

# THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

Issue 4 March 10, 2022 St. Augustine High School

## Basketball Captures CIF Championship



By Jacob Soro ('23)  
STAFF WRITER

### Basketball

The basketball team entered the season with high hopes of reaching a Western League title and possibly more. Led by junior Jurian Dixon's 22.5 points per game, they rolled through a tough schedule, finishing the regular season with a 20-7 record. Along the way, the team swept through the Western League, going undefeated. Defensive contributions from sophomore Ian de la Rosa, who led the team in rebounds and steals, helped hold opponents under 50 points six times.

They carried a full head of steam into the playoffs, demolishing Mission Bay 84-43 in their first-round matchup. They then faced La Costa Canyon, where junior Derrius Carter-Hollinger made a go-ahead shot with 2 seconds left in a thrilling overtime win. In the CIF title game, they proved why they were the best team in San Diego, never allowing San Ysidro to take the lead. Sophomore Kai Brown took home Player of the Game honors, scoring 15 points to help the Saints to a huge first-half lead. San Ysidro roared back into the game in the second half, cutting the deficit as close as three points, but sophomore Lolo Rudolph clinched the win with a driving layup with less than five seconds remaining.

Slated as the number six seed in the Open Division of the state playoffs, the basketball team faced a long trip north for a rematch with a tough Sierra Canyon team. Saints fell way behind early, trailing by as much as 20 points in the first half.

Refusing to go down without a fight, they mounted a furious second-half comeback to cut the deficit to three points, but were unable to take the lead, losing 79-73.

### Soccer

Coming off a state title last season, the soccer team entered the 2021-2022 season as an experienced team with high expectations. Early in the season, they tested their mettle by playing in an elite invitational showcase, where they proved themselves as a top-tier team by beating strong competition such as Servite, who is currently ranked fourth in the nation. Led by senior team captains Michael Patterson and Santiago Gallego, the team finished 5-1-2 in league play, winning their fourth consecutive Western League title. They wrapped up their regular season with a record of 14-3-2.

In the first round of CIF playoffs, Saints beat Point Loma in an all-time great game that came down to penalty kicks. Unfortunately, they lost 2-0 to a tough San Pasqual team in the next round, ending their hopes for a CIF title. They were forced into a state championship play-in game against California's number-two team, Torrey Pines, where their season ended with a 4-0 loss. However, the program's continuing reign over the Western League is nothing to sneeze at.

### Rugby

After going 4-1 in the first five games of league play, the Saints rugby team had only one thing between them and the league title—the team from up north. Fighting also for the Titan Shield and Charity Cup, Saints destroyed Cathedral in a 33-14 blowout, led by Man of the



Lolo Rudolph handles the ball against El Camino. Donovin Bocalan ('23) Match Chuck Guay.

The following week, Saints played a rematch against Cathedral in the SCIRF final. On the last play of the game, the Saints made a final last-ditch effort to score a game-winning try, but their attempt was intercepted by Cathedral for seven points and the game. Their season is not yet over, however, as a game this

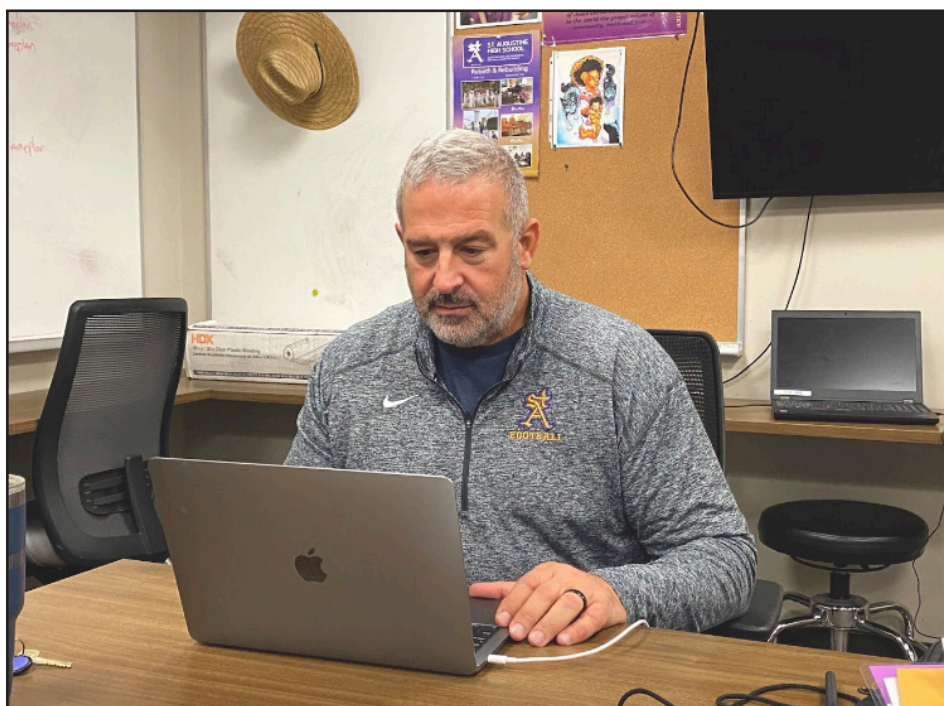
Saturday against Regis Jesuit remains an opportunity for the Saints to end their season on a high note.

### Wrestling

This season, the wrestling team had some scary players ready to dominate their opponents. Knowing they had what it took to win it all, they dominated early

SEE SPORTS, pg. 8

## Saints Welcomes New Head Football Coach



Coach Ron Gladnick hard at work in his new office. Noah Villafana ('23)



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

After an embarrassing 2-9 showing during the past football season, Saint Augustine High School recently hired Coach Ron Gladnick to head up its football program. Gladnick had previously been head coach at Torrey Pines, where he led their program to two Avocado League

championships during his time there. He has been one of the most successful high school football coaches in San Diego over the last eight years, with a 50-35 record, and Saints is hoping his experience will help to reinvigorate their struggling football program. *The Augustinian* managed to obtain an exclusive interview with Coach Gladnick to gain some insight into the future of Saints football.

**The Augustinian:** Can you tell me about your coaching background?

**Coach Gladnick:** I've coached at the college level at Hillsdale and at the high school level at Clairemont and Torrey Pines. I've coordinated on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. For the past few years as a head coach, I don't coordinate at all. I've found that I do a better job as a head coach when I'm not focusing solely on one side of the ball or the other but the whole program overall.

**TA:** Why did you choose to come to Saints?

**CG:** I had one of the best public school jobs in the county. Torrey is a really great place in terms of the schedules we played and the support we had for the program, but at the end of the day, we couldn't build a program at Torrey that could beat Cathedral. The reality is, they've separated themselves even further from everyone else. And I really wanted to be part of a program that could dethrone them. So there was a very short list of schools I would have considered leaving Torrey for, and Saints was one of them.

**TA:** What are some of the most important similarities and differences between Torrey and Saints?

**CG:** I think there's a similar level of support for the program. I think in the private school environment at Saints,

there's even more support for the program in the sense that everyone here wants to do well. The administrators, the teachers, the kids, everyone wants to see football be a prominent sport on campus. In an environment like Torrey, you're competing against the men's sports and women's sports, but football and basketball are the spectator sports that people want to see. I think the program here is valued in that way.

