

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

Issue 2 October 23, 2025 St. Augustine High School

Side Gigs: [jb.fades](#)
pg. 2

Bishop Pham Interview Pt. 2
pg. 3

Engineering Staff Feature
pg. 4

Teacher Costumes
pg. 8

Wahlberg screens St. Carlo Acutis film



By **George Burrell ('26)**
EDITOR

On October 2, producer Jim Wahlberg screened his latest documentary, *Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality*, for the entire Saints community along with guests from OLP and St. Patrick's School. The film explores the life and influence of the first millennial ever to be canonized by the Church, Carlo Acutis.

Acutis, who passed away from leukemia when he was fifteen, has become increasingly popular in recent years. His story has been published on numerous websites, books, and most recently, in Wahlberg's full-length feature film.

Those familiar with Mr. Wahlberg's work will know he's no stranger to faith-focused films. His self-started studio, Wahl St. Productions, has produced numerous films on faith-related themes and topics, from the lives of the saints to finding redemption in battles with addiction and heartbreak.

While Catholicism has been the focus of Mr. Wahlberg's work, it hasn't always been the focus of his life. In a talk before the screening, he recounted his journey from disbelief and despair to faith and hope.

The middle child of nine siblings (including famed actor Mark Wahlberg), Mr. Wahlberg's upbringing was rocky, to say the least. Growing up in the rough and

tough neighborhood of Dorchester, Boston, he was moved from school to school during the tense period of racial integration in public schools that started in the mid-seventies. Constantly uprooted, Mr. Wahlberg was never really able to find a place for himself.

"Every year I was the new kid," Mr. Wahlberg said. "Every year I had to reestablish myself."

As a result, combined with an unstable family situation, Mr. Wahlberg fell victim to the drug and crime scene of Boston. By the time he was twelve, he began skipping school and leaving home for months at a time. Not too long after, he landed himself in juvenile detention and eventually prison.

Despite this dark point in his life, there was a hint of hope for him. One of the prison chaplains, Father Jim Fratus, took Mr. Wahlberg under his wing and encouraged him to find God. This encouragement, however, fell upon deaf ears — until he had an encounter with Mother Teresa.

"I didn't even know who she was at first," Mr. Wahlberg said, reminiscing on her visit to the prison. "I thought, '*Who's this little nun everyone's making such a big deal about?*'"

Mr. Wahlberg recalled that he was stunned by her humility and her message of hope.

"When she got up and spoke, there
SEE ST. CARLO, pg. 2



Mr. Jim Wahlberg sharing his story with the Saints community before screening his new movie, *Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality*.
David Sabaga '26

Drama opens with *The Skin of Our Teeth*



By **Joseph Walker ('27)**
STAFF WRITER

Broadway is back on Palm Street, and it's as energetic as ever. *The Skin of Our Teeth* is the new kid — but vintage play — on the block this year, and it has quite the podium to compete for alongside last year's *Trap*. Yet, not much is known about this 1942 comedy. Does it involve dinosaurs, radioactivity, perhaps even *gambling*?

There is also the question of the spring musical *Sweeney Todd*: what makes its arrival so special? Could Saints possibly be on par with Broadway-level productions?

Looking at the play at hand, "*The Skin of Our Teeth* has a wonderful message about the persistence of humanity," sophomore Xavier Flippin, a member of the ensemble, said. "No matter how many times we are thrown down, we still get back up."

The play's author, Thornton Wilder, portrays the resilience and capability of humanity through unity to reveal the indomitable human spirit amid troubling times.

"Humanity's rising to the occasion of

every crisis is extremely relevant to our world right now," Mr. Blumer, the show's director, said. "It's simply a small, run-of-the-mill family dealing with the end of the world."

The show will look and feel varied, scene to scene, moment to moment, never inducing a bore or a snooze within its two hour runtime.

"We are going to have lighting changes, set changes, and every act will look different," Blumer said. "We are going to have people in big dinosaur costumes."

Community is also an important factor of the production of *The Skin of our Teeth*, clearly reflecting our core value of *Unitas*. Many new faces will be participating in the production, illustrating how well-connected the Saints Brotherhood is.

"We have a ton of new cast members," junior Pablo Romero, student director, said. "We still have a great number of strong seniors and strong juniors, also including our OLP sisters."

The connection between Saints and OLP, with many Pilots being a part of the production, continues this *Unitas* — coming together as two schools with one spirit to form strong friendships and

SEE THEATER, pg. 2

Politifest!

Debating San Diego's issues



By **Paddy Ward ('26)**
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this month, I attended Politifest, which is a local political event hosted by Voice of San Diego and Public Matters, two local news organizations that work with KPBS and focus on local issues. Politifest's purpose is to discuss and tackle issues in San Diego in a novel, accessible, and enjoyable way.

The best way to describe Politifest would be "unique" or even "quirky." Hosted this year at the beautiful University of San Diego, the first thing I noticed was the music.

There was a DJ playing yacht rock and funky R&B in the garden outside the venue. Also outside the venue, there was a horseshoe of tables run by several different organizations, both local and national. The organizations were quite diverse, with Planned Parenthood, KPBS, AARP, La Jolla Country Day School, Alliance San Diego, Public Power San Diego, and many others showing up to the event. Later in the day, there were East African and chicken wing food trucks.

The talks were held in three separate rooms in the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace

Studies building. In the main lecture hall, a presenter officially started a sort of "rumble" of thought and debate.

Over the course of the day, there were a total of ten talks. The topics of these talks ranged from affordable housing and homelessness to education, energy and water bills, Proposition 50, and more. I attended two talks at the summit — first, "How do we get the city we want?" and afterwards a talk about "What should we do when people with behavioral health problems refuse treatment?"

The discourses were in a debate-like format among multiple speakers, where each panelist had ten minutes to make their points and show their presentations. After this, the speakers answered follow-up questions posed by the moderator regarding their points and the general issue. Then, the speakers would respond to and critique the points of their fellow peers. To conclude, questions from the audience were allowed. In total, each talk took about an hour and thirty minutes.

The two talks I attended were very compelling. Mayor Todd Gloria, City Councilman Sean Elo-Rivera, and po-

SEE POLITIFEST, pg. 5

ST. CARLO
continued from page 1

was a moment that it was just her speaking directly to me... and she told me that Jesus loved me and that Jesus Christ died for me,” Mr. Wahlberg said. “That encounter changed everything for me. It was the beginning of my journey back to God.”

From that point on, Mr. Wahlberg gradually made his way back to God. He was confirmed into the Catholic Church while still in prison and released a few years later at the age of 25. Back in society, he fell prey again to the temptations of drugs and crime, returned to jail, but, newly armed with his faith, he was able to find his way out again.

Following in the footsteps of his youngest brother Mark, Jim Wahlberg made his way into the filmmaking industry and Hollywood. He started his film

studio, to promote Catholic teachings and to discuss difficult topics. In this sense, his work is a form of evangelization.

His latest film involves a digital evangelist, who people now call “God’s Influencer.” At the age of thirteen, Carlo made use of his self-learned computer skills to set up a website for his local church, where he started an online series on worldwide Eucharistic miracles. His means of evangelization — his laptop — drew many people in his home town of Milan and beyond to turn to the Church and find God.

The talk and film screening made a strong impression on the school body. Mr. Bachynsky grew up in South Boston in the same decade as Wahlberg, just one neighborhood away from the Wahlberg home.

