

# FRESHMEN ENJOY A DAY WITH GOD DURING FRESHMEN RETREAT

**By Elyza Lansang**  
Senior, writer

On September 26th, the Class of 2028 had a special opportunity to attend their Freshmen Retreat at the Divine Word Retreat Center. Throughout the retreat, they would partake in fun games, bond in small group time, listen to inspiring talks, and if their heart were open, grow stronger relationships with their friends and come closer to the Lord. By the grace of Jesus Christ, Senior Peer Ministry planned and led the whole retreat! The morning started with socialization and the freshmen coming in, signing in, and being notified which small group they would belong in. The retreat began with Morning Mass celebrated by our Chaplain, Father Paul Schmidt. It was a blessing that two freshmen answered God's calling to help serve at Mass. After they helped with the First Reading and the Responsorial Psalm, Father Paul read the Gospel and gave us the Homily, letting the Holy Spirit guide his words. Once Father Paul gave us all a blessing and concluded the Mass, the Freshmen were dismissed from the Chapel. The students were escorted to the Main Room to begin the Retreat Sessions!



Photo by NDHS Media

## Sessions

The first session began with a quick game of *I Love My Neighbor*. The game was quite enjoyable for everyone and helped break the ice to get everyone comfortable. The first set of talks opened up discussing goals in our lives and what we should strive for. Senior Peer Ministers spoke on striving for life goals to reach your dreams but to also keep God at the center. Later, other Senior Peer Ministers spoke on the importance of choosing and how one's decisions affect oneself and their relationship with God. Men and women had separate talks on peer pressure. Senior Peer Ministers did their best in creating talks centered on Christ but also making them relatable for the freshmen.



Photo by NDHS Media

## Coming Closer to Christ

The whole goal of the Retreat was to have an opportunity for the freshman class to come closer to Christ. The Mass, talks, Adoration, all events in helping the newcomer Titans see that Notre Dame is a school that is focused on aiding them in strengthening not only their relationships with their peers but also growing a closer relationship with the most important figure in our lives, Jesus Christ! God willing, I sincerely hope and pray that the Freshmen attended this Retreat with open hearts to let the Holy Spirit move their hearts. God Bless us all and God bless the Class of 2028. Go Titans!

## THIS ISSUE:



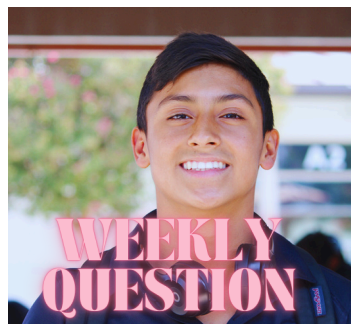
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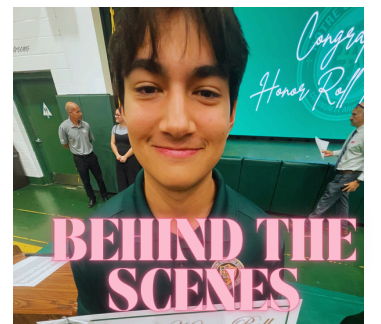
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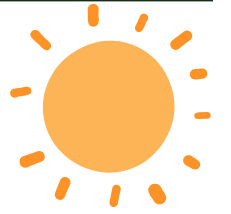


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# Freshmen and Seniors come together to enjoy a lovely picnic



**By Lubianca Gaitan**  
*Senior, Editor-in-Chief*

On September 25th, Seniors and Freshman came together and enjoyed a nice little picnic at Shamel Park, a Notre Dame Tradition that dates back decades (Don't believe us? Check out our yearbooks in the learning commons).

On this special day, the weather was quite literally perfect, with the sun shining and the cool breeze making it truly feel like Autumn, although we all know now that it was only a facade.

As the tradition goes, seniors buy the food for the freshmen, and this year there was quite a pattern when it came to the munchies. Bags of Chick-Fil-A, In-n-Out, and Cane's could be seen all around the Park. Poor Chick-Fil-A workers had to prepare so many meals for so many kiddos.



Photo by NDHS Media

As a senior, I had the blessing to have two freshmen buddies, along with a senior partner. After having ordered some Chick-Fil-A for our kiddos, per their request, we took a nice little spot at one of the tables and chatted while we ate. This experience can be helpful for both Freshmen and seniors, where freshmen can have someone to have and not feel alone, and seniors can leave

behind something before they go off to college.