**TA:** What has surprised you most about Saints?

**CG:** How everybody's all in. Like I said, everybody cares, everybody believes in the school, the kids are really nice. It's just a really nice place to be.

**TA:** What changes are you planning to make to the program?

**CG:** Right now, I've been with the players for a month, and we haven't talked about football once. Right now, there's a focus on reestablishing discipline, work ethic, and commitment—a whole lot of things we really need to focus on and rebuild in the football program here at this school.

**TA:** What players are you excited to work with the most?

**CG:** I haven't really seen all the players yet because some of them are playing rugby and baseball and other sports. Next

SEE COACH, pg. 8

# Ukraine Holds Strong as Russia Invades



By Ty Woods ('23)  
EDITOR

Over the past several months, the world watched intently as Russia amassed over 150,000 soldiers along the Russo-Ukrainian border. Russian deputy foreign minister Sergei Ryabkov repeatedly denied they were planning an invasion, claiming instead they were merely conducting drills. "Russia does not want and will not take any action of aggressive character," he said. However, in February, small firefights began to break out along the border in the Donbas region of Ukraine, with as many as sixty attacks being reported on a single day, sparked by Russia. Before long, Russian President Vladimir Putin officially launched what he called a "special military operation" in eastern Ukraine. In the West we have different names for it: invasion and war.

## Why is Putin so interested in Ukraine?

Ukraine was once a part of the Soviet Union, but an overwhelming majority of Ukrainians voted for independence in 1991 after the USSR crumbled. After the Soviet Union fell, NATO incorporated nations which were once under Soviet control, such as Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. In recent years, Ukraine has actively aspired towards membership, but President Putin has warned Ukraine to stay away from the military alliance, citing it as a security threat to the Russian Federation. Moreover, Putin has repeatedly stated that Ukraine is not really a country. In an essay written last July, Putin described the Ukrainian and Russian people as "one people" who have been "corrupted" by the West. The Russian president views Ukraine as Russian territory, and he is insistent upon the "unity" of the two nations. He wants to restore the Russian borders as they existed during the reign of Catherine the Great in the 18th century, during which



Russian forces have been bombing cities in eastern Ukraine.

Aris Messinis

time much of the lands of Ukraine were under Russian control.

## How was Ukraine preparing for an invasion?

Ukrainian President Zelensky was on high alert and paid close attention to the mounting threat, which eventually had Ukraine surrounded on three sides. As a precautionary measure, Ukrainian forces had begun building trenches and barricading roads in the weeks leading up to the invasion. When the invasion finally happened, Zelensky declared martial law, and men between the ages of 18 and 60 were drafted into the military.

## How has the US reacted to the invasion?

The Russian invasion led to widespread international condemnation, and the United States declared the attack "unprovoked and unjustified." The US quickly backed up its statement with a list of sanctions, including cutting off some of Russia's largest banks, forcing debt and equity restrictions on several entities necessary to the Russian economy, and cutting Russia off from America's technological innovations. Most recently, the United States banned the import of Russian oil. Other major American manufacturers such as Coca-Cola and General Motors have since severed ties with Russia. Despite the financial and material support offered to Ukraine, the United States has refused to deploy troops, as this would involve directly engaging in conflict with Russia, a nuclear power.

## Where are Russian forces focusing their attacks?

Their most coveted prize is Kyiv, the capital, where they would hope to force the Ukrainian government to step down. For now most of the fighting is occurring in eastern Ukraine, whose lands they hope to link with Crimea, which they annexed in 2014. As of now, they are pounding Kharkiv, Mariupol, Kherson, and Kyiv, leading to a humanitarian catastrophe with over 1.5 million refugees. Sadly, they are now deliberately targeting civilians to cow the Ukrainian people. Russian forces have taken control of two nuclear power plants, the one in Chernobyl, and the largest nuclear power plant in Europe in the city of Zaporizhzhya. The only major city they have occupied is Kherson, a city of 300,000 people. Since they are having trouble occupying other cities, they are besieging them, cutting them off from supplies, including food.

## How has Russian propaganda fueled the war?

Ever since Russia seized Crimea in 2014, Putin has claimed that he is contributing to the "demilitarization and de-Nazification of Ukraine." He has devoted many resources towards creating a "buffer country" between the western NATO powers and Russia. Ukraine is a vital piece of "property" to Putin, and he believes that his team of highly skilled cyber-ops specialists can help overthrow

the Western "puppet government of Nazis." Although the whole world is on edge about the situation, many towns across Russia have never even heard of such an invasion. Facebook and independent journalists have been cut off from the people in an attempt to mask the reality of the situations. Putin is desperate to spread his propaganda with relative ease and security, but his efforts are being met with extreme Ukrainian opposition in what is known as "information warfare." Kyiv is especially on the defensive, portraying Ukrainian heroes and martyrs as beacons of hope in the face of adversity. Authors in the city are working furiously to publish pamphlets and online blogs to display the horrors of Russian brutality.

## What did Putin underestimate about Ukraine?

Putin's decision to invade Ukraine was a major miscalculation. In general, he underestimated the military strength of Ukraine. Every man between the ages of 18 and 60 was required to sign up to defend his homeland, and Putin simply did not take into account the sheer resolve and determination of Ukrainian citizens. Fighting has dragged on for weeks, and crucial parts of Kyiv have been successfully defended by Ukrainian forces. Another major miscalculation was how united the West is in their sanctioning. Almost every Western nation responded to the situation with their own set of strict regulations for Russia, costing the country's currency to lose almost 50% of its value in the span of a few days.

## How will this situation end?

Due to the fast-moving nature of this conflict, it is hard to assess what will happen next, but Putin has an overall goal for a Russian-centered government to be established in Kyiv. According to NBC, "NATO, which has so far refused to intervene militarily in the conflict, would provide significant military assistance [to Ukraine] and material to support insurgency" in the instance the Ukrainian government collapses. In the end, however, given that Putin started this needless conflict and he is the invader, the power to end this war is mostly his.

*This is a very fast-moving story and The Augustinian encourages readers to stay up-to-date with other news sources.*



## THE AUGUSTINIAN

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# Demystifying Cryptocurrency and NFTs



By Harrison Quinto ('23)  
STAFF WRITER

Over recent years, the world has seen a rise in the popularity of cryptocurrencies. One can't watch television for more than an hour without seeing an ad for crypto, and they're even backed by such high-profile spokesmen as LeBron James and Elon Musk. But what exactly are cryptocurrencies? And can they be trusted?

Cryptocurrencies are forms of digital currency. They are based on a blockchain, which essentially is an encrypted program that verifies and records all transactions of that particular cryptocurrency; for example, the Bitcoin blockchain records and verifies all transactions of Bitcoin. The currencies get stored in digital wallets, forms of software that store encrypted digital items like cryptocurrencies and NFTs in a cloud-based service.

Cryptocurrencies first appeared in 2009 with Bitcoin, and when the software became public, the mining of Bitcoin began. "Mining" is the creation of new Bitcoin—transactions of it get verified and recorded through the blockchain. In 2010, Bitcoin was sold for the first time for two pizzas, priced at a combined total of 10,000 Bitcoin. This Bitcoin would now be worth \$100 million. But what exactly gives Bitcoin its value?

