

# THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

Issue 1

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St. Augustine High School

## Welcoming the Fantastic Four



By Kai da Luz ('21)  
EDITOR

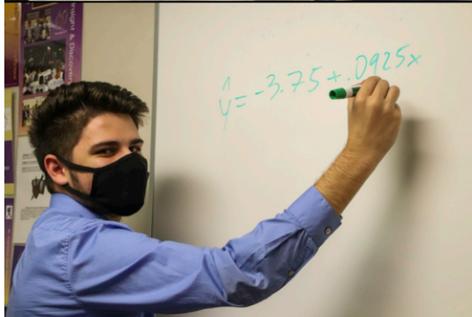
We are always excited to see the new teachers that adopt the purple and gold. This year, we are fortunate enough to welcome four new members to the Saints community: Mrs. Jessica Brophy, Mr. Joseph Wehbe, Ms. Carolyn Dreyer, and Mr. Aaron Martinez.

First up, we have Mrs. Brophy. Brophy was a youth minister at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Bay Park before coming to Saints, additionally working at USD as a Resident Minister in the dorms. “I came to know Saints through the guys in my youth group who are students here,” Mrs. Brophy said. “I first visited Saints last year for Mass and pizza parties a couple of times and really enjoyed the vibe on campus.”

When the opportunity to be a part of the brotherhood presented itself, Mrs. Brophy jumped at the chance. She began her Saints experience with summer school biology, working together with Mr. Igelman to power through the constantly fluctuating COVID situation.

“I love introducing Saintsmen to the wonderful world of biology, and I enjoy experiencing all of the Saints traditions and the culture on campus,” Mrs. Brophy said after retiring her beanie from Welcome Week.

Mrs. Brophy may be a biology teacher during the week, but when the weekend comes, it’s surfing for her. On top of that, Mrs. Brophy lived in Scranton, PA (where The Office is based) during her year of volunteer service after college. As Mrs. Walker is currently on her sabbatical, Mrs. Brophy is teaching Biology and AP Biology this year.



Top: Mr. Martinez, Carolyn Dreyer; Bottom: Mr. Wehbe, Mrs. Brophy Joaquin Torre ('21)

Our next fantastic faculty member joining us this year is Mr. Wehbe. Before coming to Saints, Mr. Wehbe spent his days working as a budget forecasting analyst for a small company called Conservice in Scripps Ranch. He feels that his experience there has better prepared him for teaching, and this is evident in his passionate appreciation of statistics.

“Anyone who has me for Stats or AP Stats will let you know that I really try to focus on the real-world applications of the subject, especially considering that the application of statistics is relevant to almost any career,” Mr. Wehbe said.

Mr. Wehbe is a Saints alumnus of the class of 2015, and he has kept in touch with his past math teachers on campus, particu-

larly Mr. Isaak and Mr. Ozdowski. When Mr. Isaak asked if he would like to be a substitute at Saints, Mr. Wehbe jumped at the opportunity. After completing a successful year as a substitute, Wehbe was happy to join the full time teaching staff and continue his Saints journey.

“I have to say, it is easily the coolest feeling in the world seeing a student’s mind be blown by some concept they’ve never noticed in mathematics,” Mr. Wehbe said.

He has an ever-growing love of strategy-based games with game theory optimal solutions as well as games that can be deciphered mathematically. Mr. Wehbe capitalized on this interest, winning last year’s poker tournament at the Bellagio in Las Vegas winning

\$7,000. He invites all Saintsmen to come and chat with him about similar mathematically structured games such as Chess, Catan, Risk, and Among Us if they are interested in using game theory optimal solutions to catch that pesky imposter. Mr. Wehbe has taken on the mantle of teaching Statistics and AP Statistics to all the mathematical minds on campus.

The third new addition this year is the Augustinian Volunteer, Ms. Carolyn Dreyer. As she approached the beginning of her year at Saints, Carolyn was quarantined at home finishing her degree in Business Management at Walsh University in Ohio. She served as a Resident Assistant at Walsh, as Carolyn loves to help others and the community in whatever ways she can.

“I was very involved in my Leaders in Social Justice cohort where I worked on a capstone project writing curriculum for She Elevates Academy, an entrepreneurship summer camp for girls eight to 14,” Carolyn said.

As an Augustinian Volunteer, Carolyn expressed her interest in serving as a campus minister. After her interview with Mrs. Yoakum, the pieces all came together and brought Carolyn to Saints.

Carolyn really enjoys the feeling of camaradery and the unique environment that Saints fosters. She loves the energy and passion that is shared by both the staff and students. Carolyn really stepped up and took initiative during the Freshman Retreat, and she loved seeing the fullness of the Brotherhood as the Big Brothers welcomed the freshmen with cheers and shouts.

“Procrastibaking is basically a way of life for me, so if you are ever in need of a snack, I’m sure there will be something good in

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## Classic Sports in a New Age



By Manny Butler ('22)  
EDITOR

As Saintsmen return to school in the age of coronavirus, the postponement of high school sports is yet another consequence. It is a sacrifice that high schools all over the country have had to make in order to help stop the spread of the deadly disease.

Saints and the San Diego Section, a league that encompasses all county teams, are no exception. The traditional fall football games and cross country meets have been put on hold as the Section postponed the start of all sports until December at the earliest. Football practices will start December 12 and games on January 8. Cross country will start on the 14 of December and return to competition two weeks later on the 28.

Another important development has been the compression of the number of seasons, as the fall, winter, and spring seasons have been shrunk down to winter and spring only. Winter sports have been moved to the spring season, which will start from February 22 to March 13 depending on the sport. They will run at the same time as the spring sports, so people who ordinarily play both a winter and a spring sport will most likely not be able to do so this year.

Spring sports have been pushed back, as they will start a month later than normal.

They will have their playoffs on June 19th, well after school will let out for the summer.

There is no doubt that this will be the strangest high school sports season in recent memory, but even casual sports fans know that there have been massive changes to schedules across all major sports because of COVID-19. Major League Baseball shrank their season from 162 games to just 60 and debuted several new rules, like the use of the designated hitter in the National League, seven-inning games during doubleheaders, and, most notably, an expanded playoff season.

