

# THE AUGUSTINIAN

“Tolle Lege”

Issue 3

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## Saints hosts SAVI, strengthens community and faith



By Oliver Winn ('27)  
CONTRIBUTOR

On Thursday, November 7, students from Augustinian schools across the country convened at our lovely campus for the fifteenth annual Student Augustinian Values Institute (SAVI) conference to discuss the values we all share. This conference is a testament to the unity of all ten Augustinian schools in North America. No matter how widespread we may be, some 80 sophomores and juniors gathered to discuss how their schools can better embody the Augustinian values of Unitas, Veritas, and Caritas.

SAVI is intended to provide participants with the tools to make their own schools better at living out these values, and the contingent from Saints definitely walked away with some ideas for improvement. Yet, over the weekend, we were equally impressed by the number of ways in which Saints already effectively lives out the Augustinian values, of which the other schools took note and for which they commended Saints.

Our own Unitas was present from the start, as we all mingled and chatted

with the other students upon our arrival Thursday night. Sleeping quarters were...let's say cozy — forty plus boys stuffed in Mrs. Crachy's room (I can't speak for the girls' situation) — but not uncomfortable for those with sturdy mattresses. All the participants can attest that we ate very well each day (thank you, Mr. O'Beirne!).

Yet the football team's energy wasn't the only facet of Saints that the guest students took note of. They especially admired our Friday Mass, which they said had much more student engagement than their Masses back east (or, in the case of our neighbor, Villanova Prep, in Ojai, California, up north).

To our SAVI guests, Saints's freeform and casual Sign of Peace was a  
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SAVI brought 80 students from Augustinian schools around North America to the Saints campus.  
Devin Manns ('26)

## AAE: Cardinal McElroy on the Church and vocations



By Enzo Simon ('27)  
EDITOR

After celebrating All Saints' Day Mass at Saints, Cardinal McElroy blessed our community on November 1st, bringing together the ladies from OLP and our very own Saintsmen for a beautiful time of holy reflection.

Following this, *The Augustinian* conducted an interview with His Eminence to learn more about him and to gather more insight into the tough challenges facing the modern Church.

*This interview has been edited for clarity.*

**The Augustinian:** Did you always want to be a priest?

**Cardinal McElroy:** Yes, from when I was very young. I went to a high school seminary, which I would never send anybody to now, but I enjoyed it. I briefly left the seminary to attend college, although I did still intend to be a priest and came back after college. So yes, from a young age, I always wanted to be a priest.

**TA:** Did you ever envision yourself to be a cardinal?

**McElroy:** No.

**TA:** When you were notified of becoming cardinal, what was that experience like?

**McElroy:** Well, I wasn't really told



Cardinal McElroy celebrating mass for Saints and OLP on All Saints Day, 2024.  
Devin Manns ('26)

— they don't call you ahead of time. I was asleep, it was 3:30 in the morning because they announced it at noon in Rome, and I got a bunch of texts that woke me up, saying "Congratulations," and I said, "Congratulations for what? It's 3:30 in the morning." Then I realized that the pope had appointed me cardinal, but I couldn't tell anybody because I didn't want to wake them up. So I went to the office and wrote up my public statement and went on with confirmations that week.

**TA:** Religious clergy often describe God calling them to their vocation — did you have such an experience, and if so, what was it like?

**McElroy:** It wouldn't be any particular experience or moment. I had a very fine parish with a very fine pastor. I think that had a lot to do with it. My par-

ents were faith-filled people, which also had a great deal to do with it. But there was no singular moment. I just always, from when I was about ten, figured that I would like to do this.

**TA:** What would you say are the biggest and most common challenges for someone considering a religious vocation?

**McElroy:** Foremost, I think it's most important to have a relationship and feel close with God. It's also having a life of prayer and having a desire to serve God's people in the life of the Church. It means giving up certain things: when you commit yourself to being a priest, it's a particular life. Whether you're in a religious community or in a diocese, you follow the direction of the bishop or religious superior in terms of where you're going

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## Saints Side Gigs: MDLR's Masterpiece



By Jonah Villafaña ('25)  
EDITOR

Welcome back to another edition of Saints Side Gigs! In this edition, we'll be highlighting another Saintsmen who has found ways to make earnings through his entrepreneurial and business skills. Introducing Michael de la Rosa, a junior who is currently working THREE different jobs, including his very own startup business.

Michael's expertise in the entrepreneurial world is apparently a family trait. His uncle opened a chocolate store, his aunt owns Lolita's, and his great-grandfather is the founder of Roberto's Taco Shop.

Michael's business career began around three years ago when he started working at Roberto's Taco Shop. He initially worked at a location off University near Saints, but he recently moved over to a location that opened in Point Loma (on 1155 Scott Street for anyone interested).

Working at his family's restaurant has taught him many skills that he has applied to his school life. Having to go to school during the week and work over the weekend has made it difficult to stay on top of everything.

"You have to have a hard work ethic, because it's definitely not an easy business," Michael said.

Roberto's Taco Shop in Point Loma

SEE DE LA ROSA, pg. 6



# Is Donald Trump good for America?

*President Trump is exactly what we need.*

*President Trump is an existential threat.*



**By Ramy Jaibaji ('25)**  
CONTRIBUTOR

As the United States concludes this presidential election cycle, evaluating the possible impacts of Donald Trump's upcoming presidency is critical to understanding the political scene which we find ourselves in. Critics will say Trump's presidency marks the beginning of the end, and supporters view it as a new era of American prosperity. All the while, we pragmatic Americans will assess the evidence and come to the reasonable conclusion that Trump is the better candidate for the citizens.

## **Economic**

Trump's economic policies during his first term demonstrate his ability to drive prosperity in American businesses. The administration focused on tax cuts, deregulation, and the renegotiation of trade agreements to better serve United States interests. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 significantly reduced corporate taxes, and is credited for the increased wages and job growth that followed. Trump's economic policy bolstered employment rates and helped to grow the economy.

In contrast, Harris's economic ideas involve increasing taxes for corporations which could lead to slower growth. Harris also supports expensive initiatives such as Medicare for All, which will lead to increased taxations, inefficiencies in the government, and simply create a heavier burden on the economy.

## **Immigration**

Immigration has also been one of the more contested topics this election cycle, with Trump advocating for a more secure border, and Harris supporting a more compassionate approach to the immigration crisis. A stricter policy on immigration would allow for a greater protection of American jobs and a reduced crime rate. Trump's policy on immigration would help to protect U.S. economic interests as well as aid national stability by preventing illegal immigration.

Harris's policy, and the policy under the Biden administration involved a more lenient approach to immigration. This included giving pathways to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, as well as expanding protective services for immigrants. However, such policy, while certainly amicable to the immigrants, ultimately encourages further illegal border crossing and greatly strains our public resources.

## **Foreign Policy and Wars**

Trump's foreign policy plan, often described as an "America First" plan, is centered around reducing the United States's involvement in foreign conflicts, while also altering existing international agreements to better align with American interests. During his first term, Trump was able to broker peace agreements such as the Abraham Accords, as well as press NATO allies to increase their defense budgets, rather than rely on US backing. Trump's unconventional but highly successful foreign policy plan was driven by American interests.

Harris's foreign policy approach, as seen under the Biden administration, is characterized by a continued support and funding of various wars without any negotiation in sight. This is evident in Russia's war with Ukraine. While supporters argue that this financial and

military support is essential to uphold democratic values and combat Russian aggression, it certainly raises the question of how the U.S. can afford to send \$60 billion to Ukraine when our own citizens face various domestic issues such as housing affordability and rising grocery costs.

