

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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“Tolle Lege”

St. Augustine High School

Saints Gets Makeover for 100th Year



By Ty Woods ('23)
EDITOR

With the 100-year anniversary of Saints just around the corner, the Saint Augustine High School football field will be receiving a significant renovation. Set to be completed on June 6, the project will consist of a complete replacement of the fencing around the field, and it will also extend the track alongside the fence.

Along with the fencing and track upgrades, the field will also host two new field houses in the northern and southern areas. The two-story storage facilities will allow for easy access of P.E. equipment, as well as other sports equipment for Saints teams.

The south field house will showcase a brand new scoreboard looking out over the field. The clearly visible print will make it perfect to view at any football, rugby, soccer, or lacrosse games. White planter boxes filled with plenty of vegetation will line the eastern border overlooking the street. A door on the bottom floor will link the top of the field to the back of the alley below the field. This will allow for scorekeepers and other personnel to access and view the field with relative ease.

The north field house, like its southern counterpart, will feature wire lettering of the Saints logo on a clay backdrop. It will be set back against the intersection of Palm and 33rd Street, and it will feature a variety of flowers and trees around its exterior. The unit



This artist's rendering shows the future of the Campus Beautification Project.

Courtesy of Mr. Horne

will provide beauty as well as shade to the campus.

Each field house will feature a roll-up door with roof access, and both of them will be easily visible from 33rd Street. There will be updated landscaping along the road, complete with palm trees, shrubs, and plenty of flowers. The current fencing will be replaced with a much taller, sturdier chain-link fence that will stretch around the perimeter of the field. The new perimeter will also allow for a wider track that will be extended all the way to the fence.

As a side project, the grass in be-

tween the batting cage and the football field will be completely replaced with turf. Rain and mud has made it difficult to maintain, so the turf should allow for more convenient and frequent use. The installation is set to begin during Easter break. Teams will be able to warm up on the turf with relative ease, and it will also improve the overall functionality of the space.

Officially named the Campus Beautification Project, this renovation is the last step of the Saints master plan that started in the early 2000s. It originally started with the construction of Mendel Hall. Then, the Augustinian Com-

mons was completely transformed in the second phase of the project. This left the old gym, and plans were approved to repurpose it into a new theater. As a side project, the engineering lab was constructed, finalizing the master plan. Then, plans were made for one last project.

“The architect finalized the construction to be completed just in time for the 100 year anniversary of Saints,” Mr. Horne said. He emphasized the work being done, as it will be a much-needed rejuvenation to campus.

While Saints fans may have hoped
SEE CONSTRUCTION, pg. 8

Halos Hammer it in the Home of the Padres



Saints scored 13 unanswered runs to beat Madison at Petco Park.

Via Instagram: @saints_info



By Jacob Soro ('23)
STAFF WRITER

Baseball

The season has been going great for the championship-aspiring base-

ball team. They have been led by their talented and experienced seniors Cade Martinez and Chaz McRoberts. They have been hot recently, especially with their recent game at Petco Park in which juniors Frankie Giacalone and MJ Sweeney both hit high flying home

runs. Saints fell behind 3-0 after three innings, but they roared back into the game with their best hitting performance of the season. Giacalone went 4-5 with three doubles and a home run to lead the way, while Sweeney added a bomb in the seventh. Senior

Frankie Carney had an excellent game at second base, ranging to his right and making a tough throw to end the fifth inning, and Giacalone also flashed the leather by diving to his right to snare a line drive. In the seventh inning, Saints exploded for eight runs to turn a 5-3 lead into 13-3 and put the game out of reach.

A series win over Point Loma and a series loss to Scripps Ranch puts the team at 3-2-1 through six league games. The team also lost their first game of the Lions Tournament 8-3 at La Costa Canyon.

Track

The track and field team has been racing to the top and has started off the season undefeated at a stunning record of 5-0. They recently won a tri-meet against Hoover and Morse. Junior Nate Wilson had an incredible performance in the 1-mile event at the UC Track Classic where he placed first at the event. Seniors Joshua Morgan and Nick Watson have showcased their skill and have led the track team on a mission to bring back the league title where it belongs, with one more meet against Canyon Hills next Thursday.

SEE SPORTS, pg. 8

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson Confirmed



By Harrison Quinto ('23)
STAFF WRITER

On April 7, 2022, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson became the first black woman voted to be an Associate Supreme Court Justice. President Joe Biden nominated the Harvard Law graduate on February 25, 2022, following Justice Stephen G. Breyer’s retirement in January. She will formally succeed Breyer on October 3. Judge Jackson’s confirmation did not go without its distinctions.

The confirmation vote in the Senate was 53-to-47. The votes in her favor were cast by fifty Democrats and three Republicans while the other forty-seven Republicans voted against her. The three Republicans voting for her were Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Senator Mitt Romney of Utah, and Senator Susan Collins of Maine, believing that she had the “qualifications and temperament for the job,” according to the Wall Street Journal. In an attempt to gain more support for the nominee, Democratic Senator Richard J. Durbin, who is also chairman of the Judiciary Committee, silently worked to gain Republican support.

President Biden and the Democrats moved swiftly to nominate Judge Jackson after the announcement of Justice Breyer’s retirement. Following the announcement of the result, the Democrats and Republicans who voted for Judge Jackson gave a standing ovation while Senator Mitch McConnell and many other Republicans left the floor. The result of the vote reflects the trend of political decision making in recent times. This partisan voting trend continues to create thin margins of victory. In comparison, Justice Breyer was confirmed in 1994 with a vote of 87-to-9.



Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson is the Court's first black female justice.

Saul Loeb, AP

President Biden’s nomination of Judge Jackson received much criticism from the Republicans. They criticized her treatment of criminals in her rulings, claiming that she was too lenient. In cases she presided over, such as those of child-pornography and child sex abuse cases, Republican senator Josh Hawley claimed that she showed a pattern of imparting lighter sentences than the ones recommended by the prosecutors. They attempted to portray her as being soft on criminals.

The Republicans tried to portray her as sympathetic to terrorists as well since she defended detainees at Guantanamo Bay and other such criminals while serving as a public defender. In defending the Guantanamo Bay detainees, she accused President George W. Bush of committing war crimes by torturing the detainees. Judge Jackson will be the first public defender to serve on the Supreme

Court.

Presently, the Court is split, with six justices appointed by Republican presidents and three appointed by Democratic presidents, and Judge Jackson will maintain this ratio come October. Of the justices present today, three were nominated by President Trump: Justices Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh, and Amy Coney Barrett.

President Biden had promised his own appointment to the Supreme Court would be a black woman.