With my freshmen buddies, we conversed about music, what they are looking forward to this year, boys, and how their classes are going.

After eating, students had the opportunity to have a water battle with water balloons and little squirt guns available to use.

Overall, the experience brought together our school's youngest and oldest students, both on different paths in their lives, with some just now starting their high school careers while the others are about to step into adulthood.

One of the freshmen, Sean Rodriguez, shared a little bit about what they thought of the whole picnic, "I enjoyed that you grow outside of the freshmen class and get to meet new seniors and learn from them." Can't wait to see what brings of the next picnic at the end of the year.



Photo by NDHS Media

# Mock Trial's Jail Tour

**By Jude Cramer**  
*Junior, writer*

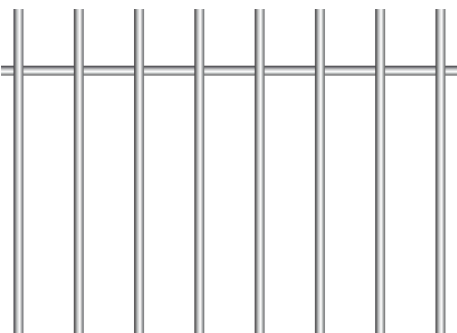
On October 7th, our very own Mock Trial team took a field trip to a local jail, getting a close up look at the real-world legal system. This experience was eye-opening for many students, including me. It highlighted the serious consequences of criminal cases beyond what we usually see. During our visit, we had a chance to tour the facility and speak with correctional officers. Sam Voorhis, a prosecution attorney for our team, expressed how the experience changed her perspective, "When we argue cases in mock trial, it's all hypothetical. You're trying to win your side, but there aren't real consequences if you lose.



Walking through the jail made me realize the stakes in a real courtroom are so much higher. These people's lives were forever changed by decisions made by lawyers, judges, and juries." Our favorite part of the field trip was our visit to the cafe at the jail. The jail has a program put in place that teaches women how to become baristas and learn the craft of coffee. They can work to get hours and get accredited to be food handlers by the state of California. We got or order whatever we

**Xavier Felix (11)**

"While the entire experience was informative, they had the most fire coffee shop ran by the inmates there. The tour started, and they brought us into the coffee shop. The officers leading the tour let us get coffee and the inmates got to work. There were about twenty of us and they were very efficient. The coffee made by the inmates was yummy. The rest of the tour was very interesting. We saw how complex the jail system is. I think the most interesting part of the system was how secure everything was. We visited the jail cells for the prisoners and they were on a pretty strict schedule. The windows looking in were nearly one way so we can look in but they could not see us. There were special door mechanisms keeping the inmates securely inside. For the rest of the tour, the officers showed us the different security perimeters of the jail. Overall, it was pretty cool."



## NFL Week 4

**By Lubianca Gaitan**

*Senior, Editor-in-Chief*

The fifth week of the 2024 NFL season was nothing short of spectacular, filled with unexpected upsets, nail-biting finishes, and great performances from both seasoned veterans and rising stars.

### Monday Night Football

kicked off the week with an interesting matchup between the Kansas City Chiefs and the New Orleans Saints. The Saints pulled off a stunning victory, thanks to a game-changing interception by defensive tackle Khaleke Hudson, who returned it 37 yards for a touchdown. Saints' Foster Moreau also made an impact with a spectacular touchdown catch.



The Miami Dolphins faced off against the New England Patriots in a tightly contested game. The Dolphins narrowly edged out the Patriots with a 15-14 Victory, showing their resilience and determination.

One of the most thrilling games of the week was the Ravens vs. Bengals showdown, which went into overtime. The Ravens clinched the win with a 41-38 victory, really demonstrating their offensive power and solid defense.



The Vikings and Jets battled it out in London, with the Vikings emerging victorious with a 23-17 win. The Texans also pulled off an upset, defeating the Bills 2-20 in a game that kept fans on the edge of their seats.

Week 5 was also the time for rookie quarterbacks, who delivered impressive performances and proved their worth on the field. Their contributions added an extra layer of excitement to an already really thrilling week of football.

As we head into week 6, fans are left wondering what surprises and spectacular plays the next set of games will bring. One thing is for sure: the 2024 NFL season is shaping up to be one of the most exciting in recent history.