“I saw a lot of crime, racism, and

SEE ST. CARLO, pg. 6

THEATER
continued from page 1

connections.

Coming off last year’s award-winning performances of *Trap* and *She Loves Me*, the Theater Department has many veteran actors ready to return to the podium. They have placed a great deal of effort into every rehearsal to achieve a higher caliber than last year.

Though we haven’t yet seen the fall play, the spring musical, *Sweeney Todd*, has already been turning heads with anticipation — Broadway truly is on its way to Saints.

“Some people regard it as the best musical ever,” Mr. Blumer said.

The musical’s set will come from The Music and Theater Company, which is a professional rental company that licenses Broadway itself.

Saints will also emphasize its vast connections as two Broadway actors will provide consultation to the spring production: Will Blum, whose credits include *Beetlejuice* in *Beetlejuice* and Dewy Finn in *School of Rock*, and Roland Rusinek, who is Piangi in *The Phantom of Opera*. DeAndre Simmons, a renowned opera singer who has experience with the title role in *Sweeney Todd* and was awarded the 2024 San Diego Craig Noel Award for Actor of the Year, will also lend a hand to making *Sweeney Todd* as fantastic as possible.

The future of Saints theater is just around the bend. The Theater Department is calling on **YOU** to watch the fall play or even participate in the spring musical, saying that you should get over your stage fright and embrace the spotlight, or perhaps be the spotlight.

“If you are reading this, this is my message to you: audition,” Xavier said.

Make sure that you catch *The Skin of Our Teeth* on November 14, 15, 20, and 21 at 7pm, and on November 22 at 2pm. Also make sure that you sign up and audition for *Sweeney Todd* on November 17. Hope to see you in the theater!

Lunch off campus: living out *Fooditas*



By Matthew Cramp ('26)
STAFF WRITER

The question “Where should we go to eat after school?” has echoed through the hallowed halls of St. Augustine for time immemorial. But why confine ourselves to the standard fare of Chick-fil-A, In-N-Out, and Raising Cane’s? Saintsmen — especially seniors, who now have off-campus lunch — are anxious for new places to eat that are close to Saints. Here are a few I recommend:

Lefty’s Chicago Pizzeria: With the closest of their two locations just over at the corner of 30th and Myrtle, Lefty’s has a special place in our food tradition here at Saints. The family of senior Liam Hodson has been running the local pizza chain since 2009. Their website says that the passionate pizzamakers’ style was, “born from a deep-rooted nostalgia for the Chicagoland of our childhood.” Aside from their legendary deep-dish pizza, the pizzeria also offers a wide variety of menu options including burgers, pasta, hot-dogs, and sandwiches. The proximity of their North Park location makes it an ideal choice for pizza-hungry Saintsmen.

Shawarma Guys: You can’t get much faster than the next spot on our list. Bringing a taste of the Mediterranean to your lunch, Shawarma Guys’s Middle Eastern menu will make your mouth water. Of their three locations, the South Park location on Grape Street is the only one that is a food truck. Falafels, wraps, cheesesteaks, and fries can be seen featured on their menu along with their

Australian wagyu shawarma of Guy Fieri repute. If you’re looking for fast and tasty food, you can’t get much better than Shawarma Guys.

The Taco Stand: A staple of North Park cuisine, The Taco Stand needs little introduction for us Saintsmen whom they have so faithfully fed over the years. Since their founding in 2013 in San Diego, The Taco Stand has brought the taste of San Diego all over the country to Texas, Nevada, and Florida. Recently, they opened a new location in the airport’s new Terminal 1 to welcome tourists and say farewell to locals. Their North Park location on Upas Street has made many a Saintsman familiar with their marvelous Mexican cuisine consisting of burritos, tacos, quesadillas, and more.

Grand Ole BBQ: Just three blocks from Saints, at 32nd and Thorn, Grand Ole BBQ has been bringing a taste of Central Texas to San Diego since 2015. They understand the chill, laid-back atmosphere of the neighborhood with their outdoor seating and music. Their menu features chili, tacos, bar food, and, of course, meats and sandwiches including brisket, pulled pork, and Texas turkey. When it comes to proximity and vibe, there’s none better in North Park than Grand Ole BBQ.

De Luca’s: A Saints classic, it is almost a tradition to walk over to Thorn St. after school and get some pizza at De Luca’s. Since 1984, they have been supplying Saintsmen with delicious pizza, pasta, subs, and salads. Their cozy interior has been the backdrop for many Saintsmen’s lunches.

Side Gigs: jb.fades

Saints senior Julian Bustos cuts hair and keeps Saintsmen looking stylish and professional



Senior Julian Bustos (aka jb.fades) getting a client right.
Courtesy of Julian Bustos '26



By Mattie Gosling ('26)
STAFF WRITER

Has Chief been nagging you about your hair? Are you walking the dress code tightrope? If this is you, call up senior Julian Bustos and book an appointment to get your haircut. Jb.fades has been in the hair-cutting business for around five years now and can get you right if you’re looking “chopped.”

The jb.fades legacy began during COVID when Julian “picked up a clipper and started giving [his] cousin cuts.” With that, jb.fades was born. What started as a pastime became a hobby and job that Julian loves.

Julian said his favorite part about cutting hair is “seeing my client the next day at school walking with confidence and looking way better than they did before.”

Rome wasn’t built in a day, though, and Julian’s talent was likewise built over time. As a result of being self-taught, all his knowledge on cutting hair was gained through experience. Through “lots of trial and error and some YouTube videos,” Julian has grown to become the masterful barber he is today.

50 Cent’s wise words of “Get rich or die tryin’” are what jb.fades is all about. It was through commitment and pride in his work that got him to where he is today. He said, however, that the hardest part of being a barber was the social media aspect.

“It took time to get likes and people

to notice me,” Julian said. But even after getting attention and recognition, he still needs to post frequently and keep his audience engaged so that his business model remains as fresh as the cuts he gives.

Jb.fades hopes to pursue barbering through college, planning on getting his barbering license to always keep giving haircuts, no matter what profession he chooses. Who knows, we might see a “jb. fades Barber Shop” in the near future.

His message to other students looking to start a side gig is to take pride in your work. Enjoy every bit of the process because that’s where the fun really is.

Julian also noted how “word of mouth is very important,” and that hyping yourself up is also a great way to spread your business. He said to talk to everyone because you don’t know who could be your next customer. Simply talking to others about your plans can help you get information on how to accomplish your goals or just to spread the word that your business is open for sale.

“Don’t be afraid to promote yourself and to tell others to spread the word [because] that’s what makes a business successful.”

If you’re looking to book a haircut with jb.fades, his best times are right after school during the week, Friday at any time, and occasionally on the weekends. With a schedule like that, there’s no excuse not to get a cut from jb.fades.

When Dino almost died



Coach Dino at the school he loves.

Sebastian Rodriguez '27



By James Burrell ('26)
STAFF WRITER

Many people know Coach Dino as one of the best and chilliest substitute teachers at Saints. Many of you might not know that five years ago, he nearly died battling COVID-19. His harrowing experience altered his perspective on life and rooted him more deeply in what it really means to be a Saintsman.

In 2020, Coach Dino had the same roles at Saints as he does now: substitute teacher and football coach. When the lockdown started, Coach Dino wasn't phased by it.

