

# TITAN TIMES

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## UNFORGETTABLE NIGHT: PROM

By Lubianca Gaitan

Junior, Editor-in-chief

With the school year nearing its final chapter, there's one event that's on every upperclassman's mind: prom. It's not just a dance; it's a rite of passage, a moment when memories are made, friendships are celebrated, and the worries of homework and exams fade for a night of fun.

The anticipation for prom begins weeks, even months in advance. Students can be seen filled with excitement, planning their outfits, imagining the perfect evening, and wondering who will be crowned at prom. It's a time when our school comes together, united by one common goal: to make this night unforgettable.

On prom night, students met at school and were then transported to the beautiful



Newport Beach. This year's theme "A singing fill the air, and for a moment, night on the Boardwalk" promises a the dance floor becomes a world of fun experience. The beautiful lights its own, where students shared the of the Ferris wheel brighten the joy of prom.

evening, while also setting the perfect stage for photos that will be looked back on.

For seniors, this prom is even more special It's their last big dance, a final celebration before they go on their different paths after graduation.

Prom is more than just a dance. It's a collection of moments: the shy smiles exchanged over promposals, the proud parents snapping pictures, the teachers keeping a watchful eye while tapping their feet to the beat. It's a night where everyone can shine,



from the wallflowers to the class clowns.

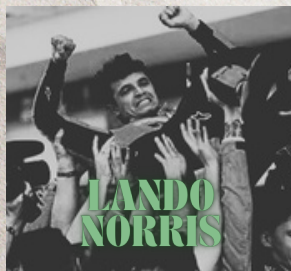
The highlight of the evening was the crowning of the prom king and queen. Among cheers and applause, Carter Worthington and Grace Alosi were named King and Queen. Their smiles were as bright as the stars that shined in the night sky.

As the last song plays, the students of Notre Dame know that this is a night that they will remember. It's more than just the end of the dance, it's the finale of all the memories made.



Photos by Hector Rodriguez/IG: @nvme\_flicks

## THIS ISSUE:



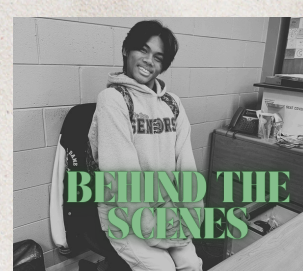
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*"I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful." - Jeremiah 31:4*

# Palestine Protests

By Frances Cramer  
Senior, writer

## The Start

The Gaza and Israel war has been prevalent on news headlines and has grown support for both parties in the conflict from the six months ago when this all started. People have started GoFundMe's in order to garner support and even protest either by marching, standing in front of city halls, or creating encampments on college campuses. The people involved in these riots are "supposedly" demanding change from universities, companies, and people to cut ties financially from Israel.

## What Have Been the Results?

Well I think that what we should ask is if there have even been any sort of results. Other than getting people arrested on college campuses, high school graduates of 2020 are now



Photo by my mom

not getting a college graduation in 2024, and people/companies getting canceled for supporting Israel, or even simply being run by a Jewish family or having Jewish roots.

## My Personal Experience

The weekend of April 12-14th of 2024 I was actually visiting my future home at Berkeley and I saw a protest happening right in front of my eyes. I was in front of Sather Gate (pictured above) and trying

to get the iconic photo to post on Instagram and there was a group of protesters standing in a chain and interlocking their arms while holding a "Free Palestine" poster that looks like it was done by someone who lacked artistic skills. People were chanting to "free Palestine" and that Israel was committing "a genocide". Many of the protesters were wearing traditional Palestinian clothing I always knew that UC Berkeley was

a very liberal university, but finally being able to experience and witness what the New York Times and other news outlets have been reporting on.

## What Exactly is Going on?

On college campuses across the nation, protesters have been arrested by police and the media has been going crazy ever since. Nearly 100 people were arrested at USC, 200+ at UCLA, 35 at Cal Poly Humboldt, and 64 at UCSD.