Judge Jackson’s qualifications for the position go beyond her being a role model for the future. She brings diversity and experience to the Court, being fifty-one years old with two Harvard degrees. She also served under Breyer as a clerk in 1992 after graduating from Harvard. Jackson served as a US District Court Judge then on the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia before being

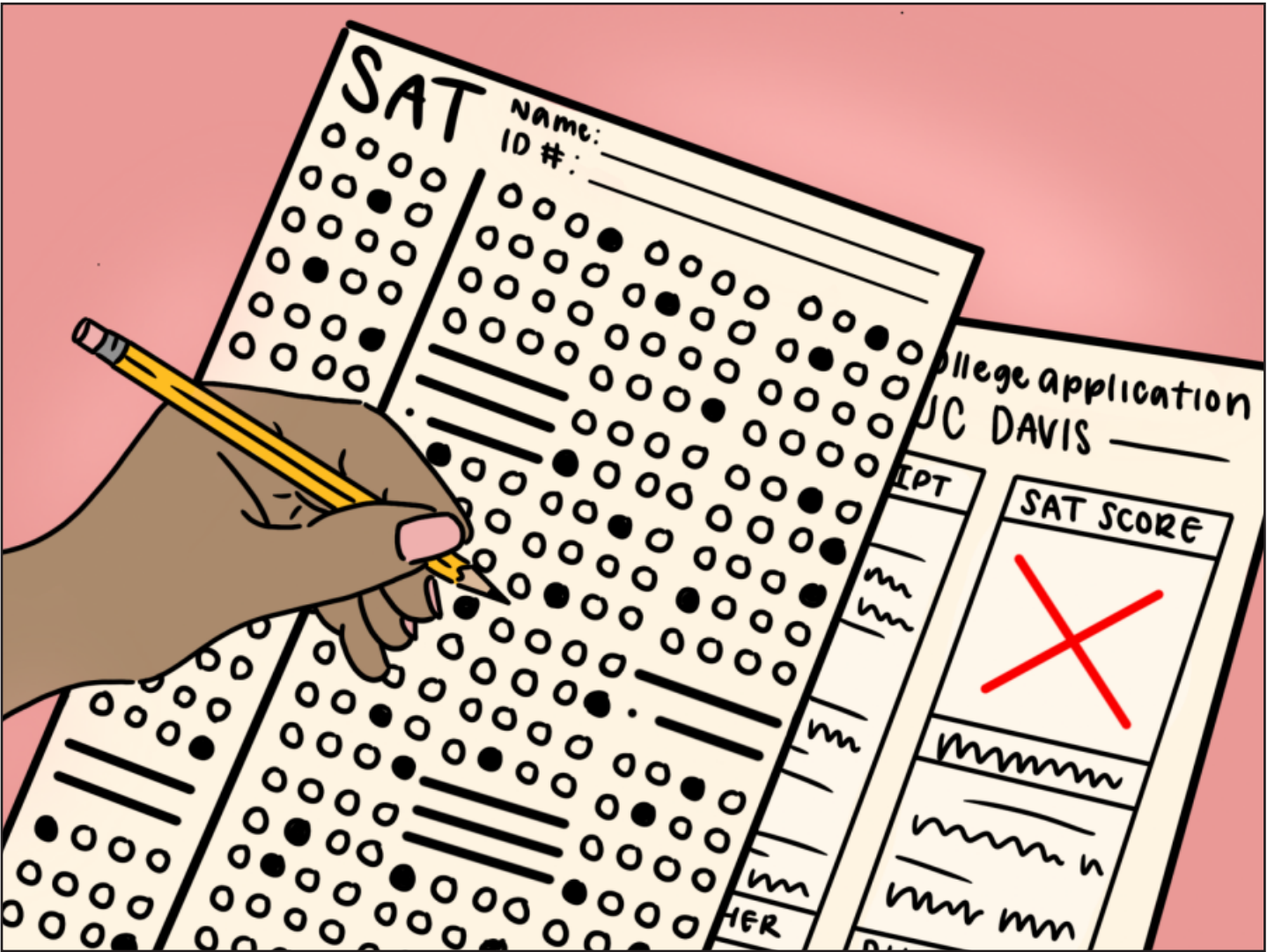
nominated for the Supreme Court Justice position. Her service on the Court would make her a role model to the future as it is a statement on racism and misogyny as well as a milestone in firsts for appointments to the Supreme Court.

She will serve on the Supreme Court during cases such as whether race should be considered in college selections and whether the First Amendment should allow commercial artists to deny services to same-sex couples.

Jackson will recuse herself in a specific upcoming case on the role of race in college selections, since it involves Harvard University, where she serves on one of the alma mater’s governing boards.

The appointment of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson is a landmark in the history of the Supreme Court. Despite the controversies, her presence on the bench will provide diversity and experience for the Supreme Court’s future.

Opinion: Bring Back the SAT Requirement





By Patrick O'Leary ('23)
COEDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Look, the college admissions process isn’t perfect. It never was. There will never be a perfect way to capture the character and ability of every stu-

dent, much less find a metric to compare them. But if colleges want to at least keep up the pretense of merit-based admissions, they need to bring back the standardized testing requirement.

A controversial take, I know. It seems the entire nation is trending

in the opposite direction. Over three-quarters of schools nationwide will not require students to submit SAT or ACT scores during the 2022-2023 application cycle. Even Harvard, the elitist of the elite, won’t require test scores until 2026.

These policies began during the

unique circumstances of the pandemic. Because of the scarcity of test sites and the frequency of county shutdowns, schools understandably did not wish to disadvantage students who were unable to take the test due to factors out of their control. But now, test sites have reopened and are widely available. It is no longer difficult to take the SAT, and colleges know that. But their policies haven’t changed.

Many colleges now claim that their test-optional policies are intended to increase diversity among their student body. The SAT, they say, is biased, favoring white and Asian students over black and Hispanic students. While there may be some truth to that claim, the data shows that wealth, not race, is likely the strongest correlating factor to success on the SAT.

According to government statistics, the median household income of Asian families in the United States is over ninety thousand dollars, while that of white families is over seventy thousand dollars . To contrast, the median incomes of black and Hispanic households are each below sixty thousand dollars.

This economic disparity is more to blame for performance gaps on standardized tests than racially-biased questions. In fact, the College Board itself, which administers the SAT, found a meaningful correlation between family income and performance on the SAT.

This should come as no surprise. Wealthier students can afford to take the SAT multiple times. They also have

Team Spotlight: Who Let the Dawgs Out?



By Michael Luzi ('25)
STAFF WRITER

Welcome to *The Augustinian's* Team Spotlight article! This month's sport is lacrosse. Lacrosse, as we all know, is a spring sport that started back in 2010 for Saints, and over the years the program has grown to what we know it to be today. Under the guidance of the head coach, John Tolla, lacrosse has advanced each year.