Additionally, the current administration's inability to address and end the war in Gaza has highlighted significant issues in conflict resolution abilities. Rather than halting aid to Israel, the U.S., since October 2023, has provided over \$20 billion in support to a country that already offers free healthcare to its citizens, while its military actions have killed tens of thousands of women and children. Critics argue that prioritizing diplomatic efforts over direct military support would be far more effective — not only in terms of cost but also in preserving human life. Funding conflicts does not bring about peace: it only exacerbates tensions and prolongs suffering for the people on both sides of these wars.

## **Harris's Track Record**

Throughout her political career, Harris has consistently changed her stance on several issues including immigration, healthcare, and criminal justice. During her time as a prosecutor, Harris was known to support tough crime punishments, yet during her years as a senator and vice president, she was a champion of more progressive reforms for criminals including reduced incarceration time. Her flimsiness over various political issues raises questions about whether her policies reflect her core beliefs or are simply part of the game of politics in her quest for more votes.

Ultimately, the 2024 election highlights a clear message: Americans are tired of an administration that prioritizes other nations' interests over their own. Many long-time Democrats disliked being told how to vote based on their race or gender, and they resisted seeing Harris handed the nomination without going through the formal process. Concerns over rising grocery prices, inflation, and economic challenges impacted voters more deeply than other divisive issues. In the end, Donald Trump not only secured victory in the election but also captured the popular vote, demonstrating the widespread public demand for a leader focused on America's economic prosperity, security, and self-determination.



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

Donald Trump will never put the American people before himself. He lacks civility, compassion, and basic decency. Every indicator we have — be it warnings from his most trusted advisers or evidence of his decades of lies and misconduct — points to his being an existential danger to the values Americans hold most dearly.

Trump won the presidential election because he is a fantastic salesman — he tells people what they want to hear. In his 1987 book, *The Art of the Deal*, Trump wrote, "I play to people's fantasies. People may not always think big themselves, but they can still get very excited by those who do... People want to believe that something is the biggest and the greatest and the most spectacular."

Trump's shortcomings are evident. Impeached twice during his presidency and convicted of 34 felonies since leaving office, his record speaks volumes. His unmatched divisiveness and autocratic aspirations threaten to deepen national disunity, harm the environment, and destabilize international relations.

## **The Economy**

While often touted as his strength, Trump's economic policies carry significant risks. Despite a strong stock market, the bond market — a critical indicator of economic confidence — has faltered due to uncertainty about his fiscal approach. Bonds, traditionally a safe investment, dropped after Trump's election as investors anticipated rising inflation and deteriorating government finances under his leadership.

Trump's tariff policies are a prime example of this risk. Though he claims tariffs target other countries, American importers and manufacturers bear the cost, which they pass on to consumers through higher prices. His tax cuts also pose concerns. During his first term, Trump reduced corporate tax rates from 35% to 21%, potentially losing out on over \$1.5 trillion over the following ten years. He promised increased business investment and higher wages; however, these benefits failed to materialize, and the cuts significantly reduced government revenue. Now, Trump proposes lowering corporate taxes even further to 15%, likely exacerbating the issue.

## **Threat to Democracy**

Trump's rhetoric and actions reveal a dangerous disregard for democratic norms. He openly admires autocratic leaders, such as Russia's Putin and Hun-

gary's Orbán, and has pledged to act as a dictator on day one of his presidency. At New Hampshire rallies in 2023, Trump referred to political opponents as "vermin" and immigrants as "poisoning the blood of our country," echoing the rhetoric of fascist regimes.

In October, he stated on Fox News that he would use the military and National Guard against his political opponents, labeling them "the enemy from within." These statements exemplify his authoritarian playbook: extreme nationalism, scapegoating minorities, and consolidating power at the expense of democratic institutions.

## **Divisiveness**

Trump's polarizing speeches have alienated large swaths of the nation while paradoxically

garnering support from some of the very groups he disparages. From the outset of his political career, he relied on fear-mongering narratives. In his 2015 campaign launch, he described Mexican immigrants as criminals and rapists, while vaguely conceding that "some...are good people." Research, however, tells a different story about crime: immigrants are 60% less likely to be incarcerated than native-born Americans, according to a Stanford University study.

Trump's strategy involves making discriminatory claims that appear to exclude his supporters from the criticism, fostering loyalty within targeted groups. He has also exploited social media's unregulated landscape to spread misinformation, often attacking the credibility of other sources while presenting himself as the sole arbiter of truth. In a polarized nation, the president must unify, not divide — yet Trump thrives on discord, serving only his supporters and himself.

## **Cabinet Appointments: Poor Judgment**

Since his election, Trump has filled key positions with unqualified loyalists, prioritizing allegiance over expertise. Examples include:

**Matt Gaetz** as Attorney General: Until he resigned from Congress, Gaetz faced allegations of underage sex trafficking. He has also advocated abolishing the FBI. John Bolton, Trump's former national security advisor, called this "the worst nomination for a Cabinet secretary in American history."

**Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** as Health and Human Services Secretary: An anti-vaccine activist who has spread false claims linking vaccines to autism. But then again, maybe that was just the brain worm talking.

**Elon Musk** as Head of the Department of Government Efficiency: Musk would now be in charge of evaluating government contracts — including the billions of government dollars tied up in Musk-owned companies.

**Pete Hegseth** as Secretary of Defense: A Fox News personality with limited military experience, Hegseth would oversee 1.2 million active-duty troops.

The presidency demands a leader who prioritizes the common good, fosters unity, and acts as a role model on the global stage. Donald Trump has shown time and again that he is unfit for this role. His tenure threatens to stall America's progress in an ever-changing world, undermining its democratic values, economic stability, and international reputation. It's a fine line between salesman and con-man.



# What to expect from Trump's second term



By Paddy Ward ('26)  
CONTRIBUTOR

With only two months until President-Elect Trump retakes the reins of the nation, what policies does he promise to renew, replace, reinvigorate, clear away, or newly implement?

## The Economy

The economy affects all of us, so it's not surprising that it stands once again as the most important issue for Americans. Trump has promoted two major policies for his second term, both being very similar to those in his first term: tariffs and trickle down economics.

He has promised to broaden tariffs to every import entering America. He believes they will not impact domestic prices or decrease foreign imports, but will rather help national industries.

The former president also plans to impose even higher tariffs on China, promising to increase them to 60%, up from the 25% he had imposed during his first term. He also intends on placing a 25% tariff on Mexican imports.

Although he has promised that these tariffs will not impact the prices on goods sold in the United States, there are economists who believe otherwise. During the President's first term, imposing tariffs led to higher prices on many commodities. Companies can be expected to raise their prices as the president-elect seeks to set in motion his plans of higher tariffs when he officially takes office.

On taxation, Trump has made it clear that he wants tax cuts. Primarily, he wants tax cuts for the rich and corporations. He believes that cutting taxes will help corporations flourish and thus benefit the economy.

According to the research institute, Tax Foundation, his tax cuts would increase corporate profits while decreasing



national revenue by \$2.4 trillion.

## Immigration

On the campaign trail, the president-elect proclaimed and promised one specific immigration policy above all the others: the mass deportation of those who have entered the country illegally.

He has taken great inspiration from the militaristic Eisenhower era "Operation Wetback," when hundreds of thousands of people were rounded up, shipped off, and sent back to Mexico. At the time, the border patrol and other agencies had utilized military-like tactics to force immigrants out. Trump has praised this policy in several of his speeches.

He plans for this operation to start as early as day one of his presidency, and it will require an extensive allocation of tax revenue and a substantial re-vamping of Homeland Security.

