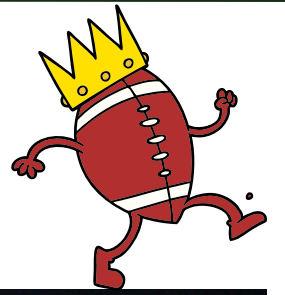




## HOMECOMING HYPE: SCHOOL SPIRIT AT ITS PEAK



By **Lubianca Gaitan**

Senior, Editor-in-Chief

Homecoming is a time-honored tradition that brings students together to celebrate school spirit, sportsmanship, and a sense of community. This year's events were no exception, with a fun spirit week to sum it up. For some, this was their last Homecoming before going onto college and going into adulthood. For others, this was their first Homecoming experience in their high school careers. For the rest, it was just another homecoming, but that's okay. Adding to the excitement of Homecoming were the announcements of the Homecoming court. The underclassmen court included Freshman Princess Karys Bella Cajimat and Freshman Prince Alexander Trujillo, Sophomore Princess Gisselle Arellano and Sophomore Prince Jerry Munoz, as well as Junior Princess Sophia Saldana and Junior Prince Joseph Sonsoma. For the seniors, the competition was even more intense, with four princesses and princes vying for the crown. Senior Princesses Elyza Lansang, Kaitlyn Nguyen, Nathaly Romero, and Victoria Quiroga, along with Senior Princes Ethan Lansang, Gian De La Cruz, Kaden Rodriguez, and Matthew Baculo, were all celebrated. Ultimately, it was Victoria Quiroga and Kaden



Photo by NDHS Media

Rodriguez who were crowned Homecoming Queen and King! Their crowning was the perfect way to cap off the spirit-filled week.

### Time to Boogie

The Homecoming dance, held on October 11th, brought a dreamy atmosphere to Loft 84 in Riverside. From 8-11 p.m., students celebrated under the theme "Sweet Dreams," surrounded by pretty decorations and sugary treats that matched the occasion. The DJ kept the dance floor buzzing with a great mix of music, making sure there was always a crowd dancing and having fun. A photo booth added an extra touch of excitement, capturing moments of laughter and friendship. A special moment was also held for the Homecoming Queen and King to dance alone on the dance floor. The venue's elegant ambiance made for the perfect backdrop for the evening, making it a night that felt like stepping into a dream.



Photo by NDHS Media

### Football, Football, Football!

The Homecoming football game took place on October 10th at J.W. North High School, where the team faced a challenging matchup. Despite a tough 0-50 loss, the boys played with determination, giving it their all on the field. The score may have not favored them, but their effort and teamwork stood out, showing their commitment to the sport. With an eye on improvement, the team is already gearing up for the future.



Photo by NDHS Media

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"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast." - 1 Peter 5:10

# Homecoming Spirit Week!

**By Minh Lai & Lubianca Gaitan**  
Sophomore & Senior, Editors

Homecoming was preceded by a fantastic Spirit Week that took place from the 7th of October to the 11th of October. In preparation for one of the most attended school events, ASB surprised Notre Dame with different dress up themes for every day of the week.

The overall theme of Homecoming was Sweet Dreams, with every spirit day having a sweet twist. The week started off with M&M mixup on Monday! Students could come to school dressed up in their craziest mismatched attire. Many came with different shoes or sock, or even mismatched hair.

Tuesday was NERDS and Smarties Day, so students were decked out in “nerdy” attire. Glasses, suspenders, and silly little outfits could be seen all around campus, allowing students to let their inner smart kid shine!

Meanwhile, Wednesday was Crunch the Competition Day, encouraging Titans to wear sports attire, mostly including shirts and jerseys. We got a feel for the sports teams that make up the Notre Dame community, some being the Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Yankees, Dallas Cowboys, Las Vegas Raiders, and many more. Our very own team went around interviewing the community!



