

THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

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Saints Car Show Rides Again



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Saints Car Club held their annual car show at lunch and after school on Friday, October 13 in the staff parking lot. The event was a rousing success featuring over 50 cars and having raised over \$2,000 for the Hogar Infantil orphanage.

The Car Club started holding their iconic event back in 2019. Senior club presidents Thomas Fuller, Erik Rodriguez, and Kenny Wright, along with club moderator Mr. Granados worked very hard to organize the car show – scheduling the event with the school, securing cars to be displayed, and providing food at the show itself.

“We wanted to create an opportunity for everyone to connect over their united interests,” Fuller said.

The car show was open to students, teachers, parents, and alumni. Attendants could purchase tickets for the 50/50 raffle for the orphanage or buy tacos, hot dogs, and ice cream, all while looking at all the unique cars on display.

Aaron Cramp '24

Cars were provided by students, like senior Cenzo Zoni’s van, and teachers, like Mr. Dent’s famous jeep. The Car Club also got people from outside of the Saints community to bring cars to display at the car show.

“We helped make Saints a bigger part
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Saints Offers Warm Welcome to New Staff



By Michael Luzi ('25)
EDITOR

In the last issue of The Augustinian, we highlighted the new teachers at Saints. This issue will feature the newest members of the school’s administrative support staff, Mrs. Kirsten Hadzicki and Miss Priscilla Sandoval.

Mrs. Hadzicki is serving as the new secretary of Student Services, having replaced Ms. Bayer in the role. She manages the attendance and supports Mr. O’Beirne with disciplinary issues such as dress codes and detentions.

Mrs. Hadzicki grew up in San Diego her whole life, and went to high school at OLP. Then, she went to San Diego State University where she acquired a degree in child development.

After graduating, she jumped into the education field: first as a kindergarten teacher for eleven years, and then as the student services administrator at OLP for twenty-four years. In her final position before coming to Saints, she worked for two years as an administrative assistant at the St. Francis Center for Priestly Formation.

Mrs. Hadzicki chose to come to Saints because she has many ties to Saints from the past.

“I went to OLP, my husband went to

Saints, my son went to Saints, my daughter went to OLP, and my brothers went to Saints,” Mrs. Hadzicki said.

She loves both the enthusiasm and the mission of Saints. As a Saints parent, she loves that she is able to be a part of the mission that her kids were involved in.

“I really believe in the mission of the Augustinians and Catholic education, and I am really happy to be here and support that mission. I love The Pit, I love how enthusiastic the guys are here in supporting the school,” Mrs. Hadzicki said.

In her free time, she loves to read, travel, and hike. Mrs. Hadzicki loves reading nonfiction books, and she has been all over the world. Some of the places she’s visited include Iceland, Ireland, Scotland, and Japan.

Mrs. Hadzicki loves working with the faculty and students here at Saints, and she hopes that Saintsmen make the most of these years.

“Make sure your mom calls in if you are sick, and enjoy these years because they go by super fast,” Mrs. Hadzicki reminds Saintsmen.

Miss Sandoval has replaced Mrs. Garcia as the receptionist and administrative support assistant. She acts as the first point of contact to guests and visitors, and helps with a broad array of tasks in the front of-



Griffin Cappiello '24

office. She works especially close with Mr. Hecht in the assignment of subs for teachers.

Miss Sandoval grew up in City Heights, a neighborhood in San Diego. She attended Hoover High School, and graduated from UCSD with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish literature. Currently, she is attending National University to attain a masters degree in Public Administration.

In the past, she worked for the San Diego Unified School District as a school clerk at McKinley Elementary School. Before that, she worked at the Registrar of Voters.

“I chose to come to Saints because I was looking to grow in my professional career and find a different role where I would learn new skills and be able to challenge myself working in a new environment,” she

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Israel-Hamas War: A Breakdown



By Liam Olds ('26)
EDITOR

On Saturday, October 7, soldiers from the Palestinian militant organization, Hamas, invaded Israel and executed a well-planned, brutal attack. A great number of men, women, and children were killed indiscriminately. By the next day, Israel was at war.

This war is only the most recent flareup in an ongoing dispute between Palestinians and Israelis going back decades. How did we get to this point? Why has peace been elusive for so long? The answers are far from straightforward.

This conflict is often regarded as one of the most complex political situations in modern times. The goal of this article is to make it as understandable as possible in the small space allotted, so bear with me.

The hostilities between Israel and Palestine date back over 100 years. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a movement known as Zionism grew in the Jewish community.

The purpose of Zionism was to rally Jewish people to return to their ancient biblical homeland — a region many Arabs regarded as their own. The movement gained popularity in part because of growing antisemitism at the time. Many believed the best, and only, way for Jews to live a safe and normal existence was by granting them a nation of their own.

The movement was not universally supported, however, as many Arabs and Palestinians viewed Zionism as a form of racism and discrimination, affording Jews extra privileges.

After a struggle for many years to realize their goal, Zionists achieved a victory when Britain released the Balfour Declaration in 1917, promising British support for a Jewish home country in Palestine.

The fall and division of the Ottoman Empire after World War I gave Britain control over the Palestinian region.



This had large implications for Zionists and allowed for greater quantities of Jewish settlement in Palestine.

The Jewish population slowly grew in Palestine, until it skyrocketed when Adolf Hitler rose to power in Europe. The Jewish populace had grown to be about 20 percent of the Palestinian community by 1933. By 1947, after the end of the Holocaust, the Jewish population in the region had nearly doubled since the early 30s. This caused resentment from the Arab inhabitants of the region who feared it would become a wholly Jewish state and that they would face subsequent discrimination.

The Arabs led a long and significant revolt from 1936-1939 that caused Britain to reassess its policies in hopes of maintaining peace. Britain tried to limit Jewish immigration to Palestine, but they were largely unsuccessful.

Britain eventually sought help from the United Nations who, in 1947, pro-

posed the separation of Palestine into distinct Arab and Jewish states. This event spurred the official creation of Israel as a state in 1948.

Arabs believed this arrangement disproportionately benefited Jews and almost immediately, neighboring Arab countries invaded Israel. Land changed hands a few times, but by the time the dust settled, Israel had ended up with more land than originally allotted to them. Arab countries still controlled the Gaza Strip and the West Bank which are still claimed by Palestinians today.

After about twenty years of relative peace, a series of deadly conflicts occurred among Israel and its Arab neighbors. The Six Days War (1967), the Yom Kippur War (1973) and Lebanon Wars (1982, 2006) all marked brutal interactions between these countries over a long history of disagreements.

Tensions would erupt, diplomatic attempts would be made, land would change hands, short periods of relative peace would ensue, tensions would continue to build and the process would repeat itself.

The most recent addition to the long list of violent conflicts began on Saturday, October 7, 2023 when the Islamist militant movement, Hamas, launched a series of unexpected attacks on Israeli civilians and soldiers alike.

Hamas is sponsored by Iran and has been classified by many countries, including the US, as a terrorist organization. Their primary goal is to create a Palestinian state.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters, "Hamas has only one agenda: to destroy Israel and to murder Jews."