The basic answer is supply and demand. Bitcoin is not backed by government authorities or intermediary banks to distribute it, so there is no formal authority regulating the parties in the transactions of Bitcoin. Bitcoin is also scarce, and investors demand it, so the basic principle of supply and demand makes the value of Bitcoin rise. The lack of backing and the value being determined solely through demand leads to high volatility in its value.

There is an alternative that is more stable. Stablecoins are a form of digital

currency that is tied to more stable reserves, such as the U.S. dollar, and it follows the trends and exchange rates to that of the currency to which it is tied. The first stablecoin was Tether in 2014, created to confront the issue of cryptocurrency's volatility, and it is tied to the U.S. dollar, priced at \$1.00 per Tether.

These stablecoins connect cryptocurrencies and fiat currencies, or government issued currencies, like the U.S. dollar and the euro. Stablecoins, similar to Bitcoin, do not require banks to hold, so they are very easy to transfer quickly. These stablecoins, along with other cryptocurrencies, can even be used for the purchase of NFTs.

NFT stands for non-fungible token. If an item is fungible, then it can be traded or exchanged for another item equal in value, but NFTs are non-fungible and are not equal to each other in value. NFTs are another form of digital assets, the majority of which are music and art.

NFTs are also on a blockchain that records and verifies the transactions. The blockchain provides authentication of each NFT, giving the buyer exclusive ownership rights.

Part of the value of NFTs comes from their scarcity. They each have a unique identifying code, which means they create digital scarcity. Each NFT is different, which is the other contributing factor to their value. Investors who buy NFTs are essentially betting on their value to rise over time, as with stocks.

In addition to selling the item itself, each artist can program in royalties and receive a portion of the sale when their NFT gets sold to the next buyer. Their values are based on what the next buyer is willing to pay for it, which makes NFTs unpredictable. So what is the future of cryptocurrency and NFTs?

Cryptocurrency, being young and novel, has a few problems, but it has a bright



future in the eyes of many professionals. One of the problems with cryptocurrency right now is legal regulation. Cryptocurrency needs to be regulated because it is currently unsafe for investors, since there are no guidelines or rules to follow. However, the IRS did create tax reporting provisions for cryptocurrency to track its activity.

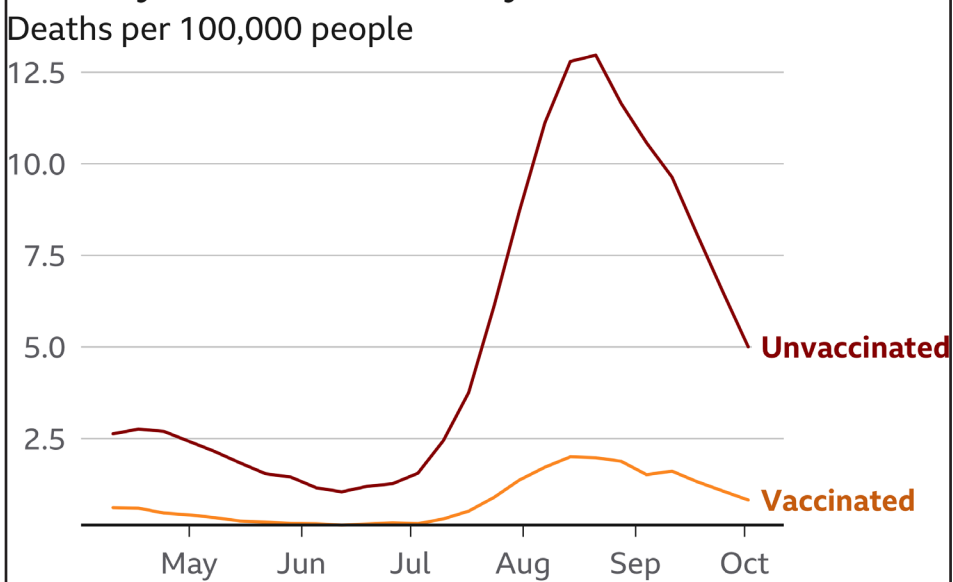
Despite its issues of regulation and volatility, many experts are maintaining a positive outlook. In recent years, its value and market capitalization have risen significantly, and Bitcoin has launched an ETF, or an exchange-traded fund, which allows a more conventional form of investment through traditional investment brokerages. The new forms of investment and the publicity have made cryptocurrency grow, and proponents believe that they will drive continued growth.

As for NFTs, they have some uncertainty but a bright future as well. Their uncertainty derives from their unpredictability in value and lack of diversity in their use. Despite these uncertainties, there are plenty of opportunities for NFTs. According to Forbes, media has begun to integrate NFTs; Warner Bros. Studios has created Space Jam NFTs, and some games integrate NFT assets as rewards during gameplay.

Can we trust cryptocurrencies and NFTs? Their encrypted blockchains instill confidence. Their increased popularity and applications in the changing world certainly suggest they have a promising future. Cryptocurrencies and NFTs are something to follow as we progress with these new forms of technology in our new and growing society.

## Efforts Pay Off, Masks to Come Off

Weekly rates of deaths by vaccine status



Source: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) BBC



An editorial by Patrick O'Leary ('23)  
MANAGING EDITOR

With the recent wave of omicron dying down and vaccinations continuing to be administered, the U.S. finally seems to be getting the coronavirus pandemic under control. All around the country, state leaders are easing regulations, signaling a hopeful return to normalcy— or, at least, something closer to the normalcy we remember.

California is the latest state to do so. This Friday, March 11, California will remove its mask mandate in schools and indoor settings, becoming one of the last states to ease up restrictions. The announcement comes after a recent decline in cases and deaths across the state and nation. But is the decision justified?

It's hard to believe over two years

have passed since the first cases of COVID-19 were detected in the United States and schools were shut down. What began as "two weeks to flatten the curve" exploded into a massive outbreak, with over seventy-eight million Americans infected and nearly a million dead. The damage might have been even worse, if not for government action, installing protective restrictions across the nation. Whatever your thoughts on the economic shutdowns, it's impossible to deny that they saved hundreds of thousands of lives.

But now we've reached a new chapter of the pandemic. A vaccine was developed, and it's been proven remarkably effective at preventing deaths and hospitalizations, as well as significantly lowering transmission rates. Since the nation mobilized to mass produce and

distribute doses, it is no longer difficult to get vaccinated.

The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for all people ages five and over. And even though its effectiveness at preventing infection drops for young kids, the vaccine is still very effective at protecting them against hospitalization.

That last part is key because a major reason protective measures were put in place to slow the spread of the coronavirus was to prevent urgent cares and other medical facilities from being overwhelmed by COVID patients.

The most recent data show that the coronavirus is much more likely to kill the unvaccinated, with a death rate of 7.8 per 100,000, as opposed to the 0.1 per 100,000 of the fully vaccinated. Vaccines are also causing remarkable drops in the case rate, with 25.0 per 100,000 in the vaccinated and a whopping 347.8 per 100,000 in the unvaccinated. That means that compared to the fully vaccinated, the unvaccinated are almost fourteen times as likely to catch the coronavirus, as well as a staggering seventy-eight times more likely to die from it.

