

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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St. Augustine High School

Augustinian Students Bond Nationwide



V is for Veritas, an Augustinian core value.

Courtesy of David Sabaga '26



By Peter Thorne ('26)
CONTRIBUTOR

Before this year, I didn't even know what SAVI was.

Unlike some of the other schools participating, there was no application or advertisement, no interviews or essays for Saintsmen wishing to embark on this journey.

One day back in September, Fr. Max pulled me out of class to tell me that I had been selected for this trip to Philadelphia at a school called Malvern Prep about 45 minutes outside the city. The only detail I was given about the trip was the names of the other sophomores who would also be traveling with me.

The crew selected to represent St. Augustine High School consisted of Tommy Battaglia, Kekoa da Luz, Devin Manns, David Sabaga, The Augustinian's very own Jamison Gerding, and yours truly.

After this news from Fr. Max, it largely stayed quiet until about March, when more information regarding the trip began appearing. Most of it was basic, main-

ly concerning what to pack and even more liability forms to sign. We also found out we would be responsible for making a video about Saints to show to the other schools on our first day there.

After this, I had to scramble, sorting out with all my teachers what work I would be missing in my upcoming two days of absence. Finally, on a Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m., our flight to the other side of the country took off.

We were met outside the airport by a bus full of kids from the other Augustinian schools attending, with ultimately nine other schools being present.

Once we arrived at the school, we were all blown away by the standard of living to which people held themselves out here in the suburbs of the east coast. Besides the two gyms and the brand new golfing simulator, the campus resembled that of a college.

The curated content of the trip consisted of talks on the core values of Augustinian schools.

Across the country, our shared core values united us and showed us all the

SEE SAVI, pg. 8

Tennis Shares the Love in CIF Run



By Michael Luzi ('25)
MANAGING EDITOR

Welcome to *The Augustinian's* Team Feature article! This month's sport is tennis. This season, the team has achieved their third consecutive Western League Conference title, marking the first time in 30 years that the team has accomplished this feat. With an overall record of 15-2 complimenting their 9-1 record in the Western League Confer-

Tennis celebrates continued CIF success.

ence, Saints tennis has been conquering the court.

The head coach of the varsity team, Coach Timothy Golden, has been playing tennis since he was young. In high school, he went to the Minnesota State Championship. He joined the Saints tennis team in 2018 as the JV head coach. Last year, he stepped up to the position of head coach for the varsity team.

Coach Jordan Adams is the assistant coach for the varsity team, and he also played tennis from an early age. He was previously a coach for the OLP tennis team, which is how he came to know Saints. He joined the Saints team as an assistant JV coach, and this year, he moved up as the assistant varsity coach.

Tennis is a complicated sport with many rule changes across each level. At the high school level, tennis matches

Courtesy of Mr. Golden

have a lineup with three singles players and three doubles teams. Each match consists of three rounds, and each player or duo plays one set against a new opponent in each round. At the end of the day, there are eighteen total sets played. The team that wins the most matches wins, and a 9-9 score goes to a tiebreaker match. Last season, the team showed off

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The Grass is Greener on Benito's Side



By Benjamin Nault ('26)
EDITOR



By Diego Ruiz ('25)
HEAD TRANSLATOR

If asked what makes Saints so great, most would mention the teachers, the brotherhood, the academic program, the sports, etc. But there is someone on campus whom not many people seem to know, and yet he has a tremendous impact on our campus: our gardener, Mr. Benito Cardilla.

Everyone on campus has seen him at some point. He's the one with the goggles and yellow vest tending to the plants in Vasey Patio. Or maybe you've seen him riding around in a golf cart filled with gardening tools. Or perhaps you just heard him outside your classroom—yes, he's the one making your teacher speak a bit louder over the roar of his leaf blower.

One thing is for sure: the grass has never been greener. A man who helps make our campus so beautiful ought to be recognized, so *The Augustinian* decided to introduce you formally to Mr. Cardilla. But since he is so down to earth (no pun intended), it's ok to call him Benito.

Mr. Benito Cardilla is from the state of Mexico — the Mexican Republic. When he was eleven years old, he arrived south of the border in Tijuana, and later married there, remaining in Tijuana for 30 more years.

Benito originally wanted to prolong his residence in Mexico, however, his wife had worked hard to process papers in order for the two of them to move to America. After moving to America, they had three children, now teenagers.

Benito appreciates spending time with family, especially riding bikes — mountain bikes in particular. When he isn't speeding along on two wheels, he enjoys



Benito keeping Saints pristine.

hiking with his family. His family typically likes to go to Rancho Peñasquitos to trail-blaze on bike, and head up to Julian to enjoy the crisp air, perfect for hikes.

Saints has had the honor of enjoying Benito's gardening expertise for six years now. Contrary to what many people may

think, he isn't directly employed by Saints, but is working for a company named BrightView, which Saints hired as a contractor to manage gardening upkeep.

Benito prides himself immensely on the quality of the gardening and the joy that it brings to others.



Jameson Grohman '26

"I like to see people make comments that they like the school garden," he said. He also appreciates when people take photos and are calmed by the different flora he utilizes in his work.

His biggest challenges are time con-

SEE BENITO, pg. 9

Max Leadley: Rising Broadway Star



By Braeden Steele ('25)
CONTRIBUTOR

Max Leadley: a man of many talents. A student leader, working as an upstanding Loyal Son and Big Brother; an athlete, playing a pivotal role for the football team and wrestling team; and a natural-born actor, starring in previous Saints productions as Nick Bottom in *Something Rotten* ('22) and Robert Martin in *The Drowsy Chaperone* ('23).

The reason Max Leadley has been nominated for The Augustinian's Student Spotlight is because he is one of the first ever Saintsmen to be paid for performing in a professional show.

Of course, out of respect for Leadley, we have decided to keep his wage private, but just know it beats working at your dad's liquor store any day.

Leadley was cast in *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*, which ran from March 16th to May 5th at the Lambs' Theatre in Coronado. Multiple critics have raved about the show being "genuine" and "heart-warming."

Furthermore, the showing is a world-wide premiere, meaning that Leadley will go down in history as the first person to ever play Harry Tate, Calpurnia's oldest brother.

The rest of the spotlight will be dedicated to a one-on-one interview with the talented actor.

This interview has been edited for clarity.

The Augustinian: When did you start acting?

Max Leadley: I started acting when I was in Kindergarten, but I didn't do a



Leadley performing in *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*.

Courtesy of Max Leadley

show until 2nd grade.

TA: What was your first show?

Leadley: My first production was Peter Pan at Christian Youth Theater (CYT), where I played Peter Pan. It introduced me to the basics and really helped me to start developing the passion that I have for acting today.

TA: What is your favorite role that you have played?

Leadley: This past summer I played Jack Kelly in *Newsies* at Young Actors' Theatre. That's such an iconic part and I had such an amazing experience working at YAT, so I'd have to go with that.

TA: What's the biggest differences you see between the community theater that you're used to, and the professional theater that you are in right now?

Leadley: To me, the biggest differences between being in a professional production and a typical show is the expectations and timeline put on the actors. Late line memorization isn't really an option when you're given four weeks to put an original show together before we start our preview shows. This added a great pressure aspect to it, but the high-grade of my castmates made the whole thing seem pretty seamless. The way the artistic team and crew treat you as a professional actor also helps big time with confidence on stage and in rehearsal.

TA: What has been your favorite part about working as a professional actor?

Leadley: I have the opportunity to get paid for doing what I love. What else could you possibly ask for in a job?

TA: How did you get involved with this show?

Leadley: My vocal coach actually told me about the auditions. I sent in a video audition and they gave me the part. I got my role about a week before the first rehearsal, while everyone else in the cast auditioned several months beforehand.

TA: Who are some of your biggest inspirations?

Leadley: In terms of acting ability, I really admire Leo DiCaprio. Aaron Tveit is definitely one of my biggest inspirations in the world of Broadway, he's played a couple roles that I'd like to play some day. Outside of acting, my parents are great role models for me.

TA: What else do you like to do outside of theater?

Leadley: I'm on the Saints wrestling team. I also spend a lot of time going to the gym and hanging out with my friends.

TA: And for my final question, will you ever be returning to the Saints Drama Department?

Leadley: Yes! I plan to come back for both the fall and spring shows of my senior year. I love our community here and always have a great time working on whatever shows Mr. Blumer throws at us.

Although Leadley's run in *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* has come to an end, he will certainly be looking to continue his work as an actor. Be sure to keep an eye out for his return to the Saints stage next year, and when he eventually wins his first Tony Award, you'll be able to say that you saw him perform when he was in high school!

Mr. Hitch and the New Tutors On the Block



By Michael Luzi ('25)
MANAGING EDITOR

Jameson Grohman '26

At only 25 years old, Mr. Hitchcock has accomplished more than the average person. In the past few years, he has welcomed a new member to his family, helped transform a small Catholic school, and now he plans to start a new tutoring business.

At Saints, Mr. Hitchcock teaches Algebra II and Algebra II with Trigonometry. He has always loved working with math, and he wanted to use it in his career ever since he started tutoring in high school.

Mr. Hitchcock started his tutoring career when he was eighteen years old, working for a business called Momen-

tum Tutoring. He knew that he wanted to go into teaching, because he loved to do math, and he wanted to help students become the best people that they can be. He realized that tutoring was the quickest way to enter the field. He started gaining clientele from Momentum, which he knew could help him start his own tutoring business.

In order to start his teaching career, he picked up a bachelor's degree in mathematics and master's degree in educational leadership from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. While in college, he continued to tutor, all the while continuing to gain more students to join his future business.

After college, he started teaching math at Holy Trinity Catholic School in El Cajon. Mr. Hitchcock saw that the middle school needed improvements, so he raised over \$85,000 to upgrade the campus. This money went towards improving the basketball and volleyball courts, the field, and the classrooms of the school.