Photo by The Wall Street Journal

# Notre Dame Favorites

By Lubianca Gaitan  
Junior, Editor-in-chief



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan

As being students of Notre Dame, we all know what a distinct community we have, where many can be engaged in their classes while also learning skills through the various extracurriculars offered. There are also many different factors that make up what is ND, such as sports, clubs, our amazing teachers, and even our special events that we have every month. Although not all students have been here all four years of their high school careers yet, I'm sure most can agree that there is something that they enjoy about our

school, whether that be playing a certain sport, hanging out with friends during lunch, going on college trips, having small classes, or more. Let's see what some of our very own students have to say about their favorite thing about Notre Dame.

Starting off with transfer student Victor ..., he says "How quickly people let me be their friend. People were very welcoming." Another Junior that shared his opinion was Mahim Covender, saying "how many cool events... like the mural event with the mayor was cool."

Justin Martinez, another junior you may know as being a little version of Mr. Ponce says, "The teachers probably [cuz] they are all so chill and you can talk to them about anything." Some of our football boys went on to share their favorite things too. Deon Jordan shares "My favorite thing about ND is the small community. It basically forces you to know everyone and because of that I have made so many bonds with my senior class, underclassmen, and sports teammates that I will cherish forever." Similarly, Ethan Najera says "how tight knit the community is. Like how almost every guy in my class hangs out together, it's kind of like a family." On the other hand, Steven Thomas shares, "all the fun events we hold every year. It always allows for a great time with friends, family, and alumni to get together for some fun. Being in ASB furthered my appreciation for all Notre Dame does for the community." Very inspirational.

Amazing photographer at school, Hector Rodriguez also shares his connection with his friends.

Next, we'll see what some underclassmen have to say about this.

"The teachers. They're really easy to talk to. They're really willing to help you. Another thing is the number of clubs and sports offered. It makes things more fun," shares freshman Roman Nunez.

"Maybe the area to grow and like competitiveness. Like playing basketball in PE or lunch," says freshman Carter Jones, who you have probably seen playing basketball along with other freshmen around school.

Sophomore Mario Cabral, also known for being part of the hit band Fluminis, shared his favorite thing about Notre Dame, saying "the fact that the school doesn't bring as much stress as an ordinary public school. Also, everyone knows everyone, our teachers easily recognize us, and it's not too big of a campus."

Another musician, Kip Castillo, shares "the fact that sports are very influential, especially when it comes to physical and mental strength."

Finally, freshman Doug Cube let us know that the small community, as many others have also said, is his favorite thing along with how everyone knows everyone.



# Lando Norris

By Lubianca Gaitan

Junior, writer, Editor-in-Chief

In the world of Formula 1, where the roar of engines and the screech of tires are the background music that symbolize speed, a new chapter was written on Sunday, May 5th, at the Miami Grand Prix. Lando Norris, the young McLaren prodigy, claimed his first career victory in a race that will be remembered.

The Miami Grand Prix was not just another race, it was a battleground. Max Verstappen, the current reigning champion known for his determination, saw his winning streak come to an end at the hand of the great Lando Norris.



Google images

to be in store for another win, but things don't always go according to plan. A safety car period helped Norris, allowing him to pit and come out with fresher tires and an advantage.

As the safety car was out of the way, the tension was obvious. Norris, now leading, had to counter the advances of Verstappen. But as the laps went down, so did Verstappen's chances. Norris began to pull away, his McLaren moving with such speed and grace.



Google images

The Miami International Autodromo, with its 19 turns and a track that challenges even the most skilled drivers, was the setting. Norris, who had shown promise but had yet to top the podium, found himself in a position to change his fate. After 110 starts, the moment he had been working towards was finally within reach.

As usual, Verstappen, starting strong, seemed



Google images

As Norris crossed the finish line, the potential he had was clear to see. The young driver has done it; he had claimed his first victory, and in doing so, had ended the streak of one of the sport's giants. It was a win that was not only a personal accomplishment but meant that a new contender had arrived.

For Norris, the victory was more than just a trophy; it was the fruit of years of dedication, the result of countless hours of training, and the beginning of what promises to be a growing career.