Hamas rules the Gaza Strip, the small slice of land at Israel's south-

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Soccer Kicks Off in San Diego



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If there's one thing Saintsmen will always enjoy, it's soccer. Upperclassmen will fondly remember the World Cup mania that overtook the school last winter. Whether it's the US Men's National Team or *El Tri*, Saintsmen are avid *fútbol* fans.

The United States has been the center of attention in the soccer world, and the city of San Diego has been prominently featured in soccer news.

As most people probably know by now, the US, along with Mexico and Canada, is set to host the 2026 World Cup. Sixteen cities across the three countries, two in Canada, three in Mexico, and eleven in the US, will host games for the world's biggest sporting event.

With San Diego not on the list of host cities, Los Angeles would be the closest opportunity for Saintsmen to watch a game. Originally one of the final three contenders to host the World Cup Final, it is currently being called into question whether LA will be able to host any matches at all.

Sofi Stadium, known as the home of the LA Chargers and the LA Rams, was initially on the list of host stadiums, however, the stadium is not up to par with FIFA's strict requirements for hosting.

The field is currently too narrow to host soccer matches, as it was designed to host NFL games.

Stadium owner Stan Kroenke, who also

owns the Denver Nuggets in the NBA and Arsenal FC in the English Premier League, is hesitant to renovate the stadium, as the changes would be very costly. As a result, his stadium will likely be removed from the list of host stadiums.

Rather than use Sofi Stadium, many soccer fans would rather that LA host games in the historic Rose Bowl Stadium. This stadium hosted the World Cup Finals in the 1996 men's tournament, as well as the 1999 women's tournament.

As the World Cup approaches, Saintsmen will have many other opportunities to watch the best players from around the world play in the US.

The US was selected as the host country for the 2024 Copa America, which features the best South American national teams, as well as the 2025 Club World Cup, with the best club teams from around the world.

Following the 2026 World Cup, the soccer action in the US doesn't stop. The US is set to host the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, and the country is in the process of bidding to host the Women's World Cup in 2027.

It goes without saying that the next few years will be packed with soccer for the US, but the city of San Diego specifically has an exciting future in the beautiful game.

Earlier this year, MLS Commissioner Don Garber announced that San Diego would be home to the league's 30th franchise.

An ownership group comprised of Mohamed Mansour, a British-Egyptian bil-

lionaire, the Sycuan Tribe, the first Native American tribe with an ownership stake in an American soccer club, and Manny Machado, San Diego Padres star, paid the \$500 million expansion fee, allowing them to bring an MLS team to San Diego.

This move came with its fair share of controversy, however. After three successful years in the USL, the second tier league in the American soccer pyramid, the San Diego Loyal will be forced to end operations.

The Loyal is widely regarded as one of the most well-run USL teams with some of the most potential in the league, but the threat of a new MLS team unfortunately led to the death of this promising San Diego club.

The Loyal is more than just a soccer club for many people involved with the club — fans, players, and executives speak to the significance of the club in their lives.

Connections to the community through partnerships with the Chicano Federation to celebrate Latin American heritage and USD by playing at Torero Stadium are a key aspect of the club's identity — and fans of the Loyal are doubtful that the new MLS team will be able to fill the void.

The Loyal qualified for the USL Playoffs as the third seed in the Western Conference, using the mantra "bury us with the cup" as a final rallying cry to win the Championship before the club's death — hoping for a bittersweet end to the Loyal's time in the USL.

The San Diego Wave, San Diego's

women's team, is also gearing up for a playoff push in the NWSL.

They ended the regular season with the most points in the league, winning them the NWSL Shield, their first major trophy in the club's short, yet successful, two-year history.

Alex Morgan, US Women's National Team legend and wife of Saintsman Servando Carrasco '06, is the team's captain and leading goal scorer, and will lead the team during their playoff run. Because of their regular season success, the Wave gets a first round bye, automatically placing them in the semi-finals.

Winning the NWSL Championship in the club's second year of existence would certainly be a major accomplishment for both the Wave and the city of San Diego itself.

It goes without saying that Saintsmen have more than enough professional soccer action in the next few years to keep themselves entertained, but the Saints soccer team starts their season soon as well. Chief leads the Saintsmen as they look to defend their CIF Open Division title. Key players on the team include seniors Owen Johnston and Alonso Somohano, as well as USD soccer commits Gus Velez and Iain Wagner.

Saintsmen that are soccer fans should make sure to check out a Wave game, support the Loyal in their final playoff push, get ready for the major soccer tournaments that will be hosted in the US in the coming years, and keep up with Saints soccer.

The Discipleship of Tolu Onimole



Tolu (center) listening intently during a Bible study meeting.

Griffin Cappiello '24



By Ben Nault ('26)
EDITOR

Saint Augustine High School has always prided itself in “accepting boys, and graduating men who change the world.” This motto has come from decades of helping young men to develop as leaders and productive members of society. We are encouraged to be the best versions of ourselves, and to put 100% effort into anything that we do.

There are many students on campus that exemplify these high standards that Saints has put upon us, and notable among them is senior Tolu Onimole.

Tolu was born in Nigeria, whose struggling government is rife with corruption. People are left to fend for themselves as they are compelled to find alter-

native sources of income to support their families. Family turmoil forced him and his mom to move to the US. Upon arriving in America, he attended Albert Einstein Academy before enrolling at Saints for high school.

Tolu was drawn to Saints by the brotherhood. He also liked the fact that it was an all boys school. Admittedly, it took some time for him to get accustomed to the idea, but he saw the benefits in the reduced drama and distractions. He credited these factors as beneficial, helping him to recognize he could be himself.

“I could be who God created me to be,” said Tolu.

Like many Saintsmen, Tolu is a big soccer fan, specifically an avid supporter of Arsenal FC. He is also a fan of the

Golden State Warriors basketball team. Not only is Tolu a fan of sports, but he is an athlete himself; he is a Saints track star. He runs the 400 meter race, a difficult but fun event.

But these are not what make Tolu stand out in the minds of many – it’s his inspirational leadership among his peers, particularly as the founder of the Bible study club here at Saints.

In his own day-to-day life, he likes to read the Bible to get closer to God and learn more about who God is. According to Tolu, the biggest thing is to learn “what His purpose is for my life and how it’s going to build me up to how I’m going to be in the future.”

For him, a huge part of learning about God is learning what his plan is for each of us, and putting trust in him that it will

all work out in the end.

Tolu also feels God’s calling to help others acquire and have a more intimate relationship with God.

“If you know who Jesus Christ is, then you are free,” Tolu said.

Tolu strives to help others through connecting with scripture. He felt the inspiration to start the Bible study club in the second semester of his sophomore year.

Tolu changed a lot over his time here at Saints. During his first year and a half, he struggled with many of different personal issues, but after winter break, he recognized that he “wasn’t the same Tolu.” He stopped interrupting class and messing around like he once did, doing his best to turn his life around.

Tolu wasn’t the only person to see this change. One of his classmates, senior Joe Campos, noticed the stark change.

“He came up to me in class and was like, ‘Hey Tolu, man, before break you were crazy, man, what happened?’” recalled Tolu.

Tolu attributed this huge turn-around to God. “I met God... God was the one who picked me up.” Tolu said.

God is a huge influence in Tolu’s life. Tolu credits God’s grace as his main motivation for getting a renewed outlook on life. When there seemed like no other place for him to turn, God showed up in his life and picked him up from the dark place he was stuck in.