The NBA and NHL went into isolated bubbles, playing all their games in one location without fans and keeping players from interacting with the outside world to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Soccer seasons in Europe and the United States ended several months past normal and are already starting new seasons again. No fans have been allowed in any games in any of these sports.

One issue that faces the CIF and threatens high school sports is how to react if and when players or coaches contract the disease. Obviously, most high schools do not have the resources of the NFL with regard to testing and contact tracing, so monitoring the virus among athletes will be significantly more difficult.

Mr. Yoakum explained that difficulties will arise as we march towards cold and flu season in December and January, saying that



Two Saints basketball players adapting to the new protocol. Joaquin Torre ('21)

it would be “really difficult” to determine whether students have COVID-19, the flu, or just a common cold. “I think there’s a good chance that sports in general are going to be altered,” he said.

Both football and cross country teams will try to deal with the uncertainty brought on by this season by adopting a “next man up” mentality, where they will try to give themselves options if a player were to get sick

or injured. Mr. Yoakum expressed confidence in his team’s depth, saying, “We’re used to adjusting all of the time.”

One of the adjustments the cross-country team has had to make is surprising—they’re running less. The reason for this, is that, ordinarily, they would be in the middle of their season and in pursuit of lower times. Since the season doesn’t start until December, the

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# Gigafires Burn the Golden State



By Kyle Wesslyn ('21)  
STAFF WRITER

In the midst of a turbulent year, the California fires only add on to the calamity. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, “More than 3.9 million acres have burned in California this year,” and five of the biggest fires in California history are still hot after over 200,000 people have been displaced. The fires are stoked by both natural and human causes, and climate change continues to dry out California, while overgrown forests and lightning storms throughout August set the stage for a horrific fire season. Then, there’s the human factor: The El Dorado Fire was caused by pyrotechnics at a baby gender reveal party and has burned over 20,000 acres.

The infernos that have burned towns to the ground and displaced tens of thousands have been answered with help from across the continent. Ten states have sent firefighters to California to assist in stamping out some of the more than 800 blazes running rampant throughout the Golden State. In addition, 100 Mexican firefighters crossed the border to help fight the Castle Fire near Sequoia National Park.

“Fires do not have borders, fires do not have different languages and cultures. In the end, we all speak the same language when it comes to fighting fire,” the director of the National Forestry Commission of Mexico, Eduardo Cruz, said. At a time when global tensions are high due to COVID-19, the best of humanity has shone through as firefighters put their lives on the line to save homes and people. Such brave



Many homes have burned in the California fires.

LA Times

actions defy international barriers with a goal to achieve joint success.

For the first time in California history, an inferno, one started by lightning storms in August called the August Complex, has been classified as a “gigafire.” This gigafire, a fire having burned over 1 million acres, has given birth to the bright orange skies and blood-red sunsets that corroded the West Coast. It is also one of the many perpetrators behind the astronomically high Air Quality Index (AQI), meaning that the higher the AQI is, the more harmful the air is to breathe. During September, Salem, Oregon, hit an AQI of 758, according to Insider.com. For context, anything

above an AQI of 500 is not even labeled on the Environmental Protection Agency Chart due to its intense toxicity. The unbreathable air has turned into a toxic layer of soot and ash for many towns and cities, a death trap for people at risk of respiratory issues, heart attack, and stroke.

Back in 2003, California fires burned close to one percent of the Golden State to ashes. Following the fires, Stanford climate scientist Michael Goss stated that “Wildfires in California are going to continue or get worse.” He was right. In 2008 over 1.5 million acres were torched in California, a 50 percent increase from 2003. In 2020, the

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Campus Ministry!” Carolyn said.

Additionally, Carolyn used to be a professional dancer in a Slovenian folk dance group that performed throughout Cleveland and Toronto, Canada.

Last but certainly not least, we have Mr. Martinez. Before returning to Saints, alumnus Mr. Martinez ('12) had already been teaching for two years at Hawking STEAM Elementary school as a special education teacher. While at Saints, Mr. Martinez played soccer and he has stayed in touch with Chief since his graduation, volunteering at the annual Saints soccer camp.

Once Mr. Martinez had embarked on earning his Masters of Theology, he let Saints know he would be jubilant to step-in if they needed someone in the Religion Department.

“I absolutely love it here. Attending Saints was truly the best four years of my life. Some may think it’s a cliché, but I’m glad to be back working with these fine young men,” Mr. Martinez said.

Mr. Martinez has three dogs and loves to spend time on some of the beautiful golf courses in Southern California such as Torrey Pines and The Crossing. He has an extensive vinyl collection including an original 1977 Fleetwood Mac “Rumours” vinyl and an original Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club from The Beatles. Our very own Mr. Martinez is also a world record holder, boasting the world record for fastest time on Bobsled Run in Mario Party One.

It is always exciting to welcome new teachers onto our campus. To the students, though this year is definitely different than any other, let’s ensure we continue to show the new teachers what Saints is all about. To our beloved new faculty members, welcome to Saints!

# Looking Into the BLM Movement



By Nicholas Sajor ('21)  
STAFF WRITER

America has been faced with a plethora of national dilemmas in 2020, among which is the national conversation about racial justice emerging from the Black Lives Matter movement. This renewed movement for social equality has been the strongest in America since the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

A great deal of the activists calling for change have rallied around the slogan “Black Lives Matter,” commonly referred to as BLM. In our charged political climate, with widespread anxiety from coronavirus lockdowns, massive disinformation and echo chambers present on social media, and the partisanship of an upcoming presidential election, it has often been easy to misinterpret the complexities of the BLM movement. As America faces these challenges, it is imperative to understand the history of BLM, its objectives, and some of the common criticisms of the movement.

The term Black Lives Matter was initiated in its current form as a hashtag in July 2013 in response to the acquittal of the man in Florida who killed Trayvon Martin, an unarmed Black 17-year old in 2012. As further incidents of Black Americans being unjustly killed by both police and vigilantes came to public attention, the hashtag grew in popularity alongside increased protests. As the slogan’s prevalence increased, a broad network of organizations began to develop into BLM as we know it today under the leadership of three Black women, Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi.

As the organization BLM has grown, so, too, has the widespread societal call for racial justice. Many people who may have been apathetic or ignorant about racial issues have been alerted by the numerous stories of unarmed Black men and women needlessly being shot or dying while in police custody.