"[My family and I] responded positively," he said. "Like anything in life, you can only control your attitude. COVID was the 10 percent, the other 90 percent was how to make the best of a global pandemic."

Despite his initial optimism, COVID would be far from smooth sailing for Coach Dino. In December of 2020, he became ill with the virus, and in early January 2021, he was admitted into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

"I... spent three months in the hospital, mostly in the ICU, which included 33 days on a ventilator in a medically induced coma," Coach Dino said. Nevertheless, he persisted. He kept one thought in his mind through his struggle: "Survival!!!"

Coach Dino trusted in God to carry him through his ordeal, and eventually, he made it through the worst of it — next came his path towards recovery.

The recovery phase was also very challenging. Even after his medically induced coma, Coach Dino still had a long way to go.

"I endured the COVID experience in the hospital isolated and alone." Upon leaving his isolation and finally being able to come home after three months, he was overjoyed to be back with his family.

After enduring his experience with COVID, Coach Dino followed the path to get back in the classroom and field. It took extensive rehabilitation, but within three months of returning home, he returned to Saints in a walker, oxygen tank, and leg brace as a result of a severely weakened foot (also known as foot drop). His mantra was unchanged, even with his condition: "Saintsmen don't quit!!!"

Relying on his family to support him through his illness, Coach Dino also grew in his trust and appreciation for God.

"I made a promise to God. I repeated it over and over: 'If you live for your children, God will never leave you behind.'"

His COVID experience also gave him new insight into his Saints family, and how much the people in the school community actually cared for him.

"This ordeal taught me that my students and my players are all blessings from God. Every day I'm on campus, I get an opportunity to do God's work on Earth."

Today, Coach Dino is continuing to do what he loves: substitute teaching and coaching football. His affection for Saints has grown deeper than he could have ever imagined.

"I first set foot on this campus in 1985 and I'm still here," he said. "I bleed purple and gold for life, and it's an honor to be a Saintsman."

An exclusive interview with Diocesan Bishop Michael Pham: Part Two



By Enzo Simon ('27)
EDITOR

On May 22, 2025, Michael Pham was appointed Bishop of San Diego. From starting the Pentecost Mass for All Peoples in San Diego eight years ago to guiding and protecting immigrants on World Refugee Day, Bishop Pham exemplifies the role of shepherd — leading, nurturing, and fostering unity within our flock and family. His Excellency was kind enough to let us interview him — the following is its second half:

The Augustinian: Held every year, the All People's Pentecost Mass celebrates the universality of our Catholic faith, featuring colorful displays of San Diego's various cultures through diverse clothing, food, and music. What inspired you to start it?

Bishop Michael Pham: When I was ordained a priest, I got a prayer card. It had a line of scripture from St. John: "Remain in my love, ask anything, I shall grant it to you." And so my prayer was, "May all people be united in love." Then, when Cardinal McElroy came to San Diego as bishop, he appointed me to be the Vicar for Ethnic and Intercultural Communities, where I worked with people of different cultures and ethnicities. And I don't know why, but the first thing that came into my mind was Pentecost. I wanted to have people of different cultures, languages, and ethnicities come together to celebrate the Holy Spirit descending upon the Church, and to celebrate being understood because of their unity through Christ and the Eucharist. It is the foretaste of the heavenly banquet of us coming together in Heaven. That's what we will see and experience, all people, regardless of who they are. We are brothers and sisters, and we need to live that out — that's my dream.

TA: On World Refugee Day, you played quite a central role in leading, supporting, and protecting thousands of these immigrants. Could you share about that experience?

Pham: I had encountered it when I was young, living under the communists, and seeing people being taken away from their family in a way that is not dignifying. And seeing how it's playing out here in this country — a democratic country — gives me pain and sadness. It's disheartening to see. How could this be happening in this country? That's what drives me to speak up for those voiceless. We recognize the Church's teaching that every country has the right to have their borders and do what they need to take care of and protect their citizens. But whether documented or undocumented, we still need to treat people with respect and dignity. We are human beings, brothers and sisters in Christ, and are all created in God's image and likeness. Treating people with dignity and respect will bring peace and joy to our society and our world, and we become a good witness to people throughout the world. But with what we're doing now, people can point at us and say, "That is a democratic country, and they're doing *that*." It's sad because our country can do so much to witness to the world, and we can witness good things, not the bad things. If we witness the bad things, then the world will use those bad things and create chaos.

TA: Were you scared at all?
Pham: No. But I still didn't expect any of this, and I believe it's the Holy Spirit who moved me to do things like that, things which are worth doing for the good of the people. God presented to me to do something for the good of the people, and I did it, with courage, because God led me through it.

TA: You're a strong advocate for synodality, that is, open dialogue within the Church. How do you plan on developing its presence in San Diego?

Pham: Our focus is on reaching out to the people, joining them and listening to them, especially those from the periphery because everyone has a voice. We want to be a vibrant Church, and to do so, I believe we gotta have all these voices that we can listen to and journey with. Our mission is to evangelize to *all* people so that all have the chance to encounter Jesus. So currently we have meetings, monthly meetings, with our central office. We listen to God's words. We share our experiences through the lens of the scripture or particular teachings of the Church, and then we come up with a particular word that we identify with, one that we'll use to guide us in the coming weeks. And then we radiate that, not just among us, but to all the parishes, to all the people that we encounter. And that's synodality right here, and if everyone's playing their parts, I think that our diocese will be a vibrant Church.

TA: How do you deal with all the stress?

Pham: I have to make decisions, both tough ones and light ones, but I'm so happy that I can come to the office, that I can work with the people. That to me is a gift. Certainly, exercise is important and meditating is important, but being in communion with God is the most important, because all of this is God's work. I try to stay focused and take it all one step at a time. I tell myself, "If something is light, then you walk fast. If something is heavy, walk slower." Otherwise, you might stumble. What's also helpful is knowing that there are those around to help. So I don't worry too much about it — I just try to do the best I can to help people.

TA: Do you have any message for stressed-out youths?

Pham: Young people have to face a lot now. You get your video games and you get your studies, your friends, and all these things that you are dealing with, whether it's good or bad, but sometimes, when you're young, you have so much energy, and sometimes you don't take time for yourself just to sit down and reflect upon your day. If you examine yourself, you can stay centered, focused, and disciplined, and from there you can see what to do to glorify God. Like St. Augustine said, "O, God, I'm restless until I rest in you." And so we're restless, but until we rest in God and have God, we're here for a reason. For a mission that God has entrusted to us. A mission to unite. To stay in relationship: relationship with God and with one another, and you'll be in tune. You'll have a life worth living.

Chaplain's Corner

Together



By Br. Tony Moreno, OSA
COLUMNIST

"If you want to travel fast, go alone. If you want to travel far, go with friends."

It is hard to overstate the importance of having people in your corner: family, friends, confreres (my fellow Augustinians), co-workers and classmates, neighbors, fellow parishioners, etc. to share the good times — and the bad.

A few weeks ago, I was out, together with my family, as we accompanied my dad to the end of his life, as he peacefully left this world behind for the next. Dad believed in the love and mercy of Jesus Christ as he waved goodbye to us and breathed his last. He was faithful to the end. I will miss him.