He also helped the students at Holy Trinity by tutoring students before the HSPT a month before the test. This helped improve the HSPT scores for Holy Trinity, and helped the students get into better high schools.

This year, Mr. Hitchcock has been finalizing his plans for his business, Tutor Hitch. Tutor Hitch will help tutor students from kindergarten to eighth grade, and the majority of the tutors will be high school students. Mr. Hitchcock plans to reach out to all 49 Catholic schools in the San Diego Diocese. He hopes to hire students from the six Catholic high schools in the diocese so that Catholic students from all of the greater San Diego area will be able to connect with each other.

One day, he plans to expand his

business to include other, non-Catholic schools in order to spread Catholic education around the county.

"I want to spread Catholic education to the best of my ability and the only way to do that is for me through this. This is my way to kind of give back to the community," Mr. Hitchcock said.

He also hopes that high school students use his business to build relationships with their clientele, just as he did when he was in high school. He believes that the best way to make relationships between high school students and grade school students is through tutoring.

Tutor Hitch is not going to only focus on tutoring in mathematics. English, foreign language, study skills, and HSPT prep will be included along with math. After the business has grown throughout San Diego, Mr. Hitchcock also plans on including specialties to the other subjects.

"Maybe someone is big into the instruments and they want to get piano lessons or singing lessons. Maybe someone wants to do theater lessons or science, there's so many things that you can tutor on," Mr. Hitchcock said.

Mr. Hitchcock's main purpose in his life is to improve the everyday lives of students throughout San Diego county and help grow relationships between students in the diocese. At such a young age, he has already changed the lives of so many students, and Tutor Hitch will help him to continue his mission of improving student life.



AAE: Coacher Says Golf is Up to Par



By Benjamin Nault ('26)
EDITOR

at it is another story.

Once again, we at *The Augustinian* are highlighting some of our beloved faculty and teachers who have more knowledge than most in specific areas of expertise. This issue we are focusing on Mr. Davis and his extensive knowledge of golf.

Mr. Davis, affectionately known as "Coacher," teaches Spanish III and AP Spanish Literature at Saints. He is also a previous baseball coach and a current golf coach. We took the time to interview Coacher on his personal love for golf as well as some of the reasons why many people globally love to play this sport.

This interview has been edited for clarity

The Augustinian: What makes golf so appealing?

Coacher: People love to see things fly through the air. Hitting a ball solidly in a sport, like baseball, or in activities like in tennis or in golf is highly satisfying for humans. Add to that spending time with like-minded people in beautiful grassy links, forests, coasts or deserts. It is a game you can play and practice by yourself.

TA: What are the skills necessary to succeed in golf?

Coacher: A decent level of eye-hand coordination and fast twitch muscle fibers. That combined with a temperament that will not let one quit when they discover that it takes quite a bit of time to play golf well enough for each individual to enjoy it. Being good

TA: Why is being good at golf a different story than enjoying it?

Coacher: Playing golf as recreation is hella fun, but nobody likes to yack the ball around and never gain control over the ball. At the same time, few people spend the necessary time to improve their game. Millions of people all over the world spend billions of dollars on golf every year and do it very poorly. Who knows why golf is one of only two things in the world that a man can do very poorly, but still find it very enjoyable — and you don't have to be married to enjoy golf. Main factors? Not sure. The main factor I would say is that the course is so basically impossible. There is no way to explain the difficulty of the shots that must be played. One would have to walk on the course and stand on the greens to understand what the professionals face at Augusta. That Scottie Scheffler made it look easy. That explains why he is the best in the world now. Our JV baseball team, when I was playing, could play at Petco, but if our golf team played at Augusta, they would shoot a thousand.

TA: Why should people pick up playing golf?

Coacher: First of all, it would be good if some people did not "pick up playing golf," but golf is a highly satisfying game for many reasons depending on the individual. From my experience, if someone likes golf and likes the people at the golf club and then can trick his children into liking the golf club, that person can spend their life at the golf club with their children.



Coacher (left) alongside family and friends at Augusta.

Courtesy of Mr. Davis

TA: Could you tell us a bit about the history of golf?

Coacher: The first golf links were in Scotland close to the coast of the Firth of Forth around the corner from Edinburgh. The Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers (HCEG) dates from 1744. Muirfield has been the home of the HCEG since 1744 and is the greatest golf course in the world since the 1860's.

TA: Who is the GOAT in golf?

Coacher: Since the 1860s, there have been a number of GOATS in golf; Old Tom Morris, Young Tom Morris, Harry Vardon, Bobby Jones, Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger Woods.

Just as longevity counts, the Rolling Stones are by far the greatest Rock 'n' Roll band and Jack Nicklaus is still the goat, but Arnold Palmer is the KING.

TA: What's the biggest plus side to playing golf?

Coacher: Golf was created so mankind could learn to fight against the Seven Deadly sins, especially pride, envy, and wrath. Golf, and for masochistic types, tournament golf (which is another story) gives themselves the opportunity to carry oneself with grace and class and style while being tormented by a silly little ball.

SEE GOLF, pg. 5

College Protests Sweep the Nation



By Liam Olds ('26)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a few weeks, Saints will be saying goodbye to the senior class, sending them off to the colleges of their dreams. Colleges across the country, however, are falling subject to large-scale protests of Israel's war efforts in Gaza. The Israeli-Hamas conflict has seen an abundance of casualties, with more than 34,000 people having been killed in Israel's bombardment of Gaza. The resulting protests have facilitated more than 2,400 arrests and numbers continue to grow, putting stress on the graduation season.

The nationwide movement began at Columbia University in New York when a "solidarity encampment" for the people of Gaza and the Palestinians was erected on April 17. In said encampment, students pitched tents on the campus lawns. Columbia president, Minouche Shafik, authorized the New York Police Department to sweep the encampment and arrest 108 student protestors the next day.

The encampment was wiped out — that is, until it was reconstructed elsewhere on the campus where it has remained since. The university wrote in an email to students that bringing the police back onto campus would be "counterproductive."

That sentiment changed when protestors, students and non-students alike, broke into Hamilton Hall on campus, and barricaded themselves within.

Shafik and other presidents of high-profile universities have recently been

under fire by a House Congressional Committee attempting to root out antisemitism on college campuses, specifically in pro-Palestinian protests. Some of these administrators have been forced to resign, including Elizabeth Magill of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard's Claudine Gay, the school's first black president.

Shafik's original decision to allow police on campus — pushed by a commitment to the congressional committee to combat antisemitism — to allow the NYPD to arrest students has added fuel to the fire, giving protestors an additional cause around which to rally: their peers. Students who had not previously found themselves in the protests now found themselves organizing them.

After this decision, encampments

popped up in universities from Boston to Los Angeles. UCLA, USC, Emory University, Washington University in St. Louis, Northeastern University, and the University of Texas at Austin, and others have all seen students arrested at protests. At Emory University, authorities reportedly deployed "irritant gas" to restore order to a crowd.

Students are expressing concerns for their own safety at a number of schools, citing the protests as the primary cause.

Pro-Palestinian protests are also being met with reactions from pro-Israel counter protests. On the UCLA campus, a wall had to be constructed to separate the two factions, but it was breached.

At USC, the main commencement graduation ceremony was canceled a week after some 90-plus protestors

were arrested by police in riot gear. Columbia recently canceled its primary graduation ceremony as well. Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia has moved its ceremony off its campus, citing security concerns.

This year's graduating class happen to be the very same class that lost their graduation to pandemic closures — hoping for a second shot at a grand celebration, they were denied.

As student safety comes into question and encampments seem to be here to stay, schools are beginning to worry about the protests' effects on prospective students' choices regarding where to commit.

In a recent New York Times article, Kathy Zoner, who was the police chief at Cornell University for nearly a decade until 2019, pointed out that these encampments may become "a reason for people to not choose your university or college to attend. And face it: Colleges are businesses. Not-for-profit or for-profit, they're a business. They have a bottom line and have to be attentive to it."

Colleges and universities have rich histories of student protest dating back decades. Many of them — including Columbia — have prided themselves on their activism. As safety concerns increase, however, universities across the country have found themselves caught between the simultaneous needs to foster environments of free speech while avoiding any kinds of hate speech or antisemitism. As the situation develops, more is being revealed about the state of free speech and protest in America.



Cicada-Palooza?!



By Liam Olds ('26)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

More than a trillion cicadas are about to emerge from the ground, invading states from Wisconsin to Georgia. Cicadas are flying insects that spend most of their lives underground. The cicadas in Brood XIX surface every 13 years. The cicadas in Brood XIII surface every 17 years. Thomas Jefferson was the President of the United States the last time the two broods emerged at the same time back in 1803.

Cicadas spend only about a month and a half of their lives above ground. During that time they mate, lay their eggs, and die. *The Augustinian* was fortunate enough to interview a cicada shortly after he surfaced last week.

The following interview has been edited for clarity.

The Augustinian: Thank you for speaking with us today.

Cicada: Yeah, no problem. But can we make this quick? I'm in a hurry.

TA: What's the rush?

C: What do you mean what's the rush? You see this tattoo on my left leg? No, the other leg. No, the other one.

TA: YOLSW?

C: You Only Live Six Weeks. That's my motto. I've got a lot to do while I'm up. So let's make this snappy, school boy. This interview is literally killing me.

TA: Got it. So how long were you underground?

C: 13 years.

TA: That's a long time.

C: Yeah, but not as long as those 17 year cicadas. Lazy bums.

TA: What did you do down there?

C: Drink mostly. I've got a pump in my head and I tap into the roots of a tree. I just drink and wait. I play a little Fortnite when I get the chance, but the WiFi down there is pretty spotty.

TA: What was the first thing you did when you got to the surface?