The wave of protests in 2020 was set off by the murder of George Floyd in Minne-



Protestors marched in Brooklyn on August 28, 2020.

Pew Research Center

sota by a White police officer who knelt on his neck for over eight minutes. This brutal crime shocked the nation, and inspired a great number of people, many of whom are white, to newly analyze the need for an end to extensive racism in America.

When BLM addresses the racially biased effects present in American life, they are referring to how American systems such as policing, criminal justice, incarceration, healthcare, housing, and education consistently yet unintentionally produce discriminatory effects against Black Americans. When everyday people make the claim that “Black Lives Matter,” these are the issues to which they are referring.

Just a few examples of the harmful effects to the Black community which are seen as a result from widespread racism are the racial wealth gap, disparities in police shootings, and general homicide rates, the difference in college graduation rates, labor hireability, and the potential to go to jail. All these widespread societal issues are what is called “systemic” racism. Some falsely believe that “systemic racism” means that structural systems in America are meant to be explicitly racist in some way, while oth-

ers claim that a societal institution cannot produce racist effects. Neither of these, however, accurately represent what “systemic” racism is; the term, rather, refers to the previously mentioned racially disparate effects of the systems of American life which can adversely affect Black Americans.

Although the BLM organization may appear to be an unimpeachable force for racial justice, there are criticisms which are leveled against their actions and policies. A common attack is that the three women who co-founded it believed in a Marxist philosophy of governance. And while that is true, those beliefs of the founders are not emblematic of the mission of BLM in 2020.

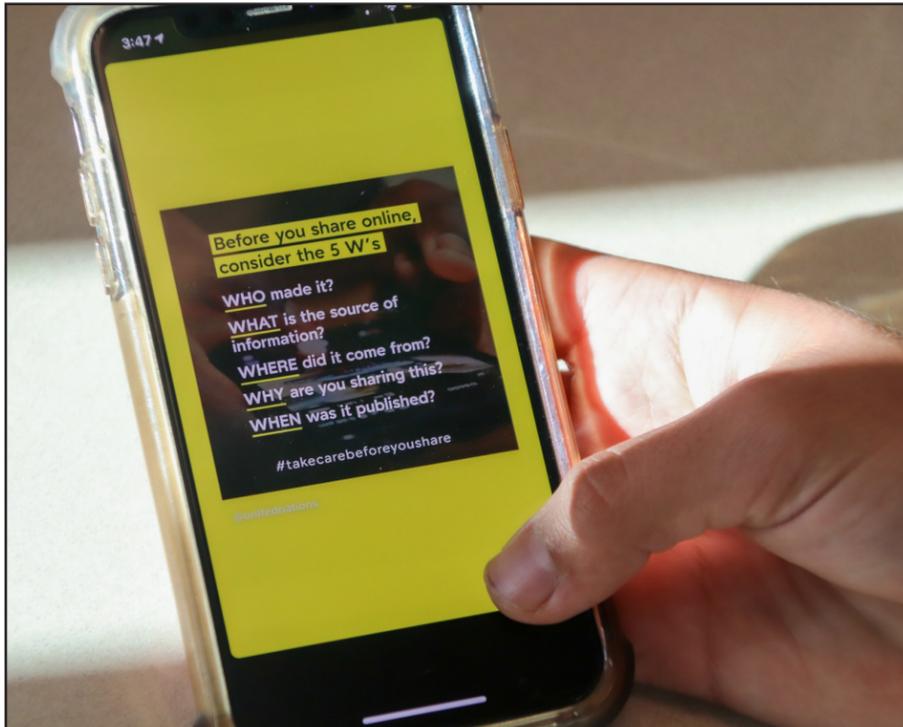
Though it may be well to talk about the ideas of racial justice and necessary change to parts of American life, it is difficult to implement such plans into action. Protesting is the primary method BLM has used to call attention to their issues and demand change. Unfortunately, these protests have, at times, turned into large-scale rioting and looting which have caused lasting damage to large parts of American cities, such as Portland and Minneapolis. These harmful actions, which go well beyond the scale of

peaceful protest, are intolerable and completely contradictory to the goals of BLM. Such actions not only draw a great piece of national attention to only the most negative parts of the movement, they also paint the entire BLM organization with the depiction of “anarchists” and “rioters.” When focus is primarily placed on the unacceptable and harmful actions of the minority extremists in the ranks of a nationwide, decentralized series of protests, it detracts from the majority of legitimate peaceful actions and protests by people calling for justice and equality.

A common rebuttal that has emerged in response to the slogan “Black Lives Matter” is the phrase “All Lives Matter” (ALM). Of course, both these expressions have merit, because all lives, including Black lives, truly are important. However, well-intentioned calls to use the ALM phrase in response to BLM bespeaks a misunderstanding. When protestors, activists, or just people on the internet use the phrase BLM, they are not saying that any other lives do not matter. The idea of BLM does not mean that only Black lives are important. Yes, all lives matter; Black lives, White lives, Latino lives, Asian lives, American Indian lives, they all have value. What the phrase BLM is referencing is that right now, extra attention must be paid to the widespread problems facing the Black community, so that Black lives can realistically be treated equally to those of any other race, an idea which is not understood by those who perpetrate the slogan ALM in response to a call for racial justice.

With fractured discourse, difficulty in receiving unbiased news, and contentious politics, the true meaning and actions of BLM have become difficult to decipher. As citizens, everyone must do their best to be informed, conscientious, and thoughtful when discussing the Black Lives Matter movement, for it is only through informed debate that we may have a real, necessary conversation about securing an equal future for all Americans, regardless of race.

# Social Media Inactivism: How to Pretend You Care



Instagram Stories are a common forum for social media activism. Joaquin Torre (21)

By Joseph Selfani (21)  
EDITOR

Imagine walking down Nutmeg Street on your way to school and seeing an elderly woman trying to cross the street. Instead of helping her, you stand on the sidewalk and cheer her on as she inches her way towards the other side. Other people around you, hearing your jubilant voice, enthusiastically join and applaud her as well. In the end, none of you actually help the clearly struggling woman; instead, you just cheer.