Tolu also said that some of the faculty at Saints really helped his development.

Some teachers, like Mr. Granados, pushed him to be dedicated and persevere over the challenges presented to him academically, to keep on fighting until he completed his mission.

Some people, like Dr. GO, saw Tolu and personally knew the change that he

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Br. Mauricio's Philosophy



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After Mr. Vignol retired last year, the Honors Philosophy class at Saints needed a new teacher. Enter Br. Mauricio Morales, OSA – an expert in philosophy. We had the chance to sit down with Br. Mauricio to discuss his area of expertise.

This interview was edited for clarity.

The Augustinian: You’re the expert on philosophy on campus. Can you explain your background and how you’ve come to learn so much on the subject?

Br. Mauricio: My background is a little complicated. I’m from Nicaragua. I was born there during a time of transi-

tion for many Nicaraguans after the Nicaraguan Revolution in the 70s and 80s. My parents lost their jobs and they had to migrate, first to Costa Rica and then to the US when the trip to Costa Rica didn’t work out. They migrated here to the US, to San Francisco in ‘96. I stayed behind with my grandma. She raised me until I was 17. My parents got arrested – when they moved here, my dad crossed the border as an illegal immigrant and my mom came here with a tourist visa and stayed. They both got green cards and documentation through a law called NACARA, which gave Nicaraguans residency who were here before the law was enacted. They got residency, then citizenship in 2006. They applied so that my two sisters and I could come here. My background [in philosophy] comes from, in a way, all that political turmoil. That made me interested in political

philosophy. That was not initially my field of study – I was doing industrial engineering in Nicaragua and mechanical engineering here. Then, I took a class in philosophy. It was mostly on epistemology, which is the study of knowledge. Basically, they ask “How did you know?” After studying math for such a long time, they made it seem like I never questioned things, such as math. We just take it for granted that two plus two is four. That made me interested in philosophy, and I changed my major. Although I liked epistemology, I was more into political philosophy. My studies and my background – the socio-political issues in Nicaragua, especially with freedom of speech rights – made me interested in freedom of speech rights, particularly in social media. Overall, human rights has been my area of expertise and my line of interest.

TA: So philosophy started out as more of a passion for you, before evolving into what is now your career?

BM: I think so. I cannot deny that my historical background has led me to be interested in social issues and exploring them from a philosophical perspective, not just a political point of view.

TA: How does that aspect of your interest in philosophy relate to your life now as a member of the Order of St. Augustine?

BM: There is no conflict between those things because I am very much interested in social issues and social justice. My studies in human rights, wheth-

er it’s political philosophy or philosophy of law, don’t necessarily have a conflict of interest. It’s more about actually thinking about how when you study, it shouldn’t just be about the abstract and theoretical parts; it should also come with living it. Philosophy is not just the study of these things, but also a way of life in which we help people.

TA: Would you say that’s something you try to pass on to your students?

BM: Correct. Philosophy is more than whether we think there is a reality or not – it’s more of a way of life, a constant pursuit of knowledge and truth, and being able to put away our biases in order to healthily and reasonably question our beliefs. That also comes with religion as well. We can’t just take it for granted – we have to question it and think about who God is in our lives.

TA: Who are some of your favorite philosophers? Who are some philosophers you think Saintsmen might be interested in?

BM: Plato, I think, is one of the greatest philosophers of all time. Not only did he write for such a long time, but he wrote on such a different array of topics. His main interest wasn’t to give us theories but to get people to talk. “Let’s talk about this. Let’s talk about knowledge. What is it to be a philosopher? Let’s talk about due process.” All those things were happening at his time. He was ahead of the game. In a personal way, I love John Rawls and his book *A*

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Riley('s Brother) Ranks: Halloween Candy



By Kieron Scanlan ('26)
CONTRIBUTOR

You may recall that my brother Riley wrote the Riley Ranks column last year. Now that he's graduated, I have (reluctantly) agreed to continue Riley's column for one last article. With Halloween approaching, what's better than ranking the top Halloween candies? So here they are, from worst to best:

15. Candy Corn – For some reason, someone decided that candy corn ought to be the symbol of Halloween. I think that might have been one of the worst decisions of all time. Candy corn is terrible. The flavor is disgusting and artificial and definitely way too sweet. I can't think of anyone that unironically enjoys eating candy corn.



14. Skittles – Are they really banned in California? I found out that four additives have been restricted from the product: Brominated Vegetable Oil, Potassium Bromate (KBrO₃), Propylparaben (C₁₀H₁₂O₃), and Red Dye # 3. There's also a well-known controversy with the addition of Titanium Dioxide (TiO₂). For those of you who don't understand all that science talk, you aren't tasting the rainbow – you're probably infecting yourself with some lethal disease.



13. Tootsie Rolls – If this was a ranking of the hardest candies to eat, Tootsie Rolls would absolutely be number one. These candies are impossible to chew – and even harder to break down after you actually consume it. Anyone with the misfortune of attempting to eat one will be stuck slowly digesting it over a thousand years. In fact, Tootsie Rolls are so hard, they were used during the Korean War to seal bullet holes in fuel tanks.



12. Smarties – You'd be lying if you don't think that Smarties taste like pure sugar. They also have the peculiar situation of having a similar appearance to chalk, which means that you don't really know if you're actually eating Smarties – or possibly just eating colored chalk.



11. Butterfinger – The crunchy texture is quite nice, but after about 10 seconds of eating one, it begins hardening like quick-dry cement in the back of your mouth, which is the main reason why it's ranked so low. I also just don't like the packaging. What can I say? I'm not a fan of yellow.



10. 100 Grand – No, I'm not talking about tuition, but rather the fun-size chocolate bar which consists of crisped rice, caramel, and chocolate. While this is a good combination of flavors, it takes longer to eat one than one of Mr. Dent's rants about rugby.



9. Milky Way – Let's face it, it's the female version of the Snickers bar – I think you can imagine why. All jokes aside, this is a good candy bar. My only gripe is that there is too much caramel, so in my eyes, I can't really justify it being ranked any higher.



8. M&Ms – These button-shaped, sugar-coated chocolates are a solid choice. There's not much bad I can say about them. But there isn't a ton of praise I can give either. They're a safe option – unless you're one of those weirdos who hate chocolate. It's a good median on this list. The candies above are worse, while the candies below are simply better.



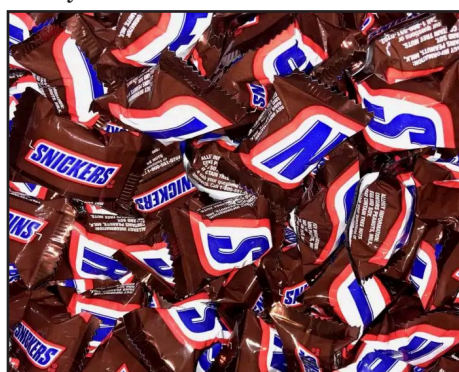
7. Almond Joy – This is definitely the most controversial pick on this list. I know, I know, it's not the most popular candy out there, but hear me out – the coconut mixed with milk chocolate makes for a great candy bar!