So if people are getting vaccinated, doesn't that mean we don't have to wear masks anymore?

First off let's dispel any questions of efficacy: masks work. According to the Wall Street Journal, it takes fifteen minutes for the coronavirus to be transmitted between two people without masks. And people wearing N95 masks? Twenty-five hours. Two masked people are over one hundred times less likely to transmit the virus.

These statistics are very impressive,

but masks prevented disease transmission in the pre-COVID era as well, yet in public they were few and far between. The increase in masks over the last years accompanied an increased perception of risk—public risk, that is. Even healthy adults, who were statistically much less vulnerable to serious illness or death, wore masks, not to protect themselves, but to protect the at-risk in their communities.

Now, sixty-five percent of the United States is fully vaccinated. In addition, a recent study by the CDC analyzed blood tests for the presence of COVID antibodies and now estimates that over one hundred forty million Americans have been infected, twice the reported totals, including sixty percent of adolescents age 5-17. Natural immunity from contracting the virus has been found to be lower than the vaccine's protection, but these antibodies still provide a high level of immunity.

Now let's bring it back to schools. According to the CDC, not only is the coronavirus far less dangerous to children, but the majority of children have already been infected by the virus. And the vaccine has shown to be more than adequate protection for those with pre-existing conditions—the current death rate among the vaccinated is a minuscule 0.0001 percent. If now isn't the right time to unmask in schools, when is?

It's getting harder to keep justifying making sacrifices for the unvaccinated. The majority of Americans have done their part to slow the spread and protect themselves: it's time for them to be rewarded.

# The Best Albums You've Never Heard



By Riley Scanlan ('23)  
STAFF WRITER

Music has always been a huge part of my life, whether listening to whatever my family was playing at home or finding albums and songs that fit my preferred sound profile. I own many vinyls and T-shirts of famous bands like the Beatles, Pink Floyd, and Pearl Jam, but now I'm going to try to recognize some bands and musicians who do not normally receive the credit they certainly deserve. And with that, here are the best albums you probably haven't heard.

**Phenomenon: UFO (1974)** – UFO is one of the most underrated rock bands of the seventies. *Phenomenon* is an amazing testament to great lead guitar work, powerful vocals, and creative lyrics. "Rock Bottom" and "Doctor Doctor" show the prodigious skill of then-nineteen-year-old lead guitarist Michael Schenker while "Crystal Light" and "Time on My Hands" show the phenomenal range of singer Phil Mogg.

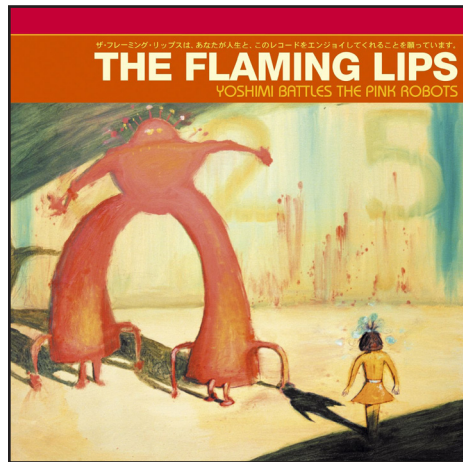


**In the Aeroplane Over the Sea: Neutral Milk Hotel (1998)** – *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea* is a psychedelic folk album based on the diary of Anne Frank, featuring raw, unedited vocals and even the utilization of a saw as a musical instrument. Honestly, you just have to trust me on this one. The album lacks any electronic or produced feel, and listeners can experience the music in its purest, most humane form. But really, what makes this album worth listening to is the beautiful abstract lyricism of Jeff Mangum, delivered in soaring vocals unlike anyone else I have ever heard. My favorite tracks include "The King of Carrot Flowers," "In the Aeroplane Over the Sea," "Two-Headed Boy," and "Holland, 1945." Neutral Milk Hotel has something of a cult following in the alternative rock scene, but they have continually failed to reach mainstream audiences.



**Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots: The Flaming Lips (2002)** – *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots* is an experimental album telling the story of a world in which robots have developed emotions. The album is a consistent masterpiece, taking countless risks musically by finding new ways to manipulate the sounds of common basslines and synthesizers. The storyline mixes the emotions of robots with

that of the female protagonist inspired by Japanese drummer Yoshimi P-We, who is featured on the album. My favorites are "Fight Test," "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots (Pt 1-2)," and "Do You Realize??" Fun fact: a poster of the album's cover can be found in Mr. Chesser's classroom.



**Deadwing: Porcupine Tree (2005)** – I can say with utter confidence that Porcupine Tree is the best band that nobody has ever heard of. *Deadwing* is a flawless album from start to finish, perfectly encapsulating the band's complex sound and lyrics. Many of the songs on the album were originally written for a ghost story movie soundtrack, created by band members Steven Wilson and Mike Bennion. I love the album in its entirety, and some of my favorites are "Deadwing," "Lazarus," "Arriving Somewhere But Not Here," and "Open Car."



**Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum: Tally Hall (2005)** – I found Tally Hall through a rabbit hole of MTV performances on YouTube. They look like musical accountants. The band wears button-up shirts with different colored ties, and their music sounds exactly like you would expect it to sound. The album is a wild story of a circus in the middle of a shopping mall in Michigan, with sudden transitions and unusual song structures. Favorites of mine include "The Bidding," "Be Born," and "Two Wuv."



**Hawaii: Part II: Miracle Musical (2012)** – *Hawaii: Part II* was a side project of Tally Hall lead singer Joe Hawley. The original name of the artist is written in Japanese characters; the goal is to give listeners high production with oddly familiar sounds. The album experiments with unparalleled creativity—the first half of "The Mind Electric" is the backward version of the second half. My favorites are "Isle unto Thyself," "Murders," "The Mind Elec-

tric," and "Stranded Lullaby."



**Strange Desire: Bleachers (2014)** – Bleachers is the name Jack Antonoff uses for his solo project. He is perhaps better known as a jack-of-all trades in music, playing guitar and drums for the band fun. and co-writing their No. 1 hit, "We Are Young." Additionally, he has co-written extensively with Taylor Swift, Lorde, Lana Del Rey, and St. Vincent and produced many of their songs. While the popularity of *Strange Desire* is mainly tied to one song, "I Wanna Get Better," the rest of the album deserves more recognition. It tends towards the introspective, quiet side, but Antonoff dials up the tempo and volume on songs like "Rollercoaster" and demonstrates his unrivaled creativity throughout the album.



**Carrie and Lowell: Sufjan Stevens (2015)** – *Carrie and Lowell*, named after the artists late mother and stepfather, respectively, is an album written right after the death of Sufjan Stevens's mother. Stevens took the time to see her on her deathbed, despite not knowing her during his life. The album is the disturbing manifestation of Stevens' raw grief. His poetic songwriting and lo-fi arrangements give the listener an eerie, nostalgic feel, as if they are sharing Stevens's painful memories for a brief moment. My favorites are "Death with Dignity," "Should Have Known Better," and "Fourth of July."