In essence, that analogy perfectly summarizes the climate of today's "social media activism." Rather than working towards an attainable goal, it is just a bunch of people cheering about an issue. The problems surrounding our world

today, sadly, have just become another trend. People obsess over a new issue that arises for about four days before life returns to normal, and they anxiously await the next global dilemma to post on their stories. This "trendiness" of issues occurring in our world is highly problematic, as it creates an air of hypocrisy and double-standards surrounding social media users.

Take, for example, the explosion in Beirut. It was great seeing so many people care about the problems occurring in Lebanon after the tragic event, and it brought awareness to the corruption plaguing the country for generations. With these issues finally getting Western attention, it seems insensitive to argue that there is something wrong with reposting the story or video of the tragedy. This is a great example of

## THE AUGUSTINIAN

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social media being used for good to promote an issue many people are unaware of, but the problem occurs when users get preachy, overly political, condescending, and, worst of all, ignorant.

Certain people would see themselves as "activists" for an issue when they repost stories saying "get educated about X" and "donate to Y" which are perhaps the most hypocritical words to say when all they have read is a 240 character tweet without even bothering to click the donation link.

Again, there is nothing wrong with being aware of an issue, but social media has made it too easy for people to feel accomplished and productive without doing anything that meaningfully impacts the issue. Herein the problem lies as, for many, simply clicking the "send to story" button on a post promoting some social justice issue in some foreign country or domestically is enough for them to believe that they contributed to solving the issue. You are not doing anything to fix corruption in Lebanon by reposting ten pictures about it without even reading the content. You cannot solve humanitarian or racial crises by posting a hashtag and telling people to "get educated" when you only spent two seconds reading a tweet. To feel like an "activist" for doing almost nothing is to

put oneself on a pedestal made of clouds. It is acceptable to become aware, but it is dangerous to give oneself a false sense of accomplishment.

You do not deserve credit for yelling the loudest; you get it for helping the problem. Actions speak much louder than words, and social media has defined "action" as "reposting." It has defined "education" as "regurgitating your beliefs." It has defined "knowledge" as "your opinions."

The cocoon of ignorance and hypocrisy built by many who isolate themselves in this activist echo chamber is alarming. One cannot treat their mind as their God, meaning one cannot say "everything I believe is true and anyone else who says otherwise is wrong."

The problem with social media activism is that everyone divides into groups during the conversation around an already divisive issue and closes their ears to opposing opinions. The result? A person surrounds themselves with an echo chamber in which their peers post the same opinions on their story that they all agree with. It is an echo chamber fueled by repetitive and meaningless thoughts, and it is imperative that one rises above the facade and open their minds to new thoughts and ideas.

# Unfriended: The War Over TikTok

By Angel Perez (21)  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Behind the superficial guise of dance trends and clever comedy bits, the potential threat of Chinese surveillance loomed over the popular social media app TikTok. President Donald Trump issued an executive order on August 6 banning TikTok for 45 days after the announcement.

Despite repeatedly denying Washington's allegations that ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, poses a national security threat because the app could send user data back to China, Trump and his political allies have continued to assert that the app must be banned or sold to a domestic company.

Microsoft threw their name in the hat as a potential buyer in early August according to CNBC, and despite Walmart's statements that they were considering joining Microsoft on the bid, talks for this deal ended in mid-September when ByteDance refused to sell. However, in the face of being removed from the App Store, TikTok was purchased jointly by Oracle, which will bear 12.5% of the newly created TikTokGlobal company, and Walmart, which will hold a 7.5% stake.

However, this deal does not take China out of the equation. With Zhang Yiming, the founder of ByteDance, on the board of directors, ByteDance still holds an 80% stake in TikTokGlobal. Although this turn of events seems to be underwhelming, an official statement



Connections to China have caused great tension over the state of TikTok. Joaquin Torre (21)

by TikTokGlobal states that "ByteDance will have no ownership."

"ByteDance will have nothing to do with it," President Trump said. "And if they do, we just won't make the deal."

With Chinese surveillance at the center of the debate, the Chinese tech giant announced that they would permit Oracle to inspect the source code. After being delayed by a week, the TikTok ban

was set to come into effect on September 27, but the app sought an injunction to avoid its own downfall.

This potential ban and forced deal that has come as a result is much to the chagrin of the Beijing government, with the state-supported *China Daily* referring to the deal as "dirty and unfair" and that "Beijing has no reason to give a green light to the agreement."

While some may believe that Chinese control of the media giant does not pose any legitimate threats to the American populace, an investigation published on September 25 by *The Guardian* found that the app had censored videos with subjects pertaining to the Communist Party of China, including Tiananmen Square, Tibetan independence, and the religious group Falun Gong.

"These Chinese-owned apps are increasingly being used to censor content and silence open discussion on topics deemed sensitive by the Chinese Government and Community Party," said Florida Senator Marco Rubio. "The Chinese government's nefarious efforts to censor information inside free societies around the world cannot be accepted and pose serious long-term challenges to the US and our allies."

However, these so-called "nefarious efforts" have been denied time and time again, with a TikTok spokesperson stating, "TikTok has made it clear that we have no higher priority than earning the trust of users and regulators in the U.S.. Part of that includes working with Congress and we are committed to doing so. It does not restrict videos based on political content."

One major question that arises in terms of this dilemma is the purpose of the harvesting of information by the Chinese government, to which many may ask, "Why would they want my information?" According to Samantha Hoffman, an analyst at the Australian Strategic

SEE TIKTOK, pg. 6

# Distance Versus In-Person Learning



By Jerome Santiago ('21)  
STAFF WRITER

In the past year, stores and restaurants have repeatedly closed and reopened, space in SATs and ACTs have become scarce, and it seems that nothing is definite in these stormy times. However, despite these constant cancellations and changes, one thing that has remained certain is learning here at Saints.

Saints faculty and staff have done a tremendous job in continuing to allow all Saints-men to continue their education, whether it be in-person or online. In March, Saints shut down in-person learning and made the sudden transition into online learning. During the three and a half months of online school, students continued their classes through digital meetings and asynchronous lessons, with many taking their AP Exams from home.

This year, Saintsmen have had the opportunity to continue their education in two different styles, both having their advantages and disadvantages. Saintsmen continue to learn both online and in-person.