Lacrosse can be summarized as a competitive sport with two teams that try to swing a small rubber ball with a stick called a "crosse" into the opposing team's goal.

"It's kinda like field hockey but in the air...and most of the movements are like hockey," senior Will Tobias said.

There are ten players on each team: three defense, three midfield, three attackers, and one goalie. The game is very quick and aggressive, and it is also given the title "the fastest game on two feet." The sport may seem simple at first, but with all the different techniques used in the sport, it can be a challenge for inexperienced individuals.

The start of the season has not been what the team has been hoping for. So far this season, the team has lost five games and won two. The team has played against many schools from Bishop's to the Sun Devils in Mt. Carmel.

"We have an ungodly amount of talent on this team, we just got to click," Tobias said. He also says that the team is guaranteed to play in playoffs this season, and if they start grinding now, they will be able to go to the CIF championships.

The team has a wide variety of stand-out players. The team currently has five freshmen on varsity that will help the team throughout their four years here at Saint Augustine. Some of these freshmen on the team include Griffith Manse and

James Steiner, who have been performing outstandingly on the field. Some seniors who have been performing well include Jackson Norris, the goalie for the team, who has a save percentage that is above 60 percent. Originally, the team had no idea who the goalie would be for the team until Jackson stepped up and showed his skills of being a lacrosse goalie. In one game, he managed to make twenty-five saves in one game against the state champions from Colorado.

Anthony Ivanjack is one of the star players because he has a smooth and quick step-down shot. Elliott Gibbons, who is one of the team captains, is a starting defender. Once players like Gibbons get the ball from a good transition, they can work the ball into an easy fast break.

Tobias and Max Graves are the other team captains, and they are starters for the team. They, too, have great skills in the sport. "All across the team, we have pretty good guys to play for the team," Will Tobias said.

Many of the seniors and juniors are considering playing lacrosse in college. Senior Jackson Norris plans to go to Texas A&M and play for the Corps of Cadets Lacrosse team, which is a club sport at the school that caters to the players who are in the cadets from rookies to veterans. Jack Elgas plans to play in college in Division III. Joe Isbell plans to go to San Diego State University and play club lacrosse. Will Tobias is going to attend Hope College in Holland, Michigan, where he will play at the Division III level.

This team has high potential, in this season and the seasons to come. Every player seeks to play their best in games and practices to defeat the other schools. With all this talent, the lacrosse team can win this season's playoffs and even CIF championships. If you see a lacrosse player at school, make sure to cheer him on!




Saints lacrosse boasts a number of experienced seniors who provide important leadership for the team.
Noah Villafana ('23)

Then vs. Now: Pit Wins National Title



The Pit rose to national prominence this year.
Donovin Bocalan ('23)



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR

The Saint Augustine High School Pit was named National Student Section of the Year!

After the 2021-2022 basketball season, the Student Section Report posted various polls for students to vote on which school's student section was the best in various regions. The Pit won back-to-back San Diego Student Section of the Year titles, and also repeated their victory as Southern California Student Section of the Year. Finally, with 2,563 votes tallying up to thirty-five percent of all votes, The Pit became the national champs!

This historic first national championship comes on the eve of the Saints' hundred year anniversary. As a school

west corner of the gym."

In the late 1960s, what is now known as The Pit was simply whichever section in which the students chose to sit. The four cheerleaders from the local Catholic girls' schools, along with the male cheerleaders from Saints* would literally lead cheers. The students and parents would cheer along with them, creating an intimidating atmosphere for opponents.

In the early 1970s, local newspapers, such as the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, began to refer to this student section as The Pit, along with other nicknames, such as the Purple Gang, referring to the purple clothing Saintsmen would wear to basketball games.

At first, the title of The Pit referred to the building itself, that is, the old Dougherty Gym; however, as time progressed, the student section would adopt the name. It was not until the mid 80s that the words The Pit were painted in the gym with big, bold, purple letters. Right above the northwest corner in which the students always sat, these words would mark the home of one of the most intimidating student sections in the state.

In more recent years, The Pit has been known as a source of tremendous school spirit and pride. Back in 2014, the *San Diego Union-Tribune* wrote that The Pit is what "gets the place rockin'."

While The Pit may seem like complete chaos, there is a method to the madness. Leaders of The Pit, better known as Generals, devote much time and planning into their shenanigans. They must run in the ASB election for the position, and often make hype vid-

that prioritizes unity, truth, and love, it makes perfect sense that our first national championship comes in a field that demonstrates those core values.

Anyone who has ever sat in The Pit can tell you that it is an experience like no other. There is simply nothing quite like screaming at the top of your lungs, cheering alongside hundreds of your brothers, rooting for some of the best sports teams in San Diego.

In honor of this historic win, *The Augustinian* decided it would be fitting to look back at the history of The Pit, from its foundation, to its current state of success.

According to Dr. Rey '70, The Pit grew from humble beginnings.

"I remember going to basketball games when I was a student here," Rey said, "We would always sit in the north-

eos to get the fans pumped up. They work alongside Mr. Osberg to create the best atmosphere possible for each and every game.

With themes such as Purple Out, where Saintsmen show up covered in purple from head to toe, Splash Zone, featuring wetsuits and surfboards, and of course the infamous Body Positivity, where Saintsmen go shirtless for the evening, each game is sure to be a fun and unique experience for all who attend.

The Pit always manages to get in the heads of the players on the visiting teams, with routines such as the Purple Curtain that they use whenever an opposing player is shooting free throws. It is always a fun surprise to see what creative distraction the Pit Generals have cooked up.

In the words of the Student Section Report, "When you have the best basketball team in San Diego, you need a top of the line student section." All of The Pit's cheers and costumes are a great asset to the already incredibly strong Saints basketball team. The Saints have been undefeated at home for the past two seasons, and look to continue that run next year.

With back-to-back San Diego and Southern California Student Section of the Year titles, paired with enthusiastic students and faculty, The Pit might just have a shot to repeat as national champions.

**For more information on Saints male cheerleaders, see "Then vs. Now: Male Cheerleaders? What??" in the March 2022 issue of The Augustinian.*

Riley Ranks: Every Star Wars Movie



By Riley Scanlan ('23)
STAFF WRITER

Hello there! A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, I was assigned an article to rank Marvel movies. As much as I love the Marvel franchise, I thought it would be enjoyable to give my controversial Star Wars movie rankings. I grew up watching Star Wars, and I was always inspired by the world-building of the franchise. Here are my top 10 Star Wars movies (plus *The Last Jedi*).