**Era: Mike Dawes (2017)** – One of the most talented acoustic guitarists in the world, Mike Dawes creates sounds on guitar you would never have thought possible. Playing the percussion, baseline, rhythm, and melody all on one guitar at the same time, the then-twenty-seven-year-old virtuoso combines simple acoustic layers to weave a tapestry of sound. *Era* features some of the finest instrumental music ever written, including spectacular covers of classics, like Metallica's

"One" and John Mayer's "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room." Mike Dawes inspires non-musicians to pick up a guitar while simultaneously inspiring guitarists to put theirs down, perhaps into a blazing fireplace. But all can collectively marvel at the tranquility and goosebump-inducing precision of a



master at work.  
**The First Glass Beach Album: Glass Beach (2019)** – One of the most creative names for an album, *The First Glass Beach Album* fuses emo rock music with pop-punk to create a bizarre, yet original, album. The band uses a combination of jazzy, chaotic, and electronic elements to fit the cyber theme throughout the album. Favorite tracks of mine include "classic j dies and goes to hell," "bedroom community," "cold



weather," and "orchids."  
**For Emma, Forever Ago: Bon Iver (2007)** – *For Emma, Forever Ago* was created by Justin Vernon in a Wisconsin cabin miles from civilization. The album makes you feel isolated alongside Vernon and exposes his feelings of heartache through his atypical falsetto and acoustic sound. Vernon's lyrics gently touch the hearts of listeners, and then vanish into the world as quickly as they came. My favorite tracks are



"Skinny Love" and "Creature Fear."  
*The Augustinian* would love to know what you thought of this list. If you tried and liked any of the albums, we're glad this article was useful to you. If not, that's totally okay. Do you know any other underrated albums? Let us know: @stanewspaper on Instagram

# Team Spotlight: Saints Rugby Wins League



By Caden Webster ('23)  
STAFF WRITER

This edition of *The Augustinian* will shine a spotlight on the Saint Augustine rugby team. Saints rugby first started as an Intersession class in 2009, and it was an instant success. Soon after, the school allowed for the formation of a club rugby team. Since then, Saints rugby has not only dominated Southern California—this year they reached a lofty #3 national ranking.

For those who are unfamiliar with the sport, rugby is the predecessor to American football. Originating in England, rugby is a very high-contact sport featuring two teams of fifteen players each. The goal for each team is to take the rugby ball and touch it down in the opponent's "try zone," the equivalent of an end zone in football. Each member of the team has a specific number attached to their position: numbers 1-8 play forwards, while numbers 9-15 play backs.

During league play, the Saints rugby team had plenty of success. In their six-game league season, the team went 5-1, capping off their regular season with a 33-14 victory over Cathedral, in which the Saints clinched the league cup, the Charity Cup, and the Titan Shield. Senior Chuck Guay was Man of the Match, while seniors Donovan Yousif and Grant Gauthier were Forward and Back of the Match, respectively. Shockingly, Gauthier had never played rugby before this season, but he has developed at a tremendous rate and made key contributions to the team.

The following week, the Saints and Dons rematched for the SCIRF championship, where the Saints suffered a heartbreaking 19-7 loss. The Saints had an opportunity to score a game-winning try on the last play of the game, but Cathedral intercepted a pass and took it the other way for a game-sealing try.

On March 12, Saints will have a game against Regis Jesuit from Colo-



Senior Egya Reddy runs with the ball during the team's 33-14 win over Cathedral. Instagram: @saintsrugby.sahs

rado. A victory would secure a high national rank and end their season on a high note.

There cannot be a good team without good coaching. Rugby head coach Eric Dent is singularly responsible for the growth of rugby at Saints through his unceasing efforts to recruit new players. Coaches Adam "Bacon" Cruder, Joe Keene '14, Will Renes '14, and Justice Cummins, who plays for OMBAC, a rugby club based out of San Diego, also contribute to the success of both the JV and varsity teams.

Each rugby player holds a significant position on the team; however, there are some players who really add to the

team's success and could compete in college. Seniors Egya Reddy, Chase Basson, and Andres Drab have all helped to build a strong team and contribute to the success of Saints rugby. "If you commit to Saints rugby for three or four years, you can really put yourself in a good position as a player and be ready for college," said Mr. Dent. Many players have never before participated in rugby and learned to play when they joined the team.

Saints rugby practices about four times a week, and it is not an easy sport by any means. There is a lot of contact and physical exercise outside of playing the game, and each game looks a lot like

organized chaos. Everyone who plays rugby enjoys this, though, as it creates strong connections between players on both sides of the field.

The greatest part about the rugby team at Saints is the brotherhood and community it fosters. "Everyone is there for each other and if someone makes a mistake, people make sure they are alright," said junior Daniel Muñoz, who plays the "hooker" position. If anyone seeks a challenging, but rewarding sport, a strong community, and is willing to push himself, seek out the rugby players and coaches. You will find yourself drawn to the sport and its many unique aspects.

## Then vs. Now: Male Cheerleaders? What??



By Aidan Rickwa ('22)  
EDITOR

Most of you have no doubt seen the OLP cheerleaders at football and basketball games and cheered on their acrobatic maneuvers, impressive flexibility and tremendous school spirit. But did you know that Saints actually used to have male cheerleaders? It turns out that back in the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and 80s, our school had male cheerleaders who performed all sorts of acrobatic stunts, which were just as impressive as their OLP counterparts. Performing flips and somersaults in their matching white pants, purple sweaters, and white saddle shoes, they were quite a sight.

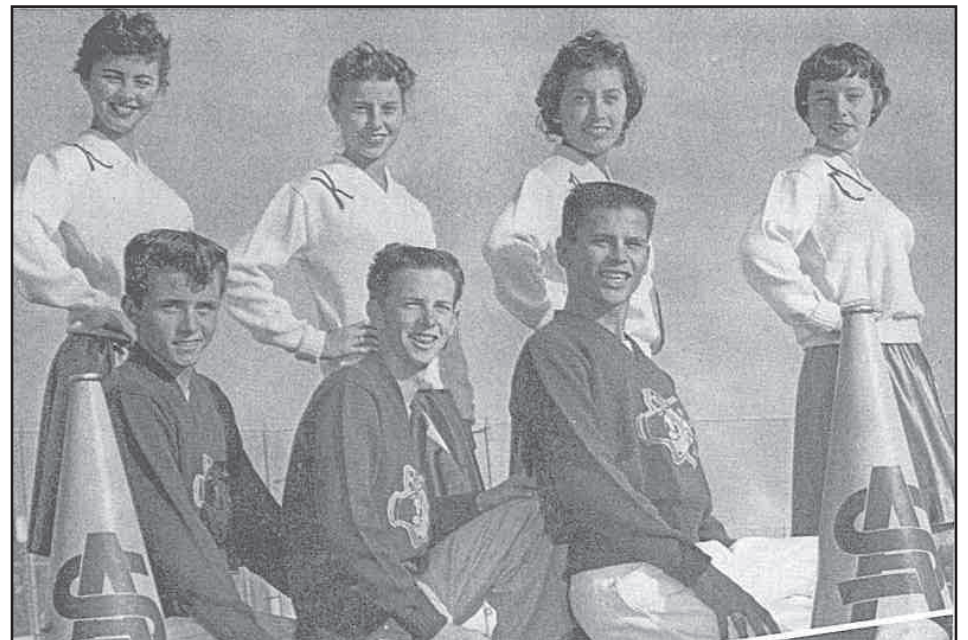
The Saints male cheerleaders first emerged in the 50s and joined Halo Joe as Pit commanders. They would use megaphones to call out chants and would even spell out the letters themselves. The cheerleaders showed the perfect image of the Brotherhood, with Saintsmen carrying each other on their shoulders and bringing the entire school together, even uniting the parents together in chants. They were well-organized and worked hard to coordinate their techniques and maneuvers to put on an entertaining performance. As much as you might suspect Saintsmen to neglect precision in favor of enthusiasm, the cheerleaders actually performed with excellent and measured choreography.