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan | (left to right) Daphne Egizi, Michaela Rodriguez, Adrien Reyes, Shea McCann

Thursday brought us Taste the Rainbow, with students dressing up in their class colors. Freshmen were Orange Crush, Sophomores were Lemon Heads (yellow), Juniors were Blue Razz, and finally the seniors were KitKats (red).

To sum up the week, we had a very relaxing day after our Homecoming game, ending the week with “rolo”ver out of bed, and wearing pajamas to school, somewhat in preparation of the weekend!

The entire week was filled with many days that brought out our school spirit, with our pep rally on Thursday being the epitome of it all. Junior Michaela Rodriguez shared a little on her own experience, saying “I thought it was a great pep rally. Shoutout to the junior class for carrying the energy. #boothefreshman.”

Let’s see what other fun spirit weeks come in the future! Stay spirited, Titans!



Photo by Lubianca Gaitan

# Do They Really Deserve a Second Chance?

**By Gael Campos**  
Junior, writer

The release and exponentially increasing viewership of the new Ryan Murphy-directed Netflix series *Monsters* has sparked a growing fascination with the Menendez Case, in which brothers Lyle and Erik Menendez were charged for the murder of their parents, José and “Kitty” Menendez. The crime drama has catalyzed a deeper investigation of the case, conducted by both prosecutors and the media. While viewers are obviously most drawn to the actors portraying the brothers and the excitement of such a



thrilling plot, a vast sea of fan edits and dedicated researchers looking at any case details with a magnetic lens have raised two significant questions regarding our behavior and morals amid all of this: do criminals really deserve a second chance, and are we further contributing to the glamorization of them? A few individuals were interviewed and asked to put in their two cents on the topic, and they were able to provide some very insightful perspective.

**Ana Sofia Ramirez (11)**

“Hm... that’s a hard one. I think it’s a very nuanced situation in general. While I do think inmates should be able to prove they’re

willing to reform themselves and get their place in society back, just letting them out as is will definitely only cause more harm than good. If we really want to help these troubled individuals, we must provide them with the proper resources needed for their rehabilitation. However, I think the Menendez case differs in that the two brothers committed their crime out of necessity, and their case should be looked at with their circumstances in mind.

In terms of the second question, I think we’ve just become so desensitized to stuff like this that we’ll make memes and edits of it, and it’ll be like a coping mechanism, or a way to distance ourselves as far as possible from believing that this is actually a very real-life matter.”

**Ally Patel (11)**

“I think we all need to have a certain degree of compassion when looking at cases like these, especially since a lot of us would have done the same if we were in their shoes. However, I think

the two questions are kind of interconnected because they both give way to another point, I think is really important to talk about, which is these criminals actively exploiting whatever fame they’re getting to boost their chances of being advocated for. I mean, we saw this with Gypsy Rose, who literally had her reality TV show set to be filmed before she was even released. I think her case and that of the Menendez brothers have that specific difference of them not trying to bask in the glory as many others would. It’s just a very unfortunate thing, and it goes to show what we as humans can do.”



Photos from Google Images



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Photos from Google Images



# Scholar Spotlight

By Dana Clark  
Junior, writer

When hearing the term 'psychology', what comes to mind? Perhaps, specifically the brain, or more broadly, a classroom; maybe even Ms. Bravo's AP psychology class! With being such an information-rich course that requires lots of studying and understanding from neural communication in one's brain to various psychological disorders, this class ultimately is guided efficiently by the amazing Ms. Bravo. As comes the substantial insight from both the course material and an incredible instructor, also

comes splendid students who are to be highlighted for this issue's Scholar Spotlight! Given the time, three notable students were greatly emphasized for all of their hard work and determination in this demanding class. Starting off, Ally Patel is consistently engaged within class. Additionally, her contributions are always quite thoughtful and inquisitive when it comes to the class's learning material. Next, Johnathan Medrano is known for his hard work. He always tries his best in everything he does, including this class; keep up the good work!

Last but not least, Alina Saldana is recognized for her strong and significant determination in gaining all the knowledge she can within this class. This dedication is especially admired and greatly inspiring! With that being said, congratulations to Ally, Jonathan and Alina for being recognized as three outstanding scholars in AP psychology! Your consistent efforts are much appreciated. To all fellow Titans, continue staying kind and keep up the great work!