11. *The Last Jedi* (2017) – *The Last Jedi* is by far the weakest movie of the Skywalker Saga, as it adds nothing to the story while also having some of the weakest character arcs in the franchise. While the story does paint cool visuals (i.e. the planets of Crait and Ahch-To), the film feels distant as it tries to focus too much of its attention on trying to fill the shoes of the Original Trilogy. While Rian Johnson is a great director, his work would have been far better within the franchise if he was able to produce a stand-alone film. This movie just really leaves you wanting MOAR from it. I say to blow this piece of junk out of the sky.



10. *The Rise of Skywalker* (2019) – HEY HEEY! Didn't get last, but to be honest, *The Rise of Skywalker* is no better than *The Last Jedi*. It tries too hard to fill the shoes of the original trilogy and as a result, leaves a bad taste in the mouth of anyone who finishes watching it. The movie tries to make all other previous threats in the universe seem useless which instead makes itself a less powerful message. I cringe every time I hear the line, "Somehow Palpatine returned," as it proves that the writers weren't even creative enough to come up with a new villain. The movie leaves a lot to long for. To anyone who feels the same way, I recommend looking up the concept art created by Colin Trevorrow for when he was supposed to write the movie, as it gives an original story with cool visuals.



9. *Attack of the Clones* (2002) – This party's over. Although the weakest of the Prequel Trilogy, *Attack of the Clones* does have some cool scenes. The movie opens the clone trooper arc or "the Clone Wars" which remains one of my favorite concepts within the whole franchise. The film loses some of its appeals with some overall out-of-place lines like the infamous "I don't like sand." Overall, the movie does set the stage for *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* which is easily the best Star Wars content ever created.



8. *Solo: A Star Wars Story* (2018) – While the story is good, and the origin story remains compelling, the inclusion of a new actor for Han hurts to watch. I don't like it, I don't agree with it, but I accept it. If they waited a couple of years to make the film, they could have at least edited Alden Ehrenreich's face to look more like Harrison Ford, as they proved they can do so in such shows as *The Mandalorian* and *The Book of Boba Fett*. The story's strength comes with Paul Bettany as Dryden Vos as he played the role perfectly, making him another compelling Star Wars villain. The place where the movie struggles is that it's forgettable.



7. *The Force Awakens* (2015) – *The Force Awakens* was the first Star Wars movie that I saw in a theater, so it has its own charm for that reason. Sadly though, I wish my first Star Wars theater viewing was better, because *The Force Awakens* has a tough time defining itself within the franchise. The movie is essentially a remake of *A New Hope*, but you probably don't recognize it because of the female protagonist. The movie's best scene is the opening as it remains intense with its cinematography conveying the intensity of the First Order raid on Jakku. The movie is average compared to the rest of the franchise, as it is weak but has a consistent enough storyline.



6. *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* (2016) – *Rogue One* is good for one reason: the visuals. There is something about a gritty battle on the beaches of Scarif which sells the film for me. The movie also remains cool as it's one of the few where a brand-new cast of characters allows the writers to be more creative with their arcs. This movie was careful not to choke on its aspirations with characters that would not drag down the story line and simply provided an expansion to the Star Wars universe with some new planets and terrain. The final scene with Vader gives me goosebumps every time as he mercilessly massacres all the rebel scum.



5. *A New Hope* (1977) – Ah yes, the original. 1977's *A New Hope* is home to the creation of Star Wars, and it was a completely successful first story. For those of you who do not agree with this ranking, I find your lack of faith disturbing. Although Tatooine feels so outdone nowadays with all the new Star Wars content, its debut in this movie adds so much to the world-building when introduced to such creatures as the Jawas, Tusken Raiders (but not the women or the children), and the wretched hive of scum and villainy that is Mos Eisley. You are introduced to Luke Skywalker, the main character, and the 'New Hope' to the galaxy as he searches for worlds outside his own, which sets him on an adventure unlike any other for him. The Death Star was always so cool to me as a kid too, as the idea of an "evil" space station of that size always seemed so awesome to battle. I may or may not own the LEGO version...



4. *The Phantom Menace* (1999) – You are going to need to hear me out on this on While a controversial take, meesa thinks *The Phantom Menace* is one of the greatest Star Wars movies of all time. Perhaps some of my opinion on this comes from playing *LEGO Star Wars: The Complete Saga* (yes, I was a LEGO Kid), and spending way too long on the podracer level, but there is something about its story which just sits well with me. Darth Maul is easily one of the coolest characters in the franchise, and the idea of the double-sided lightsaber has always been fascinating to me. Also, "Duel of the Fates" is one of the most underrated pieces of Star Wars music in the franchise. If you disagree with me, I will gladly let you voice your opinion, but be warned, the ability to speak does not make you intelligent.



3. *Return of the Jedi* (1983) – The true ending to Star Wars. The story feels complete as it works toward defeating the largest threat the galaxy had seen (before the sequels felt they needed to be more threatening). Luke Skywalker's transformation from whiny kid to experienced Jedi Knight demonstrates how much he has grown and how he truly has the will of a Jedi. Some weak-minded fools can argue that the Death Star II is a less creative route to the plot of the movie, but that kind of thinking

is a trap, as the process by which the characters resolve its problem keeps the story fresh for the end of the trilogy. For those of you who do not agree with this being in the top three, so be it.



2. *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) – *The Empire Strikes Back* is a classic. It's an amazing story and extremely innovative for its time as it was the first major push for world-building within Star Wars. Hoth, the barren ice planet, is a great setting for the introduction fight scene and sets the stage for the upcoming threats. The usage of a puppet for Yoda allows the movie to push for its alien characters to not need to be "human-sized." The movie expresses love, tragedy, and plot twists that keep the viewer hooked regardless of how many times they have seen it. For those of you who thought this was going to be number one, I have altered the list. Pray I don't alter it any further.



1. *Revenge of the Sith* (2005) – This is where the fun begins! There is only one way to describe *Revenge of the Sith*: golden. Conceptually, the movie is a masterpiece and a true example of George Lucas using his talent of world-building to the fullest of his abilities to just DEW IT. Everything about it is amazing with some of the coolest scenes like the dog fights over Coruscant at the introduction of the movie, the Wookiee battle on Kashyyyk, and, while sad, the brutal Order 66. The film is tragic as it shows the origin story of Anakin's journey to the dark side to take on his role as Darth Vader (who, by the way, is the coolest villain ever). My bias shows here, since I grew up watching *The Clone Wars* and was so impressed with what they were able to put together to coincide with this film in Season 7. This movie clearly just has the high ground. *Revenge of the Sith* is just the coolest!