Most of the male cheerleaders were

juniors and seniors, but there were a few sophomores and freshmen. These male cheerleaders were accompanied by one female cheerleader from each of the four Catholic girl schools in San Diego: Regina Caeli, Sacred Heart, Rosary, and Our Lady of Peace. These cheerleaders not only helped contribute to a unique acrobatic routine, but they also allowed for more social interaction between the different Catholic schools. Seeing all the different Catholic schools working together during the major sporting events provided a unique cohesion and made all of the schools feel represented.

A unique dynamic also existed among the cheerleaders—there were biological brothers that worked on their own special routines and performances, like the Chambers and Ybarra brothers. The brothers worked together to continue on their legacy and keep the cheerleading program going strong. They made the cheerleaders into something that Saints could be proud of and would put funding, time, and effort into.

However, all great things must eventually come to an end. The male cheerleading program really began to ramp down in the mid to late 80s as girls became more adept at gymnastics and acrobatic maneuvers, and the guys just could not compete with their impressive flexibility and stunts. Another issue that discouraged Saintsmen from participating were the taunts that they endured from opposing fans, who did



This picture, from the year 1956, featuring male Saints cheerleaders alongside female cheerleaders, can be found in Vasey Patio.

not see cheerleading as a very masculine activity.

Towards the end of the male cheerleading era, the male cheerleaders were limited to lifting the girls up on their shoulders or throwing them up in the air rather than doing the actual acts themselves. This new shift in the cheerleading program made less people willing to join, and the program eventually fizzled out. Since then some attempts have been made to restore the male cheerleaders, but none have emerged successful.

So is it possible to bring the male cheerleaders back? Male cheerleaders still exist today in many other schools,

so it is feasible that they could return to Saints. Surely there are Saintsmen who have sufficient flexibility and acrobatic skill to keep up with the OLP cheerleaders and perform the same maneuvers. But it seems like overall interest has decreased in being a male cheerleader, especially with such an emphasis on traditional sports at Saints. If several motivated individuals would take the initiative, the program might be revived, but it might be quite some time before that happens, if it ever does. Maybe male cheerleaders will never return to Saints, but we should never forget this important piece of Saints history and spirit.

# Idiocy of the Month: Figure Skating Fiasco



By Aidan Rickwa ('22)  
EDITOR

And the gold medal for Idiocy of the Month goes to...the Olympics! The Winter Games' most dramatic sport served up an overabundance of controversy this year, and at the core of it was Russian fifteen-year-old Kamila Valieva.

Widely considered both the gold medal favorite and the most exciting female figure skater of all time, Valieva dominated during the team events, propelling the "Russian Olympic Committee" team to the gold medal. However, before the start of the individual meet, she tested positive for a banned heart medication.

Although she was temporarily suspended after the results were announced, the Russian Anti-Doping Agency decided to end her suspension after only a day. Despite numerous complaints, the Court of Arbitration of Sport officially allowed Valieva to return to the Olympics on February 14.

This is not the first time the Olympics have seen athletes using banned drugs, especially when it comes to Russian competitors. In 2016, only 271 of the 389 Russian competitors were cleared to be able to compete in the Summer Olympics.

However, drugs have always been a problem in the Olympics, since athletes started boosting their testosterone in the early 20th century. Since then, the drugs have only gotten more complex, potent, and dangerous. Performance-enhancing drugs not only threaten the integrity of the events, but can also be incredibly harmful to an athlete.

In the 1970s and 1980s, East German swimmers were dominant in their events and collected a multitude of medals. However, looking deeper into the athletes and their training, it was revealed that the athletes were all taking a drug regimen that included anabolic steroids in order to enhance their chances of victory. Athletes as young as eleven were participating in the drug treatments, and especially with the case of Valieva, it has become clear that anyone can be using banned substances, no matter how young or old they are.

Russia has historically been lenient on testing and punishing drug users; in



Valieva is the latest Russian to test positive for PEDs, scandalizing Olympic figure skating.

Toronto Star

fact, they have repeatedly been convicted of giving their athletes PEDs. During the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, not a single athlete was penalized for PED usage, but later tests determined that it was extremely likely that athletes were using banned drugs. Additionally, both the previous and subsequent Olympics saw numerous athletes get caught and punished for using PEDs.

Since the 1968 Olympics, there have only been more and more Olympians caught using illegal drugs. It reached its worst in 2004, where the number of athletes that tested positive for PEDs doubled compared to the 2000 Games. This led to the institution of the Olympics' "zero tolerance" policy in 2008, where the Games were dominated by drug testing. For the first time, a large number of athletes were prevented from competing from the start. During the Olympics, a large number of athletes were removed for using illegal substances and had their medals stripped. Fifty Olympic medals were stripped during the 2008 Olympics, including thirteen earned by Russia, the

most stripped medals of any country. Russia also led all countries in banned athletes with seven.

In 2014, evidence emerged that Russia was running a state-sponsored system of drugging their athletes. A report by the World Anti-Doping Association found that the head of Moscow's anti-doping lab destroyed almost 1,500 urine samples and that Russians operated a second testing lab used to ensure that athletes would pass drug tests. Additionally, athletes who were reluctant to take the drugs were informed that they would not be considered for competition if they refused. They also found that Russia's sports minister instructed lab personnel to manipulate samples.

Clearly, there is a mountain of evidence that Russian athletes are known cheaters and that their government conspired to help them get away with it. Being forced to use the monikers "Olympic Athletes from Russia" and "Russian Olympic Committee" while still allowing their athletes to compete has shown not to be an effective punishment—Valieva almost certainly did

not choose to use PEDs of her own volition. The WADA and IOC need to figure out how to prevent cheating from staining the Olympic Games, and being soft on Russia is not the way to do it.

The Olympics clearly have not set standards that they are capable of enforcing. They underestimated the lengths to which athletes would go in order to gain an edge. Valieva was clearly not the first person ever to test positive for illegal substances, but allowing her return to the Olympics after testing positive was certainly a terrible decision.

Although Valieva's fourth-place finish allowed there to be a medal ceremony, the Olympics did not handle the situation properly in any way. Had she won a medal and thus prevented the medal ceremony from occurring, the IOC would have incurred an ungodly amount of backlash. They need to preserve the integrity of sport by taking aggressive action to stop the use of performance-enhancing drugs, and anything short of this is pure, unadulterated idiocy.