Online learning, which all Saintsmen experience every Monday, has a few perks according to some students. "During online learning, it is so much easier to be able to stay at home and work," senior Akira Wolfe said.

Many Saintsmen agree that the primary benefit of online learning is the ability to work from the comfort of your own home.

Although comfort may be nice, students have stated numerous disadvantages regarding online learning. One of the main problems students encounter with online learning is the delivery and clarity of content. "With online learning, it is harder to learn and understand the material," freshman Chase Gadler said. Like Chase, many Saintsmen feel as if material is harder to cover online, as it is more difficult to access the teacher than it is in-person.



Two Saintsmen are hard at work in their on-campus classes.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

Apart from the issues with material and content, many students run into problems regarding technology. "One of my problems during online learning was definitely technical difficulties," Wolfe said. Some students do not have a steady and reliable source of WiFi, making it difficult to connect to Zoom classes.

Starting in July, many students returned to campus to partake in athletic camps and summer school. Saints was able to safely accommodate over 400 students with zero positive tests for COVID-19. Following the success of the summer school program, Saints decided to resume in-person learning two weeks into the school year.

With the proper safety guidelines and precautions, Saints is back in person for the majority of the week. From interviews with numerous Saintsmen around campus, the general consensus shows that in-person learning is widely favored over online learn-

ing. With on-campus instruction, Saintsmen are able to experience learning and the brotherhood in a more personal way.

"In person allows you to communicate and work with your peers," sophomore Matthew Sajor said. "You are also able to receive better instruction from teachers."

Many students believe that with in-person learning, teachers are able to explain the material more clearly and can personally assist a struggling student. "Discussion-based subjects, such as English and Social Studies, are vastly better in-person," junior Andres Aguirre said. Saintsmen believe that the in-person environment allows for more socialization between students and teachers, whether it be in socratic seminars or conversations during lunch break.

If we all do our job in being responsible by wearing our masks, washing our hands, and social distancing, in-person instruction will continue to be our reality.

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runners are having to adjust by running less in order to avoid injury. They won't start running as hard as they can until November, which will give them ample time to be in shape for the season and help lessen the risk of injury between now and then.

Obviously, the football team has had to adapt in more ways than one as well. They have not been allowed to hit each other during practice due to COVID-induced restrictions, so their practices resemble something more like the Saints Speed and Strength program than ordinary football practice.

Unable to do a lot of typical football activities, the physical aspects of their practices have been reduced to lifting weights, doing speed and agility drills, and mixing in the occasional walkthrough. The mental side of football has been mostly unaltered, as plays can still be learned and film can still be watched and analyzed.

In a season unlike any other, both football and cross-country teams expect solid seasons. Though the football team lost many playmakers who graduated at the end of last school year, they expect to be one of the top teams in San Diego again this year. The cross-country team will look to build on last year's success. While they lost star runners Jack Klem and Joey Buzzella, who both graduated, they possess a solid roster who can finish inside the top 20 in a race from the bottom of the roster to the top. This actually benefits their team based on the way cross-country is scored, because they are more well-rounded and not as top-heavy as last year's team. Mr. Yoakum said he believes that this year's team could even be better than last year's team, and the Saints community looks forward to watching them compete in this rebuilding season.

Even though so much about this year has been unexpected, it seems that we will still see our Saints athletes to succeed. In the face of adversity, these committed Saintsmen continue to persist, and the return of competitive sports to our campus is highly anticipated.

## Chaplain's Corner

Fr. Max discusses the humanization of saints and the beatification of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a modern model for Catholic living.



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

As the "home of the Saints," it is very important for us as a community to reflect on those people whom the Church offers to us as role models in our faith.

Sometimes it is said that the Church presents the saints in a way that makes them feel distant and detached from ordinary life. This belief makes it hard for one to ever think that they could emulate such great holy individuals. This could not be further from what the Church is trying to convey.

The Church's newest saint, who was just beatified in Assisi, is certainly someone who students can relate to. He collected Pokémon cards, designed websites, and even in his tomb, he still wears his sneakers! His name is Blessed Carlo Acutis, and I think he would be a perfect patron for us all to celebrate here at Saints!

Carlo was born in 1991 to parents who were Catholic but not particularly devout. Growing up in Italy, he quickly fell in love with the many beautiful churches in Milan and enjoyed going to Mass. He studied the lives of the saints and desired to be like them. Taking these lessons, he began to advocate for others at school. He stopped bullying when he saw it on campus, and he saved his allowance to buy a sleeping bag for a homeless man whom he saw every day on his daily commute. He also used his computer and programming skills to create websites, includ-

ing one devoted to cataloging Eucharistic miracles around the world.

His life changed suddenly when he was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of Leukemia. He offered up his sufferings to God and knew that his earthly life was coming to an end. At his funeral, many of the homeless population paid their respects, surprising his parents who had no idea that he had helped so many people in his short life. He died in 2006, and he is buried in the city of his favorite saint, St. Francis of Assisi.

I am so happy that our Church has saints like Carlo! They are like us. I encourage you all to look up his life and see how you might be similar to him. I have asked that our Esports Club take on Blessed Carlo as their patron. He is a saint for the Saints. Blessed Carlo, pray for us!



Euronews



# In Search of the Pandemically Delicious



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

Despite providing the backbone for the “locals experience” that millions of Americans enjoy, the economic troubles brought about by the coronavirus have threatened businesses all across the nation with closure. In Chula Vista alone, 60% of small businesses are facing permanent closure according to a recent survey by the *San Diego Union Tribune*. As consumers, however, the Saints community has the ability to support our city while also enjoying a phenomenal dining experience. During the closure of indoor dining, *The Augustinian* visited several highly-rated dining destinations across the county and reviewed our experiences based on quality of food, COVID-19 accommodations, and the overall experience.

### Pete's Seafood and Sandwich

In Saints' own backyard lies one of San Diego's hidden gems, Pete's Seafood and Sandwich, located at 3382 30th Street. With a wide variety of desirable options, the menu truly has something for everyone. Despite an emphasis on authentic New England-style seafood, Pete's also provides a phenomenal array of chicken dishes, including the chicken cutlet parmesan and the grilled chicken sandwich. For the vegetarian members of the community, Pete's offers a delectable eggplant po boy and house salad.