Photo by Jude Cramer

# Halloween Munches

By Doug Cube

Sophomore, Spotlight Editor

As we settle into the month of October and inch closer to Halloween, the pumpkin flavors begin to plunder fast food chains, restaurants and grocery stores. If I'm being honest, I've never had a liking for pumpkins, I just never understood the hype around the flavor, yet here I stand, about to review the different forms of the flavor that is visiting us this year.

To start off, it would be a crime not to mention it, but the Starbucks fall lineup. Starting on the 22nd of August this year, this list of beverages is outshined by the star player of the fall season, the Pumpkin Spice Latte. Now while I'm not the biggest fan of pumpkin, I do agree that Starbucks knows what it's doing. The PSL is one of the most pumpkin drinks that I've ever had. This iconic drink has trailblazed the way for other pumpkin drinks and has made itself the queen of all of them. One other fall item from the Starbucks menu, that I would like to mention, is the Raccoon Cake pop. This small and sweet treat is by far my favorite item in the fall lineup. While its flavor is quite basic, the decor can remind you of some people around campus. In other words, its bomb.

One other thing that I would like to mention has to be one of the most iconic foods for around this time of year, Pumpkin Pie. I have to say that Pumpkin Pie is literally the only valid pumpkin flavored food item. Sometimes, it's the only sweet treat available, but that's not a bad thing. If I had to convince people to eat only one pumpkin thing, it would be Pumpkin Pie. I love pumpkin pie, and I think that anyone reading this should go cut themselves a slice of it, topped with some whipped cream. Happy Halloween!!



Photo by Starbucks

# Mr. Marin

By Jude Cramer

Junior, Entertainment Editor



Photo by Xitlali Ortiz

Since starting in August, Mr. Marin has already made a strong impression at Notre Dame High School, teaching AP Biology and Honors Biology. For this edition of the newspaper, he's our featured teacher! To help everyone get to know him better, we asked him a few questions—here are his answers!

**Q: "What made you decide to become a teacher?"**

A: "In undergrad I studied psychology and I was in between the medical field or also entering education, I actually have a minor in education. I decided to give it a shot after some time after working in the healthcare field with a background in bio and biomedicine, so I saw this position open up here in the biology department, so I took it. It's been great and I love the environment and the students."

**Q: "How did you feel on your first day ever teaching here?"**

A: "There was a lot of nerves, but a lot of excitement, especially being in an environment that is also Catholic and being able to apply that with my students."

**Q: "What is your favorite book/movies/tv-show?"**

A: "Funny enough my favorite movies are 'National Treasure' especially because in high school I didn't like history."

**Q: "Do you have a favorite type of music/artist?"**

A: "Worship music."

**Q: "Are you into sports or any outdoor activities?"**

A: "Yea, so I really like basketball. I'm coaching here at Notre Dame (JV team) and assisting with Varsity. I also like to run and I did cross country in high school and track. And my favorite team is the Lakers."

**Q: "What is one place on your travel bucket list?"**

A: "Rome, go Catholics!"

# LaLa Land

By Doug Cube

Sophomore, Spotlight Editor

In 2016, one of the most iconic Ryan Gosling movies, La La Land, hit the screens. In this award-winning movie, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone play the two star-crossed lovers, Sebastian and Mia. When the film begins, our main characters encounter each other in different situations, even



Photo from Google Images

though they both lead very opposite lives, as Sebastian is in a band and a jazz enthusiast, and Emma is a struggling actor working at a coffee shop.

In one of the first encounters, Sebastian is playing a gig at a restaurant, dissatisfied with the set list, he plays a jazz song, which would end up getting him fired. Mia hears him playing jazz on the piano, however when she goes up to compliment him, she is promptly ignored by the newly fired Sebastian. However, Mia gets her revenge when she later encounters him playing at a party, in which she requests a song that did not need Sebastian's instrument, the keyboard. This annoys him so much, that he confronts Mia about it. This eventually leads to them talking throughout the party. Even when it ends, he helps her find where she parked her car. It is this interaction that leads to one of the most memorable scenes from the movie, in which our two lovers dance on a mountain, overlooking the lights of Los Angeles.