C: I had to pee like a cicada. I bet you didn't know that we cicadas have a stronger jet of urine than an elephant. We may be small, but we're strong. I'm pretty proud of that. But then, 13 years of drinking without a pit stop will do that to you.

TA: So what's the plan now?

C: I have to find me a lady. That's the whole reason I'm here. I hang out with all my buddies in a tree, hoping to find that special someone. Or anyone really. I'm on the clock.

TA: How do you do that?

C: We sing. The ladies love that. And we can get pretty noisy. When we're all chirping at the same time, we can be louder than a jet engine. I'm not saying we're anything special, but our stuff is better than anything on *The Tortured Poets Department*.

TA: I don't doubt that. How many friends do you have?

C: A bunch. I'm not sure exactly, but I've heard there are so many of us, if we all lined up we could reach the moon and back 33 times. We tried a similar stunt a few years back and let's just say it wasn't pretty. Speaking of, I better check on the boys and see what the buzz is. You get it? See what I did there?

TA: Yes, you're very clever.

C: I hope I didn't bug you.

TA: That's enough.



Who Turned Off the Lights?



By Henry Barwick ('26)
STAFF WRITER

A Saintsman's Guide to Anything and Everything Eclipse.



On April 8, 2024, about 60 percent of the sun was covered by the Moon above San Diego. While it was a sight to see (if done safely), it was nowhere near as incredible as viewing a total solar eclipse, which could be experienced from other parts of the US that same day.

The path of totality, where all sunlight is obscured by the Moon, covered northwestern Mexico, southern and northeastern parts of the United States, and a small area in southeast Canada.

A total solar eclipse is a rare astronomical phenomenon when all the light from the Sun during the day is blotted out by the Moon, so as to turn the day practically into night. It occurs somewhere around the world only about once every one to three years.

The eclipse on April 8 generated a lot of excitement as 32 million people lived in the path of totality. Many more traveled to see the eclipse, which is usually regarded as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Before that recent April eclipse, the last total solar eclipse observable in the

United States was about seven years ago, on August 21, 2017. The next total solar eclipse that crosses the mainland United States will be on August 22, 2044. That one, however, will only be observable by a small portion of Americans in Montana and the Dakotas.

The next total solar eclipse that covers a larger portion of the country will be on August 12, 2045, stretching from Northern California to Florida and then onto South America. In San Diego, roughly three-fourths of the Sun will be darkened by the Moon during this eclipse.

In San Diego, the last total solar eclipse was on September 10, 1932. It's possible that some of your relatives may have seen it. Yet, the next one over America's Finest City will be on July 3, 2866, nearly a millennium later. Have fun watching from the grave!

The recent total solar eclipse may not have been especially remarkable here in San Diego, but it was thrilling to see in other parts of the country. Seeing a total solar eclipse should definitely be on your bucket list, even if it takes until 2045 to check it off.

Saintsman Debate: Presidential Age Limit

An Age Limit is Essential.

An Age Limit is Outlandish.



By Sebastian
Rodriguez ('26)
CONTRIBUTOR

Have you ever thought that the president was too old? Well, if so, you're not the only one.

The government has made it clear that someone can be too young for the presidency, setting a minimum age for election eligibility at 35. Why, therefore, can't one be too old?

The youngest president ever elected was Theodore Roosevelt, who, from the age of 42 to 50, established the Pure Food and Drug Act, created several national parks, and began the construction of the Panama Canal.

His face resides on Mount Rushmore, which also bears the faces of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Honest Abe.

Lincoln was elected at age 52, whereas Washington and Jefferson were both 57 when they entered the presidency. Most presidents are elected in their late 40s, 50s, or early 60s.

At the end of the age spectrum is our current president, Joe Biden, who was elected at age 78. For Biden's critics, one of the most commonly cited reasons is his advanced age.

During Biden's administration, he has let some issues slip through the cracks. Allowing a Chinese spy balloon to enter American airspace, raising the debt ceiling, and struggling with speeches on live TV are some of the more notable shortcomings.

In October 2023, Monmouth University conducted a poll asking whether Joe Biden was too old to be president. 76 percent of the participants responded in the affirmative.

Moreover, in a different study conducted by CNN, 64 percent of people answered that they would prefer someone other than Biden as president.

Biden's current opponent in the presidential race, Donald Trump, is 77 years old himself, putting them both at risk for the disadvantages of old age. If people think Biden is too old to be president, then Trump would fall into the same category, being only four years younger than Biden.

Old age brings wisdom, but it also presents weaknesses that can prove extremely detrimental to a leader and their country. Cognitive disorders plague many elder statesmen — one in six people older than 80 have dementia.

On top of any cognitive or physical



Two old geezers trying to remember their latest meals.

ailments, the perceived vulnerability of old age can decrease public opinion and confidence in a person's leadership capabilities. No one wants a president who they don't think can remember their last meal.

One proposed solution to combat incapable leaders holding office is an age limit of 65 at the time of election. The average age of retirement is 64, and only five presidents have been elected to their first term after the age of 65: William Henry Harrison, James Buchanan, Ronald Reagan, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden.

Out of these five presidents, Harrison and Buchanan are widely considered among the most ineffective presidents in American history, and Trump and Biden remain very controversial figures. Although Reagan is often held in high esteem by conservatives, it could be that he was the exception, not the rule.

Another constraint to having an older president is the possibility of a generational divide. An 80 year-old president may not have the same values or hold opinions on issues that face modern-day Americans with the same weight that younger generations would.

If an age limit were to be instituted, it could offer solutions to issues deemed concerning by a bipartisan electorate, and restore confidence in the leaders of this country.

modern sports venue is a monument to ghastly, soulless architecture, Augusta National Golf Club (ANGC) remains as one of the few profoundly spiritual arenas in sports. ANGC was built on a 365 acre property that was bought in 1931 for \$70,000. In the 19th century the property was a nursery where a Belgian man named Berckmans imported, propagated, and sold hundreds of varieties of apples, pears, and grapes as well as many of the plants that you may see in gardens all over the USA. Georgia is the Peach State and Berckmans developed the most popular varieties. The property was a Cathedral before ANGC was built. The place is like the magic kingdom. People spend thousands of dollars just to be able to walk the grounds. Having had the opportunity on occasions to spend time at ANGC without the crowds, to chat with the members and the people that



By George Burrell ('26)
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again, folks. The 2024 presidential election is nearly upon us. As the polling date approaches, all attention turns to the two possible candidates for the presidency who would lead the United States of America.

With the election in full stride, many people have theorized that a possible law which would limit a presidential candidate's maximum age is necessary.

This is a timely debate given that Joe Biden and Donald Trump, the two candidates for the 2024 election, will be 81 and 78 years-old, respectively, on election day.

Although the introduction of a presidential age limit seems like a reasonable idea at first, it really does not make much sense to introduce this bill for a number of overlooked reasons.

First, many people tend to associate old age with cognitive disabilities, such as forgetfulness, dementia, and the decline of many necessary functions such as multitasking and thinking clearly. Despite this claim, research shows that old age is not the direct cause of these diseases.

Last June, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) released a document that spoke about the very subject of dementia's relationship with aging. The document clearly stated that although the likelihood of dementia does increase

were there and to experience the aura of the property, I can assure you that is everything and more than what anyone can describe. The old Yankee Stadium is gone, what is left besides Augusta?

TA: Why did you choose to play golf?

Coacher: I grew up crazy about baseball. From 10th grade through four years of college that is about all I did. After hellage (*Editor's Note: what he calls college*), I coached baseball and thought that I would do that forever. Then I discovered golf and got a crazy golf Jones. I just did baseball over again; I went crazy over it all over again. Read everything I could find, and had a friend who grew up in a family of golf pros to teach me how to play. All old ball-chasers love golf.

with old age, it is "not an inevitable part of aging."

The study also goes on to say that other motor functions, such as routine memory, skills, and even knowledge actually improve with age! In a case like this, an older President may have a better understanding of a political situation than, say, a younger one, and therefore would have a lot more to bring to the table.

Another reason why some believe there should be an age cap for the presidency is that newer people equal fresher ideas. We've all heard the phrase "you can't teach an old dog new tricks," but history has proven this claim wrong countless times.

Take this great nation's first president, George Washington as an example: by the end of his presidency, he was just over 65 years old — just old enough to be considered, by today's standards, a "senior citizen." Despite his age, Washington, as we all know, turned out to be one of the nation's most legendary leaders.

A more recent example of this can also be seen with Queen Elizabeth II, the most recent female monarch of the United Kingdom.

Before the time of her passing in September 2022, the elderly Englander was knocking on the door of nearly ninety-seven years old!

Despite nearly being a centenarian, Her Majesty's age did not negatively influence her ability to lead as a monarch. The same principle applies to presidents: age is absolutely not an indicator of whether or not a person is suited for a particular office.

To top it all off, one major flaw crumbles any hopes of instituting a presidential age limit: defining it. What exactly is the limit? At what age does a candidate become too old to run for office?

In today's world, the definition of "old" has constantly been changing. Already in the last fifty years, the average life expectancy in the United States increased from 72 years old to almost 80 — a near eight-year difference! Furthermore, this number is expected to increase as the advancements in the fields of medicine and anti-aging technology continue to extend life expectancy.

Introducing an age limit now would seem arbitrary when, in the near future, there may be a solution to usual problems encountered when reaching older ages.

Even if a president were to have a disability that affected his ability to hold the office, the Constitution has a clause that addresses such a situation. According to Section 3 of the 25th Amendment, a president should resign if he "is unable to discharge the duties of his office." This directly rules out any unfit person from acting as president no matter his age, young or old.

Ultimately, an age cap would not be a viable way to limit presidential errors. Not only would it be counterproductive to the current voting system in place here in the US, but it also neglects to consider the multitude of reasons why its implementation would be unrealistic.