Other immigration policies to be expected are an attempted continuation of his border wall and stemming migrants from entering the nation.

## Reproductive Rights

The future of reproductive rights is murky for the next four years. Trump's positions differ from that of a large

swath of the conservative population.

He had already scored a victory in the anti-abortion war by appointing conservative judges, leading to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in June of 2022. After that ruling, he has been content having reproductive issues determined by individual states. He has said that he would veto a federal ban on abortion much to the chagrin of many conservative and pro-life legislators.

Moreover, Trump's choice for the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., is pro-choice.

Trump has claimed many policies, but all of them are on the more extreme end. Whether it be economic, immigration, or reproductive rights, he sticks to one side and rides or dies with it. Trump's hopes are to increase tariffs on goods entering the country, cut taxes, and enforce mass deportations. His stance on reproductive rights is a toss-up, but he tends to lean more pro-life.

Once Trump takes a stance, it is hard to deter him from his path, so be sure to listen closely to what he says he will do. Some of these hopes are far-fetched and/or unrealistic as a product of their extremeness, but they are policies which he intends to back with the utmost urgency.

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surprisingly effective and sincere means of expressing Caritas toward one another, and they admitted the next day that there weren't nearly as many Saintsmen on their phones or chatting during Mass as there are during their own school Masses.

Back to the first night, each school played a video showcasing their school in several minutes, and Saints's video stood alone from all the rest. This was in part because of the totally hype clips of our Pit that were threaded throughout the video. Later in the weekend, our SAVI guests reflected on those scenes of Unitas in the Pit and related to us that their student sections were not nearly as well-attended as ours (at least some of the time), and they wanted to bring back a greater emphasis on school spirit — and thereby Unitas — when they returned home.

As we exchanged several stories with the other SAVI participants, we learned about aspects of the other Augustinian schools that we wanted to implement here at Saints. In particular, we admired the house system that many of the other schools use, took note of the life skills classes some schools required for their students, and especially loved the Peer Mentoring system, in which students offer each other mental, spiritual, and overall support.

We decided these would serve as valuable additions to our already thriving school, facilitating a fuller fulfillment of our mission to live out the Augustinian core values.

All these comparisons made between their schools and ours helped us realize that, although Saints definitely has improvements to make, our community is like no other. The ways in which we embody Unitas, Veritas, and Caritas, are truly unique to this corner of North America.

# America: red, white, and red



By Henry Barwick ('26)  
STAFF WRITER

There has been a substantial political red shift across America. Though polls portrayed a close race between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump shortly before the election, once the votes were counted Trump won quite decisively.

Many people are now wondering what exactly happened and how the pre-election polls were so inaccurate. The general consensus among voters is that President Biden dropped out of the race too late, and that the Republican policies in general on the economy and immigration were more appealing to voters.

Let's consider the first reason. Biden left the presidential race and endorsed Harris on July 21, over a month after the last primary election. Many Democrats felt they didn't elect their nominee and that Harris was thrust upon them, and would have preferred if Biden dropped out earlier, allowing them to vet different candidates and choose the best among them. In such a scenario, there most likely would have been a Democratic primary race similar to that of 2020.

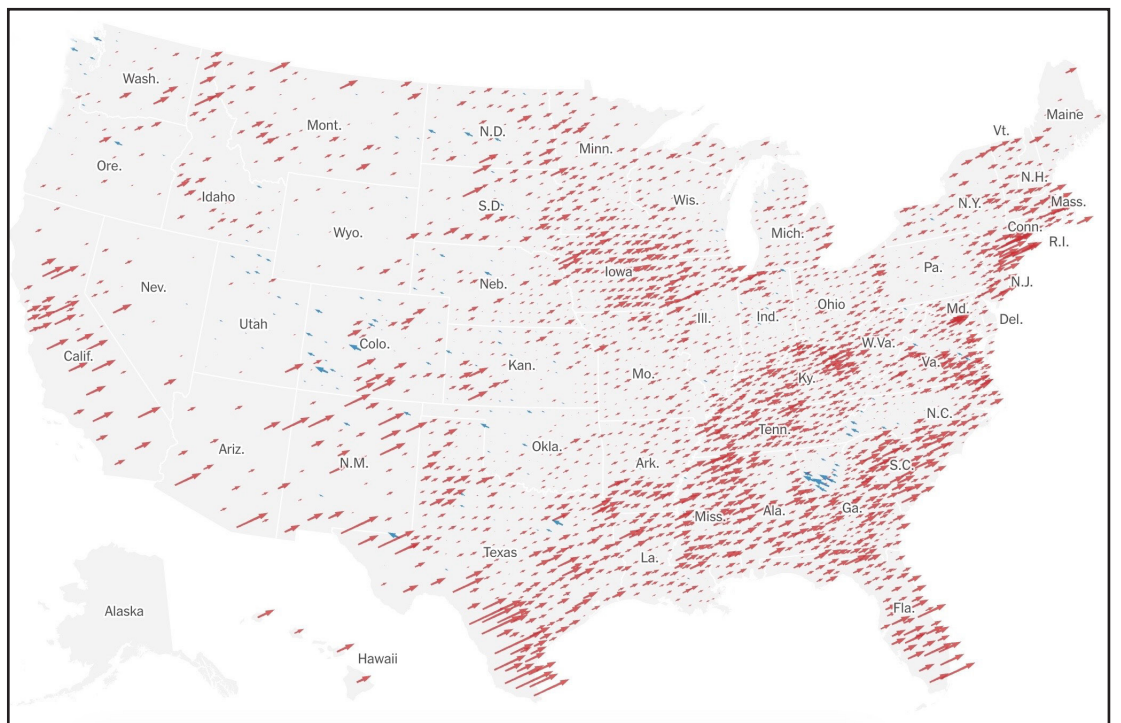
As a consequence of Biden dropping out so late, Harris had a short time frame to campaign, leaving many Americans unclear about Harris's policies and agenda. As a result, many independent and moderate voters swung red as Trump was able to articulate his policies and agenda more clearly than Harris.

Second, even though the American economy is strong by statistical measures, the American people still found fault in the Democrats' management in recent years of power, strengthening the shift towards Republican leadership.

One of Trump's key economic policy items is imposing tariffs on other countries, especially China. In an Ipsos poll completed in October, 52% of Americans supported 10-20% tariffs on all goods imported into the United States, and 53% of Americans supported a 60% tariff on goods imported from China. Trump claims that other countries will pay for these tariffs, and that their cost will not be levied onto the consumer. However, many economists disagree, saying that tariffs of that size would definitely affect consumers.

Another key issue for many voters this election was immigration. In a Reuters and Ipsos poll conducted the week following the election, a quarter of Americans said they want Trump to focus on immigration in the first 100 days. Trump's plan for immigration involves deporting about 11 million people that are currently in America illegally.

Trump's planned policies on the economy were integral, as many



The New York Times

people, especially Latinos, who have leaned to the left in the past, voted Trump this time, as they believe that his policies would benefit them.

The presidential race isn't the only place where a shift towards red power came up. Both the Senate and the House elections saw a rise in Republican power nationwide.

The Senate was effectively taken over by Republicans, with 52 seats being painted red, and 47 seats being occupied by blue members, with one undecided seat (as of November 19). Republicans flipped three states (Montana, Ohio, West Virginia), effectively capturing the first half of the legislative branch.

The other half fell to the red wave soon after, with Republicans controlling the House 218-212 with six undecided seats left (as of November 19). The Democrats managed to flip two seats, but that couldn't suffice, as Republicans flipped four seats.