Photo from Google Images

After this scene, they both continue to see each other on dates, spending their summer together on dates around Los Angeles, showing their love blossoming for each other. Throughout the summer, they also both pursue their own interests, Sebastian begins to take more gigs with his band, while Mia begins to practice and rehearse a play she has written.

As the movie progresses into Fall, both Sebastian and Mia begin to succeed in what they

their personal goals, however, it becomes apparent that they cannot be together whilst doing what they love. This comes to a standpoint when Sebastian is late to the play that Mia had wrote. This leads to their eventual break up, with one reunion, in which Sebastian convinces Mia to take a chance and become an actor. This takes us to the ending, which I will not spoil, because I believe that you need to see it yourself. On that note, I encourage you all to watch this film.

# “Good Luck, Babe!”

By Sydney Cramer

Sophomore, Hot Topics Editor

This week's artist spotlight is none other than your favorite artist's favorite artist, Chappell Roan.

Chappell Roan has quickly become a pop sensation, especially with one of her latest hit single, “Good Luck, Babe!” taking over the internet. Fans can't get enough of Ms. Roan, but what makes her so different from the rest?

Originally from Missouri, she started out as a street singer, performing at parades and sidewalks, captivating her small audience by her powerful voice and talent long before she became the internet's favorite pop star. She started her music career with slower, emotional songs, but now, her sound has changed into something more upbeat and even rebellious.



Photo from Google Images



Photo from Google Images

Chappell's bold and fun personality is another thing that makes her so popular. She is known for her playful style and makeup that reflects her fun energy. Chappell wears a lot of makeup as a form of self-expression and to embody her true, unapologetic self. Her songs talk about love, self-confidence, and figuring out who you are. Her creative outfits, vibrant makeup, and confident attitude make her someone people can connect with.

Chappell's music tells stories that a lot of people can relate to. “Good Luck, Babe!” is a perfect example. The song is all about wishing luck to one that got away, knowing they might not be happy with what they chose. The lyrics are honest and real, and the song's super catchy chorus makes it easy to get the song stuck in your head.

# De-extinction

By Lubianca Gaitan

Senior, Editor-in-Chief



Photo from Google Images

I'm sure many of you have probably watched Jurassic Park at one point or another, or at least know about it. Would you believe me if I said that people are trying to recreate it, but in real life? That is what Colossal Biosciences, a biotechnological company, is trying to do. Their goal is to bring back iconic extinct species like the woolly mammoth, dodo, and Tasmanian tiger. Recently, Colossal announced a major breakthrough in their efforts to revive the Tasmanian tiger, also known as the thylacine. Using CRISPR technology, Colossal has successfully reconstructed a nearly complete thylacine genome, with just 45 gaps remaining.

Unlike Jurassic Park, which used frog DNA to fill in the missing pieces, Colossal is using DNA from the only Dinosaurs that aren't extinct: Birds. Another thing that Jurassic Park did wrong was placing these dinosaurs in environments that they were maladapted to. Colossal wants to not only bring back these animals, but also work on them so they can be adapted to our modern times by seeing its most important and unique characteristics and focusing on them so they can adapt to modern ecosystems, especially since they have changed in the past couple millions of years. Now, is Jurassic Park predicting the future? Who knows. Seems we'll find out soon! Which animal would you like to see be brought back?