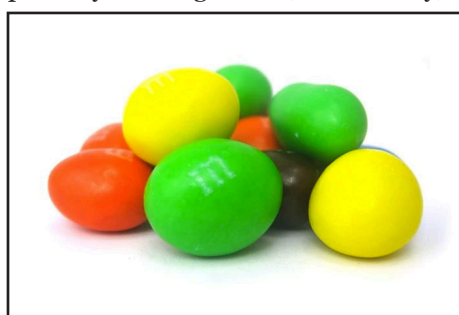
6. Sour Patch Kids – Are they sweet? Are they sour? Is it all just an illusion that we're experiencing through the Matrix? I guess we'll never know. One thing I do know – this is a very good choice for candy. As a bonus, you can pretend you're eating children.



5. Snickers – Besides being the male version of a Milky Way bar, the addition of nuts aids the Snickers putting it much higher on this list. Also, editor-in-chief Griffin Cappiello personally asked that this candy be ranked in the top five. Do what you will with this information.



4. Peanut M&Ms – If candies were celebrities, the M&M family is certainly the Hemsworth family. Regular M&Ms are Luke Hemsworth, while the significantly more popular, "older brother" peanut M&Ms are obviously Chris Hemsworth. If anyone says they prefer regular M&Ms over peanut M&Ms they probably have a peanut allergy, which I guess is probably a fair argument (but not really).



3. Kit Kat – Starting off the top three is a no-brainer. There is no better medicine than a crisp Kit Kat when you need to "have a break" from your homework. They're a simple candy with their creamy chocolate and crispy wafer – but the versatility is what gives them their high ranking. There's such a wide variety of Kit Kats – milk, white, and dark chocolate, to name a few. There's basically a Kit Kat for every possible mood.



2. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups – The Reese's Peanut Butter Cup is such a successful candy – it's obviously going to be high on my ranking. In fact, it is so well-loved, they made several spinoff versions of the candy. From ET's favorite, Reese's Pieces, to even a cereal, Reese's Puffs, Reese's has a product for all occasions. Whenever my family gets a big bag of candy it seems Reese's peanut butter cups are the first to go, which is the mark of a truly great candy.



1. Twix – The caramel, chocolate and cookie flavors and crunchy texture go very well together. This is by far the best candy bar out there. But wait. There's more. Not only is the candy bar itself great, you can also get a two-in-one with the Left Twix and the Right Twix. Truthfully, it's hard to determine the differences between Left and Right, but the Left Twix is described as smooth caramel and creamy chocolate while the Right Twix is described as chewy caramel and velvety chocolate. What does that really mean? Nothing, it's just an advertising ploy. But that doesn't mean that the candy isn't amazing anyway.



Disagree with my rankings? Did I miss any of your favorite candies? Just reach out to my brother, Riley, with your complaints. This is his column, after all.

Don't Waste Your Money on Halloween



By Henry Barwick ('26)
CONTRIBUTOR

Picture this: you're driving down 33rd Street on your way to school. It's the middle of September, not even autumn yet – but it feels like it. Why? It's the Halloween decorations. You begin to wonder: "Isn't Halloween a month and a half from now?"

Putting up Halloween decorations in September or early October is not only an issue, but the entire culture surrounding Halloween is problematic, due in large part to the rampant consumerism attached to the holiday.

The word Halloween originally meant "All Hallows' Eve," which is the evening before All Saints Day, on November 1 – the evening of October 31.

This means that Halloween was originally just an evening, not even a full day – much less a month and a half. In my opinion, Halloween should not be celebrated for the entire month of October.

Then there's the excessive consumerism. I can understand the many bags of candy that people buy for trick-or-treaters, especially in suburban neighborhoods with a lot of children, but the excessive use of larger-than-life Halloween décor is beyond me.

The giant, inflatable skeletons and ghosts you see on every corner right at the first hint of autumn are simply unacceptable. They ruin the curb appeal of houses for weeks, and they're just another excuse for people to waste money on unnecessary junk that is only used for a small portion of the year.

And this explains why the decorations are up so early: people don't want to waste their money on something that would be up for only a day or so. Instead, they put out their decorations early to get the most out of their investment. Some people even do it as early as late August. Now that's spooky!

The money wasted on all these decorations could instead be put to better use, such as renovating your house, buying Christmas gifts, or even just saving it.

Halloween is meant to be a day, not a season. Let's keep it that way.

Dr. Griffin, PhD, is Outraged: Halloween



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As *The Augustinian's* resident expert on everything, the editing staff frequently turns to me when they are in need. The other day, I received a message from the staff requesting that I write an in-depth analysis on a subject of my choosing. I wrote back to them, requesting better instructions – an academic, such as myself, needs specificity in order to work efficiently.

Their response was as follows: "I don't know, dude. Do what you usually do, I guess. Go on one of your rants or whatever."

They would soon find out that they made a very big mistake.

I find it difficult to get into the spirit of Halloween. I know what you must be thinking: "Dr. Griffin, PhD, you're such a smart guy. Obviously, Halloween isn't worth your time. You have so many better things that you could be doing."

You're not wrong. But I do have other reasons as well. Think of the children.

All year, we spend our time teaching the youth of America not to talk to strangers. On Halloween, it seems like we just throw all the rules out the window.

We encourage children to not only talk to strangers, but to take candy from them as well. Have we learned nothing? Everyone knows that you never take candy from strangers. That's the first thing they teach in the Stranger Danger unit in kindergarten.

But just because it's Halloween, the rules don't apply for some reason. Apparently, law enforcement thinks the same way.

Generally, it's frowned upon to walk

on someone else's property like you own the place. On Halloween, suddenly trespassing becomes legal.

"But Dr. Griffin, PhD," you might be saying, "It's just a bunch of innocent little kids. They don't mean to hurt anyone."

First of all, children are still subjected to obey the law. Just because they're small doesn't mean that the little buggers don't have to follow the same rules as the rest of us.

Secondly, they don't have to intend to do harm to be trespassing. The California Penal Code outlines three requirements for trespassing. That's right. I did my research.

Firstly, a person must enter land owned by someone else, without the express permission of the owner. Check.

Next, the trespasser must "occupy" the land, again without the permission of the owner. Clearly, I don't want small children on my property. Check.

Finally, the trespasser must continuously occupy the land until they are removed. Imagine a tiny child standing on your property, refusing to leave until you give them candy. Definitely check.

Clearly, the requirements are met. But apparently, law enforcement refuses to make any arrests. Why, you may ask? Because the police are clearly in the pocket of the big candy corporations.

It's obvious. Halloween is just a scheme concocted by candy manufacturers to increase their sales. They've infiltrated every part of our society to enact their evil plan.

They're paying off the police, they're corrupting our children, they're [REDACTED]

Editor's Note: We definitely made a mistake. We never should have let him write this.

iPhone 15: Get It While It's Useless!



By Omar Jaibaji ('24)
STAFF WRITER

Another year, another iPhone. This year's new favorite piece of technology is out, and at the affordable price of \$99,999!

A steal for the average American, Apple recommends that all current iPhone users upgrade as soon as possible, as their now outdated iPhones will purposefully be weakened otherwise.

Forecasts show that the lines outside your nearest Apple Store will only be approximately a five hour wait, so be sure to head out soon to save your spot.