Editor's Note: This list is based on the opinion of Riley, and Riley alone. Not the editors. We cannot stress this enough. If you disagree with his rankings, message him on Instagram: @stanewspaper or send him an email: saintsnewspaper@gmail.com

Webster's Dictionary: A Guide to Saints Vernacular

 **By Caden Webster ('23)**
STAFF WRITER

Saint Augustine High School has long been known for the unique characteristics of its teachers. Many of them have specific catchphrases or expressions that allow them to better communicate with students. In order to prevent confusion, Webster’s Dictionary—brought to you by Caden Webster ‘23—has defined some of these catchphrases.

“Fer.”
Interjection
1. Commonly used as an expression to call students back to attention.
“Hey buddies, fer!”
2. Used as a placeholder word; expressing hesitation or a pause in a speech.
“Ok, fer, if you want better grades, go back in time and do it over again!”
Classroom of origin: Coacher

“Doctors.”
Noun
A generic term for a student at Saints.
“Hey Doctors!! Who is ready for a super post pre post pop final prueba?”
Classroom of origin: Coacher

“Ohhh?”
Interjection
Expressing curiosity or interest.
“Ohhhh??? You see it???”
Classroom of origin: Cudal

“Are you with me or no?”
Interjection
Used to awaken sleepy students and question whether or not the students are, indeed, with him.
“Pearl Jam is one of the best bands, are you with me or no?”
Classroom of origin: Chesser

“I will beat you.”
Verb
A simple, yet calculated threat for any student wishing to not listen or understand math.
“Gentlemen, if you cannot solve this problem, you are a bonehead idiot, and I will beat you.”
Classroom of origin: Ozdowski

“Child’s play.”
Adjective
Used to describe the pure simplicity of a math problem.
“The factor of the day is pure child’s play.”
Classroom of origin: Slusher

“Follow up question.”
Noun
An expression preceding a question that will follow up. Cannot be avoided.
“Can I ask a follow up question?”
“No.”
“Okay here is my question...”
Classroom of origin: Crachy

“Quiet, you!”
Verb
A powerful phrase used to silence any student. Accompanied by pure silence from said student.
“Quiet, you!”
Classroom of origin: Bachynsky

“Chico!”
Noun
A term for a student, usually accompanied by rugby propaganda.
“Hey!!! Chicos!!!! Come and try out for the rugby team! Let’s practice a scrum right now.”
Classroom of origin: Dent

“Grades don’t matter.”
Interjection
Exasperated expression, generally used when a student asks for an A.
“Buddy, Hernán Cortés said that grades don’t matter!”
Classroom of origin: Coacher

“Opportunity.”
Noun
An expression that means you are about to have a test. Alternatively, you are about to get an assignment which you do not want to do.
“Happy day, gentlemen! Let’s start today off with a nice opportunity!”
Classroom of origin: Okuley

“Just try.”
Verb
Motivational saying reserved for those students who need to put their best foot forward, especially when learning a foreign language.
“Just try. It’s okay to get it wrong, but it’s not okay not to try.”
Classroom of origin: Gormly

“Just take it easy.”
Verb
A command following a true statement he doesn’t like.
“Daddy taking money from the orphans again.”
“Ju-ju-ju-ju-ju-just take it easy.”
Classroom of origin: Daddy

“SURRY.”
Interjection
A statement preceding a long apology, generally for money laundering from the orphans.
“SURRY. I was wrong. I made the mistake. I’m the bad guy.”
Classroom of origin: Daddy

“Gee, that’s all the harder it is.”
Interjection
Don’t blow it.
“It’s just BACKWARDS. Gee, that’s all the harder it is.”
Classroom of origin: Ozdowski

“Big guy.”
Noun
Generic descriptor of Saints students, regardless of size.
“Don’t forget to hold the door, big guy.”
Classroom of origin: Chief

THE AUGUSTINIAN

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Something Rotten to Open in Two Weeks

 **By Griffin Cappiello ('24)**
EDITOR

Following the success of their fall production of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, the Saint Augustine High School drama department will be putting on a production of the hit musical *Something Rotten!* This 2015 musical was nominated for 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and has toured across the globe, and it now makes its way to the Raymond Center for the Performing Arts. The show tells the story of the Bottom brothers, Nick and Nigel, who are playwrights in late sixteenth century England. Their theater troupe is in constant competition with the great William Shakespeare, and the Bottom brothers are struggling to create the next big thing in theater. After a hilarious journey filled with soothsayers, brotherly love, and tap-dancing eggs, the brothers write and perform the world’s first musical. The show stars OLP sophomore Abby Arnold as William Shakespeare, freshman Max Leadley as Nick Bottom, junior Brandon Cruz as Nigel Bottom, and OLP freshmen Laura Allen and Anna Jacobsen as Bea Bottom and Portia, respectively. Arnold and Jacobsen will make their Saints stage debuts; however, they are not unfamiliar with the theater, as Arnold starred in last year’s episodes of *The Office* as Pam and in OLP’s production of *Shrek* as Pinocchio, while Jacobsen starred in *Shrek* as Fiona.

“It’s such a great opportunity,” Ar-

nold said. “I’ve never played a character quite like Shakespeare before. I’ve never worked with a live band before, so that will be a good experience. Mr. Blumer creates such a welcoming and encouraging environment, plus you guys have an actual theater, so I’m really excited to be here.” Meanwhile, Leadley, Cruz, and Allen all return to the Saints stage after being members of the cast of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, with Leadley and Allen ready for their second show, while Cruz, one of the most experienced Saints actors, returns for his sixth show. “I’m super excited to be a part of this really cool show,” Cruz said, “We’ve worked really hard on it, and I think people should come see it. It’s a funny show with some good songs. I think this is one of the best shows Saints has ever done.” The young core cast is backed up by an experienced and talented ensemble featuring the likes of seniors Will Schwerin, returning once again to the stage for his final show at Saints, and Tristen Erpelding, who is trying out acting after managing the sound department for the tech crew for the past few years. The shows will take place on the evenings of the 28th, 29th, and 30th of April at 7PM. If you see a Saints thespian walking around campus, be sure to tell them to “break a leg”, and come watch and support your Saintsmen and Pilots for all the time and effort they put into this show.



St. Augustine High School Theatre PRESENTS

SOMETHING ROTTEN

April 28 | Opening night
April 29 | 7 PM
April 30 | 7 PM

Raymond Center for the Performing Arts at St. Augustine High School
3266 Nutmeg, San Diego, CA 92104
Tickets are available at ShowTix4u.com

D'Agnese Takes Engineering to the Max



By Aidan Rickwa ('22)
EDITOR

Engineering has become quite popular as a career and major, but not many high school students take as much of an interest in it as Max D'Agnese has. Most of you Saintsmen have probably seen D'Agnese around, but probably know him more for his work with the Saints band as conductor and playing the baritone saxophone. However, D'Agnese has made engineering and his future his own through the Saints maker's space. D'Agnese has done many different things in the maker's space, especially with the new 3-D printer. Although he started with small projects just to learn the program and test out ideas, he has quickly become proficient in creating more complex and interesting projects.