No matter who you decide to vote for this upcoming election, just remember that age itself does not define the abilities of any person, including the president.

Long live old age!



GOLF continued from page 3

TA: What is the difference between "tournament golf" and "golf"?

Coacher: Tournament golf is incredibly different. There are thousands of people in the world that would live with serious scars due to failures or lack of good fortune in tournament golf. This has been going on at the highest levels since the 19th century in Scotland. Few people are willing to subject themselves to tournament golf for long. Trying to earn your living hitting a ball in a hole is maddening.

TA: Why is the Masters tournament important?

Coacher: The Masters is the tournament that the majority of professional golfers would most wish to win. While modern materialism is a huge part of professional sports and the

Gonzaga University

Thomas Banzhof
Matthew Hopkins

Benedictine College

Isaiah Hasten

Creighton University

Byron Cunningham

Loyola University

Jose Lav

Willamette University

Luca DiMarino

Oregon State University

Ryan Ireland
Jake Russon

Montana State University

Carson Sahd

University of Utah

Robert Grohman
Colin Shughrou
Matthew Wisniew

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Vincenzo Zoni

Arizona State University

Nicolas Ulloa

Colorado State University

Dylan Rodolfo

Texas Tech University

Erik Rodriguez

University of Arizona

Devin Garmo
Talan Hunter

Texas Christian University

Lucas Rogers

International

Universidad Anáhuac (Mexico)

Juan Pablo Ramirez Hodolyan

Universidad de Monterey (Mexico)

Alejandro Carrillo

Tecnológico de Monterey (Mexico)

Diego Carrillo

Luis Sanchez

Hector Santillana

Fernando Balladolid

Cardiff Metropolitan University (Wales)

Brayden Pinto

Connor Torquato

San Diego Area

California State University,

San Marcos

Rodrigo Arballo

Daniel Cuellar

Andrew Ghannadian

Matthew Mawien

Ethan Nguyen

Murewafunmi Onimole

Thomas Sarmiento

Grossmont College

Tyler Cabana

Samuel Grauerholz

Grayson Keleman

Point Loma Nazarene

University

Dominic Cortes

Aaron Talbot

San Diego Mesa College

Jorge Angel

Colin Babich

Logan Barzal

Joseph Campos

Austin Lorja

Drew Patterson

Fausto Pompa Martinez

Connor Sortwell

Jorge Tessada

Ryan Vu

Benjamin Wenhe

Gael Zazueta Santini

San Diego State

University

Tyler Abbo

Ian de la Rosa

Jack Dougenis

Donovan Feranzo

Zachary Horne

Aidan Kalla

Landen Kassab

Gabriel Konja

Daniel Minutella

Ben Ngo

Joseph Nguyen

Julian Salem

Antonio Toma

Diego Yee

Southwestern College

Joshua Cruz

Alejandro Duron

Alejo Hao

Jesse Jaquish

Parker Patterson

Reyluis Ramirez

Jacob Wallace

University of San Diego

Ryan Canton

Carlos Casta

Thomas Fuller

Elias Herrmann

Jet Himmelberg

Joseph Mansour

John McNamara

Nevin Steinbuch

Abel Velez

Iain Wagner

San Diego Miramar

College

Nathan Covington

Sebastian Flores

Kenneth Wright

University of California,

San Diego

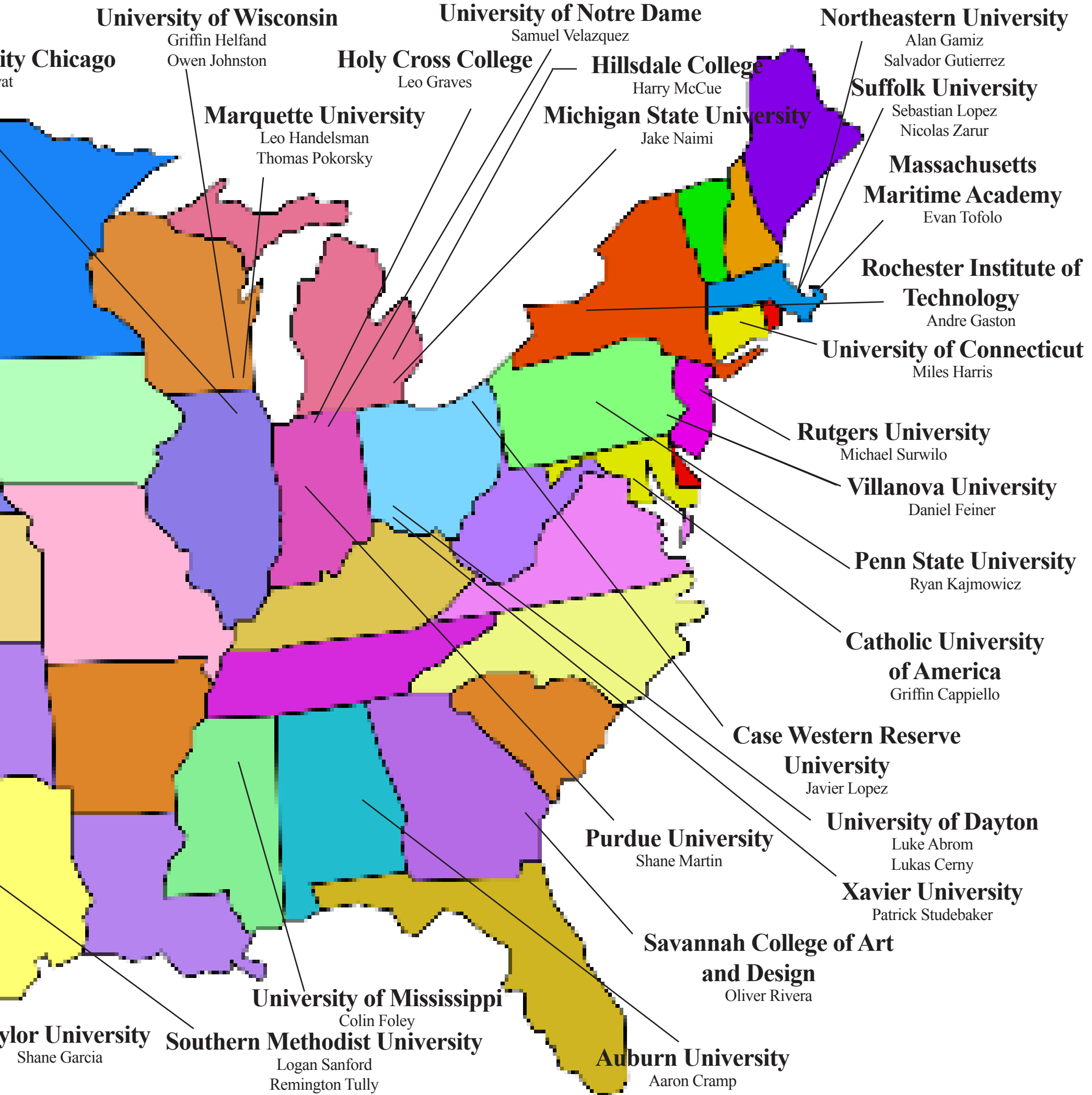
Patrick Hormiz

Ryan Ortega

Mitchel Sanford

Palomar College

Thomas Carney



California (Excluding San Diego Area)		
<u>California State University, Maritime Academy</u> Jeffery Ring	Benton DiPasquale Evan Newlon Alonso Somohano Juan Bernardo Thomas Rosas Ruben Torres Sanchez	<u>California Polytechnic State University, Pomona</u> Nicolas Escalante Sebastian Oliveros Alexander Parada
<u>California State University, Channel Islands</u> Michael Walp	<u>Saint Mary's College of California</u> Justin Heffler	<u>California State University, Sacramento</u> Elliott Romaya
<u>California State University, Fullerton</u> Lawrence Rudolph Yvan Sevilla Octavio Ybarra Maldini Zanayed	<u>Santa Barbara City College</u> Landon Banks	<u>Concordia University</u> Wesley Newton
<u>California State University, Long Beach</u> Alexander Watson	<u>Santa Clara University</u> Alfonso Cosio	<u>Cuyamaca College</u> Dylan Garmo Dominic Salem
<u>Harvey Mudd College</u> Romeo Velarde-Alvarez	<u>University of California, Irvine</u> Omar Jaibaji	<u>Pepperdine University</u> Daniel Arellano
<u>Loyola Marymount University</u> Sebastian Careaga	<u>University of California, Santa Cruz</u> Ethan Pinon-Larkin	<u>University of California, Merced</u> Pablo Mireles
	<u>University of California, Los Angeles</u> Nathaniel Butler	<u>University of California, Santa Barbara</u> William Stowell
		<u>California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo</u> Julian Molina Noah Nayve Luis Urbina Calvillo
		<u>University of California, Riverside</u> Christian Audish Luca Liciaga
		<u>University of La Verne</u> Micah James
		<u>University of Redlands</u> Brady Klem
		<u>University of Southern California</u> Stephen Lorentzen
		<u>Woodbury University</u> Pedro Maria-Romek
		<u>California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo</u> Julian Molina Noah Nayve Luis Urbina Calvillo
		<u>University of California, Santa Barbara</u> William Stowell

SAVI continued from page 1

similarities we shared with one another. It turns out that our core values aren't the only thing we share either.

On one of the bus rides we went on, some of the Malvern kids started singing their alma mater, only for us to realize that ours was the exact same one. We all knew the lyrics and sang it together, and, much to the amazement of everyone, we were all singing it correctly.

I learned a lot of things about our own school and others during the trip, but central to the lessons was what most students would call the core of the school: The Brotherhood. The Brotherhood isn't something unique to Saints. It stretches across all of the other Augustinian schools. From San Diego to Philadelphia, we all instantly meshed from Day One. We connected with others over the most meaningful parts of our Augustinian education. The other schools took us in as their own and treated us as such. There was never a moment when we were outsiders to the other groups — from the beginning, we knew we were all brothers.