## Swimming in October

**By Roman Nuñez**

*Sophomore, writer*

For the past two weeks, the boys' water polo team has been putting on shows. At the Varsity and Junior varsity level, they are forces to be reckoned with. They have only league games left, so now it really means business. They are currently 3-1 in league and tied for 2nd place overall. Their overall record is 4-3 with about 6 games left on the season. They have shown grit, strength, and unity in the games. Our first league win came from Eisenhower due to a forfeit. Unfortunately, we lost the second league game, but nearly coming back showing that we play all the way through. Moreover, our second league win was against San Gorgonio and our most recent win was against Summit putting us tied for second against Arroyo Valley. Our team focuses on playing selfless



water polo, really moving the ball around and ultimately finishing.

Let's not forget our Junior Varsity team playing their hearts out every rep, every practice, and every game. They are currently undefeated overall. Some of them even have great varsity stats as well. They bring the energy, bring the heat, all the time. Everyone on this team has worked to where they have gotten and their placement. Their next game will be against San Gorgonio 10/9. Fontana High school is the team to beat, and this team will come back with a fire set under them and an urge to beat them. We wish these boys Good luck.

## Run, Run, Run!

**By Alan Baltazar**

*Freshman, writer*

Freshman Kevin Calderon is this issue's Athlete! He is a great student and runs for our school's cross country team. When asked to why he joined Cross Country, he said "I wanted to run cross country because it is a great confidence booster. Cross country is a very mental sport."

This is not Kevin's first time running, for he has run track before, alongside other sports. He shares, "I wanted a challenge, and cross country has been great at providing the challenge I need." He is always excited to run at a meet and wants to achieve the best times possible.

By running cross country, he'll accomplish this in no time! On the track he is on, he will represent our school and accomplish his goals!

Always with a smile on his face, we see how he puts effort into every aspect of his high school career despite only being in his first year. With only two months in, he is already achieving so much and



standing out not only as an athlete, but as a student and person overall. You can never catch him being a negative betty, and is a very charismatic person. He is the light of any party, and is able to bring a smile to anyone's face. He is a very smart kid, and a great friend to be around!

Kevin Calderon is coached by Coach Valdivia, and has been coached very well as he demonstrates on the track. Run, run, run Kevin and win us some trophies for this school year!

# Hubie Halloween

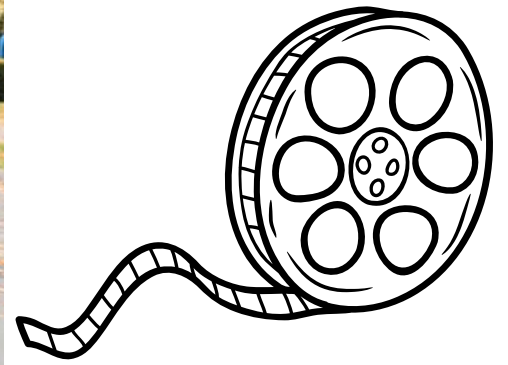
By **Sonny Dominguez**

*Sophomore, Film writer*

The film "Hubie Halloween" directed by Steven Brill is a comedy that is family-friendly that uses an amazing cast led by Adam Sandler in the main role. The setting is the town of Salem, Massachusetts and the film follows Hubie Dubois a good but socially awkward man whose obsession with Halloween makes him a target for bullying. The film has a balance between heart and humor showing Hubie's kindness even though he receives teasing from his neighbors. Sandler's portrayal is both endearing and humorous having the essence of someone trying to fit in. The supporting cast has familiar faces like Kevin James and Julie Bowen and adds to the film's charm creating plenty of comedic moments. Although, the film's reliance on slapstick humor and predictable plot twists may not resonate with all viewers.

While younger viewers might ignore the antics and silly scenarios some older viewers might find the humor a bit juvenile. Moreover, "Hubie Halloween" catches the spirit of Halloween with a festive setting and colorful decorations. The film blends traditional Halloween elements with a lighthearted narrative, and it

makes it good choice for movie night. Overall, "Hubie Halloween" displays a fun experience and although it may not be Sandler's best movie it embodies the spirit of Halloween and has laughs for viewers of all ages.