With outdoor dining including plexiglass to separate each table, the staff is careful to ensure virus safety at all costs. Each table is sanitized before and after every group, and the delivery of food occurs with no contact via trays through a small gap in the protective barriers. Overall, amazing and authentic cuisine, COVID safety, and friendly service make Pete's Seafood and Sandwich a top-tier choice for afterschool meals.



Beef shawarma fries are a fan-favorite at Sahara.

*SaharaSD.com*

### Davanti Enoteca

Davanti Enoteca, located at 12955 El Camino Real in Del Mar, is a tried and true favorite for many Saintsmen. With authentic Italian cuisine, Davanti's menu makes it difficult to pick just one meal. Described as “putting a modern twist on rustic Italian cuisine,” the outdoor seating coupled with a fantastic ambiance and even better food makes this restaurant the ideal spot to satisfy one's appetite. Whether it be the ricotta pancakes for brunch or the gnudi pomodoro for dinner, it seems unlikely that even the pickiest eater would struggle to find something appetizing.

The focaccia di recco, a personal favorite for *The Augustinian*, is a wonderful way to start out any meal, as this fan-favorite appetizer bears the perfect degree of both sweetness and savoriness. Our team also highly

recommends the cauliflower steak and the carne pizza, which offer exciting flavor profiles that should always be followed up by one of their delicious desserts, including the torta al formaggio di capra and the tiramisu dello chef.

### Cafe 21

A University Heights favorite, Cafe 21 has long been visited by the OLP community due to its close proximity to their campus. Located at 2736 Adams Ave, Cafe 21's most attractive attribute is the unique outdoor patio sprinkled with distinctively chic decor that brings the parking lot environment to life. With many vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options, Cafe 21 truly has something for everyone. The C21 french toast, short rib omelet, and chicken pesto sandwich are our

personal favorites from the breakfast menu. As for the coffee connoisseurs in the Saints community, this restaurant offers phenomenal beverage options.

Beginning at 5 PM, Cafe 21 provides a great range of dinner options that follow the modern and health-focused approach of the breakfast menu. With three variations of vegetable fries, including eggplant, portobello, and avocado, and the catch-of-the-day papilote on the menu, the chefs' unique twists on traditional favorites make Cafe 21 an exciting dinner destination. The beef, lamb, and chicken skewers are also phenomenal, and *The Augustinian* urges Saintsmen to branch out and consider trying something new when they visit this spot.

### Sahara Taste of the Middle East

The crown jewel of East County, Sahara Taste of the Middle East, is located at 2990 Jamacha Road and offers a fresh variety of Chaldean food. Whether one is in the mood for a salad, sandwich, soup, specialty fries, flatbread, or other Middle Eastern delicacies, including bureg beef, Sahara has an extensive range of potential meal choices. The editorial team highly recommends the beef shawarma fries and chicken tikka for those who are new to this distinctive flavor profile, but, for those already experienced in the world of Middle Eastern dining, the lahem ajeen flatbread and the chicken cream chop are amazing options.

With the second largest Chaldean population in the U.S., El Cajon is the ideal destination for highly authentic Middle Eastern food, and the restaurant is owned by Joe Salem, a close relative of senior Toby Salem. According to a Yelp review by user Mary H., “It's really home for being Chaldean,” and this homestyle cooking gives Sahara its identity as well as its place in the hearts of all who visit.

# MOST WANTED

- |                         |                           |                    |                          |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Emilio Aguilar Gonzalez | Santiago De La Torre      | Alan Hogg          | Edgar Ornelas            | Julian Valdez       |
| Joseph Alcoser          | Damien DeLaPena           | Samuel Joseph      | Matt Parada              | Eric Venzor         |
| Fernando Aragon         | Dean Dickow               | MaryAnthony Kirton | Estevan Paredes          | Davyn Waldapfel     |
| Kieran Archer           | Mark Dixon                | Derek Le           | Gabriel Pascual-Gonzalez | Malcolm Williams    |
| Raul Armenta            | Diego Fimbres             | Alfonso Lopez      | Angel Perez              | Akira Wolfe         |
| Moises Bayliss          | Luke Friedman             | Marcus Lujan       | Tangitangi Pongia        | Kyle Wyborney       |
| Roger Becker            | Christian Gaeta-Fraga     | Aidan Lukasik      | Andres Reynoso           | Eveylt Yeruuldelger |
| Damien Bingham          | Fausto Gallego            | Raphael Luyun      | Leonardo Reznik          | Noah Zamora         |
| Giancarlo Blanco        | Charlie Gehler            | Andrew Maalouf     | Austin Rones             |                     |
| Isaiah Brickner         | Evan Gerardo              | Nicolas Mazzei     | Miguel Rosario           |                     |
| Nicholas Brooke         | Adam Grauerholz           | Edelberto Medina   | Jerome Santiago          |                     |
| Richard Brutto          | Justice Gross             | Anthony Mezzacappa | Alexander Schroder       |                     |
| Joshua Carlos           | David Gurrola             | George Mikan       | Alejandro Soler          |                     |
| Sergio Castrillon       | Alfredo Gutierrez-Fimbres | Hunter Miller      | Simon Somohano           |                     |
| Jose Castro             | Fernando Guzman           | Torin Mooney       | Joseph Soro              |                     |
| Richard Cesena          | Andres Hernandez          | Gabriel Morales    | Nolan Steinbuch          |                     |
| Franco Cozza            | Mario Hernandez           | Noah Munoz         | James Stepovich          |                     |
| Emilio De La Herran     | Luke Hobrock              | Kevin Nunez        | Drew Strong              |                     |

**REWARD:**

**OFF CAMPUS LUNCH**

# Debating the Future of the Nation



The first debate between Trump and Biden took place on September 29, 2020.

Wall Street Journal



By Nicholas Sajor ('21)  
STAFF WRITER



By Joseph Selfani ('21)  
EDITOR

It is difficult to believe that we are three weeks away from an election. With all the turbulence occurring this year, it appears everyone just remembered that in September the American people have the opportunity to elect a new president or remain under the current administration. The rushed and volatile nature of this year is definitively reflected in the first presidential debate, which was widely viewed as a fiasco.