Luckily, we were given the opportunity to tour Villanova University as well as getting to watch a lacrosse game — Malvern is ranked #3 in the nation among high schools — and sightseeing in downtown Philadelphia.

The best and most fun part of the entire trip, however, was spending time with the kids from the other schools, specifically the kids from New Jersey, St. Augustine Prep.

We did everything from watching movies (after we finally got the projector to work) to karaoke to wrestling on inflatable mattresses. When it came to sleeping, which usually didn't happen until about 1 a.m. or so, Tommy had it made.

The day before the trip, he had bought an inflatable mattress, and it turned out to be about two and a half feet thick and the size of a full bed. The thing was massive, and Tommy was sleeping like a king in the corner of a classroom while the rest of us had our sleeping bags.

Come morning, breakfast was served at 8:45 and was delicious. One of the many perks of visiting the prestigious, wealthy school was the food. We were able to eat like kings, being served three course meals, consisting of fabulous appetizers, entrées, and desserts.

Eventually, the time to head home had come, but no one wanted to leave. We were going to miss everyone, especially those New Jersey kids. The late nights were going to be missed as well as all the accompanying fun.

But it wasn't completely over yet. We managed to meet up with the kids from Oklahoma at the airport — making a tiring trek three terminals down.

After boarding the plane, we received terrible news: the WiFi wasn't working. Everything happens for a reason though, and we decided to catch up on our reading assignments for *In Cold Blood*.

After reading about 20 pages, we finally landed back in San Diego Sunday night. With only one night to rest, we were quickly launched back into school, but now we had a newfound appreciation for the Augustinians.

This experience was one I won't forget anytime soon. I got to meet so many new people from across the country, and it really gave me a chance to make new friends and grow closer to our school's Augustinian roots, which I now realize was probably the entire goal. Malvern Prep was an amazing host, and made the whole trip immensely better by accepting us in and instantly bonding with us, treating us as their own. Next year, when Saints hosts SAVI, I'm sure it'll be an experience that students from across the country will never forget.

Godzilla Smashes Saints' Stress



By Liam Olds ('26)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Saints is host to a wide variety of clubs, ranging from culture clubs to academic clubs to service clubs. The newest challenger to the status quo is the Godzilla Fan Club. Founded by sophomore Kenneth Michalowski, the club hopes to offer a new feel to the already diverse spread.

Godzilla originated in Japan, first appearing in a 1954 film simply titled *Godzilla*, directed by Ishirō Honda. Godzilla is supposed to be a 165 foot tall, 20,000 ton beast, and is perhaps the most well-known symbol of Japanese pop culture. Since the first film was released in 1954, the total has climbed to 38 films, along with many other book and comic adaptations. Though depicted as a hero in recent films such as *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire*, in the original Japanese films, Godzilla is often more of an anti-hero or outright villain.

When asked for his take, Kenneth called Godzilla a "pure villain."

"I feel like the [original] Japanese lens of him is that he's a monster and destroys things," Kenneth said.

When the first movie was released, trauma from the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 was still fresh in the minds of the Japanese people.

Godzilla was widely received as a symbol representing nuclear weapons and mankind's ability to destroy itself.

Jumping to 2020, the then-Head of Film at the Japan Society in New York City, Kazu Watanabe, told NBC, "As long as nuclear weapons or nuclear power exists, Godzilla will never not be relevant. Godzilla reminds us that we have the terrible power to create our own monsters and contribute to our own destruction."

The Godzilla fan club, however, is about more than just the iconic monster. It is centered on the stress relief aspect that chatting with friends often brings.

"[In a typical meeting,] we're not going to talk about Godzilla. We just head inside, I turn on a Godzilla movie, then we just sit down and watch in a cool chill environment," Kenneth said.

"I've seen people focus so much on their grades entirely to the point that they'll hang out in their teacher's room during lunch to do work. So I founded Godzilla Fan Club to help people just relax during lunchtime. Having a stress free environment is crucial to academic success."

Kenneth offers an important point. So many Saintsmen push themselves to their limits academically, socially, and athletically, trying to become the best versions of themselves, often forgetting to take time for self-care. The Godzilla Fan Club offers

the elusive opportunity to take a minute and recuperate from a long day full of academic rigor.

He hopes that more clubs like his will start popping up around campus. "It would help kids or students just relax," Kenneth said. "Any club that will help [students] relax, maybe like a bocce ball club, even an ax throwing club — any club that will alleviate stress is really good."

Regardless of relative interest in monster movies, the Godzilla Fan Club may be just the addition Saints needed to lower student stress and contribute further to the beloved Brotherhood. If you are ever feeling overwhelmed and have the chance, go check out Saints' newest club Fridays in Mrs. Walp's room (213).



Kenneth in his element.
Jameson Grohman '26

Drone Soccer: Rocket League IRL?

By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR EMERITUS

It's no secret that Saints has some incredible extracurricular activities — there are clubs, teams, and organizations for practically anything you could think of — but there might not be a team as unique as the Saints Drone Soccer team.

This activity is a combination between eSports and robotics, and as the name suggests, drone soccer is essentially just soccer — but with drones!

Prior to the competition, students build and program drones to fly in matches. The drones each have a protective cage surrounding them that are designed to sustain high-impact collisions.

This year, the drones were provided by the competition, but in the future, students will be able to design and modify drones to maximize their efficiency in matches.

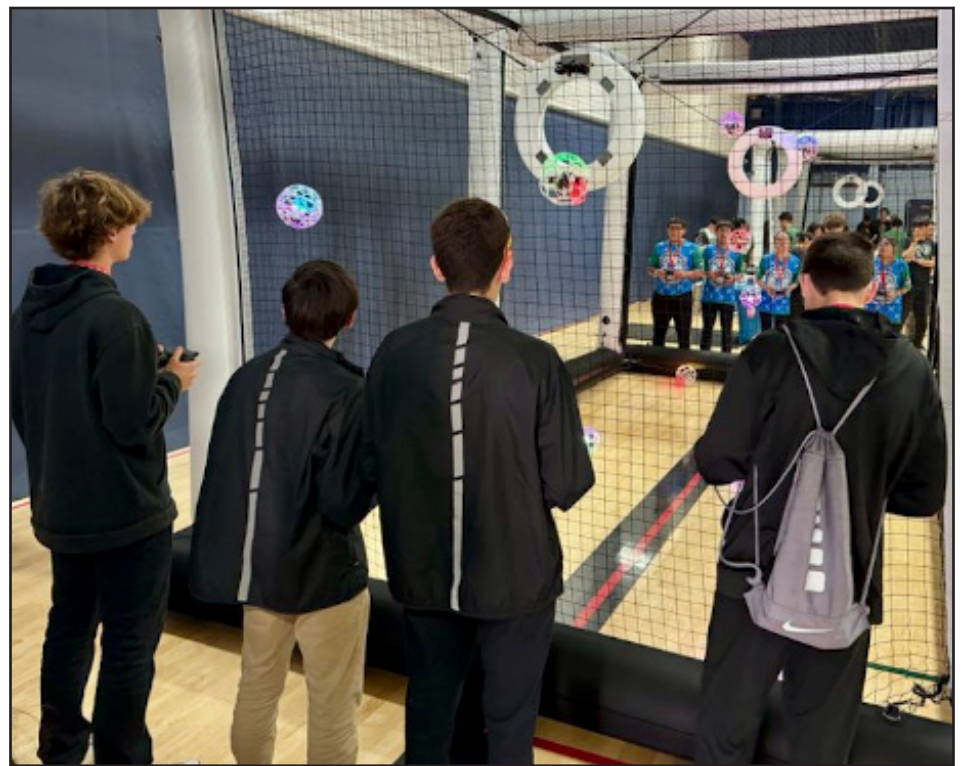
During a match, each team pilots five drones that try to fly into the opposing team's goal to score. Similar to actual soccer, each drone has an assigned position, with one drone as the designated striker, or the official scoring drone, while others act similarly to a goalkeeper or defenders and try to block opposing drones from scoring by ramming into them.

Each match consists of a best-of-three set series, with the sets lasting for three minutes each.

A drone soccer game looks very reminiscent of a Quidditch match from the Harry Potter universe, but in between sets, team members act more like a Formula One pit crew. They rush to fix any damage that drones sustained during the previous set, repairing broken motors and propellers, and get them up and running for the next match.

On April 24, the Saints team joined other students from around the world for the Academic Drone Soccer World Cup, held at the Air and Space Museum in Balboa Park.

In its first-ever time competing in the Drone Soccer World Cup, the Saints put together an impressive top



The Saints drone soccer team at the Academic Drone Soccer World Cup.
@saints_info

fifteen finish. They lost in the knockout round to the defending champions from Korea, who eventually went on to win the competition.

Mr. Hickey, the coach of the Saints drone soccer team, was very impressed with the team's performance.

"For aspiring Saints engineers, it's a great opportunity to strategize and compete against schools not only across the United States, but across the world," Mr. Hickey said.

After taking over the Robotics Intersession class last year, Mr. Hickey was surprised there was no official Saints robotics team.

"That was an empty niche that I wanted to fill," Mr. Hickey said.

He created the drone soccer team so that students who are considering a career in engineering have an opportunity to showcase their talents and hone their engineering and design skills. His long term goal is to compete in more robotics competitions, including building up the drone soccer program at Saints.

After hearing about the robotics

club at club day back in September, freshman Joseph Walker, an aspiring aerospace engineer, believed it would be a great opportunity for him to gain experience that could apply to his future career.

"I think that being able to coordinate with a team, create new concepts and ideas, and build robots and drones is really what engineering comes down to," Walker said. "It was tricky but it was satisfying to see that what I built was working as intended."