Engineering has been a goal for D'Agnese for years, and he has been increasingly more involved. As founder and president of the Engineering Club at Saints, he is serious about his future and truly enjoys what he does. Being able to create incredible projects that he can call his own is incredibly rewarding and satisfying. He is constantly in the maker's space beginning work on new projects or has his mind preparing for his next idea.

"I love pushing the limits of the maker's space," D'Agnese said.

If you are interested in a future in engineering, joining the Engineering Club

is a great way to start on your path. Currently, they are working on a robot fight project.

D'Agnese enjoys creating replicas and basing projects off of items he has seen in movies, television shows, and video games. For example, last year he built a hammer similar to Mjolnir, which is Thor's weapon. He also built his own specially customized lightsaber with a unique color and design. Although he has not yet cracked the secret to letting his lightsaber cut through solid metal, he is still very happy with it. He has also made a replica of the legendary Power Stone from the MCU and made a retracting bow replica from *Hawkeye*. Currently, he is also working on a personal project to create a scale replica of BD-1 from the videogame *Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order*. The complexity of BD-1 and his unique design will be quite a challenge for D'Agnese, but one that he is well equipped to tackle.

D'Agnese's most recent project has been made in service to the school and the Augustinians. Fr. Max heard about D'Agnese's impressive skills in design and engineering and wanted him to build an aspergillum, the metallic instrument used for sprinkling holy water. D'Agnese began with how he wanted it to look and began thinking how to best begin. D'Agnese utilized a program called Solidworks, a CAD software, to build the design and then handcrafted the aspergillum using the school's lathe in the maker's space. Work-



D'Agnese presenting the aspergillum to Father Max. Noah Villafana ('23)

ing with Mr. Freestone, D'Agnese began with 3-D printed prototypes before finishing the final project, which was made in an aluminum alloy. D'Agnese also made an impressive box to hold the aspergillum, which was made of plywood and cushioned with a purple velvet. The aptly named "Augustinian Aspergillum" in total took a little over twenty hours to complete.

"I enjoyed the design challenge, and it was tons of fun to build," D'Agnese said.

Even if you do not want to be an engineer, we can all still stand to learn something from D'Agnese. His drive, determination, and passion for what he does

Chaplain's Corner



Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA
COLUMNIST

When Jesus is brought before Pilate in the Gospel of John, Pilate famously asks Jesus, "Quid est veritas?" "What is truth?" One of the main pillars of our school is that of Veritas. Not merely truth, but Truth in and of itself. The Truth is Jesus Christ, the Logos or "logic" that undergirds and enlivens the universe and our world. All truth in some way then, reveals to us some aspect of God.

This means that truth is not limited to your religion class—it would be contrary to our faith for us to say so. The other disciplines of our school rely on truth in order to function. For example, it would be impossible to balance a chemical equation if we did not agree on common values. Or to speak or write with any eloquence if the speaker and audience did not share a common vocabulary and grammatical structure.

Truth is being challenged in our world by those who insist that there is no such thing as truth. Strangely this false truth is so dear to them, that they threaten violence and ostracization against those who do not think like they do. What an irony! That those who profess to believe in nothing would insist on the moral rightness of nothingness. They insist that our eyes do not see what is plainly clear, and that their emotive feelings would trump clear and certain facts.

This movement in our current culture away from truth has profound and dangerous effects, the consequences of which we are only beginning to see. An unmoored and ungrounded humanity guided by nothing will end up being led by anything. Only an authentic living out of Veritas will allow for the full flourishing of our lives. By allowing ourselves to be guided by truth, we can strive for it; by grounding ourselves in Truth, we can transcend beyond the finiteness of our small selves—and in turn be fully enlivened by He who is Truth itself.

SAT
continued from page 2

access to tutors and prep courses, as well as better schools with more advanced classes. The income disparity on the SAT is the result of an unfair society, not an unfair test.

But if that's the case, why keep it? Why should colleges place so much value on a test that favors the rich when a whole host of other factors can be used instead?

It's really quite simple: those other factors favor rich students just as much. On average, wealthier students outperform poor students on every aspect of the application process by a substantial margin. High-income students tend to have higher grade point averages. They can participate in more extracurricular activities. They receive better letters of recommendation. And the content and style of personal essays is more strongly correlated with family income than SAT scores are.

As with most things in life, wealth is a huge advantage. The college admissions process is no different. When colleges become test-optional, they aren't leveling the playing field. Quite the opposite.

While low-income students tend to score worse on the SAT, a recent study by the University of California task force found that standardized test scores are actually more accurate predictors of success for low-income students. They

can help to find high achievers who are otherwise unable to demonstrate their ability. MIT even cited these findings in their recent decision to reinstate their standardized testing requirement.

The value of the SAT goes beyond highlighting gifted students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; it also provides an important comparison. Different schools offer different classes and have different distributions of grade point averages. But more than that, different schools have different degrees of rigor that aren't shown on transcripts. If two students at two different schools take the same course load and receive the same grades, their GPAs and transcripts will be identical, regardless of the difficulty of the school. Standardized tests give talented students a chance to separate themselves from the pack and give colleges an accurate way to compare students across the entire nation.

Beyond improving the college application process, bringing back the standardized testing requirement is about honesty. However much colleges claim to value diversity and fairness and equity, this pales in comparison to their true motive. Because with the marketing tool of "being test-optional," a college draws more applicants and application fees, increasing revenue and enhancing the pride of every university: the acceptance rate.

Elite universities like Harvard and

Stanford use their acceptance rates as measures of exclusivity that factor heavily into national college rankings. By being "test-optional," these schools draw a larger pool of applicants to lower the percentage of students who get accepted. The Common App reported a 22 percent increase in applications to its 853 members in 2022 from pre-pandemic levels. The larger pool of applicants has led to record low acceptance rates from highly selective schools like Harvard, Yale, and Brown.

The harsh truth is that test-optional policies are intended to attract more applications from students that elite colleges have no intention of admitting. These colleges themselves acknowledge that good SAT scores are still considered in an applicant's favor in admissions and scholarships. This means that as much as they insist upon it, these schools aren't really "test-optional."