This new phone contains many new features. For one, we made the number on the chip larger so that people can brag about how theirs is bigger.

Tired of the notch on the top of your screen? Well fret no longer, because with the new dynamic island, the notch is now in the middle of your phone instead!

The charging port has also been switched to USB type C, in order to mod-

ernize our technology. Please note that the new charging cable and block is not included with the phone but can be bought separately for \$149.99.

The camera has been updated to include a variety of new functions, all to ensure you look as awful as possible in all your photos while making your friends look stunning.

For only twice the price, you can obtain a bigger iPhone that has a bigger chip number and a bigger amount of storage (still not enough for all of your photos, however).

Best of all, you gain the action button! Are you ever in class and your phone starts ringing, so you quickly move to silence your phone? Well that is no longer possible due to this fantastic feature, which allows you to assign a function from which you were already only two swipes away.

Truly a marvel in technology, I am excited to see all the Saintsmen on campus with their brand new iPhones in these coming weeks!



It's the Great Bell Pepper, Charlie Brown!



By John Cook ('26)
CONTRIBUTOR

In my mind, jack-o-lanterns are the best part about Halloween. It is wonderful to mimic Dr. Frankenstein and make a monstrous creation alongside your family.

They look great with any Halloween setup, and they really compliment a spooky atmosphere. But who says they have to be made out of pumpkins? If you're looking to change it up, I'd like to offer a few alternatives to the pumpkin jack-o-lantern.

If you want to stay true to the pumpkin look of a jack-o-lantern, bell peppers are a great choice. They have vibrant colors, green stems, and a very similar shape to a pumpkin. They are also easy to cut, with a normal kitchen knife doing the job.

Sadly, because of their high levels of moisture, they will mold very easily out on the porch, but their small size lends them to be a great fit inside of your refrigerator.

On the plus side, if you are feeling a bit hungry, there are many great stuffed bell pepper recipes online for you to add a

little scare to your dinner.

Way back in the day, long before Halloween was an international holiday, it was celebrated by the Celts in Ireland. Seeing as pumpkins are native to North America, they needed something else to carve.

Their main choice was the turnip, which has a good size, and comfortably holds the ember that gives off the signature glow. If you want to remain original to the Celtic roots of jack-o-lanterns, then turnips are the way to go.

Turnips also have more qualities than just being historically accurate. They also have an appeal to the creepier side of decorating, as when they have been left to sit, they somewhat resemble a shrunken head.

Turnips are dense and rooty, so they can naturally resist mold, but if they do get moldy, they will still be somewhat firm, unlike pumpkins that get mushy, which makes the cleaning up a lot easier.

By churning out these alternative jack-o-lanterns, you'll turn some heads this Halloween – and maybe even save a pumpkin or two.



Leave It to Luzi: Driver's Ed



By Michael Luzi ('25)
EDITOR

You know what really grinds my gears? Driving education. Why does it have to take so long? And why does it have to be done at the busiest time of most people's life?

I mean just think about it. When you're in high school, you're trying to juggle three AP classes, a job, and getting your newspaper article done in time. And now the DMV wants to make your life harder by giving us the most useless class ever.

The information in these classes is plain useless. I've seen enough *Fast and Furious* movies to understand how to use a car. And they think that I'm too stupid to understand when to use my car horn? Guess what, I learned that back in preschool with the song "The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round."

This is why I propose that the DMV should no longer exist, and driving education should be a mandatory class in elementary schools. Just think about

it. If the DMV doesn't exist, then the world would save so much time from waiting in line for nothing.

Also, if driving class is mandatory, then the overall workload of school would be more bearable. You may be asking, "Why in elementary school, Luzi?" Because that is when most people will have the most free time in their life, which will also prompt them to be more eager to learn more about driving. I see no flaws in this plan.

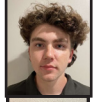
Some of you may be skeptical about letting kids drive. Let me give you some statistics to show you why kids would be good drivers. Over 30% of all car accidents are drunk driving related. Now who are the only people in the country who are legally not allowed to drink? Kids. Also, teenagers are more likely to be in a car accident than any other age. What age are elementary school kids? Below that of a teenager. Case in point.

I expect this proposition to be in effect as early as the end of this year. I mean, come on, what better choice do we have?

Saints Sports Fall into Rhythm



By **Jamison Gerding ('26)**
CONTRIBUTOR



and **Paddy Ward ('26)**
CONTRIBUTOR



and **Joseph Walker ('27)**
CONTRIBUTOR

FOOTBALL

After an effective rebuild season last fall, Coach Gladnick's Saints have returned ready to compete.

In Saints' last season, they accrued a 4-8 record with several unfortunate losses to some of the best teams in San Diego. These past defeats have only spurred growth, and now about two thirds through the regular season, they have already matched their win tally from last year.

Inciting this change are the players out on the field, with sophomore quarterback Brady Palmer and senior wide receiver Isaiah Hasten acting as catalysts for the Saints' new success. However, every player has played a role in the success of the team on both the offensive and defensive aspects of the game.

The Saints started the season with a bang, with their first game on the road at Patrick Henry with our Saintsmen's valiant efforts resulting in a 50-7 win.

Next, they came home to Mesa College to play against the Poway Titans with the support of The Pit backing them up. The match resulted in a 31-7

win to the Saints boosting their record to 2-0 for a great start to the season.

Then, the Saints had an unfortunate series of losses starting with a close game against Granite Hills where the run game dominated despite the result. Injuries limited the Saints' performance as they hosted Notre Dame Prep, one of the top teams in Arizona.

A major comeback against Newport Harbor boosted morale as the defense managed to stave off last quarter attempts from Newport resulting in a 32-30 win. The highlight of this game, and possibly the season, was a big field goal block on one of the final plays of the game, preserving their lead and eventually winning the game.

Saints then suffered an unfortunate loss against Mater Dei. The Saintsmen were able to keep up with the Crusaders in the first half, but they fell just short in the final push.

Next, the Saints played University City at home, managing to excel on both the offensive and defensive fronts yet again. The Saintsmen played lights out, with a final score of 48-6, keeping UC to one touchdown. Meanwhile, the Saints' offense was prolific in scoring bringing them to a 1-0 start to league.

At the time of writing, the Saints have a record of 4-4 and are finishing up their regular season, they are looking to put together a strong playoff run and go far in CIF.

CROSS COUNTRY

Coming off of a terrific season last year, cross country is setting their sights on another eastern league championship. Despite losing several exceptional runners last year, the cross country team still has a very good chance at winning the league.

Junior Owen Arnaudy and senior Thomas Banzhof have been leading

the team and achieving fantastic times. Both varsity and junior varsity runners have been running exceptionally well and have attained great results.

Arnaudy led the way at the first Eastern League Cluster meet, running at a remarkable 16:37 pace. Junior Trent Torres followed with a time of 17:36, and Banzhof trailed shortly behind with a time of 17:41.

The underclassmen have also proved to be formidable runners. Led by sophomore Jamison Gerding at a blazing 17:12 pace, the underclassmen have helped the team score crucial points. Sophomore Callum Arnaudy and freshman Owen Marcinkowski have also placed quite high in varsity races.