Google images

# Juniors take the win

By Anthony Elias

Freshman, Writer



Photo by NDHS Media

At this year's Powderpuff for a touchdown. The Juniors did the same Championship game. the Juniors and the Sophomores battled each other for the win, but only one team would end up winning the championship. On the first play, Junior player Leilani got a pancake by pushing Sophomore player Shea on the floor. Then in the next few plays the Sophomores ran the ball in the Juniors then seeing the opening on the left the Juniors ran the ball in for the game winning touchdown.

# MSJ: Tennis King

By Chris Campbell

Senior, Writer

Hello Titans! This issue's athlete of the week is none other than senior Matthew Strode-Jackson! Matthew and the tennis team have put up huge numbers and huge wins during their tennis season this year! The team itself holds an undefeated record in league and are your Inland Valley league champions. On top of this, your tennis champions also went on to play in their league tournament this year and were also undefeated there! All of this would not have been possible without the support and leadership of team captain and MVP, Matthew. His leadership brought the boys to CIF this year where they faced Indio High School. Unfortunately, they didn't make it past first round, but Matthew held his ground and didn't drop a single set against Indio!

It is an understatement to say that Matthew is a monster on the tennis court. His serve hits like a cannon, and when he hits, one would think shots are ringing out on the court! His huge individual performance has led him to a 21-1 win to loss record in league!



Photo by Christian Campbell

Of his wins, multiple were straight game 6-0 wins (a bagel in tennis terms). Matthew also qualified to play in the individual's league championship this year, where he faced many of the toughest opponents from the boys' league season. All of that did not matter to Matthew, because he placed 1st and is your Inland Valley League Singles Champion! Give it up for Matthew and for your Boys Tennis Team!



# Dino Nuggies

By Lubianca Gaitan

Junior, writer, Editor-in-chief

Who knew we could time travel without even leaving campus. Although that's not true unfortunately, you can definitely find something anciently cool about our dinosaur nuggets sold at the snack bar.

The snack bar's dino nuggies are more than just a meal, they're a journey back in time. Each bite is a flavorful adventure, with the perfect blend of crispy and tender, juicy chicken.

The snack bar staff, the heroes behind our yummy food, take pride in being there for the ND community, always with smiles. "They're just so good," says Jaslene Elizondo, a freshmen and self-proclaimed chicken nugget enthusiast.



Not only are the dino nuggies scrumptious, but they're also a good source of protein, making them an ideal snack if you're trying to bulk up or simply need an energy boost during a busy school day. The snack bar ensures that each serving is both yummy and nutritious.

The verdict is clear: the dino nuggies are definitely something you need to buy at least once during your time at Notre Dame, and I can assure you it won't be the last time you get them. With their unique shape, mouthwatering taste, and nutritional benefits, they've earned a top spot in the hearts (and stomachs) of many Notre Dame students.

So next time you're walking around during break or want a little snack, get yourself a fun little prehistoric treat by preordering or waiting in line at the Snack Bar.

# Ap exam season

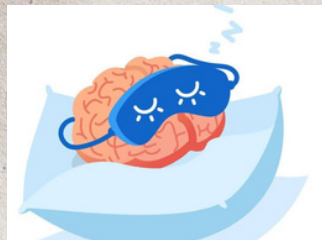
By Sara Sanchez

Junior, Writer



Photo by Google

AP exams start this week!! The next two weeks are some of the most stressful weeks for students. Many often cram the days before and occasionally pull all nighters. While some believe they NEED to stay up the whole night to study before an exam, sometimes it's not always the best idea.



Sleep is important to a person's health and well-being. How you feel throughout the day usually depends on the amount of sleep you got the night before. As your body sleeps, it is working to maintain healthy brain function and your physical health. Sleep is especially important for adolescents as it supports growth and development. It especially assist the immune system. It helps the body restore itself and reduces the chances of getting an illness.