# Pre-game Hype Music

By **Matthew Baculo**

*Senior, Music writer*

This is a question for my Titan athletes out there. How do you mentally prepare for a game? Some say that they visualize the game in their head and some say that they meditate, but another popular way to prepare for a game is to listen to some pre-game hype music. What is pre-game hype music you ask? Pre-game hype music is music that usually consists of a high upbeat tempo to get listeners excited/pumped up and ready for the game. This combined with lyrics that make you feel like you can't lose, motivates athletes to do their best! These are some examples of popular pre-game hype music!

## "We Will Rock You" by Queen

The simple and powerful phrase repeated throughout the song (We Will Rock You) combined



with the iconic stomp-stomp-clap rhythm makes for a song that gets the adrenaline pumping. Not to mention that it's easy to learn the lyrics and rhythm which makes it easy to sing and clap along with other teammates.

## "The Final Countdown" by Europe

"The Final Countdown" by Europe is a popular and catchy song often used before Football games to excite and rally fans. It's unforgettable synth riff and epic chorus provides a high energy song with a dramatic build up to get athletes hyped for the game.

## Overall

Using pre-game hype music is a great way to get rid of any pre-game nerves and get motivated! Tune in next issue for more music!

# Tech Talk

By **Sebastian Bou Harb**

*Senior, Tech writer*

What's up Titans!

On this week's edition of Tech Talk, we're going to take a look at some of the software that Apple released a couple weeks back in September. That would be non-other than the long-awaited iOS 18 as well as the iPad variant, iPadOS 18. Some key features we saw in this update include visual customization of your home screen, new functionality in the user interface, and Apple's new robust AI feature, Apple Intelligence. Let's go a little more in depth to give you guys an idea of how it works.

## #1 Customization:

A long awaited requested from Apple users was to be able to alter the appearance of app icons by changing the actual photo and colors. Apple took a step in the right direction by allowing users to change app icon backgrounds from white to black and the ability to tint to a certain color. You can also now make the icons to a bigger size. To make these changes, go to your home screen, hold down, press "Edit", and select either Light, Dark, Auto, or tinted.

## #2 Control Center:

One of the biggest additions in the iOS 18 update was the upgraded control center, which is the menu that pops up when you pull down from the top right corner. With update we know see a lot more tiles of functionality and the ability to customize and organize it, but that's not it. There are now different pages you can navigate in the Control Center, the favorites page, Music, Home, and Wi-Fi/Bluetooth/Cellular. This new Control Center is comparable to widgets, but like a smaller scale version, with a lot more functionality.



## #3 Apple Intelligence:

Apple Intelligence is Apple's all new integrated AI, that will be coming later in the fall. Apple promises it to be a personalized assistant that draws on your context and previous actions or patterns. Think of it like a Siri on steroids, that can now, generate advanced text and images. More information is supposed to come later in fall near its release and it's shaping to be one of Apple's biggest introductions of software. Thanks for joining me for this issue, till next time.

# The Eight Immortals

**By Gael Campos**  
Junior, Sports Editor

Eating out is and always has been a gamble for your safety. There have been numerous incidents in the past where customers have found the need to press charges against fast food workers for spitting in their drinks, forgetting to unwrap burgers from their tissue packaging, or leaving behind a bloody surprise on their fries that was definitely not ketchup. However, not even in your wildest dreams could you imagine biting into a steaming hot bun filled with fresh human meat. Well, customers at The Eight Immortals restaurant, a humble dim sum shop in Macau, did not have to because it was a horrifying reality for them. To

give some context, this particular restaurant specialized in *char siu bao*, which roughly translates to “barbecue pork buns.” The owner was a former street hawker who had decided to move into a more permanent location. However, in addition to being a popular chef in the area, owner Zheng Lin and his wife were noted to be heavy gamblers, something not surprising considering Macau is the only region of China in which gambling inside of permitted establishments is legal. The pair were so addicted that they



resorted to borrowing money from others to fund their impulsive lifestyle. This is where Huang Zhiheng is introduced, an infamous loan shark and fellow gambler in the area who gladly lent the family some spare change for only one thing in return: their lives. On the evening of August 4th, 1985, shortly after the restaurant had closed for the night, Huang entered the establishment and demanded that the family pay him 30,000 patacas on the spot, roughly

3,730 USD. When the family refused, he swiftly murdered each one of them, with ten of them there that day. Their bodies were dismembered and disposed of promptly, in various locations. However, what stands out about this case is the fact that, even after killing the family in cold blood, Huang continued to run the restaurant for them, likely to leach off of their profits. Due to this, many believe that the family’s body parts were ground up and blended into the meat used for the dumplings, especially since much of them were not found, in their entirety at least. Huang was apprehended on September 28th of the next year and eventually died of suicide while incarcerated.