Those who witnessed the Trump-Biden debate live were lost in the number of interruptions, personal attacks, and overall chaos that occurred. By any measure, Donald Trump interrupted the most, but both were guilty of frequent personal attacks and side-lines. The moderator, Fox's Chris Wallace, attempted to quell the storm but ended up add-

ing fuel to the flames, as President Trump and former vice president Joe Biden kept talking over him.

There were six pre-announced topics for the debate: "The Trump and Biden Records," "The Supreme Court," "COVID-19," "The Economy," "Race and Violence in our Cities," and "The Integrity of the Election." As mentioned before, however, much of the debate did not pertain to these topics, but rather went on tangents and frequent intrusions. Of course, it was not all fire and fury as some points were made.

In regards to the Trump and Biden records, nothing new was said. Biden brought up the *New York Times* article which cites that Trump only paid \$750 in federal taxes and that he is loaded with debt. Trump denied those claims, saying he paid millions of dollars in taxes and lashed out at Biden, accusing his son, Hunter, of having shady deals with Russia and Ukraine.

Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett for the Supreme Court was also debated,

with Biden opposing her nomination, arguing that the Supreme Court seat ought to be filled only after the presidential election.

COVID-19, the highlight of the debate, was also the most controversial topic. Biden stated that Trump knew about the devastation of the virus on the American people yet lied and downplayed it in an attempt to keep the masses calm. He claimed that it was, in fact, Trump who was panicking. Biden's final argument was that Trump failed to listen to the science by discouraging the use of masks, a failure which has contributed to the death of hundreds of thousands of Americans. For his part, Trump touted his travel bans from China after the outbreak and his attempts to maintain the strength of the economy by not shutting it down. He also denied that he was skeptical of masks and saying that he actually encouraged their use.

The economy is centered around the coronavirus. Trump said we are entering a V-shaped recovery, meaning that the economy will hiccup very quickly with temporary lay-

offs and a slowing in activity before it grows back to normal again. Biden, on the other hand, argued that under the Trump presidency, the economy has entered a K-shaped recovery, signifying a slower recovery which will also result in the wealthy Americans getting richer while poor Americans will get poorer, and the middle class will continually be squeezed. It is something that occurred after the 2008 recession.

The media currently spotlights Trump's statement to far-right groups like Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by" when he was asked to condemn such groups and white supremacists, which stirred much controversy as to his true intention and whether the question was poorly worded. Trump also claimed that he has accomplished so much for the black community like lowering their unemployment rates and claimed that most of the crime in America occurs in Democrat-run cities. Trump also attacked Biden for supporting the "defund the police" movement, which Biden does not, later stating that he supports increasing funds for the police and encourages the use of community policing.

After the uproar over the first debate, both campaigns were preparing for the next one, scheduled for October 15. However, after President Trump became infected with COVID-19 on October 2, the Commission on Presidential Debates announced that the upcoming debate would be moved to a virtual format, with the candidates, moderator, and citizens in the town hall format all in separate locations. Though the Biden campaign was willing to participate in this new layout, the Trump team unilaterally withdrew from the debate and chose to hold a rally, at which point the Biden campaign also scheduled another event, and thus the second debate was cancelled.

Though it is often the presidential candidates which steal the national spotlight, no less important are the vice presidential candidates and their debate. This year, Kamala Harris (D) faced off against Mike Pence (R) on October 7 in their only debate. In contrast to the fiery first presidential debate, these politicians took a more regulated approach in their ap-

SEE **DEBATES**, pg. 8

## Graeme's Top 10: Looking on the Bright Side of COVID-19



By Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21)  
EDITOR

Believe it or not, there are many negatives to a pandemic. It is obvious how such a health crisis has impacted both personal communities, and the Saints community as well. However, we, the editorial staff of *The Augustinian*, prefer to see the glass as half full and hereby list ten positive things that have benefited the Saints school experience during this disaster.

### 1. Later Start Times

The new schedule grants students more freedom and time in the mornings. Preventing rushed mornings and possibly reckless driving, it allows the student body to start school fresh and well-rested.

### 2. Smaller Class Sizes

The new cohort system creates classes with the perfect amount of students allowing for greater discussion and individual participation.

### 3. Independent Study Time

The cohort time allotted to most blocks serves as an opportunity for diligent students to catch up on their ever-growing pile of homework.

### 4. Opportunity to Augment Fashion Style

For those looking to become more fashionable, the new mask requirement creates a fine opportunity to add some pizzazz to your outfit.

### 5. More Facial Hair

Another benefit of the required masks is the opportunity for students to grow impressive feats of facial hair and conceal them behind their cloth coverings (that is until Mr. O'Beirne issues a mandatory dress code check at Mass).

### 6. Office Hours

The addition of the office hours period gives students a chance to seek further help directly from their teachers.

### 7. Math

For those mathematical connoisseurs, certain days of the week bring a full 100 minutes of pure academic bliss (especially with Mr. Ozdowski). Oh, for joy!

### 8. More Personal Mass

The smaller and more tight-knit Mass creates a special and enriching experience for everyone.

### 9. More Time to Read *The Augustinian*

Seriously, read the paper during your cohort time and come to Room 318 on Tuesdays at lunch.

### 10. Improved Voice Projection

With masks covering our mouths, students have learned to speak more clearly and forcefully, allowing us to further develop those skills we learned in speech class.

### ► FIRES

Continued from Page 2

amount of area scorched has tripled. The steadily increasing level of damage has occurred due to lackluster forest cleanup and climate change.

The California infernos have made it obvious that Mother Nature is not being treated with the proper level of care and respect. The unchecked growth of wildfires in California seems to have no end in sight and truly is blunt evidence that the Earth's climate is changing dramatically and for the worse. It should also wake up Americans to such change and inspire them to work together to reverse and combat it. It is crucial that we pray as a school community and give our full support to the firefighters and other fire-prevention specialists as we move further into the dry season.



### ► TIKTOK

Continued from Page 3

Policy Institute, "The Communist Party of China collects bulk data overseas and then uses it to help with things that relate to state security like propaganda and identifying public sentiment to understand how people feel about a particular issue."

Quite literally, knowledge is power in this situation, but definite information seems to be sparse in a climate when accusations are being perpetually professed and refuted. "It's about controlling the media environment globally. Once you have control, you can use it to influence and shape the conversation," Hoffman said.