This red wave paints a massive, modern shift towards a more conservative America. The presidential, Senate, and House elections reveal an overall shift in power, from a blue to red democracy, and a new age for America. Republicans' strategies in campaigning and their policies in general flew them to decisive victories across the nation, highlighting what the American people prioritize in our modern-day world.



# Leave it to Luzi: Thanksgiving



By Michael Luzi ('25)  
MANAGING EDITOR

It's that time of the year again. The air is getting colder, the days are getting shorter, and everyone is just a bit more jolly. Unfortunately, with the holiday season approaching, there are also a few anxieties that linger among people who worry about making this holiday season better than any other. Don't fret, because I'll give you a list of dos and don'ts for this holiday season.

Thanksgiving is already upon us, so let's discuss what to do to keep your family in a jolly mood to last you until Christmas:

## Do discuss politics

Don't you just hate having awkward silence when guests are around? I certainly do. How do I remedy this issue? By bringing up my latest political opinions. Now everyone will chime in and have a great time discussing their political views.

For some reason, such friendly conversations lead to full on brawls, which is pretty weird. But it's nice to get a little halftime show in the middle of your Thanksgiving dinner. Unfortunately, after halftime, things get very awkward, since no one wants to talk, which ruins the whole point of bringing up politics. I'll try again this year and see how things pan out.

## Pranks

Thanksgiving doesn't have to be boring. Make it interesting this year by coming up with some fun, family-friendly pranks that will get everyone laughing.

For example, you can set up fireworks inside of the turkey instead of stuffing. The moment grandpa cuts into

the turkey, set off the fireworks and watch the fun happen. There *might* be some injuries with this prank, but it's all in good fun, right?

Another hilarious prank you can do is gaslighting your whole family. When the table is all set up, the food is ready, and the family is outside throwing the old pigskin around, change everything in the house and hide the food to make it seem like any other day of the year. When your family walks back into the house, act like nothing happened, and your family will walk the prank.

## Don't make turkey

You know, having turkey every year can get kind of boring and repetitive. This year, make things interesting by making some different foods. Instead of turkey, make some enchiladas. Instead of mashed potatoes, make some jello. Instead of pumpkin pie, make some pecan pie.

If you spice things up and make different things, people will definitely remember the dinner you made for them. I mean who could forget such a... unique...meal?

## Don't be thankful

Ewwwww. Thankfulness?? That's a little cliché, don't you think? Remember, don't make this Thanksgiving holiday boring and unoriginal, make it a very memorable holiday. Just go straight emo, and see the reaction you get when you pull up to the dinner table in full black and eyeliner.

I mean, what is there to be thankful about? Loving family and friends? BORING. Food on the table, warm clothes, and a roof over your head? Uh, no thank you. And this year, we got our turkey from Aldi's. GROSS!

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to serve and how you're going to live out God's call. And you're committed to celibacy.

**TA:** What is a typical day as a cardinal like? Are there any duties you'd say most people wouldn't know about?

**McElroy:** Most of what I do is as a bishop — the Bishop of San Diego. So for the most part, they were the same duties I did before I was a cardinal. I meet with priests to talk about their lives, assignments, and the work they're doing. I meet with lay leaders of the parish and different councils on advising the life of the diocese. We come up with ideas to bring the Gospel more effectively into the community of faith in these two counties: San Diego and Imperial County. And then visiting the communities and being with them in various ways, like today with the communities of St. Augustine High School and the Academy of Our Lady of Peace.

**TA:** What would you say is the most challenging part of that or any other role?

**McElroy:** Probably priest personnel because you're dealing with people's lives, and you have to send people to assignments that may or may not be what they desire at a particular moment. We have a good group of priests here, but that's probably the most difficult and challenging role I have as bishop.

And let me say one thing in terms of becoming a priest. Studies show that priests are happier being priests than almost any other profession. It's very high — about 85% of priests are happy being priests. And that's not true in most occupations or vocations people go into.

**TA:** What advice can you offer to young Catholics who may be struggling with the faith in today's modern society, especially those whose personal beliefs might conflict with some church officials' teachings?

**McElroy:** I'd say a huge number of very faith-filled, believing Catholics have particular beliefs which are in contrast with some elements in Church teaching. That doesn't mean they're not Catholic. That doesn't mean they're not faith-filled. It's just a reality of life. As a result of that, I'd say keep striving in the faith. There's a thing in the Church called the hierarchy of truths, which says there's certain teachings that are most important. It's like a pyramid, starting at the top, there are certain beliefs that are crucial, that if you don't have then you're not Catholic: the Trinity, the Resurrection of Christ, Christ's life (walking on the earth, dying for us, and saving us), and the Redemption. So if you don't believe in those, you can't be a Catholic. But, lots of other teachings of the Church that are not as central to the Catholic faith, which people have trouble with, should not cause people to think that they're not good Catholics.

**TA:** In the wake of people leaving the faith, especially youths, do you have any ideas on how to encourage them to return?

**McElroy:** We are struggling with that. This is the case across religious communities, though, not only in the Catholic Church, but rather in our culture. I just came back from the International Synod of Bishops in Rome, and in many cultures, there is this problem of young people drifting away from faith. But there was at the same time, among young people, a residual sense of seeking God in their lives. And so it's building on that, it's identifying with that, and inviting people to build on that relationship that I think is the most effective way to help bring people back to a fuller life in the Church.

**TA:** I recently watched Conclave, and there's a recurring joke that all cardinals think about their "pope name." Have you ever thought of one?

**McElroy:** No, there is no chance I would be pope — zero, zero, zero chance. Never thought about it.

# Chromakopia



By Benjamin Nault ('26)  
EDITOR

In the wake of Tyler the Creator's new album Chromakopia, you, my loyal reader, are subject to hearing the one true opinion on how good this album really is from the one and only me! Chromakopia is evidently a popular album, with ten of its 14 tracks making the Billboard Hot 100.

Honestly, this album is a good one. A GOOD one, not a perfect or stunningly amazing one. There are some bangers (as with most any album that Tyler composes), but on the flipside, there are definitely some tracks that I'd opt to skip when casually listening to it.

Overall, I initially gave the album a 6/10 on my scale for several reasons. Since then, it has risen to a 7.5, but still not the crème de la crème.

Of course, music taste is heavily subjective, so my opinions may not be reflected in what you think (but, for the record, I'm right and you're wrong).

The lead-in song "St. Chroma" is exactly what the first song of the album needs to be. It introduces the themes that Tyler uses throughout the album, and through the song's organization, you can find fragments of the rest of the songs in this one track.

"Rah Tah Tah" is great for a bit, then just gets kind of same-old same-old. That will tend to be a common grievance of mine throughout the album, as some of these songs I feel could have been shorter. Take, for example, the eighth track, "Sticky," a good song for sure. The reason

it isn't one of my favorites is because for the first minute the lyrics repeat themselves and get awfully mundane. After the first minute, the song gets good for a while, then the last 30ish seconds hit and it goes back to the repetition of the chorus, this time in a more creative way, but still in a fashion that I don't think elevates the song.

Repetition is a great device that, when utilized correctly, can result in an amazing song. It cannot, and I can't stress this enough, CANNOT be overused, or else the song just seems like a bore.

"Darling, I," the fourth song on the album, is my personal favorite. It is a nice change of pace from the fast style that is used throughout, with a lot of rap and hip hop elements, changing to a song I'd expect to see on an album like Flower Boy, one of Tyler's albums released in 2017.

