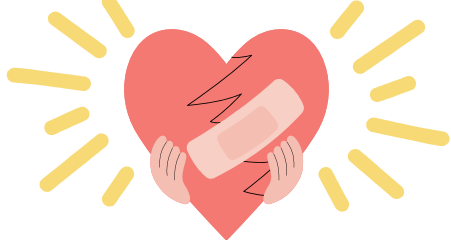


THE FEATURE

We're a month and a half into the new year, and SI is looking a bit wounded. From the remains of the demolished Carlin Commons and the bare-bones north side of the H, to the dozens of students hobbling around on crutches, there are countless wounds waiting to heal into scars.

For this issue, we wanted to feature these wounds, their healing processes, and the scars they create. We examined the new building construction, the dozens of injured athletes, and bridging gaps between generations. We learned that SI is a resilient community that emerges stronger after every challenge.

We hope you enjoy this issue!



CONSTRUCTION CREATES GROUNDBREAKING CHANGES TO CAMPUS

Sierra Murphy '25, Kate Quach '25, Shay Moriarty '25 Editors-in-Chief

THE BUILDING IS SHAKING?! This time it isn't from the construction, just the excitement of the new issue of *Inside SI* being hot off the press! Ever since the wrecking ball was swung against our beloved Commons during winter break, students have been welcomed back to campus with exciting jolts and groundbreaking classrooms – both physically and academically. While we welcome the hope of the new building for our future community at SI, we can't help but wonder how our current students and faculty are managing the earthquake-like atmosphere that occurs during our school day.

As the construction of the New Learning Commons and academic classes occurred simultaneously over the last few weeks, jolts and vibrations reverberated through the walls of the academic building. The machinery and



builders working to break down the thick foundational layers of The Commons and Jensen Hall created quakes that resounded up to third floor classrooms.

Mr. Michael Patterson, whose classroom sits at a corner on the top floor, experienced unexpected movements resulting from the construction while class took place. "When they were taking out the foundation, you could definitely feel the whole building shake," said Mr. Patterson. The chemistry teacher recalls the suddenness of the building rumbling as feeling "scary" and echoes his students' observations that the tremors possessed more significant strength on the third floor rather than the first floor. Mr. Patterson noted that despite the presence of the walls shaking, he has not noticed any major disruptions within his students' engagement with the coursework. Ultimately, he states, the construction of the New Learning Commons is "an exciting reminder that there are good things to come."

Director of Buildings and Grounds

Continued on Page 10

ARTS & LEISURE

SENIORS STRUT THE FASHION SHOW RUNWAY

Ava Murphy '25 Managing Editor

The second semester is underway, which means the famous Senior Fashion Show is almost here! The fashion show is a beloved and favorite tradition among seniors, faculty, and the entire SI community.

Seniors flock to the event to strut their stuff and strike a pose for friends and family—and, of course, to support the school!

The show is meticulously planned and coordinated by the Ignatian Guild and the senior models. Under the "bright lights," with an ode to a selection of "big cities," the seniors prepare to entertain the crowd.

Each segment of the celebrated show depicts a different American city while the models don outfits reminiscent of the iconic symbols of that city. From the Wall Street financiers of New York City to the Mardi Gras attendees of New Orleans, the show has something for everyone.

Approximately thirty seniors will participate in each segment and have a key role to play in that city's number as they walk down the runway to an iconic song about that city. Excitement is building all over 37th Ave!



AFFINITY

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Princewill Onyebuchi '26 Contributing Editor

Every February, African Americans find community in a shared history of disenfranchisement and struggle, and also triumph, beauty, and celebration. Black History Month is a celebration of African American history, the past contributions of Black people to the United States, as well as what notable African Americans have accomplished and continue to accomplish today.

The evolution of the term and celebration of Black History Month began in 1926, when the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History dedicated one week of February to honor Black history. By the 1970s, the term "Black History Month" was coined, and has been recognized and celebrated for



FSA students celebrate Black History Month during an assembly.