As we only continue to progress in this Age of Technology, it seems issues concerning the virtual world are constantly permeating into reality. TikTok is just one side of a coin that won't stop flipping, one that may soon flip reality on its head and make a war of devices one of physical destruction.



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# An Open Letter to Dr. Graeme

## Fool-proof advice on how to get out of a second date.



By Graeme  
Morland-Tellez ('21)  
EDITOR

Dear Dr. Graeme,

I am unsure if you remember, but it is I, Anonymous. I wrote to you a few months back begging for advice on the sticky situation in which I found myself: a date. Well, I took heed to your advice and tried to break the stereotypical cycle of dating through your advised methods of nonconformity. I did everything that I was instructed, but the result was terrifying: she wants to go on a second date. I am horrified, yet mesmerized. Does this mean that she is the one for me? Am I in love? Should I attend this second date? I am extremely lost on what to do next, as I did not expect such a result. It is in this very state of confusion that I return to you, Dr. Graeme.

Enlighten me,  
Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Fortunately, I do remember you. Unfortunately, I also recall the female with which you are dealing. It is rather surprising that my initial instructions did not affect your dilemma. It is more concerning, however, that they seemed to have aggravated the situation. Now, if I may be blunt, I think you are stupid, absurd, and immature for believing that you are “in love” and that this female is the “one for you.” Nonetheless, worry not, I would prefer to look past your defining characteristics and rather focus on the situation at hand.

It seems like you have found yourself an “unrelenting” female, the most dangerous breed. Three things in this world legitimately induce fear: sunburn, COVID-19, and unrelenting females. Defined as one who ignores all decency and stops at nothing to achieve their ultimate goal of power and control, an unrelenting female is essentially the manifestation of Jeff Bezos.

As to your first question, if you desperately think that a psycho and savage female is the one for you, then sure. However, if you would prefer to be sane, you should understand that under no circumstances is she the one for you. Soulmates are similar to the talent found in the modern TikTok “influencers” in that they are both non-existent.

As to your second question, what makes you think that you are indeed in love? Do you feel “warm” inside whenever you think about this female? Do you get “butterflies” in your tummy? If you an-



Dr. Graeme Morland-Tellez is a certified love doctor.

Joaquin Torre ('21)

swered “yes” to these questions, you are probably suffering from some major health defects rather than experiencing “love.” That “warm” feeling you have is soon going to be accompanied by a dry cough and then a subsequent period of two weeks spent inside your bedroom. Those fluttering “butterflies” in your tummy more than likely serve as evidence of a serious gastrointestinal issue that should definitely receive some medical attention. Anonymous, you must understand that high school love is superficial, debased, and fake.

As to your third and final question, the only thing worse than a first date is a second one. However, despite how emotionally and physically taxing it may be, you will attend this second date as we need to get rid of the “contaminant” once and for all. Denoted as the “Morland Methodology” and referred to as the second set of the Ten Commandments, complying with the following principles nearly guarantees that you will rid your life of this pest for good.

1. Message solely through email.
2. Provide transportation but make her sit in the back (purportedly for safety reasons).
3. Do not talk to her.
4. Blast some instrumentals and freestyle for her in the car (poetry is romantic).
5. Treat her to some gas station sushi for dinner (I recommend the eel).

6. Engage in a friendly debate over the principles of existentialism.
7. Play the staring game without telling her that you are, in fact, playing the staring game.
8. Do not talk to her.
9. End the night with a fist bump.
10. Call her an Uber, but do not pay for it.

Please note that this methodology is very meticulous and requires that all of the principles are met to be successful. Also, do not overuse this system, as it is meant to be utilized in only the most extreme situations.

Anonymous, I sincerely hope that you survive this terrible predicament. In the absolute and unlikely worst-case scenario in which this all fails, and she still wants to see you, it is time for the final phase: a fun little legal document commonly referred to as “written pepper spray” — a restraining order.

To my readers, I encourage you to submit questions of your own and to always remember, “antisocial today, live a new day.”

With love,  
Dr. Graeme, Ph.D.

### ► DEBATES

Continued from Page 6

pearances. There was very little interrupting by either candidate or the moderator as they discussed world events and the policy differences of their tickets. Each candidate made their claims well and presented an adequate front as they defended their records and ideas.

The biggest controversy surrounding this meeting came not as a result of the debate’s content, but the setting in which it took place. The Harris campaign asked the Commission on Presidential Debates to install plexiglass barriers between the candidates and moderator as an extra safety precaution. Pence’s advisors relented and allowed plexiglass barriers to be put up in the 12 foot spaces between the candidates, even though the actual layout of the plexiglass made it largely ineffective at stopping any aerosol droplets. Essentially, this controversy about plexiglass is just a microcosm of the parties’ divergent views on COVID safety.

Due to the non-aggravating nature of this debate, the Internet primarily chose not to focus on either candidate’s policies, but on a fly which landed on Pence’s head. This pest went unnoticed by the candidates for the two minutes and three seconds it sat upon the vice president, although Twitter picked it up literally within seconds.

These varied debates highlight the disparate and fractured nature of politics in 2020, contrasting traditional reasonability with the stunts and inflamed partisanship of those seeking the world’s most respected office.

Despite the obvious issues posed to continuing news coverage at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, *The Augustinian* persisted and produced both a virtual April and May issue for the Saints community. As we begin a new publication cycle, our team of writers, editors, and photographers happily announce that our April 2020 issue was granted national recognition by the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) for Outstanding COVID Coverage. Granted jointly with the Society of Professional Journalists and the Society for News Design, the NSPA selected *The Augustinian* as the 4th place winner for the nationally-judged general content category. Being the only school in San Diego to place in the competition, Saints is honored and highly grateful for the NSPA’s recognition, and we look forward to continuing our dedication to accurate journalism for the school community regardless of any extenuating circumstances.

Contributors to the recognized issue are as follows: Nicholas Sajor ('21), Joseph Selfani ('21), Angel Perez ('21), Manny Butler ('22), Kai da Luz ('21), Thomas Vedder ('20), Graeme Morland-Tellez ('21), and Joaquin Torre ('21).

# Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Last Purell

By Hudson Daley ('22)