The sixth track, "I Killed You," was one that I originally really disliked, but turned into one of the reasons this album rose in my personal rankings. The trumpet elements with the simple percussion evolving into a more complex piece lost me at first, but seeing the shift between complex rapping to more simplistic style grew on me after a few listens.

The seventh track, "Judge Judy," was BY FAR my most hated track at first, and while it's a solid song, it's still not one of my favorites. While I was way too critical of it at first, it still just doesn't hit the spot. There could still be some immediate bias against it, but it definitely is another reason why my ranking went from a mid to a high-mid album.



The ninth and twelfth songs, "Take Your Mask Off" and "Like Him," respectively, are two that I immediately loved. Yet again, two that almost seem more like Flower Boy songs. The latter especially resonated with me, a more heartfelt song from Tyler about his personal life. The more calming melody and ever-present piano just elevated this song on a platform for me.

The last two songs on the album, "Balloon" and "I Hope You Find Your Way Home," are just kind of there. If I had to pin a reason why this album isn't more eight-range, I would pin it on these two. Given, "Balloon" does sound like how

I'd conceptualize a balloon to sound like, both just are a tad strange for me. Nothing personal, but not my favorites. When listening I can't help but think "We get it Tyler, you're weird and quirky."

Overall, it is a solid album, and if a song from it comes over the radio I'll be content — it had just better not be among the select few that I've outlined here. Among Tyler's other albums, I'd say it personally ranks around the third place mark, with Flower Boy and Igor placing ahead of it. Yet again, not a bad one, but darling, I find it quite sticky to correctly rank this album, so I've relegated it to a solid 7.5/10.



# ROTY: Swing and a miss



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

This year's NL Rookie of the Year race has been fairly controversial between the San Diego Padres center fielder, Jackson Merrill, and the Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher, Paul Skenes. Both players had spectacular seasons, making history in practically every game.

But the 2024 Rookie of the Year race will raise much debate over the sanity of the Baseball Writers Association and their decision for years. Although Skenes had an incredible season, Jackson Merrill's accomplishments over the course of the season made him much more deserving of the award.

Considering all of Jackson Merrill's successes, in any other year, he would have been a clear favorite to win the award. However, this year was very different as he started his career during the same season as the #1 pick of the 2023 draft and college World Series champion, Paul Skenes.

Skenes's outings were regularly dominant, complete with a bazillion strikeouts and no-hitter bids, allowing Skenes to snatch the NL Rookie of the Year.

He features a variety of pitches, most notably his fastball, which averages nearly 99mph, and the "splinker," his pitch that mixes elements of a splitter and a sinker to make hitters look foolish. One of his most eye-catching stats is his Earned Run Average (ERA), which sat at a jaw-dropping 1.96 through 133 innings pitched. Paul Skenes has also been considered for the Cy Young award though he fell short of that considering the resurgence of Chris Sale.

While Paul Skenes may have a neat fastball that lights up radar guns, Jackson Merrill is gifted with the far superior clutch gene, being the most clutch hitter in 2024 and one of the youngest center

fielders in MLB history.

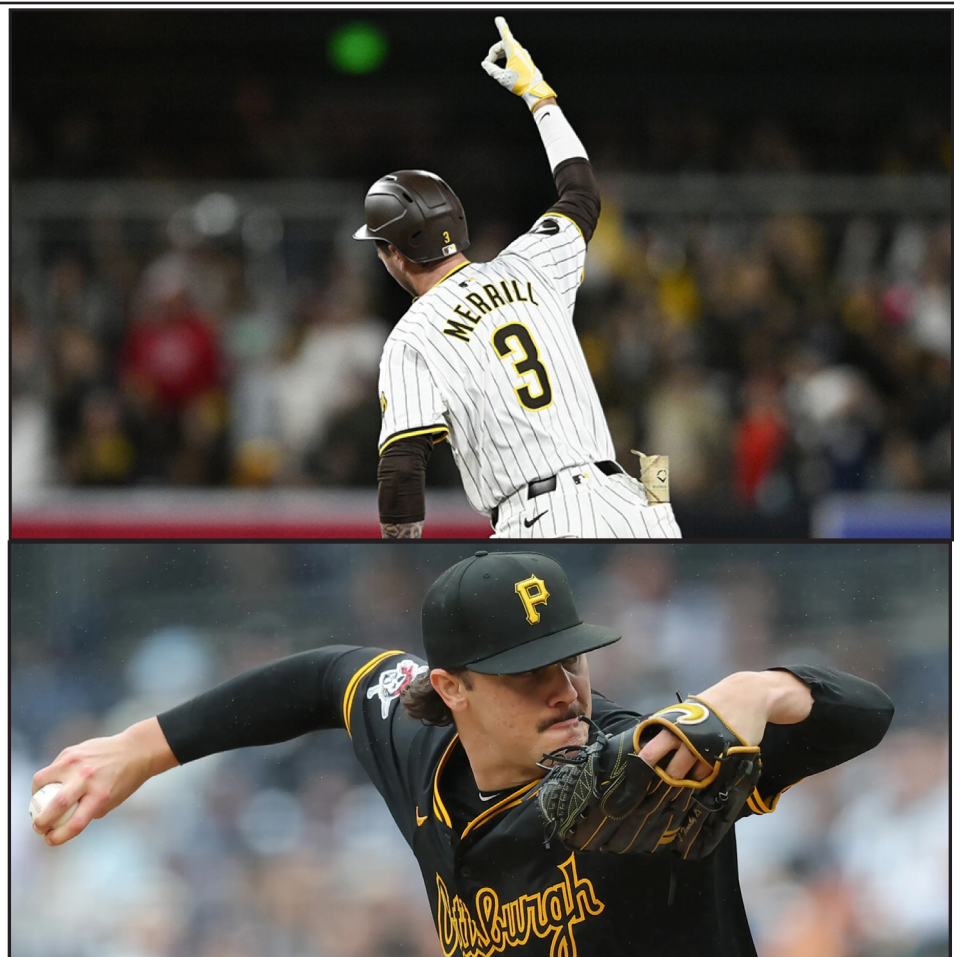
Jackson Merrill, a 21-year-old, was drafted by the San Diego Padres out of high school as a shortstop with the 27th pick of the 2021 draft. Because of the Padres' overflow of shortstops, he was forced to move positions if he wanted any playing time in the major leagues. Despite never playing center field before spring training in 2024, he quickly adapted and spent the season making highlight-caliber plays. Jackson Merrill ranked eighth among all center fielders this year in both Outs Above Average and Runs Prevented, according to *baseballsvant.com*.

His value extended far past his fielding, as he was an elite hitter this year. Jackson Merrill was both a strong contact and power hitter, with a .292 batting average, 24 home runs, and a slugging percentage of .500. According to *baseballsvant.com*, his expected batting average and expected slugging percentage had ranked 98th and 96th percentiles, respectively, meaning he was one of the top performers in these categories.

As mentioned earlier, Jackson Merrill was the most clutch hitter of 2024. He hit six game-tying or go-ahead home runs in the eighth inning or later, the most by anyone this season. This was also the most for a hitter 21 years old or younger since Frank Robinson in 1958.

Jackson Merrill's clutch abilities extend past just home runs, as his batting average in the eighth and ninth innings were .301 and .308 respectively, and 1.000 in extra innings (in three at-bats). His ability to hit for both power and contact will prove to be a scary combination as he becomes a fully-developed hitter later on.

Jackson Merrill's second half is what has solidified his chances to be the 2024 NL Rookie of the Year. Over the last three months, he hit to the caliber of an MVP candidate with an on-base plus slugging percentage (OPS) of .945, comparable to



the 2016 MVP season of Kris Bryant.