Sleep is important when needing to recall information and memory retention. Scientists to hypothesize that the hippocampus, where long-term memories are processed, have limited storage capacity. Therefore, it is crucial that as we sleep, our brain replenishes our ability to learn. When one does not get significant sleep, it can prove detrimental. With sleep deprivation, learning and recalling information become extremely difficult. Therefore,

next time you think about pulling an all nighter, think again. Plan accordingly and don't procrastinate. You must always make time for sleep. Sometimes, it's just better to get a good night's rest before the big day.



Photo by Google

# Scholar Spotlight

By Elizabeth (Lizzie) Tran  
Senior, Writer

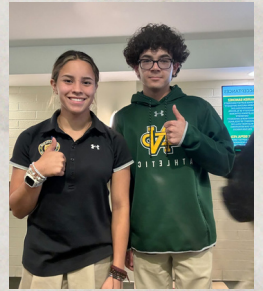
Welcome back Titans to Scholar Spotlight, where we once again showcase our hard-working students in our Notre Dame community who have excelled overall in academics, sportsmanship, and creative abilities. We are already in the month of May, which means AP testing and a nearing end of the school year! Keep working hard and push till the very end, it will all be worth it. In this new issue, we will be pointing the spotlight at our Theology department. While our religious faith is a big foundation to



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan

our school life, the Theology teachers take their time to educate students about our Catholic faith. With that being said, our teachers have chosen some students who they think deserve this spotlight. Good job, guys, and keep it up! Starting off with Mr. Avila, he teaches both the freshman and senior classes. Starting with representing the freshmen are Marek, Luke, and Mark! These three students have always been engaging in class, whether it be getting work done or getting into discussion; they are good kids who know how to keep in touch with their faith. Keep up the good work, and continue being good kids. Next, we have our awesome senior class! Representing us are Makenna, Nathanael Lister, and Ryan Fazio. These students are all super hard-working in

school, while participating through projects and discussion, these kids show a lot through their own faith. Next up we have Mr. Norman's junior theology class, not only does he teach theology but also teaches honors philosophy! The students he has chosen that he believes that does well in his class are Ethan and Cali. Great job guys and keep up the good work! These two students are actively participating and having bright discussions within their faith. Lastly, we have Mr. Nolte's theology sophomore class. We wanted to recognize our sophomores for their great dedication of contributing a total of 2,268 cans for Peer Ministry's fundraiser, Battle of The Cans.



Mr. Nolte chose to recognize the entire class, as he saw that they were doers of the world and saw the spirit of God working in all of them. Keep doing good things and spread kindness around you! While this is my very last scholar spotlight entry, till next time Titans we'll see you soon in our next issue!



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan

## Mrs. Hernandez: ASB Superhero

By Ana Sofia Ramirez  
Sophomore, writer

This week's teacher of the week is none other than the amazing Mrs. Hernandez. It is honestly very difficult to put into words how important Mrs. Hernandez is to our community and the impact she has made on so many student's lives. Mrs. Hernandez is the backbone of the school, as our school's Activities director she is in charge of all of the fun events and activities. She oversees ASB and helps plan all of the great things that makes Notre Dame more than just a school. In addition to being a great activities director, Mrs. Hernandez is an overall phenomenal person. She is always there, supporting and comforting all of her students. She ensures to provide all of the support needed by the students in our community and works tirelessly to make so many events possible.

Mrs. Hernandez has been working at Notre Dame eleven years! During those years Mrs. Hernandez has served as the iCreate teacher, ASB moderator, and Activities Director. She says her favorite part about working at ND is planning all of the fun events. She explains that she loves to see how hard the students work, so she loves to reward the students for all of that effort. Mrs. Hernandez also enjoys building strong relationships with her students, which certainly helps the students grow as people. Mrs. Hernandez's favorite event to plan is Holy War Week and Prom! She explains that it can sometimes be difficult to moderate all of the ideas for Holy War, but it is fun to have a healthy competitiveness between ND and Aquinas.