Members of the drone soccer team all agreed that this was an incredible experience that they will remember for years to come. They recommend that anybody interested in robotics, engineering, or even just flying drones into other drones should talk to Mr. Hickey in room 420. Come be a part of the best drone soccer team in San Diego!



Cook Cooks: Breakfast is No Yolk



By John Cook ('26)
STAFF WRITER

If you've slept for eight hours or more, that also means you've haven't eaten or even had a drink for that same amount of time. Now is the perfect time to have some breakfast and get some energy, but there is one problem. Most people do not have the time for a traditional breakfast. Have no fear! Here are a couple of breakfast recipes that will not only fill your stomach, but save you time.

Making an omelet is always an easy way to have a quick meal, but it requires the use of a whole pan, and unless it is one of those fancy non-stick pans, the cleanup is going to take a while. What if the same result can be achieved without the pan, but instead a coffee mug?

This meal only takes two minutes and the cleanup is super easy, since the mug is the only dish that needs to be cleaned. All that is required is to whisk an egg and add a splash of milk, salt, and pepper. If desired, then some cheese, ham, or veggies can be added, but they will add to the preparation time. To cook, just put the mug into the microwave for a minute, then voila. The best part about this is that it can be taken to go, since the mug is really easy to carry, and can even be put in a cup holder if needed.

If some more substance is wanted, a microwave poached egg is the easiest way. Get a slice of bread (the type does not matter), and use a fork or a spoon to squish down the middle of it. Then, crack the egg into the divot, and be careful not to let any egg spill out of the bread. Then put it into the microwave until the whites are cooked through and the yolk is cooked to the desired



consistency. Now the meal can be eaten using the same utensil that was used to squish the bread. A variation of this is to scramble the egg before putting it on the bread, but because the whites were mixed up, it won't balance as easily, so take care. If done right, cleanup should also be easy because the only things left on the plate should be crumbs.

Perhaps you would prefer to spend your mornings sleeping in instead of scrambling to make breakfast. If so, then overnight oats are not to be slept on. As their name suggests, they are made the night before and left to sit in the refrigerator.

The ingredients are milk, whole rolled oats, chia seeds, and some honey for sweetness. Get a mason jar, and add all of the ingredients except for the milk. Stir them together with a fork so that they are evenly mixed, then add the milk. Stir the milk in and then pop

it in the fridge overnight.

They will be ready in the morning, and can be eaten at home, or on the go. Some people choose to add toppings like fresh fruit or nuts, which can really enliven the flavor of the oats, but be sure to wait until morning to add those, or else they will get soggy.

For most students, mornings are usually filled with waking up, getting ready, and driving to school, which usually doesn't leave room for a full-scale breakfast. While it might seem not worth the time, breakfast is the most important meal of the day. It gives you the energy to go throughout the whole day, and can prevent things like rheumatoid arthritis and heart disease in the long run. You do not need to spend half an hour cooking an extravagant meal. Instead just take a couple of minutes to make something edible, and you are all set.

BENITO continued from page 2

straints and making sure that he creates and sustains a suitable and safe environment for those around him in order to do his work. Since Benito is responsible for ALL of the plants on campus, his work might be somewhere people traverse quite often, for example, the sidewalk outside. He has to ensure that pedestrians won't be harmed by the machinery, as well as ensuring he does an astounding job without taking shortcuts.

All in all, Benito is incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work at Saints, and he has felt truly welcome in this great school community.

"I am really happy to have ended up here at Saints and to feel like a part of the family at Saint Augustine," he said.

Benito, the Saints community is grateful for your hard work. You get two green thumbs up!

Album of the Month: Surfer Rosa



By Matthew Cramp
CONTRIBUTOR

Did you know that one of the most popular albums of all time, Nirvana's *Nevermind*, was actually a rip-off of another band? Kurt Cobain, the lead singer and guitarist of Nirvana, even admitted that *Nevermind* was his best attempt to replicate the band in question.

This band being, of course, the Pixies.

When listening to their music, the similarities between the two bands are striking. The Pixies are a punk and alt-rock band that have released some of the most influential music in history, inspiring many of the giants of rock such as David Bowie, Radiohead, and Nirvana. One of their most well-known albums, *Surfer Rosa*, has been cited as the influence for many other extremely popular albums, such as *In Utero* by Nirvana.

Surfer Rosa's thirteen-track list contains many famous songs including "Where is My Mind?," "River Euphrates," and "Bone Machine."

The album uses a unique and shocking combination of viscerally unattractive punk rock and pleasing, beautiful pop to create an unexpectedly pleasurable experience for the listener.

This welding of two genres is best exemplified by songs like "Gigantic," "Break My Body," and "Bone Machine." Many people have come to interpret their outlandish style as a method to get across their anti-establishment and anti-conventionalist message.

Further contributing to this theme is their extremely strange method of

switching languages mid-album. Near the end of the album, the songs "Oh My Golly" and "Vamos," make the transition from English to Spanish.

The album is also organized in a unique way that echoes the band's bohemian style. It begins with many of the punk rock songs that you would expect such as "Bone Machine," "Something Against You," "Break My Body," and "Broken Face."

Beginning with "Gigantic," however, the album slowly turns towards a pop theme while still retaining some of its punk rock elements. After "Where Is My Mind?," the album doubles back to the original punk sound.

The flippant tone indicates the Pixies' message of trying to establish a new revolutionary and non-conventionalist style of music. To further contribute to the album's uniqueness, some of the tracks such as "Oh My Golly" and "I'm Amazed" contain conversations between band members either in the beginning or the end of the songs.

While the album is revolutionary in its style, the music appeals to a very specific taste and audience. Though the Pixies are an acquired taste, I do believe that given enough listens, anyone will begin to love the album for the creative liberties that it takes on, challenging the normalities of music composition.

Even if you are not a fan of punk rock, at least one of the 13 songs comprising *Surfer Rosa* is sure to pique your interest simply because of the complexity and diversity that each and every song holds within.

Personally, I think that the album is pretty solid but contains some drawbacks.

Songs like "Broken Face,"



"Something Against You," and "Bone Machine" do not quite appeal to my taste since punk rock is not exactly my cup of tea. They contain the unique sound cues and revolutionary music styles found in bands like Pink Floyd.

I tend to enjoy the songs "Cactus," "Where Is My Mind?," and "Gigantic" more as their melodies mirror those of bands such as Nirvana.

Surfer Rosa is a revolutionary al-

bum that is extremely influential and has inspired the epic and infamous songs of Nirvana's most famous albums like *Nevermind* and *In Utero*.

The band itself is one of the most radical bands in modern history, creating music that blends multiple genres and an album that has made music history.

All the Things I Wish I Had Known



By James Burrell ('26)
STAFF WRITER

Looking into the distant future and the coming school year, I always seem to end up considering the things I wish I had known at the start of my Saints career. Over my past two years here at Saints, I have collected a list of things that I should have done to improve my Saints experience.

Pick up a Sparknotes copy of Bro Code. While collecting the necessary books from the library for my freshman year, I failed to grab an easy-read copy of The Complete Bro Code in the personal health aisle. The reams of Brotherhood knowledge within this book could have prepared me for every awkward situation I might encounter at a place like Saints. I couldn't, however, pay for the up-front cost of \$14.99 for the paperback version back then. Looking back, that \$14.99 would have saved me from many weird looks when I chose the middle urinal in the Mendel bathroom.

Remember where Room 231 is. There have been many times where I have walked up the utility stairs to the third floor of Mendel and realized that the other students aren't up on the roof where I am. During my first week at school, I didn't see the problems with this — I got detentions in that class by some teacher coming up onto the roof, but I always believed it was because I was eating my lunch during the block. I later realized that I was horribly wrong with my interpretation of how the room numbers work, yet sometimes I still forget not to go into the Vasey basement for my art class.

Don't mistake your vest for a trash bag. Whether it be tan or gray, it is generally agreed that the vests doled



Burrell wreaking havoc in class with his desktop computer.

Liam Olds '26

out to Saintsmen looked like trash bags or potato sacks (The freshmen this year were sheltered from this tragedy). One day I left my vest next to the washing machine after cleaning it the weekend before. I thought I had found it in a box with others, but there were no holes for my head or arms. I just cut holes, believing something had happened in the

wash. Later, at Mass, my homeroom teacher pulled me aside and gave me a dress code, but for what? That's when I realized that my "vest" was missing the Saints Monogram.

Don't pull a desktop out during class. Many teachers have a no-device policy in their classrooms while work is being done, and while

this is often violated, the phone may only cost a dress code or a detention at the maximum. Yet I was not given an equal punishment when I brought my 24lb STGAugbron Desktop PC out from my backpack. Whilst receiving my harsh punishment, I considered why this happened — I had brought out my desktop during eSports and no one seemed to care, yet now when we're doing argumentative essays online it's NOT okay to have this ultra-fast piece of machinery out? From this I remind myself: (Attempt to) put my devices away.

Don't park in someone's driveway. I have always remembered this rule being a prominent dogma around school, yet I apparently once took it too far. I was faced with a common Saintsmen problem one morning — not being able to find a parking spot, and the only places I could park were in front of someone's driveway. It was 7:38 a.m. — I was going to be late for class. Quickly, I considered that it technically was not against the rules to park in someone's driveway — only to park in front of it. Therefore, I placed my Subaru right in front of their garage, being careful not to block the driveway itself. This hit me later during my last block when I was forced to move it, and although I argued that I had not broken any of the rules, I still got in trouble — like they didn't want to listen to reason, I guess.

Using these life lessons I have learned from Saints, I believe that future generations will see this and not fall into the very common traps that I faced. Remember, it's more important to think about what you could have done differently rather than what you're doing now.