When I was a small boy, Dad taught me the Sign of the Cross (with the little kiss at the end, "Mexican/Spanish-style"). He also taught me the Our Father, the Hail Mary, Glory Be, and prayers to my Guardian Angel and St. Michael the Archangel. (Don't know them? Google them. Pray them!) Dad also instilled the

importance of being together as a family and of getting along as brothers, sisters, and cousins. As your chaplain, I encourage you to strive towards harmony at home and to cultivate healthy friendships.

I am grateful to the Saints community — administrators, faculty, and staff and to my brother Augustinians who kept the Masses and other Chaplain ministries going in my absence. Thank you! I am also grateful for the support I have gotten from people checking in on me.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, you wonderfully made us and love us. / Thank you for getting us through the first quarter. / Help us persevere and thrive in the next three quarters together.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Augustine, pray for us!

St. Monica, pray for us!

Engineering for a better Saints

 **By Erik Johanson ('27)**
CONTRIBUTOR

No, you will not find Mr. Roman Estolano, Mr. Alex Hurtado, or Mr. Juan Sanchez teaching *Intro to Engineering* in Vasey Hall. Instead, these engineers (who prefer simply to go by Roman, Alex, and Juan) form the key trio of support staff who keep the Saints campus running smoothly.

Roman, Alex, and Juan all grew up in the South Bay communities of National City and Chula Vista, attending Mount Miguel High School, Sweetwater High School, and Chula Vista High School, respectively. Each of them has a background in engineering or maintenance work. Alex additionally used to coach PE at Saint Rose of Lima, a parochial school in Chula Vista.

Roman has worked on campus since the spring of 2024, while Alex and Juan were each brought on during the 2024-25 school year. None of them are directly employed by Saints, but rather are contracted through a separate company: Paragon. Alex did, however, already happen to have a prior connection with Saints via the Horne family through his previous work at Saint Rose of Lima.

Outside of work, Alex is a big football fan. Despite what his Dallas Cowboys-themed man cave may suggest, Alex’s true favorite team is not in the NFL. Instead, he loves watching and supporting his kids’ sports teams. Alex volunteers as an assistant coach for his son’s middle school football team at Saint Rose of Lima and also attends every one of his daughter’s volleyball games.

Despite being in the middle of an on-line chess match, Roman was more than



Juan Sanchez, Alex Hurtado, and Roman Estolano (left to right) knowing they make this school run. *Jameson Grohman '26*

happy to multitask and be interviewed. Other than chess, his main hobbies include collecting vinyl records and maintaining his vintage 1973 Dodge Charger. Of course, all of this comes second behind spending time with his wife, especially when they work together on projects and chores around the house. As our interview was wrapping up, he delivered a decisive blow and forced the opponent to resign.

Like Roman, Juan also spends some of his free time working on cars. Enamored with cars since a young age, he now currently has a 2016 Dodge Challenger Hellcat, which you may have seen fea-

tured at this month’s car show.

Besides his cars, Juan has been a fan of jiu-jitsu for 12 years, and is looking to get back into the martial art after recovering from a recent shoulder injury. Now a brown belt, he initially got into the martial art as an activity to do with his kids.

Since many students are unaware of the essential work that our engineers do, Roman, Alex, and Juan were happy to explain.

“We maintain the school... if the lights go out, the AC doesn’t work, doors don’t fully open, or toilets get clogged,” Alex said.

Or, in Roman’s words, “We fix everything... we try to take care of things in-house, [so] we’re jacks of all trades.”

The engineering staff is also behind the successful setup of every rally, assembly, and event that occurs on campus. According to Roman, this involves working with ASB to organize a seating diagram and decoration scheme, especially for a multifaceted event like the recent homecoming dance.

Sudden changes are not uncommon, so they always have to be ready to adapt to whatever Saints throws at them.

SEE ENGINEERING, pg. 6

Crossword Puzzle

By George Burrell ('26)

ACROSS

- Enemy
- “Welcome one, welcome all...” *
- Famous Bumble Bee Seafood offering, given their jingle
- “Hooray!” in Greek
- Yoko ___ (John Lennon’s widow)
- “I just ___ you, and this is cra-zy...”
- “TD RATHER BE DEAD THAN RED, BABY!” *
- Popular iced tea brand

- “Going for a smoke on the bridge, big guy?” *
- You and I
- Basis of an East Asian religion
- Stanley Cup awarder
- SDSU or Cal Poly Pomona, for instance
- “Hey-ey-ey, doctor, did you bring your tarea?” *
- British plaid pattern
- Holy Bowl opponent

DOWN

- Obsessive supporter
- Eiichiro ____, One Piece illustrator
- San Diego-base garbage disposal company
- Super ___! (Even better!)
- Yin’s opposite
- Sarcophagus
- “___, la polizia, ___!”
- “Quiet!”
- Pickleball no-go zone
- Took a load off
- Second-highest score on an AP exam
- “I don’t trust the Youth of America.” *
- “Hit Me with Your Best ___,” 1980 hit by Pat Benatar
- Royal title of Coach Casey *
- Tim Cook, for Apple, Inc.

Mental Health: under (peer) pressure?

 **By Oliver Winn ('27)**
STAFF WRITER

Peer pressure — we all know it. We love it when it forces us to do something fun that we otherwise wouldn’t have done. We hate it when it leads us into something we regret.

Even if it’s something most of us know and feel, many people still have questions about peer pressure. Why do we have it? And what can we do about it?

According to Mr. Golden, head of the Saints Counseling Department, peer pressure is a natural part of our human experience.

“We are social by nature, and so we seek approval from other people,” Mr. Golden said. Peer pressure stems from that social nature and is just part of our wiring.

The influence of peer pressure is especially strong in our teenage years because we’re still forming our identity, our relationships, and our brains themselves. During our adolescent years, “our pre-frontal cortex develops, and that’s decision making, ... impulse control, self-control, those type of things, and then we’re getting thrown this pressure at the same time,” Mr. Golden said.

Mr. Golden explained how in situations where peer pressure influences individuals toward undesirable routes, however good our intentions may be, our decision making is sometimes just not developed enough to keep us from error.

Dr. Rafael M. Reyes, PsyD, a clinical psychologist and founder of private psychotherapy practice PsychSanDiego, described such susceptibility to peer pressure as a result of our deep desire for social belonging, coupled with our identity development and other factors. However,

“agreeing to something in order to belong could actually undermine your own identity development” and “have lasting negative effects,” he said.

He also identified fear of rejection and negative judgement as sources of peer pressure for teenagers.

So, if teenagers are especially vulnerable to peer pressure, what can we do about it?

Dr. Reyes recommended five strategies that teens can use to defend themselves against negative peer pressure:

1. Set healthy boundaries for yourself. As Dr. Reyes put it, “Recognize that you have personal rights, and one of those rights is the right to say ‘no.’”

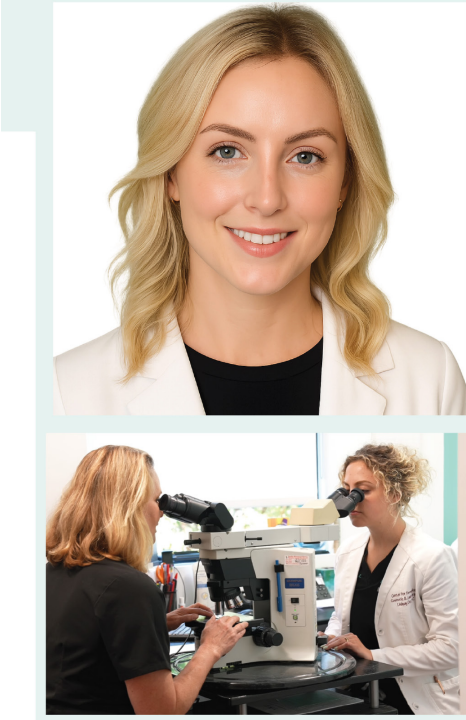
2. Prepare an escape plan.