As mentioned, Paul Skenes has also broken his fair share of records. Skenes was chosen as the NL starter for the All-Star Game, joining Fernando Valenzuela, Mark Fidrych, Hideo Nomo, and Dave Stenhouse as the only rookies to receive this high of praise. Skenes broke another record by reaching at least seven strikeouts in nine of his first ten career games, something no other pitcher has done.

Despite all of Paul Skenes' successes in his rookie campaign, he should have fallen short of Jackson Merrill for ROTY for a few notable reasons:

1) Jackson Merrill is an everyday player.

Paul Skenes being a starting pitcher means that he only plays roughly every five days. Jackson Merrill was able to give more value to the Padres by playing every

day.

2) Jackson Merrill played the whole season.

Paul Skenes wasn't called up at the start of the season like Jackson Merrill. He only pitched a total of 133 innings, missing out on at least seven starts.

3) Jackson Merrill was playing on a far better team than Paul Skenes.

Unlike Skenes, Merrill was able to contribute to the success of a good team. His contributions and clutch stats in his rookie year helped to propel the Padres into the postseason.

The controversy of the 2024 NL Rookie of the Year race will be debated over the next decade as Skenes and Merrill continue in their careers. Only time will tell whether the decision was correct, leaving MLB fans to decide for themselves whether Merrill should have won the award.

# Cook Cooks: forgotten Thanksgiving favorites



By **John Cook ('26)**  
COLUMNIST

Over the course of American history, Thanksgiving has evolved into the tradition that it is today. First celebrated among the Wampanoag and Pilgrims, the holiday was soon forgotten for many decades until Abraham Lincoln brought it back in 1863. Ever since then, it has been the celebration of gratitude that many are accustomed to.

Given its inconsistent history and long hiatus, the foods that are enjoyed nowadays are mostly different from what was originally eaten. The reasons for this shift range from the introduction of new foods to targeted ad campaigns. Of course, as some foods step into the spotlight, others fall into the shadows and are mostly forgotten today.

The type of food which has changed the most throughout the years is definitely meat. Instead of just eating the large turkeys that everyone is now accustomed to, the pilgrims also ate other wild fowl like ducks and geese. Some reports even have passenger pigeons on the menu.

The main reason that the turkey beat out all these other birds is help from humans. After the decades in which Thanksgiving had been forgotten, Sarah Josepha Hale was the first person to advocate for its institution as a national holiday, and set the idea of turkey as a Thanksgiving meat. She described the idea of a proper New England Thanksgiving in her novel

Northwood published in 1827 and began to advocate for its institution as a national holiday.

In 1863, after a couple years of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln realized how Hale's idea could help to bring people together and strengthen national unity. The first company to capitalize on this new holiday was Swift & Company, and it put out numerous ads for the bird. Overall, the efforts of both Sarah Hale and Swift & Company, which now owns Butterball (the largest turkey company in the U.S.), placing the turkey atop the Thanksgiving power ranking.

Birds are not the only animals lucky enough to be featured in the meal as marine life also has a big role. Just as New England was originally chock-full of fish like cod and bass, so were the plates of the diners, as these fish were easy to catch. Eels were also common to snack on as well as lobster and other shellfish.

When looking at produce, many vegetables that seem like customary traditions have also been added on to the feast over the years. At the time, both potatoes and green beans existed in South America, but they would not have been made available in New England until decades later. The same goes for sweet potatoes and other vegetables that might be served nowadays.

Instead, mostly local plants were harvested. Like the rest of North America, the "Three Sister" farming method was popular among the Wampanoags, so squash, corn, and beans were all staples in the first feast. Squash was



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roasted over a fire or boiled in water, and was mostly a side dish. Corn was ground into cornmeal and made into porridge, and the beans were mixed into stews and porridge.

Some foods like pumpkin and cranberries were also available in the area, but they were utilized differently than today. Cranberries could have been used as a source of sourness in the original dinner, but they were never made into a sauce until sugar was readily available to make it more palatable. Sugar also helped pumpkins get their prominence in pie. While on the first

Thanksgiving, pumpkin was eaten in the same way as squash, sugar allowed it to become the tasty pie filling and the main dish of eating contests.

Over the history of Thanksgiving, the ideal meal has changed a lot. Some foods are added, some are forgotten, and in 50 years, there might be a new dish to serve on the thankful Thursday. However, no matter which way the feast changes, the core belief stays the same: be thankful for everyone in your life, and all the opportunities that life throws at you.



## Remembering Danny Delgado



By Michael Luzi ('25)  
MANAGING EDITOR

Recently, fellow Saintsman Danny Delgado '23, passed away after battling stage four cancer since his graduation from Saints.

"Danny was one of the kindest, most genuine kids I knew. He was a Saintsman in how he understood [others] and was grateful for everything in life," Mr. Wallace said.

Mr. Wallace knew Danny from the time he attended St. Patrick School in North Park up to his graduation from Saints. Danny was enrolled in Mr. Wallace's speech class his freshman year, where their connection grew throughout his high school years.

Mr. Wallace recalled how Danny always worked with integrity and to the best of his ability, without taking shortcuts, because he was determined to succeed in every aspect of life. He strived in his academics, and he was accepted into the University of San Diego.

"He had an overall love for living, for his family, for his friends, for his classmates. It made us all better when he was around us, and his life is an example for all of us to live with humility and kindness," Mr. Wallace said.

Danny's biggest passion in life was soccer. He was very involved in the Saints soccer program, even though he did not make the team. His junior year, he worked as a manager with the team and support-

ed them in any way that he could.

Mr. Johnston, the head coach for the soccer team, heard from Andres Brambila '23, a friend of Danny, about his passing.

"Danny didn't make our team, but Andres talked about how much he respected his passion for the game, and how much he loved to play. He had a passion for the game, and that's why he was a part of our program," Coach Johnston said.

He also stayed connected to Saint Patrick parish and was involved in many of their activities. He wanted to give back to the community that he grew up in. He loved to attend the fall festival that took place every year, and he built friendships with everyone in the St. Pat's community.

"I love our school's theme this year, 'Be Kind,'" Mr. Wallace said. "I think we could change that to 'Be Like Danny,' because Danny was kind, humble, hardworking, and sincere, and he made us all better through his presence. We'll never understand why people get taken from us at such a young age, but if we can live by his example, then we'll know that Danny will always be with us."



DE LA ROSA  
continued from page 1



Above: Michael with his parents at the opening of a new branch of Roberto's.

Left: Michael with artist Walter Redondo.

Courtesy of Michael de la Rosa ('26)

serves the local fishing community and yacht club down the street, so it's often a very busy business. He even said that there's a fisherman that sails all the way from Hawaii who stops at their shop.

Inspired by the example of his family, Michael recently decided to start his own business. Over the past couple of months, he has been operating an Amazon FBA business.

For those of you who don't know, FBA means "Fulfillment by Amazon," and it's a program that lets sellers outsource order fulfillment. In simple terms, it allows third party sellers to store, package, and ship their products with the assistance of Amazon.

Michael uses a process called online arbitrage, where people buy a product from a store or online website and resell it on Amazon. Michael is currently applying for permission to sell the products of big brands in order to increase the size (and profits) of his business.

From the experience of starting up his own business, Michael described the importance of continuing through challenges.

"That's the whole point of business," he said. "It's all about consistency."

Michael's third and final endeavor is perhaps the most intriguing of them all. He holds a position in an art gallery downtown, where he takes care of and helps to sell artwork.