Despite the entire varsity team publicly admitting to hating running at the Homecoming Rally, the team is rallying together and sprinting towards back-to-back Eastern League titles, starting off the season at a spotless 2-0 in League.

Over several months the cross country team has fought valiantly against heat, dust, and exhaustion to be where they are now. They have endured gruesome training over the summer to be fully conditioned for whatever challenges may lay ahead. This rigorous conditioning has helped both varsity and junior varsity levels of cross country prosper in the races they've had so far.

Recent success from the cross country team has continued to prove to everyone that St. Augustine High School's cross country program is nothing to laugh at, and will be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

With league championships coming up in early November, Saints cross country is well on their way to bringing home another banner.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

The Saints beach volleyball team got off to a dominant start to the season, going undefeated in the Eastern League. They will be moving up in divisions, from competing in Division II to Open Division.

Currently, the team's record is 6-1, with playoffs already underway.

As a relatively new CIF sport, our beach volleyball team has excelled, solidifying themselves as one of the most dominant teams in the county.

The team has bonded over the season, lifting each other up and continually helping one another as they enter the playoffs. Both varsity and junior varsity have found great success, solidifying the program's future as one of hope and success.

The program's head coach, Coach Palafox, complemented the team's cooperation, attributing much of the bonding to their off-campus practices and games.

"The team acts as one unit, so even though there are varsity and junior varsity levels, you would never know it by the way the boys lift one another and teach one another throughout the season," Mrs. Palafox said.

Coach Palafox expressed her happiness and pride in having "28 of the most amazing Saintsmen" on the team this year, all of whom have a winning, "kick-butt mentality."

Among these commendable Saintsmen are the team's top scorers, Wesley Newton, Noah Heuring, Luke O'Leary, and Will Stowell.

Beach volleyball played in playoffs on October 19 against San Dieguito, but unfortunately, they lost, marking the end of a successful season.

Chaplain's Corner

Seeing life from death's point of view



Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA
COLUMNIST

"You must die before you die, so that when you die, there will not be much left of you to die."

One of my professors in the seminary was fond of saying the above quote. At first it may seem morbid or off-putting. It's not how he meant it, though. Instead, he was referring to the reality of the false selves which we carry with us, especially the masks that we put on and take off as we go about our days.

Ultimately, you are called to be you. God created you to be you – He did not create you for you to be someone else, He did not create you to be who you are not.

It is in letting go of these false selves, and in not taking ourselves too seriously, that we begin to encounter our true self. A good way to do this will also be celebrated soon with Halloween and *Dia de Los Muertos*. Placing ourselves in the perspective of the eternal allows us to see what might be "in the way" and allow us to let go of or move beyond certain ideas or habits that impede us from being fully ourselves.

I know that the black Augustinian habit that you see myself and Br. Mauricio wearing looks pretty cool. But do you know why it's black? It's not meant to make you think of Sith Lords; it is black to remind us of the fact that each of us one day will die. In doing so, we are reminded to take full advantage of the present moment, a divine "yolo" if you will. We are also encouraged to take courage and truly confront that who we are not (to die before we die), that we may live in freedom as the sons of God we truly are – and ultimately have eternal life with Christ.

ISRAEL

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western border, touching Egypt.

An estimated 2,200 missiles fired from Gaza indiscriminately fell on targets in Israel, killing hundreds and destroying buildings. Simultaneously, Hamas gunmen killed more than 1,000 people, unleashing fire on more than 20 sites in southern Israel.

Men, women, and children alike were massacred at a music festival, a bus stop, several farming settlements known as kibbutzim, and more sites throughout southern and central Israel. Hamas also seized at least 100 hostages and brought them back to Gaza. Hamas has threatened to kill these hostages unless Israel complies with a list of demands.

In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war on Hamas.

Israel launched retaliatory missile strikes into Gaza and has warned residents of northern Gaza to evacuate

south as Israel ramps up for what its defense forces have called an "integrated and coordinated attack from the air, sea and land."

As of October 14th, officials reported over 1,300 people were dead in Israel with another 3,227 injured. Gaza has seen at least 2,228 deaths and 8,740 injuries. Of those dead in Gaza, at least 724 are reported to be children.

The violence itself is not the only threat to human life. Gaza is facing a humanitarian crisis as nearly half of the territory's population of 2 million have been displaced. Southern Gaza has been inundated with refugees fleeing northern Gaza by the hundreds of thousands.

On October 9, Israel's defense minister declared Gaza would be under a "complete siege," announcing this would prevent food, water, electricity and fuel from entering the territory.

The UN has warned that the entire Gaza strip is now in danger of running out of water. The lack of imported fuel has shut down water treatment plants

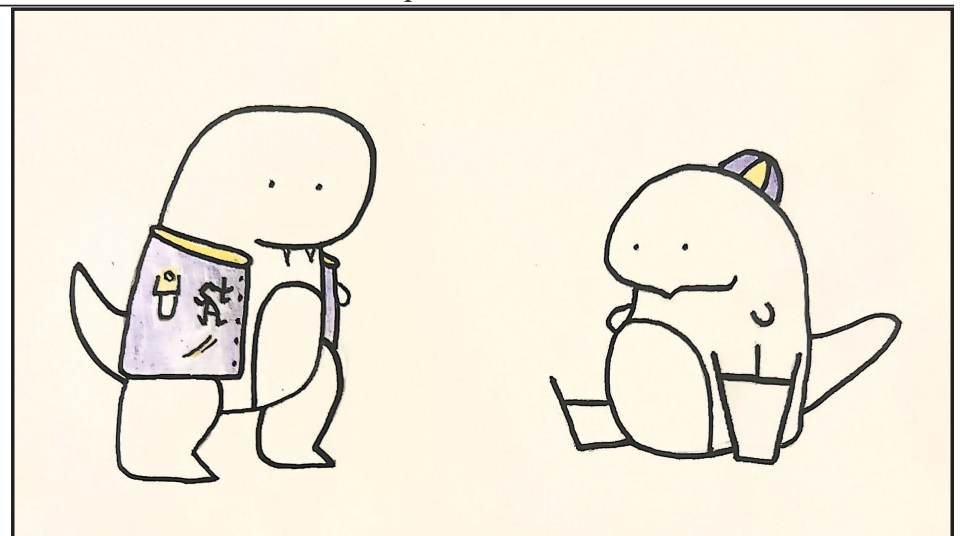
across the territory. With little to no access to clean drinking water, many Gazans are forced to drink contaminated water.

The Israel-Hamas war has already seen massive amounts of brutality on both sides and the situation continues to worsen. As Israel prepares for its full-scale invasion, it is important to stay updated on all the facts and to acknowledge the suffering Israeli and Gazan families continue to endure. Understanding the situation in more depth and with multiple viewpoints can be the key to furthering diplomacy in the region.