It could be as simple as texting a parent, and it’s an important way for you to get out of uncomfortable situations.

3. Consider the long-term consequences of a particular action or behavior. “Making choices is sometimes difficult in the moment but pays off big in the end,” Dr. Reyes said. Mr. Golden added that teenagers can “trust their gut” and “trust their moral compass” when faced with negative peer pressure.

4. Build healthy relationships with supportive people. “Identify the people who lift you up and are supportive,” Dr. Reyes said, “and nurture those relationships,” as well as returning needed support to others. Mr. Golden also advised teenagers to rely on trusted adults such as parents and counselors.

5. Love yourself. Dr. Reyes assured: “Love yourself and the opinions of others will be less and less important.” If we put our health and well-being first, good results will follow.



Provider Spotlight: Lindsay Daly, PA-C — Knows Men’s Skin

Lindsay is passionate about helping men (women, too) achieve healthy, glowing, clear skin. A highly skilled Physician Assistant with experience in providing **high-quality dermatologic care**.

- ✓ Compassionate and Discrete
- ✓ Telehealth available; distance not an issue.
- ✓ Awards in Academic Achievement and Excellence in Practice

Healthy Skin is Beautiful Skin!



Dr. Anne K. Truitt, MD., Medical Director | Saints’ Parent

Board-certified Dermatologist
Fellowship-trained Mohs Micrographic Surgeon
Recognized Expert in Aesthetic Procedures
Veteran and USAF Academy Graduate



 dr.truitt_sandiego  dr.truitt_sandiego

Skin & Aesthetic Dermatology

 16918 Dove Canyon Road, Suite 102,
San Diego, CA 92127
 (858) 292-5101  healthyskinsd.com

Discover Exceptional Dermatology Care in San Diego

The great gerrymandering showdown

Drawing democracy — or erasing it?

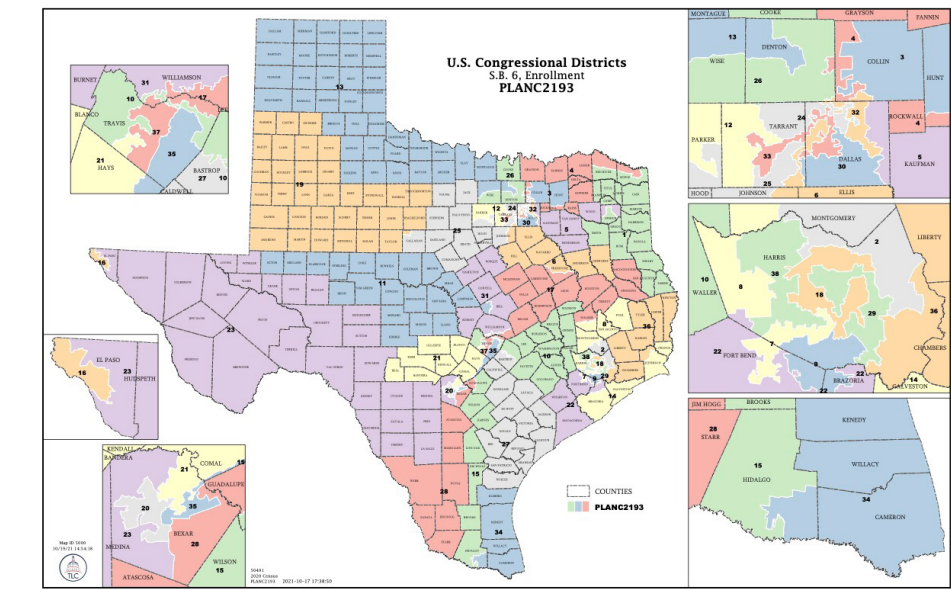
By Paddy Ward (’26)
STAFF WRITER

This past August, President Trump asked Texas governor Greg Abbott to redraw Texas’s congressional districts, the aim of which would be to increase the number of Republicans in Congress. This new redistricting has opened up a retaliatory arms race of redistricting across several Democratic states to counterbalance any Republican gains. As state legislatures across the nation pass new redistricting bills, we can observe one of America’s favorite political pastimes: gerrymandering!

First of all, what is redistricting and gerrymandering? Redistricting, which happens every ten years after each census, is when the district maps of state legislatures and the House of Representatives are redrawn to account for shifts in population. Ideally, these districts represent the American people fairly, but the bias can stem from who exactly makes the districts.

In 1812, the Governor of Massachusetts, Elbridge Gerry — for whom gerrymandering is named — redrew the districts of the Massachusetts Senate in a way that biased his own party, the Democratic-Republicans. This biased skewing allowed the Democratic-Republicans to retain control of the state Senate, even when the state House of Representatives and the governorship were lost to the Federalists. This was the first example of gerrymandering: partisan state legislatures manipulating districts to the benefit of their own political parties and ideologies.

Gerrymandering has not only been used for manipulating party lines, but also for both helping and hurting minor-



ity groups. Three years ago, in 2022, federal courts ordered Mississippi to fix their congressional district map because it had disenfranchised Black voters. On the other hand, districts have also been created specifically to do the opposite, making minorities the majority in the district. These minority-turned-majority districts have been heavily criticized by conservatives and the Republican Party.

But what makes Texas’s redistricting initiative any different from past ones? The difference is how and when it has come about. President Trump specifically called on Texas to create these new seats. In an interview with CNBC, Trump said, “[Republicans] are entitled to five more seats.” Seat redistricting has historically been only done by the states, so a president calling for it is quite unprecedented. In addition, districts are usually only redrawn after the national census every ten years. Mid-decade redistrictings are abnormal.

Critics of Texas’s redistricting consider it an unfair and undemocratic power play to maintain control of the House of Representatives. As of October 16, 2025, the House is split 219-213 with a Republican majority and three vacancies. It is a game of inches.

In response to Texas’s new gerrymandering, California’s state legislature and California Governor Gavin Newsom have put forth to the people Proposition 50. Its goal is to match Texas’s five gained seats with five California seats by redrawing California’s districts.

More states, such as Missouri and North Carolina, have joined the fray of gerrymandering their districts mid-decade. Ideally, states should embrace politically independent redistricting committees that fairly and justly create districts to ensure the power of the individual voter. This game is a threat to our American democracy and the voting power of the people.

POLITIFEST

continued from page 1

litical advisor Aimee Faucett spoke at the first talk I attended, where they each shared their unique solutions for improving the city. Mayor Gloria brought up possible ideas like deregulating and rewriting certain housing codes to make more homes for the middle class. Councilman Elo-Rivera suggested possible tourism fees. Ms. Faucett proposed an independent government organization that makes sure that the budget is used efficiently.

I found each speaker very interesting. They had a very jovial tone — not deadpan serious. The speakers cracked jokes with each other, but they still kept the overall conversation professional.