Colleges around the country need to reinstate standardized testing requirements in order to give talented students a chance to shine, regardless of economic background. They need to return to a standard measure of national comparison to increase equity in admissions. But perhaps most importantly, they need to stop deceiving students to better their own statistics. Because while the SAT may not be a perfect test, it is a necessary one. And colleges who pretend otherwise are only hurting students.

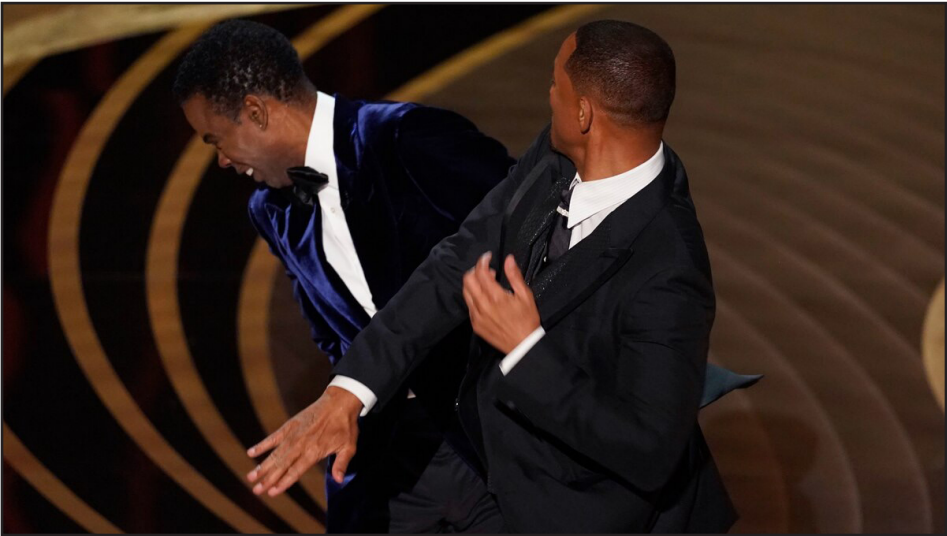
Idiocy of the Month: Joke Falls Flat, Jada Not Flattered

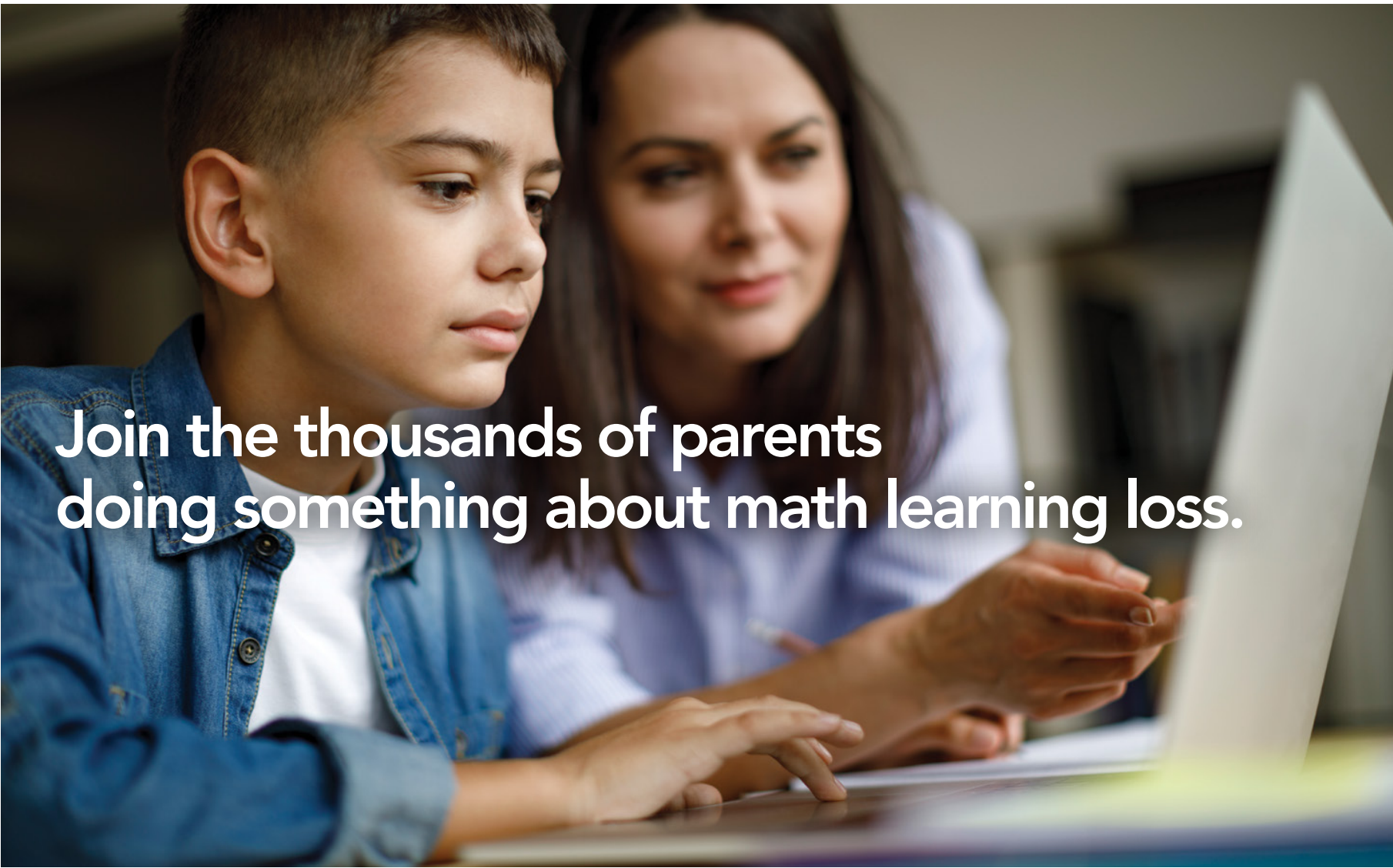


By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR

Look, I feel like this one was pretty self-explanatory. You really shouldn't slap people on live television. For those of you who have been living under a rock for the past few weeks, here's what happened. Chris Rock made an insensitive joke at the expense of Jada Pinkett Smith at the Oscars, and Will Smith, her husband, slapped him.

Smith received a ten-year ban from the Oscars, while Rock declined to press charges, presumably in exchange for increased attendance at his shows.





The pandemic has had a major impact on the world, including on our children’s education. The subject that has been hit the hardest? Math.

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Gulag by the Hour: A Manny-festo



By Manny Butler ('22)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In order to demonstrate how much work goes into producing each issue of *The Augustinian*, I have compiled a log detailing what we do each hour in hopes of enlightening our readers as to what exactly goes on behind the scenes. For the purpose of brevity, I will skip to the good part: the night we send the issue to print, also known as the gulag.