# Why You Don't Need a Hoco Date

**By Doug Cube**  
Sophomore, Spotlight Editor

As we look back at homecoming, it seems as though there are more and more homecoming proposals by the day. For the single people here at Notre Dame, such as myself, this can make you feel lonely, or desperate for a date, however, this is not the way to be thinking. I believe that thinking this way only causes more negativity than necessary.



Whether it be because your crush has already been asked, doesn't like you, or your just not interested in anybody, it can still feel lonely going to homecoming by yourself. But I think that if you feel lonelier without a date, you're thinking about it wrong. It doesn't matter who you go with to homecoming, but what you do and if you have fun.



Even still, it's not like you're missing out on anything. It's not like having a boyfriend will get you into Harvard, and in the wise words of Señora Losón, “No novios/novias til PHD.” Instead, I think that there are better ways to make use of your \$40 ticket, like hanging out with friends, or eating the food that is provided at the dance. Or you can pick your favorite couple, and third wheel them for the entire night, be the Jesus that they need to be leaving room for.

If none of these options float your boat, maybe Homecoming isn't the thing for you, and that's ok, because God has a time for all of us, we just don't know when. I would like to leave off on that note, as we should all begin to put more our trust into God as we continue through the school year, allowing him to guide us. Remember to stay safe and have fun!!

# Weekly Question:

**What is your average Screen time?**



“4 hours and 39 minutes” - Mr. Villescas



“5 hours and 16 minutes” - Victor Reyes, 12



“12 hours and 34 minutes” - Shea McCann, 11



“5 hours and 22 minutes” - Diego Escobar, 10



“3 hours and 29 minutes” - Gavin Cardenas, 9

# Unpopular Opinon, but...

“Hamilton is overrated. Like, it's pretty good, but it isn't all that.” - Anonymously submitted

[Submit your unpopular opinion](#)

# Behind the Scenes



**People Featured:** Alex Alvarado (12), Ella Sulis (12), Brock Owen (9), Jude Cramer (11), Roman Nunez (10), Doug Cube (10), Diego Gonzalez (12), Tawney Haluskey (11), Nichless Calderon (10), Michaela Rodriguez (11), Adrian Reyes (11), Nathan Hott (12), Lubianca Gaitan (12), Elyza Lansang (12), Kip Castillo (11)

**Submit your own pictures online!**

# Advice Archives

[Submit your requests online!](#)

**Q: Girl let me tell you, there's this other sports team on campus that thinks they are better than every other sport . It takes everything in me every day not to tell them off. Any advice?**

**A:** Well, let's be honest here, most sports probably think their sport is better than the rest. Now, when it comes to the team itself, even if they have an insane ego (which FYI is a sin and not good), the best thing you can do is just let it go. Nothing is ever that deep and you're only going to torment yourself, and for what? Once their season is over, all of this will be behind you and no one will even care. Also, try and think of it this way: At least they have a tight-knit bond among the team. At ND, this is something that really pushes forward and helps to create that sense of unity. Although it may get on your nerves, trust me I've been there too, you just got to learn to move past it. Look at it in a brighter light and admire that the team is actually trying to stand out and leave behind something this school year. We need that right now.

**Q: I am double jointed and dance weird. I asked my crush out and I'm scared they'll ditch me bc I dance so weird. Help me**

**A:** There is nothing wrong with being double jointed or dancing weird. If dancing is really something you're worried about though, just try and practice as much as you can. You already asked them out, and that's the scarier part. If they don't like you because you dance weird, then they're simply not worth it. You gotta tell em to get outttt!!! Just be yourself and if they judge you, they're just being weird for that. Your personality matters more than your ability to woo away the judges at the little miss dance star competition. Go rock that dance floor with the sprinkler dance for all they care! As long as you're having fun and feel the music, you're all set. They don't like it? Sucks to suck, imagine being boring? Couldn't be you.

## The Titan Times

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