The second talk was centered around how we should tackle the issue of those with behavioral issues refusing treatment. The speakers were Paul Armstrong, the Chief of Staff and Senior Vice President of San Diego Rescue Mission, Dr. Aaron Meyer, a psychiatrist who works for both the City of San Diego and UC San Diego, and Tara Stamos-Buesig, the founder and CEO of Harm Reduction Coalition San Diego. Stamos-Buesig, who was homeless on the streets of San Diego for 20 years, offered points that I’ve never thought of and her own experiences hit deeply. Her views regarding holding people in conservatorship, forcing people to take medication, designing requirements to run shelters, and organizing relief efforts showed me how deeply complex this issue truly is.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at Politifest. It is a great way to learn about local issues and politics, and I couldn’t recommend it enough. It’s also free for students, so there really isn’t a reason not to go. Have fun Politifesting!

Saints's hottest new clubs

 **By Kieron Scanlan ('26)**
STAFF WRITER

Nothing is certain in this world besides two things: Daddy being the bad guy and new clubs being created. So we celebrate this constant by highlighting up-and-coming clubs!

Boogie Boarding League

Who doesn't love a good BBL? Co-Presidents Nathan Gaston and Patty Ward certainly do.

When asked what the BBL is, Nathan Gaston said, "As a club we're just about building brotherhood."

More explicitly, the club is for those who enjoy beach activities, not exclusively just boogie boarding. Patty Ward noted that though boogie boarding is in the name, it isn't the sole activity of the club. The principal activities include "Boogie boarding, beach volleyball, spikeball, and relaxing."

The club meets every Tuesday at lunch in the Purple and Gold room in order to discuss location, activities, and times for future events.

Finn McMahan, the first winner of the BBL tournament, greatly enjoyed his experience saying that "everyone was welcome, there was a wide variety of classes [present]... Everyone was there for a good time."

For those interested in joining the Whatsapp groupchat, the link can be found on the club's Instagram page, @saints_bbl.

Mahjong Club

Mahjong is a three- or four-player game created in the 19th century and has gained popularity in many Asian countries such as China, Japan and South Korea. The Mahjong Club focuses on the Japanese variant of Mahjong, called Riichi Mahjong.

Founder and President Jacob



The Mahjong Club doing what they do best. Henry Barwick '26

Washington said that his love for the game stemmed from learning Japanese, a pursuit that got him interested in Japanese culture. He says that it's similar to Poker in that you need to form good hands to win.

The club meets officially every Friday at lunch in Mr. Oliwa's room, but informally meet during office hours as well. If you're interested in joining, talk to Jacob whenever you see him on campus or at meetings. His intention is to make the game very accessible by being patient with new players and giving them flash cards to better understand the tiles.

If you're still deliberating on joining the club, Jacob offers this insight: "I think there are many reasons [to join], but if you like strategy and reason you'll like Mahjong."

Military Career Interest Club

This club is for those interested in joining the military. The club is for those who "want to get more informa-

tion and make an informed decision and determine if [military service] is really for them," Co-President Peter Thorne said.

Club meetings are held every Thursday at lunch in the art room. Meetings will feature Q&A's and guest speakers who can shine a light on different fields in the military. They've already had a guest speaker this year, a lieutenant who used to serve on submarines, and have more on the horizon.

In addition, there will be opportunities throughout the year to tour different facilities on military bases in order to get a better understanding of the aspects of their service.

Of course there are many new clubs at Saints, and to highlight all of them would take the whole newspaper. If you run a club and wish to be highlighted, please email stanewspaper@sahsonline.org. Join up boys!

ENGINEERING

continued from page 4

Sometimes, event organizers change their plans on a dime, requiring the engineers to respond to the call.

They don't let it get to them. From their perspective, such course corrections are just part of the job.

Despite the challenges, they think that working at Saints is undoubtedly worth it.

"It's like we're all pulling in the same direction, like everybody's on the same page," Juan said. "It's cool to be a part of."

Even though each member of the engineering staff is busy keeping the Saints campus to its high standard, they collectively emphasized that they are approachable and want to get to know more Saints-men. Roman even acknowledges that he "has a serious look" which tends to scare off students from talking with him, but that he is "the nicest guy you can meet." (Mr. Bachynsky calls him the Latino Billy Bob Thornton.)

As for Roman, he wants to "make this be the last place that [he] works at. ... Here, we have lightning in a bottle."

ST. CARLO

continued from page 2

violence, much like Wahlberg described. Lots of people around me were hurting." Mr. Bachynsky said. "His story was inspirational because it reminds all of us that no one is beyond redemption, regardless of how bad you might have it. And it was the merciful Christ Himself who saved him."

"I think that Carlo Acutis is a renowned individual... I think that his humility and his goodness should be something that we should all try to live out in our own lives," senior Lorenzo Toma said.

In canonizing one of the youngest people in the history of the Church, Pope Leo XIV assures us that holiness and sainthood is meant for all of us — even teenagers.

St. Carlo Acutis, patron of the Internet, pray for us!

The top 10 worst Halloween movies



 **By Jamison Gerding ('26)**
STAFF WRITER

One of the best things about Halloween is having an excuse to rewatch all your favorite horror movies, but now it's time to expand your horizons. For those of you who may not be able to stomach *Scream* or *It*, or those simply wanting a little chuckle, I've arranged an all-time starting lineup of the worst horror movies ranging from just plain boring all the way to so unbelievably bad that they might catch fire mid-watch. Read this list if you dare.

10. I Know What You Did Last Summer: The 2025 remake of the 1997 original attempts to replicate the plot but somehow still manages to make it worse. With a twist villain that makes no sense and protagonists that seem to split up more than the Scooby Doo gang, this film kicks off the list.

9. Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey: An interesting application of the Winnie the Pooh IP, which came

into the public domain in 2022, many believed it had great promise. Unfortunately, it fell flat as both bad costume and set design, furnished with an unoriginal use of the slasher concept, leaves you questioning how many times people can get stalked in the woods by a killer.

8. War of the Worlds: This 2025 movie release is practically a Zoom call where 90% of the movie is an audience one-on-one with Ice Cube in a supposed "mission control" room. With practically zero action and aliens whose singular purpose is to steal data like a glorified phishing email, this movie can wage war on its eighth place ranking.

7. American Psycho 2: This psychological horror was originally meant to be an independent film, but it somehow got very visibly mutilated into having a loose connection to *American Psycho*. The protagonist supposedly killed Patrick Bateman when she was twelve, and her motives throughout the rest of the film are more than unclear,

leaving a very confusing viewing experience.

6. Alien vs. Predator: As a Ghostbuster would say, NEVER cross the streams, which couldn't be more true with this crossover. It has the same vibe as one of those childhood "Who Would Win?" books and about the same plot complexity. The action scenes are a bright point, but they sink with the rest of the film.

5. The Fog: Why they even made a follow-up to the original is beyond me. The tedious pacing is the scariest part of the movie and the halfhearted jumpscare don't work when everyone's asleep.