The Walter Redondo Fine Art Gallery in Seaport Village just opened a couple of months ago, and Michael was present for the grand opening.

Michael came upon this job with a

connection through the Saints tennis team. The former tennis coach, Coach Michelle, recommended that he train with Walter Redondo. Mr. Redondo himself was a former professional tennis player — he ranked as one of the best junior tennis players in the country in the 1970s — but he eventually gave up tennis to pursue a career in the arts.

Mr. Redondo offered Michael a position at the new gallery downtown, hoping to fill some openings from staff members who had left for college, including former Saintsman Luke Abrom.

Michael's job at the gallery is based on commission, so whenever somebody comes in and buys any artwork, he gets a portion of the sales. This means that although it may not require as much time and effort as his other jobs, it still takes considerable attention to stay on top of everything.

Having to balance so many jobs can teach many valuable skills, including time management and a hard work ethic. Arguably the most important lesson from his entrepreneurial ability was the importance of networking and creating connections.

"I'm really involved in my community, so I use that to benefit everyone around me to strengthen my relationships with other people." Michael said.

To anyone interested in joining a potential Entrepreneur Club, a club Michael is interested in bringing here to Saints, or to anyone who is curious to learn more about the skills necessary for business and entrepreneurship, contact Michael de la Rosa at 619-776-8158.

## Investing as a student



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By Cole Dolin ('27)  
STAFF WRITER

In the past few years, many students have started trying to make a little money on the side. For some this means working or starting a business (hence the new "Side Gigs" column), while for others, it means investing.

Investing is not only for the wealthy. Anyone can invest, including high schoolers. In fact, the math says that the earlier you begin, the better. Investing as a student can also teach you valuable lessons in fiscal responsibility and discipline. With time on your side, even small amounts of money can grow into a sizable nest egg.

This is due to the magic of compound interest. It's a sort of snowball effect. If today someone invests \$500 and earns a 7% return every year (which is the average amount made by investors), those funds can amass to over \$5,000 in 40 years, an increase by a factor of ten! It may seem like a long time, and it is, but imagine how much you could make if you consistently invest over time.

It's easy to get started. Apps like Robinhood and Fidelity let people invest with as little as \$1. They even allow buying parts of a share if a stock is too expensive. Students can also invest in so-called exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which let them own small pieces of many companies at once. These are safer because they spread out the risk among many different companies and industries.

An example of this would be investing in an EFT which mirrors the S&P 500, a fund which contains 500 of the largest U.S. companies. It doesn't take much to get started — just download the app, tap a few buttons, and deposit a few dollars. Do this consistently over time and watch your funds grow.

Investing is also a great way for students to learn about money and how the economy works. By researching companies or funds, students can understand trends in the business world. Such skills teach you to respect money and manage it with a sense of responsibility. In the long run, this could help you with things like buying a house or planning for your retirement.

Some people might say that students should focus on saving money instead of investing it. Saving is extremely important, but investing can actually grow wealth faster over time. The average expected gains from the stock market are much, much larger than any interest you may have gained by having your money parked in a bank.

A smart strategy is to diversify: don't put all of your eggs into one basket. If you sign a large amount into one stock, you could lose your money if it tanks. Or if you do pursue only one stock strategy, then only invest what you can afford to lose.

So start early, start smart, and compound interest will do its thing. In the end, if history is any guide, you'll have much more than what you started with in the years to come.

## Chaplain's Corner

*Finding balance in life*



By Fr. Max Villeneuve, OSA  
COLUMNIST

Where was Chaplain's Corner last month? Are the editors secretly planning on taking out Fr. Max or limiting his influence on campus?

The fault is not theirs and is mine alone. Sometimes in life you are spinning lots of plates, and sometimes in life you drop them. I got the reminder email, said I would get on it, and then... got busy doing something else. It happens. The key is to not let it happen too often.

I am grateful for this paper, for this column, and to you Dear Reader. When I was in high school (a small school in San Francisco at the time), I was also a columnist with a weekly feature. Journalism can be a great pursuit if it is done well, it is something that at its core is centered

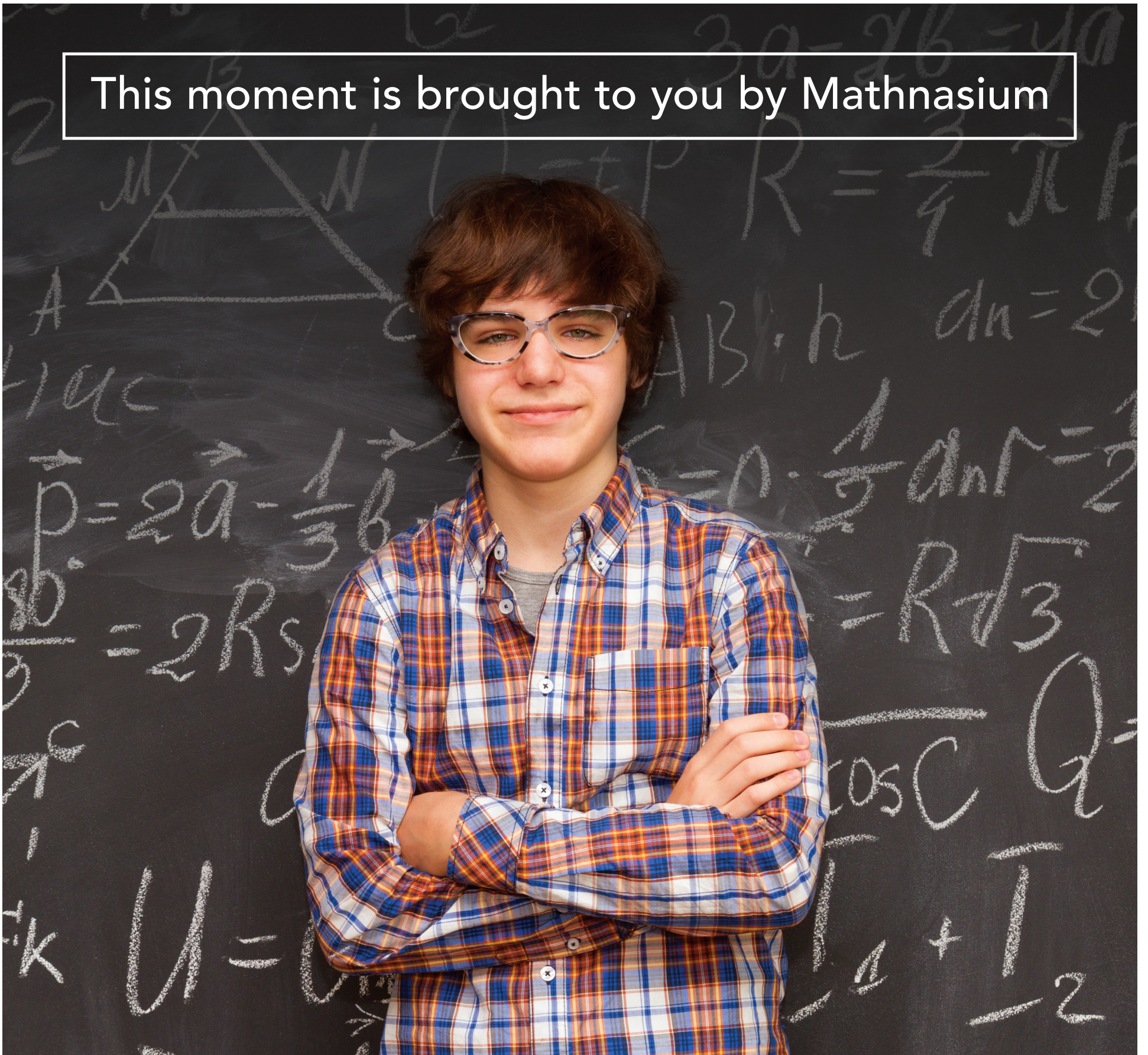
on our core value of Unitas.