## Chaplain's Corner



Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA  
COLUMNIST

I have to admit that being a homilist on a high school campus is sometimes a lonely affair. At a regular Sunday Mass around the diocese, I deliver a homily and shake hands afterward with various parishioners who don't hesitate to say a few words about what they liked or did not like about the homily. The scene at Saints is different: after Mass there is stomping, cheering, and various announcements before you are sent off to class. By the time you are leaving the gym, my guess is that my homily has taken a backseat to your coming calculus exam or your realization that you forgot to do your English homework.

Earlier this year I admittedly gave a homily that veered into the sphere of contemporary issues with political implications. One adult on this campus even wrote to me afterwards, "Please consider keeping politics out of Mass, it's not the place for that." I must admit that I actually appreciated the honesty and candor of this person who freely told me what they thought, unlike other adults who chose

instead to "loudly whisper" their opinions in the corridors and hallways of the school without ever telling me their thoughts on what I said. I welcome criticism and discussion, especially over issues in which reasonable people can take reasonably different positions.

I replied to this person that the Church cannot and will not separate itself from politics and the issues of the day. To do so would be to say that the Church does not care about the affairs of the world. However, the Church very much does have something to say about the migrant at the border, the baby in the womb, environmental issues from desertification to deforestation, just wages and just war, and countless other issues.

A proper homily is not defined as having a lack of reference to political issues, but a lack of reference to partisan politics. The Church and her people reside in republics, parliamentary democracies, communist regimes, and monarchies. It would be wrong for me to attack or promote particular political parties, candidates, office holders, or political figures. The homilist is always free to promote or critique issues which directly impact his

congregation, both in the political sphere and outside of it.

This is because politics impact our daily lives. As a result, the Church and her shepherds then ought to—and are in fact charged with—having a voice in the various matters of the day and the era. However, this is to be done in a way which is both above the fray and avoiding direct partisanship, while at the same time not being completely separated from it.

Why? Because the Gospel is too powerful to be contained to polite, neutered, and "respectable" social conventions. This is why it was a priest that proclaimed the first *grito de delores* launching revolution in Mexico, priests and nuns who inspired the "people power" movement which overthrew the tyrannical government in 1986 in the Philippines, and priests who fostered the solidarity movement and marched with the dockworkers in Poland to overthrow Soviet Communism. The Church cares for her people, yes, even when politics are involved. This is why she and her ministers will always claim a voice in the matter.

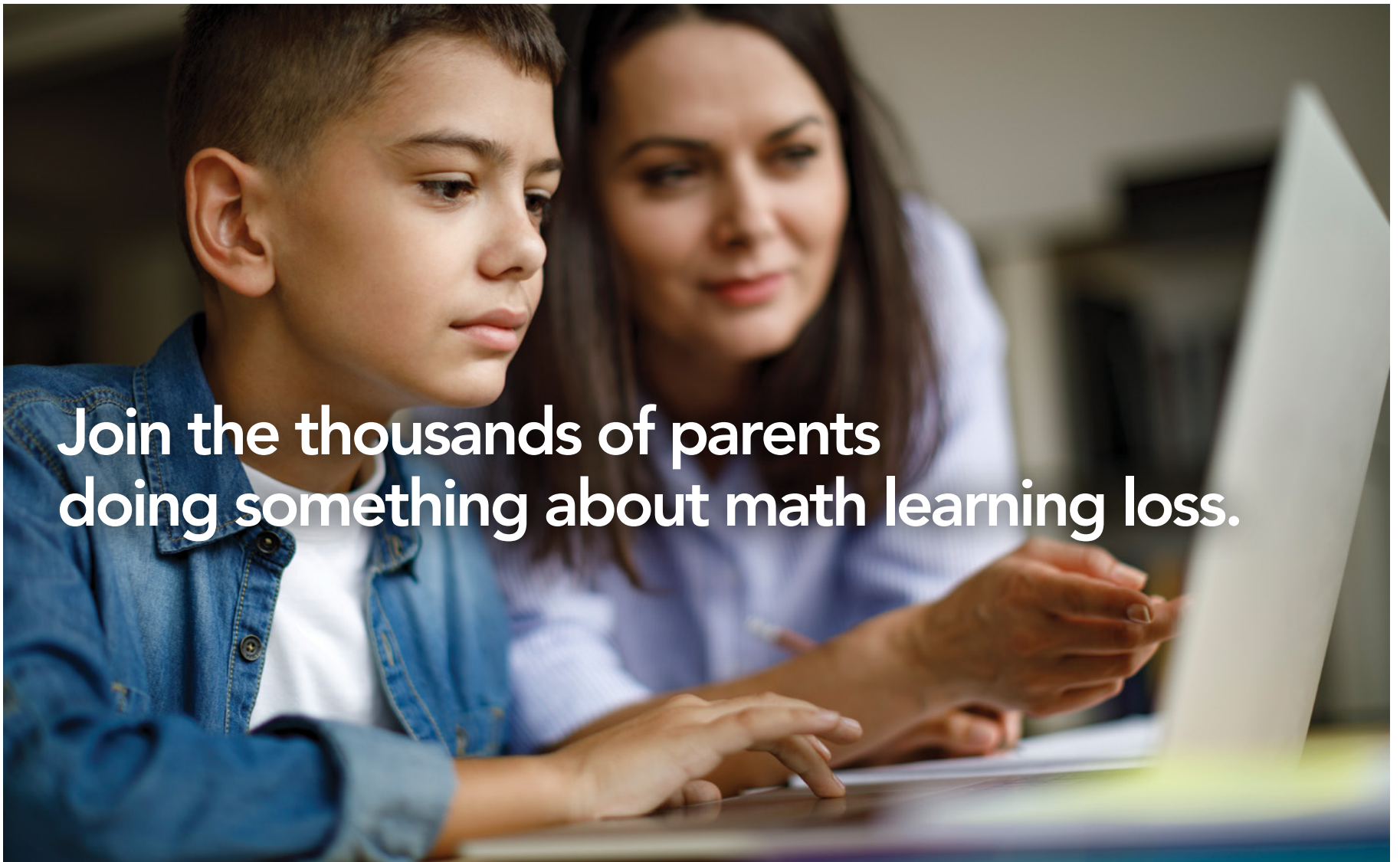
## Letter to the Editor

To the Editors of The Augustinian,

I recently visited sahs.org to read the latest issue. Great photo of the line at Marty's. Didn't realize it was so popular! Many alums still read the paper (you should ask the webmaster if you can see analytics regarding views to the page.) Perhaps it's time for an Augustinian online edition? On that note, consider bringing the @STANewspaper Twitter back! It was a lot of fun running it, but perhaps students don't use Twitter anymore?

Keep up the good work! Don't be afraid to cover some hard news once in and while as well.

Best,  
Alexander Danilowicz '15  
Editor-in-chief 2013-2014



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# Dr. Griffin: Now Open for Business



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)  
EDITOR

To The Augustinian,

Perhaps one of you can help me with a problem I'm having. I'm learning to drive right now, and I'm just terrible at it. I've already crashed three times in less than a month, and I really feel bad about all the damage I've caused. Is there any advice you have that could turn me into a better driver?