TENNIS

continued from page 1

a terrific performance with a record of 10-0 in the Western League Conference, going undefeated in the regular season. Senior Luke Abrom, the senior team captain, and junior Javier Guillot were able to get to the doubles finals two years in a row. This year, they placed second overall against the top-seeded pair from San Diego High School.

The team was able to qualify for the Open Division playoffs as the sixth seed. In the first round of playoffs, they upset the third seed, Westview, with an 11-7 final score, and the second seed, Bishops, in the semifinals 12-6.

"Upsets like this are very rare in team tennis because it requires everyone to play at such a high level and not just one or two guys," Head Coach Golden said.

After many hard fought wins, the team advanced to the Open Division championship for the first time ever. They ended up losing 12-6 to the undefeated Torrey Pines, who are ranked #1 in San Diego. Nevertheless, they were able to secure second place, which allowed them to advance to the state tournament.

Star players on the team — in addition to Luke Abrom and Javier Guillot — are the junior team captain, Jacques Allende, and sophomore Pedro Martinez, who have both shown great skill as a duo. Senior Sebastian Careaga has been named Player of the Year in the Western League Singles Championship.

"I think overall the reason why our success happened in the playoff run was not just because of a star player but our depth compared to other teams is something to be reckoned with," Coach Adams said.

The Western League tournament is composed of single players from Saints,

Cathedral, La Jolla High, San Diego High, Patrick Henry, and Scripps Ranch High. Two Saintsmen, Careaga and sophomore Mattie Gosling, ended up facing each other in the championship game with Careaga winning.

"It was really exciting to have an all Saints final," Head Coach Golden said.

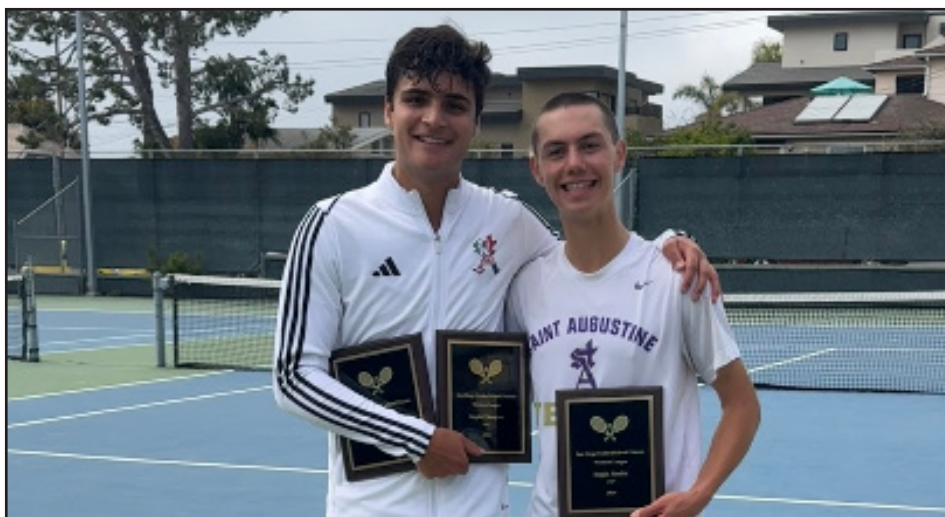
The tennis team has been training for years to achieve these great feats. They have made Saints history by bringing home the Western League title three years in a row.

"Overall, this has been one of the most successful seasons for varsity tennis in school history. Our boys have been building towards success like this for the last few years. These boys are a true definition of a team. They support each other in everything they do and just love playing the sport," Coach Golden said. "I think the greatest motivator in why we've advanced so far is that the boys just want to keep playing with each other. Every time we were faced with the season possibly being over, they rallied and won to live to play another day."

Culture is a primary focus for the tennis team. Not only do the players support each other, but the parents also play an important role.

"At the end of our match with Torrey Pines...the roster was getting announced and we were getting the letter patches for the runner ups for the CIF Open Division... all of our parents were just going crazy for each one of our kids," Coach Adams said.

The season is not over yet for the Saints tennis team. The tennis SoCal Regionals begin on May 17 for St. Augustine. As the tennis team pushes on to the regionals, make sure to cheer them on and show our unwavering support for them.



Careaga (left) and Gosling (right) struggling to hold up all their plaques

Courtesy of Mr. Golden

Chaplain's Corner

Farewell to the class of 2024



By Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA
COLUMNIST

It so happens that this year, the Church will be celebrating the Feast of Pentecost on the same week of our graduation. It is an appropriate feast to celebrate the gift that is the Class of 2024.

Just as the Holy Spirit blesses His people with a variety of gifts and distributes these gifts widely, so we also see this reflected in the class itself. In a school that celebrates *Unitas* it is good to remember that we celebrate unity, but not uniformity.

You members of the Class of 2024 are wonderfully different from one another. You have matured in different ways in your time here. You have learned difficult lessons. You have laughed, cried,

embraced, and cheered. You have also learned when and when not to clap at Mass.

Yes, the Holy Spirit is truly present in our school, and especially in the Class of 2024, and so it is also appropriate that we send you off as we begin the season of summer.

Summer symbolically represents the pinnacle of life itself. It is a season of fullness and excitement. Who knows the wonders that await you within it? Yes, you will go your separate ways, but you will always be Saintsmen. We are proud of you, and we look forward to seeing all the good you will do in the summer of your lives.

Enzo Explains: How You Get the Girl



By Enzo Simon ('27)
EDITOR

Warning: Remember Sra. Gormly's #1 Rule: No Talking to Chicas until 25

Dear struggling Saintsman, aka those who avoid women or those in desperate need of a date (like Editor-in-Chief Liam Olds),

I, Dr. Enzo Simon, the first ever to receive a PhD in Rizzology, the president of the renowned *Simp for Simon* club, and the modern-day Cupid, (in terms of my matchmaking skills and physical appearance) *aim* to impress upon you maidenless men the intricacies of interacting and interloping with the incredibly intelligent, yet alien female species.

I would make this more inclusive, but as many of you know, my field of expertise strictly lies with the opposite sex, and for those who dare say otherwise, allow me to quote famous YouTube speed dating show, *The Button*, and say (in a robotic voice), "get out of here." Which leads me to my first of many tips:

Don't take notes from the media. What's usually advertised as "signs of romance" in literature, movies, and in this case, a mediocre attempt at matching two unlucky individuals for the public enjoyment of teenagers (i.e., *The Button*) are in actuality, signs of what NOT to do.

"Romeo, O Romeo!" More like literature's biggest weirdo. The guy who supposedly put the "man" in romance also

stalked his (underage) crush and longed to touch her cheek (remember the glove scene?).

You know who else was cheeky in the name of love? That's right, Academy Award winner Will Smith, who pursued happiness (not a typo, uncultured swine) by not keeping a level head when someone tousled his wife's (lack of) hair with a lowbrow joke.

Quite ironic considering he initially laughed at the joke, but after seeing how much his wife "enjoyed" the "compliment," he quickly changed his tune... which brings me to my next tip.

Don't be fake. You should never not be yourself — I know, pretty insightful (you can quote me on that one). Ladies only like seeing acting when it's on the stage (right? Please say yes). If you think a girl only likes you when you pretend to be someone else then she's not the right one.

If you don't believe me, go back and read my VERY real credentials — or take this quote from an anonymous OLP junior, "Don't change yourself when with your friends (if you have any)."

If you are able to make any friends, try befriending her friends first. Remember, *girl friends* make it harder to have *girl-friends* — you don't want them spreading rumors (whether they're true or not) about you. If you're unsure of how to do so, don't worry, there's an entire television series that can help you out: *Friends*. Emulate Ross in your relationships, he's a real gentleman (he obviously read tip #4)!

Establish boundaries, uphold

communication, and listen. Yup, the big boy of today's tips (I would definitely know). A triple threat if you will, or rather a triple knockout if not followed. Real talk. These are *the* reasons why boys fail to "get the girl."

Before the premarital eye contact gets too hot and heavy, you both need to think clearly about what you want, expect, and are comfortable doing. Though boundaries should be non-negotiables, these could be subject to change. Just make sure you're always on the same page.

Which leads me on to my next point: communication. Establishing good communication early on is imperative (that means important) for all relationships, whether platonic or romantic.

Lastly, communication would be nothing if you didn't actively listen to what's actually being communicated. Why else do you think we don't hear about Helen Keller's love interest?

Be a gentleman. Another female "friend" advises, "Have manners and proper hygiene." Let's try to apply this.

First, freshen up. The solution to all of men's hygienic problems? AXE Body Spray. Remember, ladies love when you go above and beyond. Why spray a thin layer when you can drench yourself in an ocean of the attractive aroma?

Next, have her drive you to YOUR favorite restaurant — this shows decisiveness and initiative. Why endanger yourself (and her, by extension) with your terrible driving skills, anyway?

Once you arrive, make sure to open

the door for her so that when she passes under your arm, she can get a whiff of that manly scent.

Now here's the kicker: when you get to the table, hold out the chair for her and quickly pull it out right before she sits down so that as she's falling, you, like a knight clad in armor (equipped with your...AXE?), can heroically swoop her into your well-muscled arms.

Lastly, make *her* pay the bill — ladies first, right? Also don't get her flowers; they'll last as long as your love.

Have confidence. I know — easier said than done. But if I can ask high school girls tips on how to charm their peers, *you* certainly can muster up the courage to talk to one girl and confess your feelings. Remember, the worst she can say is "no" (unless she says "ew"), but if you don't, you will never truly *know* (do you like my use of homophones, Mr. Cudal?).

And for those who worry that their looks are the biggest women's repellent (i.e., me), worry not, for I came upon a gem of knowledge from two other owners of double X chromosomes: "If you're funny, it doesn't matter how you look."

So, don't forget to invite me to your future weddings, and be prepared to start fending off seas of swooning señoritas — how else did you think I broke my arm? If for some reason you disagree with any of my tips, kindly forward your complaint(s) to wikihow.com.