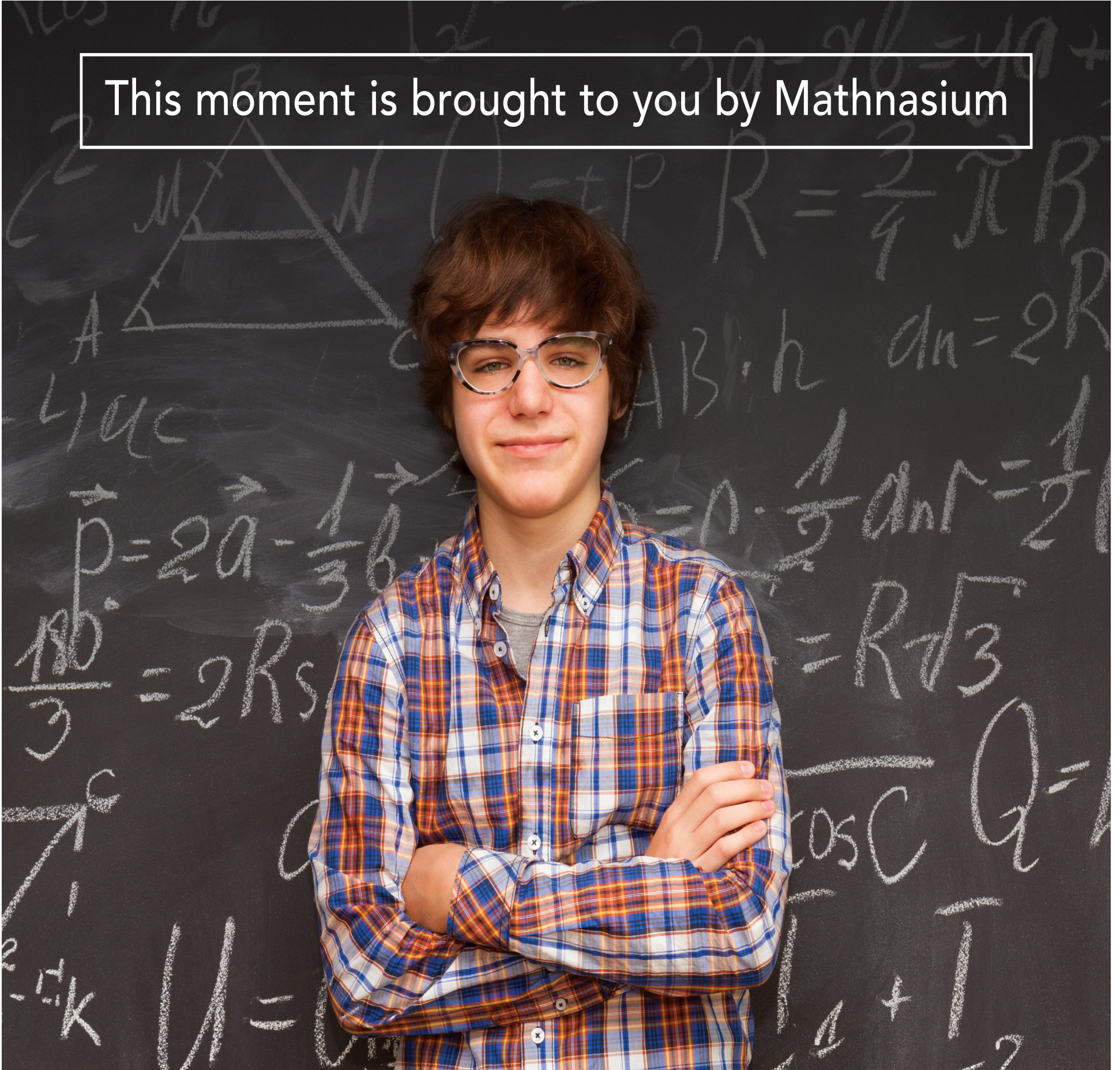


Caption Contest

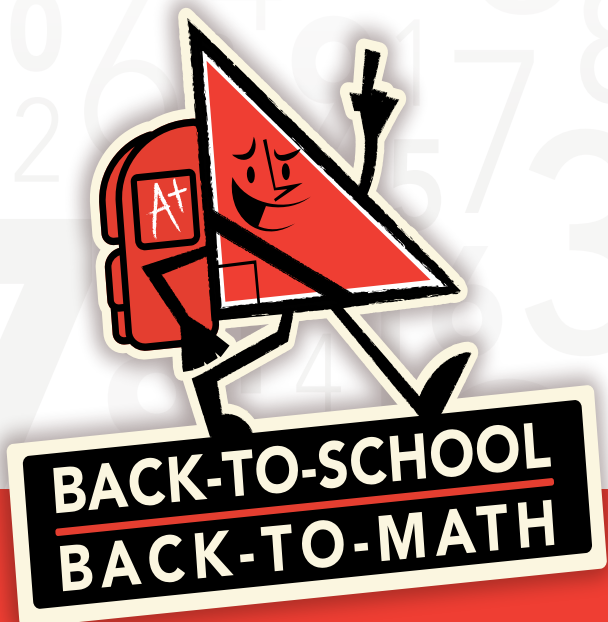
Come up with a creative caption for this cartoon by Kieron Scanlan '26 and submit it by DMing @saintsnewspaper on Instagram. The editing staff of *The Augustinian* will select a winning caption. The 3 best captions will be published in the next issue of *The Augustinian* and the winner will receive a \$15 In-N-Out gift card. Everybody – students, teachers, parents, and alumni – are welcome to participate. Good luck!



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A Saintsman's Guide to Taylor Swift



By Griffin Cappiello ('24)
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I've sort of garnered a reputation around campus as a big Taylor Swift fan. I'm not denying these accusations – I definitely am a Swiftie. But you may be asking yourselves: why? Why would I, a teenage boy, be interested in listening to Taylor Swift's music?

I'm glad you asked. First of all, allow me to address some popular grievances against Taylor. Many people say her music sucks. Whatever. That's your prerogative. If you simply aren't a fan, that seems like a you problem.

She's been a massively successful artist since she was 14 years old (that's the same age as most freshmen, so clearly they're doing something wrong). She is worth over \$740 million, making her the richest female musician in the US. She's clearly doing pretty well without you listening to her music.

Other people say that they find her annoying. While I can see how that may be true, I find it hard to not be annoyed by most celebrities. It's more of a side effect of fame than an actual complaint about her specifically.

Most people tend to complain about her fans. The "Swiftie cult" is a major turn-off for potential fans, as they don't want to be roped in with the screaming hordes of teenage girls that are generally associated with Taylor Swift. Understandable.

I feel like I should point out that just because some Swifties are annoying, that doesn't necessarily mean that all of them are. Plenty of reasonable hu-

man beings, such as myself, are fans of her work. Famous actors, such as Ryan Reynolds and Paul Rudd, as well as professional athletes, like JJ Watt and (obviously) Travis Kelce, have been spotted at some of Taylor's concerts.

My point is this: Taylor Swift isn't as bad as you might think. She has plenty of good music across a wide variety of genres, so there's bound to be something that you'll enjoy.

Additionally, it might be beneficial to you to have a solid foundation of Taylor Swift knowledge.

Imagine, if you will, that you are speaking to a woman. Shocking, I know. She mentions that she was listening to the latest Taylor Swift album, to which you respond by asking if she's excited for *1989 (Taylor's Version)*.

She's obviously shocked, as she's never had a man ask her that type of question before. Clearly, the two of you are meant to be.

It's safe to say that your romantic endeavors will rapidly multiply if you familiarize yourself with at least the basics of Taylor Swift knowledge. And because I care about you all so much, I did you the favor of creating this beginner's guide to Taylor Swift.