Sincerely,

Every single sophomore

This is very concerning. I do hope that your parents' bank account is doing okay after your insurance has surely gone through the roof. Although I technically can't drive (in a legal sense), I'll do my best to attempt to assist you.

I've found in my experience that as long as you act like you know what you're doing, nobody will bat an eye. When I went to the DMV, they gave me my permit not because I passed my permit test (I didn't), but because I acted like I belonged there. And maybe they figured that anyone willing to wait in line for over three hours shouldn't go home empty-handed. This also applies on the road. Just keep your head held high and you'll be fine. If you believe you're a good driver, the cop that pulled you over will too.

On the road, there are only two hard and fast rules that you must follow: Green means go and slow down when you see a cop. As long as you follow these two rules, you should be good to go. Everything else is just a suggestion. Especially speed limits.

I don't really think you need to change your actions, only your attitude. Were those crashes you caused really crashes? No, they were learning experiences. In the words of Bob Ross, "We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents."

Sincerely,

Dr. Griffin, PhD

To The Augustinian,

Ever since the second semester started, I've been feeling a strong lack of motivation to do my schoolwork. I can't figure out why, because I've always been a good student, but now it's like pulling teeth to get me to do even the slightest amount of work. I'm concerned about this because I need to keep my grades up, but I don't know what to do. Can you help me?

Sincerely,

A senior

Senior, I am very sorry to hear of your situation. It is never good to hear of these unfortunate circumstances. However, in my experience, this is extremely common. You have sadly come down with a serious case of senioritis.

First, allow me to introduce myself: I am Dr. Griffin, PhD. I know what you must be thinking—"Griffin, you're just a sophomore, what do you know about senioritis?" To which I say, excellent question.

If I'm gonna be completely honest, I walked into Mr. Bachynsky's room one day at lunch, and someone told me that since I'm the only person that works for The Augustinian that has a PhD, I'm the only one qualified enough to answer this query.

Secondly, allow me to offer you some advice. You are not alone. Many of your classmates are in the same boat. In fact, our very own editor-in-chief, Manny Butler, waited to write his article for this issue until the day we were supposed to go to print. So you're in good company.

Besides, what's the problem with suddenly failing all your classes? I mean, it's not like the colleges you've applied to can unaccept you. You'll probably be fine.

If nothing else, just go to Mr. Ozdowski's room. I'm sure he'd love to help you find some motivation. "That's all the harder it is."

Sincerely,

Dr. Griffin, PhD

I said, love the school, love the people.

TA: What do you hope for the future of Saints football?

CG: This coming season, we've got a lot of work to do. It'll definitely be a major rebuilding process that'll go on. We have a brutal schedule, but the reality is, I'm more focused in year one on doing things right than just winning games. We'll win games in the long term by doing things right, and there's a lot of work that needs to be done here.

## COACH

continued from page 1

week we're going to have a meeting with our whole squad at lunch. It's fun working with Noah Jones, it's fun working with Humble Faalave, it's fun working with Misa Sandoval, but there are a lot of young kids, too, that are great kids. I just have to get to know them better.

TA: How has your experience been at Saints so far?

CG: Awesome. I love being here. Like

## SPORTS

continued from page 1

on against their rival, Cathedral, in a dual. In the end, six wrestlers placed at CIF finals and moved on to the next round in regionals. Junior Blaze Ackerman went on to finish sixth in regionals while junior Kevin Clements placed third and went 2-2 at state to finish off an incredible season.

Clements was thoroughly dominant all year, reeling off the best wrestling season in the history of Saints. However, he is not satisfied with this year's run, setting his sights on making the podium at next year's state championships.

## Surf

Returning to competition for the first time in two years, the Saints surf team shattered all expectations by making a run at the league championship. Led by strong performances by sophomores and juniors, the Saints rode their young core to a 3-2 finish. Standing at 3-1 entering the final competition, the Saints needed a win against Mission Bay to secure a share of the league championship. Unfortunately, they dropped the matchup 50-39 despite solid performances from juniors Casey Bayless and Julian Iacono.

## Baseball

Boasting five Division I commits, the Saints baseball team entered the season as a top ten team in San Diego. So far, they have lived up to the hype, reeling off dominant wins in the Bill Whittaker Classic versus Mission Bay, University City, and Chula Vista. Additionally, they tied San Marcos 11-11 after it got too dark to finish the game in what has emerged as a candidate for game of the year.

The two teams rematched in the championship game, which Saints dominated 9-3 behind a strong two-way effort from senior Cade Martinez, who pitched four innings of one-run ball and smoked a 3-RBI double to open the scoring. Senior Trevor Fox, junior Frankie Giacalone, and sophomore Justin Heffler each had two hits.

## Track

Coming off of three consecutive Western League titles, the track team aims to secure a fourth this season. The distance runners will lead the way again, with senior Michael Butcher and juniors Nate Wilson and Jimmy Markowicz pacing the team. In the sprints, the team will lean heavily on senior Josh Morgan. Anticipate a monster season out of superstar high jumper Nick Watson, who is drawing interest from colleges. Meanwhile, senior Roman Ramirez will lead the throwers in the discus and shot put. They begin their season against La Jolla on March 10.

## Golf

The golf team returned with all of last year's best players and aims to compete for the CIF title. Young superstar Billy Davis, reigning Western League Player of the Year and San Diego City League Match Play Champion, is ready to dominate. Others like senior Jacob Paule and sophomore Santiago Garza also are ready to prove themselves and hopefully place in the competitive San Diego League Match Play and keep the trophy for the third year in a row.

## Lacrosse

The lacrosse team is prepared and equipped to battle for the CIF title this year. Stars like senior Will Tobias and juniors Jack Elgas and Anthony Ivanjack are verifying their status as elite players and giving a push to the hopeful team. They hope to claim the Lacrosse crown by besting their rivals from up north. The team has a bright future with many promising underclassmen, so they will not be counted out of any competition.

## Volleyball

The Saints volleyball team entered this season with only four returning players and six underclassmen. After two tough losses to Grossmont and Madison, 3-2 and 3-1, respectively, the young team toppled a highly-ranked Bishop's team in a resounding 3-0 victory. It was a win fueled by rage—the Bishops team had mockingly sung the Saints alma mater prior to the game. The team is led by team captains senior Bodie Kerr and junior Patrick O'Leary—Kerr and O'Leary had a combined 116 kills through the first three games. Saints looks to capitalize on their momentum in the upcoming Beach City Invitational on March 18.

## Swim

Led by senior Steven Coons and junior Elijah Walulik, the swim team anticipates being strong contenders in their upcoming season. They had a tough loss against perennial swimming powerhouse Bishop's, but their 4x100 relay team set an impressive CIF record during the meet. They hope to build off this accomplishment in their future meets.

## Tennis

Fresh off the only coed tennis title in CIF history, Saints tennis is aiming to win one on their own this year. Superstar seniors Tommy Gilcrest and Gabriel Casta are bringing their skills to the court, ready to dominate any foe they face, while young players such as Mario Garcia pack a powerful punch. They are red-hot to start their season, running their record to 6-0 while beating up on the likes of Francis Parker, University City, and Santana.

# Daddy Loves Freshmen

by Hudson Daley ('22)