2:00 PM: School ends for the day. Only Ty Woods is here, as everyone else is currently playing a sport. Knowing that the staff is going to be pressed for time, he gets busy on the most important things: watching Thursday Night Football's pregame show.

3:00 PM: Only an hour until more editors start to show up. "Only two hours until the game starts," Ty says to himself in the empty classroom.

4:00 PM: Patrick O'Leary gets out of volleyball practice and freaks out because no one did anything for two hours. He instantly starts retooling one of the four articles that need a complete rewrite. Ty, growing bored of the constant bombardment of advertising on the pregame show, gets out his typewriter to play with. For an instant, Patrick considers asking where Griffin Cappiello is, before remembering we asked him to take care of three separate interviews. Manny Butler and Aidan Rickwa are still at practice.

5:00 PM: Everyone except for Manny is here. Manny would be here, but he's currently stuck in the parking lot formerly known as the 805 South, desperately trying to make it back to school. Patrick sent Ty out to take a photo of one of the staff members, and he's taking a distressingly long time. Making matters worse, Aidan is pacing around the front of the room, the joints

in his feet cracking with every step. Don't worry, he only needs 30,000 steps a day. All of this is making it awfully difficult for Patrick to rewrite the third article.

6:00 PM: Manny finally showed up and ripped off a previous issue to use as a template for this one. He is emitting a never-ending stream of obscenities, some louder than others, as he attempts to wrangle InDesign into shrinking a photo. Patrick breathes a sigh of relief as Ty comes back into the room. Aidan discovers that the photo was of the wrong person. Ty is sent back outside to find the right person, with no word on whether Manny and Patrick will let him back in when he finally gets it. An argument over the dinner order from Mazara's has caused Aidan and Griffin to abandon the articles in favor of shouting at each other, feet cracking incessantly as Aidan walks around, agitated. Aidan maintains that cheese pizza is the superior variety, while Griffin counters with the point that Aidan spilled his drink all over the inside of his car the last time he picked up dinner.

7:00 PM: Frustrated by the lack of progress, Manny begins yelling at the others in an attempt to get them to hurry up. With his face covered in grease from the pizza and his post-practice hat head, he is not as imposing of a figure as he believes he is. Despite InDesign's best efforts to keep him from doing so, he has finished most of the layout. Griffin packs his stuff up and leaves, as it is already past his bedtime. Ty now realizes that he forgot to actually write his article. He begins to rapidly and quietly type away, as he realizes that Manny will tear his head off if he hears how much progress Ty has made, or rather how much progress he hasn't made.

8:00 PM: Now it is the rest of the staff's turn to grow impatient as InDesign rears its ugly head once again, re-

fusing to cooperate with Manny. Aidan goes up to the track to run laps in the dark as Manny's obscenities intensify in quantity and volume, and Aidan's steps will inevitably be the target of said rage. Eventually, though, the staff moves to hard edit.

9:00 PM: Hard edit is not going well, as the end of one article is missing, a separate article is replete with misspellings, and one of our writer's names is spelled wrong. At this time it appears Joe Trashman is the only competent writer. No matter though, Manny hops back on InDesign, makes the changes (relatively) quickly, and the issue looks ready to send to print! Wait... except for this missing indent...and this text should be bolded...and this whole article should be in Georgia, not Times New Roman. Come on, Manny, get it together!

10:00 PM: The last few changes are made, the file has been exported, and Manny is staring over Mr. Bachynsky's shoulder as we give it one last look before it goes to print. He uploads the file to the printers' website, we shake hands, and gulag mercifully comes to an end.

11:00 PM: Manny gets home and goes straight to bed without thinking once about all the homework that's due tomorrow. Mrs. Walp said the AP Chem test tomorrow will be easy, so there's no need to worry.

8:00 AM, the next morning: Ty showed up half an hour late with the papers, so we're all in Mr. Bachynsky's classroom dividing the issues into piles of twenty-five as fast as we can so that we can get these papers out to every homeroom teacher on campus. Oh well, it's not like we're missing much, half the teachers "forget" to pass the darn thing out anyway.

field of nine teams and took home the title for the first with a team record. They had standout performances with senior Jacob Paule finishing in second and sophomore Billy Davis hitting 2 under par and taking home the crown for himself. They have found their groove and are looking to build off their momentum into the future.

Lacrosse
The lacrosse team struggled early with injuries and lost their first five

games. However, they did not let them stop them and kept their Saints mentality and have managed to win their last two, with one being a huge upset against Carlsbad. Seniors Will Tobias and Jackson Norris have provided leadership to the team and given a much-needed boost to the heavy underclassmen team. They hope to continue their winning streak against La Costa Canyon and be back at the top where they deserve to be.

Volleyball
After a rough start to the season, the team flipped the switch and started to play like a true Saints volleyball team. Knocking off top 10 ranked teams Mission Hills and Bishop's at home, they have shown their grit and made their presence in San Diego known. At the La Jolla Beach City Invitational, they showed their true strength and upset Green Valley and Rancho Bernardo to advance to the gold bracket. They are in the competitive Western League, where they beat a highly-ranked, strong Francis Parker team in 5 sets and cruised by La Jolla at their house. They are currently third and hope to build off their momentum to put up a fight against the red team at home and prove they have what it takes to win a title.

Swim
This swim season has been one of the best in recent years. The team has been dominating in their meets and has been setting CIF record times. Led by senior Steven Coons, who nearly set a school record for the 50-yard free-style, the swim team is in a very good position to take home the league title. Sophomores Joe Nguyen and Andrew Bier are great young additions to the team.

Tennis
The tennis team picked off right where they left off last year. They have dominated their league opponents and are undefeated with a chance to clinch league for the first time since 2018 next week against the team up north. Standout senior Tommy Gilcrest is proving why he is the best at what he does and has the team in the top 15. After La Jolla stole the league title from them last year, the Saints have taken revenge by beating them and now control their own destiny to take back the crown. With their talented roster, they hope to cruise to a CIF title for a back-to-back.

CONSTRUCTION
continued from page 1
to enlarge the football field to host home football games, that dream will never become a reality due to the size constraints of the campus. To make up for this, Saints has committed to creating exciting new changes that will help showcase the beauty of our campus here at Saints.

SPORTS
continued from page 1
Golf
The golf team has lived up to their hype and has started 8-1 with their only loss coming against the number one seeded Torrey Pines, whom they later rematched and got revenge. Filled with many talented players, they have shown their ability to compete at the top. In the recent San Diego Country Club Invitational, Saints played in a

The Struggles of Being A Cartoonist

by Hudson Daley ('22)

