faculty member in a new way when you see this same newly discovered trait in them, or when you realize that they're offering extra credit.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) - Take great precaution to be ready to leave your final class of the day at a moment's notice in the coming weeks. There will be a day when you need as much time as possible to arrive at where you need to go after school. This day will come without warning, and you must be ready to leave as quickly as possible when the bell rings.



This graphic presents a visualization of the 12 horoscope signs. *The Zodiac King*

Leo (July 23 - August 22) - You are quickly gaining knowledge. This will soon be tested in an unexpected subject, and connections that you cannot foresee will become obvious. Utilize the green light from *The Great Gatsby* in some way on your next math test.

Virgo (August 23 - September 23) - It is in your best interest to contact Mr. Bachynsky as soon as you can. He has vital intel and needs you to reach out to him as soon as possible. Email him a picture of a vampire squid as the catalyst for the conversation. This will begin the first stage of your communication, and further instructions will follow.

Libra (September 24 - October 23) - Figure out a way to get to the top of the bell tower near the ASB room. Being up there will make one part of the campus stand out

to you. You must go there and seek more clues. This will be the beginning of a complex mystery for you.

Scorpio (October 24 - November 22) - Purchase as many spicy chicken sandwiches as you can from Marty's. The special sauce used will give you the strength to find a solution for your greatest hardships. With the spicy chicken sauce, you shall prevail.

Sagittarius (November 23 - December 21) - Go to the library and sit in the far corner. Choose the book that stands out to you—you will know the one. The book will give you the perspective to choose a new direction in your life, and it is best you follow it.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 20) - Because the Big Dipper is in retrograde,

► **HOMECOMING**
Continued from Page 1
and I'll definitely attend next year. It was a fantastic night."
"It was great to see people out on the dance floor having a great time," said junior class president Alex Alcalay.
There weren't many changes from the setup of homecoming last year, with the junior class ASB deciding to stick with their previously successful recipes for a great dance.
"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," Alcalay said.
Like always, homecoming was a night to remember, as all of the attendees came together to celebrate one of the best nights of the year. From the rally to the homecoming game to the dance, the events that transpired during this fantastic week will surely be remembered by all those who took part in the festivities.

it is vital that you break all ties to any females you might know, especially any of the OLP girls. Any girls that you know must be completely cut off, and it would be wise of you to research nearby hermitages. You go to an all-boys school, anyway.

Aquarius (January 21 - February 19) - Put extra pencils in your backpack as soon as you can. They will be needed by people with whom you are not yet familiar, but these individuals have the potential to become your best friends forever.

Pisces (February 20 - March 20) - Swim in the fountain at the front of the school during lunch. This will bring great meaning to your life and teach you the long-forgotten secrets of existence discovered by Saint Augustine, lost through the centuries.

Halloween Highlights



On Halloween, students and teachers in their creative and often comical costumes dotted the Saints landscape. *Photos courtesy of ASB*

The Collaboration of the Century

By Hudson Daley ('22)