# Who's your look-alike?

Sent in by Students



Alex Alvarado (left) and Rod Wave (right)

Young Sheldon (above) and Sara Sanchez (below)

Ellison Tolenti (left) and Steph Curry (right)

Jared Rodriguez (left) and LeBron James (right)

Kris Landa (left) and The Creator (right)

Zachary Qui (left) and Jimin from BTS (right)

Alan Baltazar (left) and Karan Brar (right)

## What is the Grammar Police?

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

Have you ever been texting a friend and then you use the wrong your/you're or the wrong their/there/they're, and then they whip out the "it's actually you're\*," well trust me, you are not alone. That can be quite annoying, and many times can discourage you from even texting. Now, as someone who has been on both the sending and receiving end, I know that I have some mixed opinions on the matter. Being part of the grammar police is not something I would say I am proud of, but at the same time I am.

Now, what IS the Grammar Police? To put it simply, the grammar police are those people that understand grammar and correct those who don't care about grammar. On the surface, this may seem like it's "doing too much," especially when it is between casual conversation

their  
there  
they're

such as texting, but in reality, it can go deeper than that.

The Harvard Business Review published a study discussing how successful people tend to have better grammar skills. Now, a casual conversation that ignores the differences between 'your/you're' can make one get used to forgetting grammar entirely and that can then bleed into essay and general writing skills. Good grammar skills are crucial for conveying ideas with clarity.

The study points out that the informality of email, texting, and social media has crept into company communications, leading to grammatical errors that can affect the way you portray yourself and also how effective the message you're trying to share is.

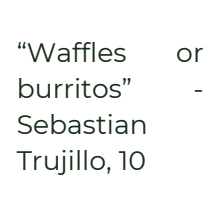
As teens, we've all heard how older generations talk about how we have our flaws and such, but why do we continue to prove them right? I don't know about you, but I am very proud to be able to write a coherent sentence. That little change can go a long way if you make sure to turn it into a habit, and better yet, you won't even have to worry about being corrected ever again. So, if your friend corrects you while you are texting, even though it may be annoying, maybe try to listen to them. They're only trying to help.

## Weekly Question:

**What is your go-to morning snack?**



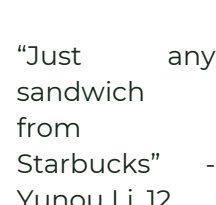
"Starbucks Brownie" - Annie ..., 9



"Waffles or burritos" - Sebastian Trujillo, 10



"Starbucks Egg Sandwich" - Daphne Egizi, 11



"Just any sandwich from Starbucks" - Yunou Li, 12



"Starbucks Turkey egg sandwich" - Mrs. Galvan, iCreate

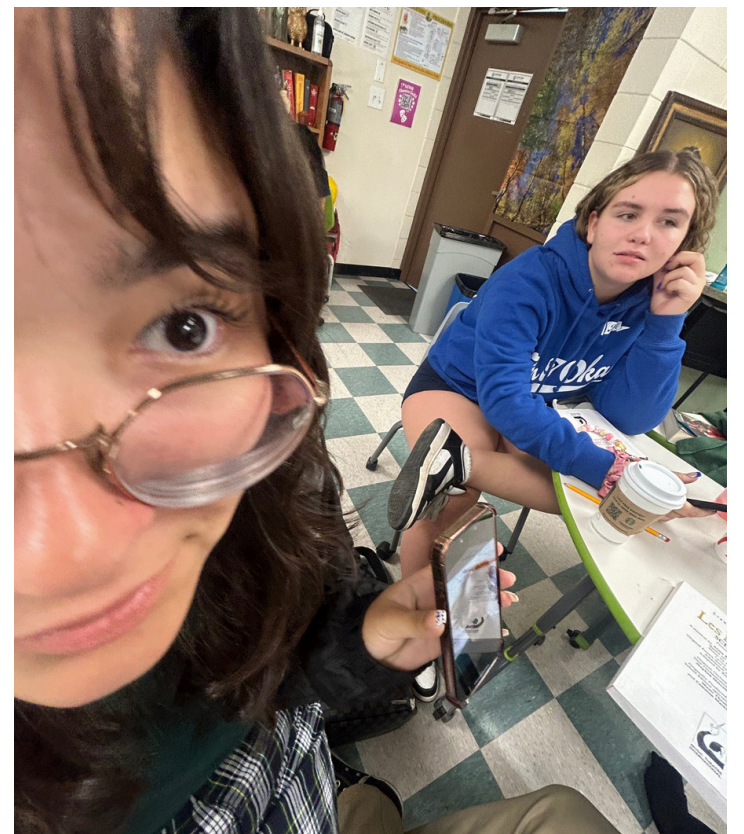
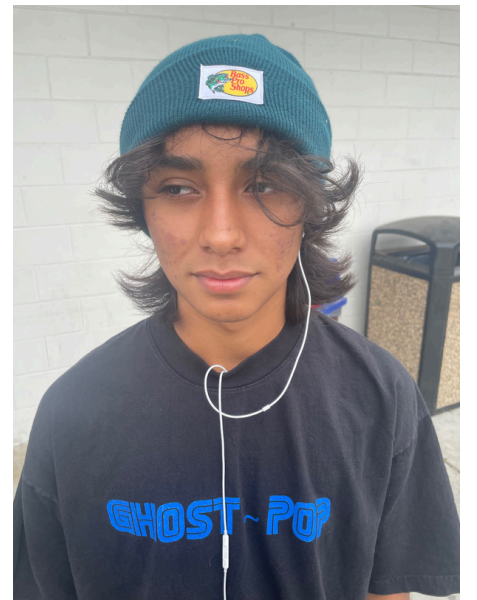
## Unpopular Opinon, but...