There is a lot of BAD journalism that has been done in recent times. The profession is viewed right now as being less popular and trustworthy than just about any other institution. Yet through the ashes we also see new growth—there are exciting and informative long form podcasts and online videos. I know the demand for a podcast by Br. Mauricio would be high! Did you know that I also did a radio show when I was at San Diego State? I've never thought of myself as being both a columnist and a radio show host, but I suppose I am—and I should add newspaper columnist as well. Apologies for the absence. If all goes well and I can keep the plates spinning—

I'll be here again next time.



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# Turkey Trot: Daddy's home



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

As the season comes ever closer, it's time to see who will be crowned the next Turkey Trot grand champion of Saints. One of the favorites for this cherished prize, and possibly a back-to-back champion, is Trent Torres. To give participants a chance of winning, he let me poke around inside the head crowned with last season's laurels, spilling a few of his secrets.

When Trent was asked if he was signed up for the Turkey Trot this year, he said "I am, I just bought my ticket last night." His response indicates what competitors feared most: a lack of respect for timeliness and common booking decency. As all athletes are probably aware, the better a talent is, the less likely they are to sign up and show up in a timely manner.

While signing up is the first step in the greater race strategy, reclaiming the Turkey Trot title takes much more planning. Trent was repeatedly asked if he would win once more, answering this question with multiple instances of a confident "I don't know" and a concrete "we will see." His resolve will be a huge component of any trophies claimed this year.

Competition is the fiercest challenge for any athlete looking for a title. When asked about what the competition will look like, Trent said that it will be "steep" and name-dropped the Arnaudy brothers and senior Ramy Jaibaji as serious competition. With a little prodding, he

recognized Jamison Gerding (on whom I bet my next year's tuition on winning) as serious competition as well.

When asked about the course map, Trent said "the Juniper dip is a little bit scary." Of course, he isn't worried, as he confidently said "hills are my specialty, so shouldn't be a problem."

However, Trent seemingly ignored the potential return of the infamous final bounce house, a recent final obstacle for runners (and walkers alike) to overcome. Is this an honest mistake or a deliberate attempt to lull the competition into a false sense of security?

I think the latter, as when asked about the bounce house later in the interrogation, he said that he would be "pretty happy" if it were to return as it will allow him to "catch" any opposition with his "agility and athleticism."

It also came out that he had been frequenting training parks like Sky Zone, as he said he has been going to "all the trampoline parks." Now THAT is true preparation and dedication to the event.

Turkey Trot training is a major component of Trent's title aspirations.

"I've been doing a lot of hill sprints specifically in preparation for the Juniper dip and a little tempoing." (Tempo running is when you run slower than race pace but for longer distances.)

Luckily, for all competitors, Trent said there was "not much lifting going on," allowing a glimmer of hope to shine through the gloom that had been obscuring the title hopes of many.



Trent taunting his competitors with the hardware. Jamison Gerding ('26)

When asked for some actually helpful advice (for once) about a race strategy people should be following, Trent said, "Go out fast, stay fast. Legs are gonna be sore after the hill, gotta keep grinding through it. Once you get to the home stretch, you just gotta finish on empty."

While part of this plan might be stolen from cross country's "Finish Strong" motto from last year, Trent does provide a viable race plan for any Turkey Trot challengers.

"If you are looking to win the Turkey Trot, go home. Daddy's in town."

# Saints faculty: naughty or nice?

By the editors

We know it's still too early, but we just couldn't help ourselves. With the holiday season approaching, we editors on The Augustinian thought to construct our very own Naughty and Nice list. Which teachers will find their stockings full of goodies, and who will be left with lumps of coal?

*Editors' Note: These listings are purely satirical, as all Saints teachers would undoubtedly appear on Santa's Nice List.*

## Nice

**Chief:** Chief is an exemplary teacher and everyone should abide by his rule: no using the phones unless it's to check in on the wifer and kids. Truly, a man of compassion and care, his *amor* (, *amoris*) will ensure any Saintsman can attract a *lupa*.

**Mr. Cudal:** One could compile an entire book and literary symposium to describe the greatness of Mr. Cudal...and his mustache. Sure, he's a man of literature and mystery, but his most amazing attribute? Humility. The ability to humble cocky freshmen in Honors English I is an incredible skill, only comparable to remembering the color of rabbits and

identifying cannibals.

**STEEEEEEVE:** The man, the myth, the legend. Steve is a superstar at Saints, the yin to our yang, and he puts the 's' in school spirit. Even though he's not faculty, he absolutely deserves the mention. A model Saintsman for us all, we all appreciate the never-ending support and life he brings to this campus. And most importantly, he has a stellar name.

**Mr. Bachynsky:** Even if we had anything bad to say about Mr. B, he holds the key to all editorial happiness and the only respite from the toils of gulag: dinner. We value journalistic integrity over almost everything — but food is where we draw the line. All hail Lord Bachynsky!

**Mr. O'Beirne:** Can you imagine having to put up with all the hooligans that stumble into Student Services each day? These beltless buffoons would strike fear into most mere mortals, but lucky for us, Mr. O'Beirne can never be phased. Buckingham Palace tried to steal him away as a palace guard, but he refused, sporting the same emotionless face as always. We love you Mr. O'Beirne.

**Dr. GO:** The Chancellor of Hype himself. When you see him walking

around campus, you can't help but feel his razzmatazz. Leading the ASB in exciting lunch events, spirit dress days, and rallies, he knows how to bring the awesome party vibes.

## Naughty

**Mr. Segura:** The dress codes and detentions speak for themselves, so much so that the very name "Segura" has become synonymous with the dreaded punishments. Even if he is a really chill guy, you'd better tuck in your shirt or you'll end up with a Segura — I mean dress code.

**Coacher:** Guys, we have some bad news: we heard that Coacher rested on D-Day. This is unacceptable. To go one step further, he made sure that he had a couple snacks on his vacation to Valley Forge. Someone better tell Ustedpac that Coacher is misbehaving; that might whip him into shape and back onto the list of good boys where he belongs.

**Brother Mauricio:** For an Augustinian brother who lives by the core value of love, Br. Mauricio sure loves to strike terror into the hearts of his students. Seriously, we're starting to go insane with all the existential questions and moral dilemmas. To be fair, having to teach

sophomores everyday would make us philosophically question the meaning of life too.

**Sra. Gormly:** Sra. Gormly is going on here for one reason, and one reason only: No talking to chicas until 21. Okay, the Gormster has gone soft in her recent years, bumping the requirement four years earlier, but still: LET US TALK TO LAS CHICAS, SEÑORA.

**Mr. Adams:** C'mon, Mr. Adams, you got to give us a chance. If you're not going to trust the youth of America, you better believe you're going on our naughty list. Sure, maybe we *did* deserve that wall time for testing the trajectory of the tennis ball inside the classroom. Still, you're one dusty, musty, rusty, crusty buster.

**Mr. Sipper:** Yeah yeah yeah, a 90% plus pass rate on the AP test is great and all, but is it really worth the chapters of homework during Intersession? What's a five on the AP exam anyway compared to all the Instagram reels we could've watched? Even if he does a great job with admissions, keeps the school alive, and introduces us to peak cinema (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*), we really just want to enjoy our breaks. Sorry, Mr. Sipper.

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