You're welcome, Saintsmen. Born in eastern Pennsylvania, Taylor Swift and her family moved to Nashville, Tennessee as a teenager to pursue a career in music. In 2006, she released her debut album, a self-titled country pop album. She continued with her country influence, releasing her second album, *Fearless*, in 2008.

With *Speak Now* in 2010 and *Red* in 2012, she experimented with new sounds by introducing rock elements

while maintaining her traditional country feel. In 2014, she said goodbye to her country music days, releasing *1989*, widely considered her most popular album. She followed by dropping *Reputation* in 2017, a hip-hop inspired album that was incredibly different from anything she had ever released previously.

After signing with a new record label in 2018, she returned to her roots, and released the pop album *Lover* in 2019. She surprisingly dropped two albums in 2020, *Folklore* and *Evermore*, both of which experimented with indie, folk, and alternative music. Then, in 2022, she released *Midnights*, a chill pop album.

You may be asking, "Griffin, what's this 'Taylor's Version' thing I've heard so much about?"

I'm glad you asked. Taylor Swift released her first six albums under the label of Big Machine Records. The record label owned the masters of her recordings, but Swift maintained the publishing rights. When Swift and her legal team made an effort to purchase the rights to the masters of her own recordings, Big Machine Records and the label's new owner, Scooter Braun chose to sell them to a different investment holding, under the condition that he would continue to profit off of the recordings.

Swift, obviously upset, signed with a new record label, and announced that she would release re-recordings of the six albums that she didn't own, in order that she would be able to receive the profits off of her own work.

She released *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* and *Red (Taylor's Version)* in

2021, following them with the release of *Speak Now (Taylor's Version)* earlier this year. *1989 (Taylor's Version)* is set to be released on October 27, with the final re-recordings presumably coming in the next few years.

In addition to re-recording her older albums, she also released songs that were written at the same time as the original recordings of the albums, but were never recorded. Subtitled as being "From the Vault," these songs were included at the end of each of the re-recordings.

I'm sure you're wondering what my thoughts are on all of this. Don't worry, you can pass my opinions off as your own when you're trapped talking to a girl about Taylor Swift.

I think it's good for Taylor that she owns the rights to her own song. She wrote and recorded all of them – she should see the profits of her work. However, I don't love the re-recordings.

You can tell that Taylor definitely let her newer music inspire the re-recordings. Recently, she's used a lot of electronic instruments, rather than the acoustic versions that she used in her country days – which doesn't sound quite right on the re-releases. One of my personal favorite Taylor Swift songs, "Haunted" from *Speak Now* has great acoustic drum fills that don't hit the same with electronic drums.

Whether you like it or not, Taylor Swift is more than just a musical artist. She's an icon. You can either hop on the Swift Train, or bid adieu to your dating life for good.

BRO MO

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Theory of Justice, where he explores that justice is fairness. It's such a great book, one of my favorites. Joel Feinberg, as well. He wrote a theory of harm, and he's the one responsible for the 5 limitations to freedom of speech rights. I do love his work. I love Albert Camus. I'm not particularly fond of existentialists because I think they take truth to be subjective, but I do love his work and I think it's fascinating from a personal perspective. I think students would be very interested in him. They'd be fascinated to study him or read his work.

TA: We have to ask – what do you think is the meaning of life?

BM: The meaning of life. I think that every person finds meaning in the deepest part of their hearts. There's not a cookie cutter meaning of life. I think there is a meaning of life for everybody, it's a logical necessity. Otherwise, the question would be, "Why am I alive to begin with? Why do I suffer? Why do I have to go through this?" Everyone is on a journey in which it takes them through a different way of life and to a different part of life. I think you have to ask yourself, "What is the meaning of all that I do?" You have to take into account your skills. You have to take into account your passions. You have to take into account your background. You have to take into account all those sorts of things that make you who you are. When you are really honest with yourself, when you are really genuine with what you want out of life, I think you find that meaning within yourself. I think that's kind of what God wants from all of us. God's desires are also our own deepest desires. There is no conflict between the meaning of your life and God's desires for your life. It goes hand in hand.

CARS

continued from page 1

of the wider North Park community," Rodriguez said.

Mr. Granados, had nothing but the highest praise for the student leadership of the Car Club that ran the event.

"It's a truly student-driven event, and I'm really proud that it is that way," Granados said, "It's like cars themselves, there's so many different people that get involved. It's kind of like a grown-up version of show and tell."

The event was not restricted to car enthusiasts; experts and amateurs alike found value in the show.

"I don't really know much about car culture or cars in general but regardless it was a lot of fun just to go to car shows, check out some cool cars, and talk to new people about our fundraiser," said junior Diego Ruiz.

The Car Club could not disclose their plans for next semester. "That's confidential," Fuller said. They did say that they hoped to be able to sell their iconic Saints Car Club shirts to the student body in the coming semester.

The car show was a tremendous success, and the Car Club hopes to replicate it, and even expand it, in the coming years.

STAFF

continued from page 1

said.

The community aspect of Saints impresses her as does the respect that is shown all around campus.

"I like the community that Saints has created for itself. Since I got here, I feel a really strong positive presence from the students, staff, family, alumni, and the neighborhood in general," Miss Sandoval said.

Miss Sandoval believes that because the Saints community is mostly boys, there is a stronger connection among everyone, and it is easier for boys to relate to one another.

She also loves the energy that is shown in the school. One of her favorite moments at Saints was the eighth grade visitation and seeing how the Saintsmen made an energetic environment for the eighth graders. It helped them become engaged in what Saints is all about.

Miss Sandoval had some words of encouragement for Saintsmen.

"Enjoy your time in high school. It's a big time in your life and things like exams and applying to colleges can be stressful; but it's important to step back and make sure you're enjoying yourself and the company you have around you."

We wish Mrs. Hadzicki and Miss Sandoval the best of luck in their first year at Saints!

TOLU

continued from page 3

underwent. Dr. GO saw the potential that Tolu had, so he suggested that Tolu join ASB to be a leader that would help improve Saints. While in ASB, he learned that being a leader is about improving the school by impacting others to be beacons of positivity as well.

Tolu's outlook on religion is unique compared to the typical view of a religion.

"I don't think of it as religion," he said. "I think of it more as a kingdom."

Tolu described religion as having to do specifically with the people, where God's intention is to welcome all of us into His Kingdom with Him at the head.

To Tolu, God's Kingdom is Heaven on earth with all of God's children, where only God may judge. One of the reasons he refrains from using the term religion is because, according to him, religious institutions of man are often tainted with judgment from people to other people.

"Religious people [judge]... but with the Kingdom it's different because it's with God," said Tolu.

He claimed that in the human aspect of religion, it's all about judgment and if you do this or that the wrong way you will be told you will go to Hell. The great thing about God's Kingdom is that He is always in rule and He is the only one that can judge others.

Tolu found a way to turn around his life through God, and hopes to do the same for others through his Bible study club.

Tolu shared some words of encouragement for those thinking of joining, or even coming for a session to see what it's all about: "Do not be afraid. God created you for a purpose... Come to Christ as you are... [He will] strengthen you, and help you find your way."

The Bible study club meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in Mr. Okuley's room.

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