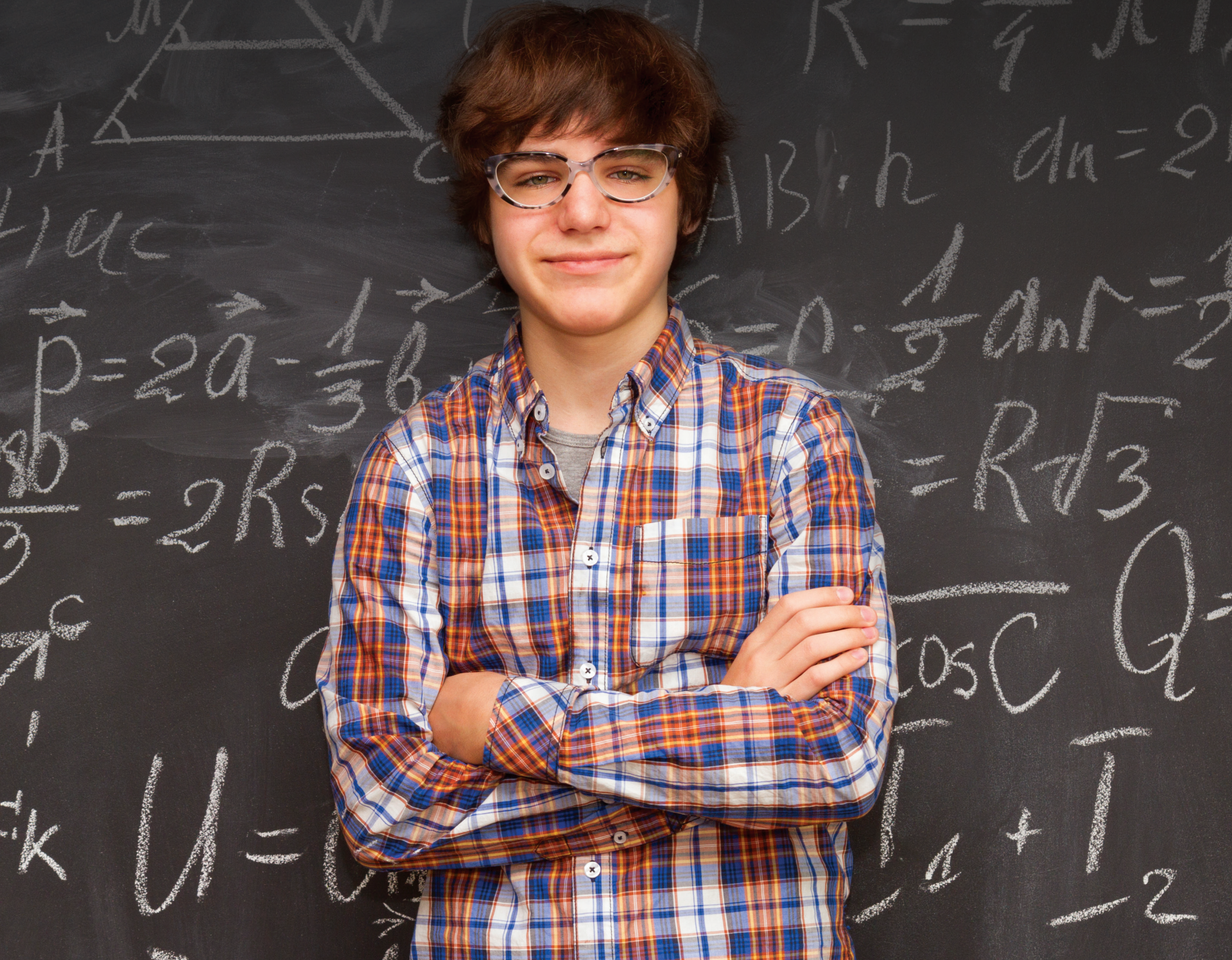
4. Leprechaun in the Hood: This humorous, rap-focused film starring Ice-T doesn't take advantage of its musical inclination, as it still can't find a flow. Propped up by a few good moments and laughs, the cheap production value and bad scares aren't enough to redeem this absurd film with an even more absurd plot.

3. Jaws: The Revenge: I'm gonna need a bigger boat to deal with this movie as the whole plot hinges on a shark with a vendetta, I repeat, A SHARK with A VENDETTA. Set aside, the actual shark prop somehow looks worse than Bruce (the shark in the original, for the uncultured), and the whole screenplay makes zero sense. Also, seriously, how many times can the killer shark plot be used before it gets tiring??? (Once. One time. That's where it should've ended.)

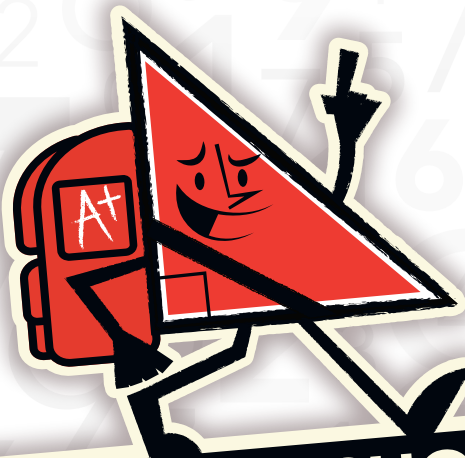
2. Troll 2: At least this film recognizes it's bad, because aside from that, it can't get anything else straight. Acting, screenplay, music, they all work poorly and separately to make this disjointed movie a disorienting yet funny watch.

1. Birdemic: Shock and Terror: The GOAT of the bad horror movies. It's able to turn bad VFX, disturbing edits, and horrible acting into an art. You almost have to respect the sheer insanity of the movie, which makes the movie more entertaining than its plot could ever aspire to inspire.

This moment is brought to you by Mathnasium



A child who continues to develop their math skills can feel confident that they're on track for a successful school year. Mathnasium gives students the instruction they need to reinforce what they're learning in school, work on concepts that may pose a challenge, and take their math knowledge to a new level. In other words, we got this.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL
BACK-TO-MATH

Mathnasium of Mission Gorge
(619) 281-MATH (6284)
mathnasium.com/missiongorge
10330 Friars Rd. #109, San Diego, CA 92120

MATHNASIUM[®]
The **Math** Learning Center

Contact Us for a Free Assessment
www.mathnasium.com

Teacher Costumes

**By Cole Dolin ('27)**
STAFF WRITER

**By Gannon Hayes ('27)**
CONTRIBUTOR

Mr. Isaak - Frankenstein

Mr. Isaak would dress as Frankenstein, much to Mr. Chessser’s dismay. Towering over freshmen like a re-animated mountain of homework, he strikes fear and anguish into unsuspecting students; yet, just like Frankenstein’s monster, Mr. Isaak is misunderstood.

His hair-wrenching homework assignments, his mind-bending tests, and his fear-inducing demeanor are products of his benevolent intent of making us better at math. Behind such a terrifying aura of doom and despair lies a man with a soft spot for pinball, golf, math, and telling students that 50% of Aleks, now Hawkes, is due next week. BUDDY!?

Mr. O’Beirne - Grim Reaper



Mr. O’Beirne would dress as the Grim Reaper. Unlike the traditional harbinger of death, Mr. O’Beirne brings detention slips, dress code violations, and the rare, terrifying referral. Legends

say that a cloud of disciplinary darkness passes over the Saints campus when he arrives, and at the moment he steps through the gate, the earth shakes as the souls of the damned scream under the campus green. Shirts get tucked, ties get fixed, and that non-Saints outerwear you put on is taken off in the blink of an eye.