**"Wendy's has better Chicken Nuggets than McDonalds" - Anonymously submitted**

[Submit your unpopular opinion](#)

# The weeks in pictures...

Images sent in by students



**People Featured:**

Ellison Tolenti (12), Cali Gonzalez (12), Roman Nunez (10), Alan Baltazar (9), Nico Kendall (12), Kevin Calderon (9), Sydney Cramer (10), Nichless Calderon (10), Lubianca Gaitan (12), Jared Rodriguez (12), Tawny Haluskey (11), Mr. Avila, Abigail Tulis (9), Sebastian Peña(9), Jaslene Elizondo(10), Amanda Martinez(12).

**Submit your own pictures online!**

# Titan Advice Corner

**Submit your requests online!**  
**(It's completely anonymous)**

**Q: How do we put our volunteer hours in (freshman)???**

Dear Freshman, you can ask Mrs. Hernandez, Mr. Johnson, or Mr. Nessman for assistance. You can also go on to the school website, go to the top, click on 'Students', and click on 'Log service hours'. It will then bring you to X2Vol, which is the site that Notre Dame uses.

**Q: There's a rumor going around school that I did something I didn't. It's affecting my friendships and reputation. How can I clear my name without making things worse?**

Dear Rumor Victim, you should talk to your friends privately, explain the truth, and avoid feeding into the gossip. Stay calm and let your actions show your character. The rumor will fade if you don't engage with it, and I'm sure it will blow over.

**Q: I've been struggling with time management lately. I have a part-time job, schoolwork, and extracurricular activities, and I feel overwhelmed. How can I balance everything without burning out?**

Dear Overwhelmed, Balancing multiple commitments can be tough. Start by creating a schedule and prioritizing your tasks. Break down bigger tasks into smaller, manageable ones. Don't forget to make time for self-care. It's okay to take a break too.

**Q: I'm struggling with body image issues. I feel like I don't look like everyone else, and it's affecting my confidence. What can I do?**

Dear Beautiful person, Body image issues can be really tough. Remember, everyone is unique, and beauty comes in different shapes and sizes. Focus on what makes you feel good about yourself. It's important to love and appreciate your own body since it's a gift from God and he made us in His image.

**Q: My best friend and I had a huge fight, and we haven't talked in weeks. I miss them, but I'm not sure how to make things right. What should I do?**

Dear Reconciler, you should start out with a simple message, saying you miss them and want to talk. Be honest about your feelings, listen to their side, and apologize if needed. It might take time, but starting the conversation shows you actually care and want to fix things between y'all.

## The Titan Times

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

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**New Issue bi-weekly on Tuesdays**

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