Love,
Dr. Enzo Simon

Luzi's Summer Reading List



By Michael Luzi ('25)
MANAGING EDITOR

Stress is growing as we continue to the end of the school year. Students across the nation are focusing on their final exams and AP tests. This also means, however, that summer is closing in.

Now, do you want to make the mistake that you made last year and not prepare for the coming school year three months in advance? The time is NOW to start locking in so that you don't have to feel this same stress next year. How do you start to prepare to become the academic weapon that you wished you could have been this year? The answer is easy: summer reading.

Those two words might have just scared you, but don't worry, because I'm going to tell you exactly what you need to read so that your summer will be as productive as possible.

The Bible: If there's one book that you need to read this summer, it's the Bible. I mean, the characters are so developed and the plotline is amazing. The story starts off like a million years in the past, and the dedication the author must have undertaken to write this work of over one thousand pages is insane. The main character, this Jesus guy, is really interesting. Spoiler alert, he comes BACK TO LIFE after dying. Like WHO DOES THAT??

I mean, come on guys, this is a real page turner. There are people like Samson ripping the jaw of an ass out and killing hundreds of men. This book is really something, you just have to pick it up and start reading.

The American Pageant: Sixteenth Edition: If you're planning on taking AP United States History, then



you're going to be spending most of your time reading this piece of art. With all of the history that you will need to know for the AP test, I suggest that you start reading this textbook in June. At that rate, you would have read it at least three times by the time you take the AP test, so you would have at least a small chance of passing.

Get Rich with Three Easy Steps: This book is one of my favorite books of all time. I've read this book five times, and I'm starting to feel rich already. For some reason, though, my wallet isn't feeling the same way as I am.

It talked about something called "pyramid schemes," which I don't really understand, but it says that I will gain a TON of money. I just can't seem to get anyone to listen to me, but I'm sure someone will come around. Still, it's one of the best books I have ever read.

Catcher in the Rye: Honestly, this book was one of the more entertaining books that I have ever read for school.

It was easy to read, and the short chapters allowed me to finish the book fairly quickly. The plot was pretty easy to follow, and I enjoyed the overall message of the book on phoniness.

But, for some strange reason, I began to feel a change in me. Something calling in the back of my mind, saying, "Kill John Lennon, kill John Lennon." I don't know what a book about a kid realizing the phoniness of his peers has to do with a guy from the Beatles, but the voices wouldn't stop. But, alas, John Lennon seems to already be dead. Must have been from old age or something.

The Hunger Games Trilogy: Alright, now it's time for me to talk about how much The Hunger Games annoys me. Why in the H-E-double-hockey-sticks did Katniss Everdeen (spoiler alert) dump Gale to go to flippin' PEETA!? Sure, Gale MIGHT have called a bomb raid on the capitol, which MIGHT have killed her sister, but I mean COME ON! Didn't Katniss hate Peeta at the beginning of the

trilogy? Oh but noooooo, after a traumatic experience, the two fall in love for some reason. Now, all Katniss can think about is Peeta. What did Peeta even do? Walk around with his puny, malnourished legs?

On the other hand, it makes total sense why Katniss should like Gale. Who took care of her family while she was gone? Gale. Who spent most of their time with Katniss before the hunger games? Gale. Who actually did something during the revolution against the Capitol? Gale.

Also, Gale risked his life to get Peeta out of the Capitol, just for Katniss, even though he hated Peeta. Don't worry Gale, I agree with you.

A quick side note — in a world where food is scarce, why is Peeta's profession DECORATING CAKE? And why is that an integral part of his character?!

Anyway, make sure to read these books in order to understand why I am so upset about this. I am sure that after you read this, you too will hate Peeta as much as I do.

Every single Leave it to Luzi article: I don't know, the columnist just seems cool and really intelligent. He probably gets fives on all of his AP tests. Just seems like that kind of intellectual.

In order to get the most out of reading these books, I suggest you start reading May 23, the first day of summer. There's no time to lose, because you have a big summer coming filled with reading, reading, and just reading. There is only one life that I know and love, and that is the life of parties. Particularly the parties hosted by Agnes, our neighborhood grandmother, and she calls her parties "book clubs" for some weird reason.

Everything Dr. Griffin, PhD, Learned in His Time at Saints



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR EMERITUS

"I don't know man, I've been doing this for too long. I've been reusing the same article idea for the past three years. I literally copy and paste the same into every single time.

The other day, when I showed up to my office in the corner of Mr. Bachynsky's room, Liam Olds posted an eviction notice, so clearly some people don't appreciate my repeat articles.

Well, Liam Olds, I'm on to you. I'm gonna start repeating my articles even harder. Take that.

And so, my fellow Saintsmen, yet another school year draws to a close. As I, Dr. Griffin, Ph.D, find myself pondering the many questions of our world, I have come to dwell on the past year and the life lessons that were taught to me. With that, here is everything I learned my senior year.

Editors' Note: We really only agreed to let him write this one because he said he'd stop sending us articles after he finishes. In the interest of not having to read any more of the nonsense he calls "art," we'll let this one slide – but we'll still provide our clarifying analysis after each of his "life lessons."

You can find inspiration in the most unexpected places. Take, for instance, Mr. Wehbe's classroom. One day, you're sitting in class, listening to a lecture on the coefficient of determination (the coolest name in mathematics), and the next, you're coming up with an idea for the next great newspaper article. Consequently, you also get a lecture from Mr. Bachynsky about how implying that Mr. Wehbe is an orphan-hating madman is "unprofessional" and a "bad look," but that's less important. This is my formal apology to Mr. Wehbe. Clearly I should've been taking better notes in your class if I wanted to get a 5 on the AP exam instead of a 4.

Editors' Note: How many times is he going to keep dissing Mr. Wehbe? We just feel bad for the poor man at this point. Not only does he have to teach sophomores how to do algebra, but he can't even do it without the threat of some egotistical maniac writing a hit piece about him. We're very sorry on behalf of Mr. Griffin.

"Life is just improv!" - Griffin Cappiello Every year, I share some words of wisdom from the retiring editor-in-chief of The Augustinian. This year, I get to put my own life lesson out into the world. Here it is: Life is just improv. Even if everybody plays your games with you, at the end of the day, you still lose because nobody comes to

any of your club meetings. Like seriously, are free cookies not good enough for you? Just show up to the meetings and have fun! Is that really too much to ask?

Editors' Note: Maybe a more appropriate interpretation would be more along the lines of how nobody really knows what they're doing and it's ok that you're making things up as you go. Or, you know, turn it into a rant about how not everybody loves improv? That works too.

Our inherent value is determined by our WASC overlords. This is coming straight from a discussion on the meaning of life in Honors Philosophy with Br. Mauricio. Obviously, everybody's goal in life is to please the WASC people. Every day, I wake up and recite all of the ISOs so that I am fully prepared for a surprise WASC attack. You never know when they might strike...

Editors' Note: Clearly, someone is having a bit of WASC PTSD. It's ok, we'll make sure Mr. Griffin can talk out his feelings with our in-house therapist during our next newspaper editing session (aka "gulag"). Oh wait, he won't be here next year for gulag. Um, this is kind of awkward. Anyway, WASC went well, they are not our supreme overlords, Mr. Griffin is just going slightly mad.

Don't date theater kids. Did I say this last year? Yes. Did I say this the year before? Also yes. Am I currently dating a theater kid? ...Next question.

Editors' Note: The irony is palpable. But alas, he still isn't wrong about this one. The editing staff added more theater kids this year, and based on Enzo's article on how to talk to girls... it's not looking too good for any of their love lives.

Taylor Swift can release a bad album. Ok, let me clarify. It wasn't actually a bad album – it was just significantly less good than the rest of her discography. It simply felt very samey, which is less than ideal on a 2-hour long, 31-song, double album. I can't even pick a select few favorite songs because I can barely differentiate between them. I'm sorry to disappoint the Swiftie audience that I've accumulated throughout the year, but her latest album just left something to be desired – by which I of course mean Reputation (Taylor's Version).

Editors' Note: Truthfully, we didn't listen to the album, so you're just going to have to trust his word on this one. He is the resident Taylor Swift expert here.

Going to Saints gives you special, once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. It's not every day that you get to watch the Navy Leap Frogs jump from the sky and land on the field at Saints. Nor do you get to watch your teachers and their children physically assault each other in front of the entire school at a rally. Having your homecoming dance at a club and getting exclusive opportunities to watch Wham! perform live aren't exactly easy to come by either.

Editors' Note: Wow. He actually made a good point here. This might be a first. A non-theater-kid-related idea that actually makes sense. Good job, Mr. Griffin.

Exoduses don't just take place in the Bible. If Moses led the Israelites to the promised land, then promptly turned his back on God, and went off to worship Ra, the Egyptian sun god, we probably wouldn't be spending as much time reading about him in Mr. Okuley's class. At least Moses would have the decency not to trash God on live television. Stay classy, Moses.

Editors' Note: He's not actually talking about Moses, is he?

The Augustinian is essential to the wellbeing of the school. Without The Augustinian, this school would not be standing. Who else would make fun of teachers by putting them into football lineups? Who else would sarcastically rank random items for no purpose other than to infuriate the student body? Who else would stay at school for ungodly hours to produce a newspaper that basically nobody really cares about or reads anyway? The editing staff of The Augustinian, that's who. Their work goes unnoticed by many, but it is not unappreciated by this doctor. Cheers, editing staff. It's been real.

Dr. Griffin, Ph.D, out.

Editors' Note: It's been a great four years with you, Dr. Griffin. Despite our grievances with you, you will be missed.



Dr. Griffin, PhD, showcasing why he would make a better wide receiver than Mr. Ozdowski

Michael Luzi '25

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