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan

"Mrs. Hernandez explains that it can sometimes be difficult to manage it all, especially with stress threatening one's mental health, but she says it is important to take a day to recharge before or after a busy week. It is very important, especially during the month of May, which is Mental Health Awareness month, to take care of yourself and take breaks when you need them! On behalf of all of the student body, the Titan Times would like to thank Mrs. Hernandez for everything she does for our school. She works so hard for us students to be able to have fun events and to be able to grow. We know how much work Mrs. Hernandez puts into allowing us to have such a fun high school experience. For that, we say Thank you, Mama Tina!

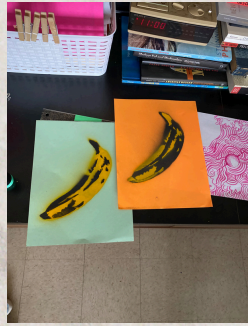
# This is what Space Feels Like

By Elyza Lansang  
Junior, Writer

Just like how we need some time away from someone in our friendships and relationships, space plays an important role in the world of art. Lately, Ms. Stemmann's Art 1 & 2 classes have been learning to use positive and negative space to create compositions.



Photos by Elyza Lansang



In art, positive space refers to the main focus of a picture, while negative space refers to the background or the area that surrounds the subject of the art piece. When used effectively, space can have a real impact on an artist's work. The pictures are some lovely examples of the collages and sprayed-in stencils our artistic Titans have been up to.

# Fallout

By Lubianca Gaitan  
Junior, Writer, Editor in chief

On a different note, while there are many interesting movies out there, it is always good to take a break and look at shows, and in this case, the new Fallout show which is now streaming on Amazon Prime. The show is based on the video game series of Fallout. I grew up playing these games, so this show has a very special place in my heart. Like any fallout game, the show has its own story.



Google



After the great war of 2077, nuclear bombs destroyed the planet, with few people surviving in the underground vaults. The show takes place 200 years later in what used to be California, where Lucy, a vault dweller, is forced to go to the surface due to unforeseen circumstances. We see her development as she goes to living an easy life without worry to having to survive by doing things she would have never dreamed of doing. The effects of radiation on the surface are clear to see and not everyone is as kind as they appear to be. Above, we see the epitome of Darwinism with survival of the fittest in everything. Despite game adaptations not having the best rep, this show remains true to the franchise, with little easter eggs such as the Fallout 4 menu theme or use of caps as a currency. Definitely, a must watch for Fallout Fans.

# Kdot Part Two

By Valerie Arredondo  
Junior, writer

Words cannot describe how good this "innocent" feud between Kendrick Lamar, Drake and J. Cole has been over the course of diss tracks and sneak disses at concerts and other projects. Kendrick first sparked the fire when he featured on Future and Metro Boomin's collaboration album, but on the song "Like That". Following up this verse that took social media and all rap and hip-hop fans straight to their phones to state their opinions,

Drake released his reponse back to Kendrick called "Push Ups." The song was released with minimal exposure but still managed to gain the attention of everyone invested with 46,727,937 plays as of May 2! Drake disses Kendrick and Metro and states it is a 20 vs. 1 which seemed that way until April 30. In the middle of the day on a random Tuesday, Kendrick Lamar releases his response that SILENCED, Drake. "Euphoria" was basically just Kendrick speaking as a

division one hater against Drake and every little thing he does down to his last breath. The beat switch is definitely what catches a listner's attention at first until Kendrick uses his versatile flow and lyrics to absolutely end and take the victory against Drake. Many of my fellow classmates agree that Kendrick Lamar "solos" after this masterpiece. The usage of the name "euphoria" And it's meaning ties that single cover and diss together. Do you think it will continue?

## euphoria noun

eu-pho-ria (yū-fōr-ē-ə-ri-ə)

Synonyms of euphoria >

: a feeling of well-being or elation

Apparently, it is the change in mood—the feeling of euphoria and reduced anxiety—that prompts people to start using this dangerous drug.

— Rita L. Atkinson et al.

They had almost a week to recover from the euphoria of Tuesday's series-winning victory ...