Coacher - Mariachi

This Halloween, Mr. Davis is planning to dress as a member of a mariachi band. In an attempt to not be associated with Gringolandia, Coacher already blasts his cassette tapes full of music from the best mariachi bands of the 1980s. If grades don’t matter, then trumpet skills most certainly do — it is the only way to meet chicas de mas calidad, after all. All girls are impressed by a true trumpet player, just ask Señor Adams.

Mr. Igelman and Mr. Carini - Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak

This iconic duo of tech geniuses will be dressing as another iconic tech duo for Halloween, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. Although there were some skirmishes over who should be Steve Jobs, they

finally came to the conclusion that Mr. Igelman should be Jobs and Mr. Carini should be Wozniak.

Whenever a technical issue casts a shadow down on the Saints campus, they are always there to fix it as quickly as possible. If the duo wanted, they could have started Apple, but they decided to let Jobs and Wozniak do it. In honor of the two accomplishments, they will be going as this iconic Apple duo.

Mr. Granados - Chicken Joe

On the surface, Mr. Granados may seem like a strict Geometry teacher, tasking freshmen, sophomores, and juniors with the daunting task of calculating circumferences and centroids. Outside of school, however, he is a chill guy, thus why he will be going as the great surfer Chicken Joe.

As soon as the school day is over, Mr. Granados goes to OB and paddles out, no matter if the waves are zero or ten feet. You can find him out in the lineup, rain or shine, any day of the week. He surfs like Chicken Joe too, carving up 30 footers — yet for him, that’s just a regular Tuesday morning.

Mr. Pruter - Rasta

With his love for Bob Marley and a classroom vibe that speaks to chillness, Mr. Pruter would most definitely dress as a rasta for Halloween. Despite teaching the hardest classes at Saints — AP (Andy Pruter) U.S. History and AAP (Also Andy Pruter) World History — his classroom is more akin to a relaxing, soothing hut on the coast of Jamaica than the action-packed, stress-filled warzone of typical history classes.

His message about punctuality being overrated is akin to the likes of Bob Marley’s, “don’t worry,” as Mr. Pruter does not set himself to the clocks: he sets the clocks to himself. Reggae Fridays are just the precursor to Pruter’s inner rasta. Indeed, Mr. Pruter would come to Saints rocking a rastacap, long dress, and an air of nonchalance and tranquility. He might even grow out some dreads.

For a guy who can do a million push-ups a day and run equally as many miles, nothing is impossible.

Edited with love by Benjamin Nault '26

2025-2026 Editorial Staff

Liam Olds ('26)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mr. Vladimir Bachynsky
MODERATOR

Benjamin Nault ('26)
MANAGING EDITOR

Jameson Grohman ('26)
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

Henry Barwick ('26)
EDITOR

George Burrell ('26)
EDITOR

Enzo Simon ('27)
EDITOR

Danger!



By the editors

You should be scared. We’re scared. Our teachers are scared — but of what?

Mr. Okuley - Squirrels

You may think that Mr. Okuley and squirrels would pair nicely – they both are warm, cuddly, and ready to throw an Expo marker at you if you come too close. But this is not the case. See, squirrels hoard acorns all winter, and Mr. Okuley insists that, if he were to collect acorns, he would be benevolent and share with all. The greed of squirrels is truly biblical, and this greed is the precise bane of Mr. Okuley’s existence.

“Squirrels need to die.”

Enough said.

Mr. Sullivan - Spiders

Do you know why no one’s seen or heard about Arnold Schwarzenegger in recent news? Well, it’s because he’s gone into hiding — as an unassuming high school psychology teacher and counselor.

Instead of transforming into a pajama-clad hero swinging from the top of Villanova to the towering spire of the Hotel Del, being bitten by a brown recluse spider 20 years ago rendered this past seven-time Mr. Olympia Champion into a mere shell of his former glory.

Losing that 320 pounds of pure muscle has now made it on-sight for any abominable arachnid who crosses Mr. Sullivan’s mighty path.

Mr. Adams - Counting to ten

One might assume that the task is simple enough. But due to recent events, there’s now an unavoidable valley of doom and despair between five and eight. STEM teachers like Mr. Adams, whose classes are dependent on numbers, have been hit hardest by the likes of six and seven. Maybe that’s why he hates numbers...

Mr. Hickey - Dying before the Padres or Bills win a championship

Given that a majority of the editing staff are Padres fans, we can understand at least half of your pain. Look, 2026 is the Pads’ year — trust. They will resurrect Babe Ruth, steal Shohei Ohtani, and bring back Padres legends Jedd Gyorko and Woo-Suk Go. IT IS GOING TO BE THEIR YEAR. (In terms of the Bills... yeah...sorry, man. Maybe in another lifetime.)

Mr. Theilacker - “Women”

Us too, Coach Theilacker, us too. Considering only one editor is in a relationship at the moment, and we as a collective don’t have the most successful careers talking to women — probably why we enjoy our Gulag nights so much — we cannot quite provide more insight further than joining in your very valid fearfulness.

Mr. Chessser - People blasting rap music that can be heard from two blocks away

Ben here, probably my fault that Mr. Chessser needs to complain about this. What can I say though, Biggie nev-

er sounded better than when blasted through my unappreciated speakers at 6:30am.

Mr. Raines - Illiterate little Bio boys

We all know the mitochondria — the lovable, little powerbug energizes any student: be it biologically or in boosting intellectual confidence. Apparently, however, the underdeveloped, not quite ISO-level, little boys in regular Bio have been INFECTED with a parasite. A parasite that’s been plundering many of their few neurons.

Mr. Duffy - AI taking over teaching Great Gatsby symbolism

Mr. Duffy may as well be the new Dr. T. J. Eckleberg; he’d look great on a huge billboard and he sees all. And by “all,” of course we mean the entire 200 pages (or two and a half hours for our avid picture book lovers) of the Great Gatsby. With an ever-seeing eye, he can read in between ALL the lines.

But recently, a sparkly new egg has hatched — sleek, shiny, and suspiciously good at writing essays — and whose parties are getting more and more popular among students.

That’s right, AI is knocking on Mr. Duffy’s classroom, and his truest fear is this robotic buccaneer stealing his job of teaching whatever that green light is. Students, please don’t turn to the dark side: do NOT green light AI-driven work.

Coacher - My kids’ grades in college

Yes, Coacher, we would be worried too. He even commented how “their grades in college are so important.” If Coacher fears the grades, then I’ll be darned you should too. “Grades don’t matter” has been his mantra for as long as the soul existed, and if all of a sudden he fears the gradebook, then B’s may not get degrees, my friends.

Mr. Cudal - Easily distracted teen drivers

I mean, could this be any more valid? If a teen can’t remember the primary colors of some rabbits, how can he be expected to remember that green means go and red means stop? Remember, take your eyes off the clock and onto the road at all times, Men of Literature. As Mr. Cudal has always preached, the only literature that surpasses that of Fitzgerald’s and Steinbeck’s is the Driver’s Handbook. Learn it, and learn it well. It’s a long-held secret that the permit exam is actually a Cudal-style quiz in disguise.

Mrs. Crachy - My teen driver

Ah yes, a mom's worst nightmare: that poor little Ben goes 5 mph over the speed limit. If he does, he is unfit to drive and will NEVER SIT BEHIND A STEERING WHEEL AGAIN. Sorry for that, a bit of collective PTSD from our mothers yelling at us when we apply the slightest pressure on the gas pedal. Maybe, just maybe, you should still play it safe and steer clear of Mr. Cudal.