— Clifton Brown

euphoria by Kendrick Lamar  
Google

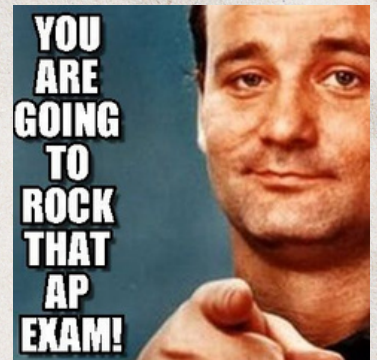
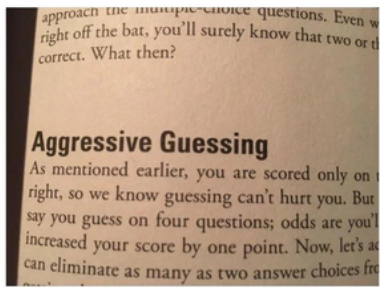
# Laughology

By Notre Dame Students  
Submitted with form

Submit your own memes!

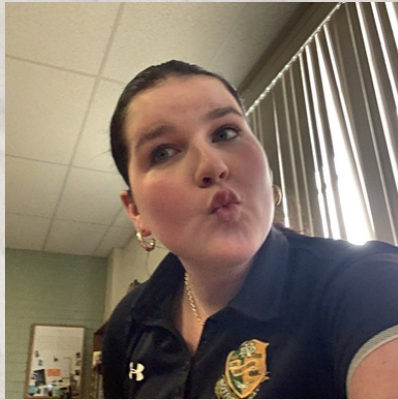
You: What's your strategy for the AP tests?

Me:



# Behind the Scenes

By The Titan Times Team



**People Featured:**

Frances Cramer (12), Edward Jezbera (12), Lauren Petty (12), Giovanna Sandoval (11), Sofia Barajas (10), Mario Cabral (10), Sean Hamoy (12), Steven Thomas (12), Nikki Graham (12), Arely Urena (11), Valerie Arredondo (11), Sarina Franco (11), Monserath Sandoval (11), Mr.Ponce, Shea McCann (10).

**Submit your own pictures!**

# Advice Archives

**Submit an Advice Request!**

**Q: So, I'm a sophomore and this girl I like is a senior (3 year age gap). We're friends and honestly I think she might like me too? The thing is the age gap feels wrong but I'm really into her :( What should I do?**

**A:** Unfortunately, even if you don't want to, you're going to have to get over her. The age gap feels wrong because it is wrong. It's not because it's 3 years, but because it is 3 years during pivotal teen development years. The levels of maturity are different and you are both going through different times in your lives. While you are still in school and not even an upperclassman yet, they are already an adult and going into college in less than a year. My best advice to you is to distance yourself even if you don't want to. This way, you can give yourself some time and space to get over them. Our feelings are hard things to control, and in most cases, we don't exactly choose who we like. But there are times when we have to learn to get over them because they are simply not good or shouldn't develop any further. Maybe cut off contact or at least talk less. Next school year, they will be gone and that will help you get over it too.

**Q: A developing crush is happening with this person and I'm not sure how to act upon it. One, cause I have a hunch that this person may have interest in me, due to his friends actions towards me, and etc., but I just can't wrap my finger around a definite answer. I know this is not much but what should I do?**

**A:** I can totally understand where all these conflicting thoughts can come from. The good thing is that there is a chance he likes you, but don't go letting your delusions take over what you think is real because then you may be let down if reality isn't what you think it is. If you really like him and the thought of not knowing what he thinks is daunting on you, my best advice is, if you're not that close with him, get closer. Become friends first and develop that trust and connection with him. If you're a more traditional and want to wait for him to tell you, you can. If you're impatient, you can also either hint your feelings or just straight up tell him. I know this is said a lot, but if he says he doesn't have feelings, then at least now you know how he feels. If you plan on asking or anything of that sort, I would recommend you wait til you have a decently strong feeling that he might feel the same. Good luck and hopefully things work out

## The Titan Times

[notredameriverside.org/titantimes](http://notredameriverside.org/titantimes)

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