BSU invites all to attend their 2025 showcase on Feb. 22nd.

Continued on Page 7

SEE INSIDE



STUDENT COUNCIL 2025-26 Page 4



CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE Page 7



BRIDGING GENERATIONS Page 10



OPINIONS ON PHONE CADDIES Page 12



BRUCE MAHONEY BASKETBALL Page 19

PERFORMING ARTS ASSEMBLY WOWS THE CROWD

Julian Ozaeta '25

Managing Editor

On Tuesday, February 4, the whole SI community witnessed its student musicians, dancers, and actors—all wearing their red performing arts sweaters—take to the stage of McCullough Gymnasium. As students, faculty, and staff shuffled into the facility and situated themselves on the bleachers, SI's own High Five opened with a thrilling rendition of Chappell Roan's "Good Luck, Babe!" The annual Performing Arts Assembly was underway!

After High Five's spectacular performances, including "Leave The Door Open" by Silk Sonic, seniors EJ Gantz, Alexis Paras, and Cooper Rollings—cast members of the spring musical—welcomed the student body to the assembly and supported the remaining acts as emcees. Then came pieces by all three SI choirs: Treble Singers shared "Winter Trees" by The Staves, Chamber Singers presented the resounding ballad "When the Earth Stands Still," and Mixed Chorus sang the dynamic "Can You Hear?"

Additionally, members of the dance department performed two compositions of beautiful, emotive choreography. Senior Madison Lau stated, "I feel fulfilled that I

was able to show the school [the] hard work that [the dance program] put in during the fall and make Ms. Calalo Berry's vision come alive." She also commented, "Being able to dance with my friends is always fun, and we always have a great time with each other."

Students involved in the spring musical, "The Drowsy Chaperone," then described their experiences in a few documentary-style videos, with members of the cast and stage crew speaking about the joy and excitement of building a production from the ground up.

Following that, the Symphonic Orchestra played an energetic rendition of "Mambo" from West Side Story and accompanied the vocals of Cassandra Conde '26 for the piece "Stand By Me." And finally, Jazz Band performed "High Maintenance" and "Amanda" with gusto, featuring improvised solos from all the horn players and the band's drummer.

Overall, this assembly significantly allows SI students to share their dedication to various artistic disciplines with the broader campus community. Maya Briones '25, who accompanied Treble Singers with guitar and supported Mixed. Chorus as an alto,

expressed her gratitude for this annual event: "I love the Performing Arts Assembly because it's finally an opportunity for artists at SI to showcase their talents to the whole school. Music, dance, and drama all bring so much life and depth to this community, in my opinion." Explaining her experience in more detail, she noted, "While it is nerve-racking to perform in front of everyone, these talents and passions deserve to be represented at [SI], and I'm so proud of what we (the performers) were able to accomplish."

Indeed, all the performing artists at the assembly gave everyone an inspiring taste of the department's creative and expressive pursuits! And to student readers: these productions are sustained by students' commitment and passion, and you could be part of a future show. Do not hesitate to audition, learn, and share your talents—look at the art you could create!

And make sure to show up to "The Drowsy Chaperone" in March, the Spring Choreography Showcase in April, and the Spring Pops Concert in May!

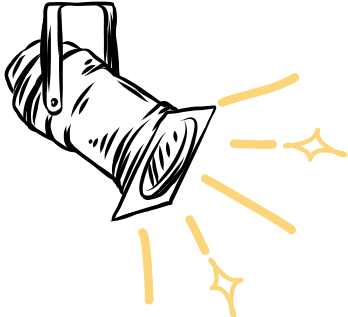


SI celebrates their performing arts with spectacular performances by dance workshop, choir, jazz band, orchestra, and the "High Five" band, with actors from the spring musical as MC's.

THE SPRING MUSICAL TAKES THE STAGE

Shay Moriarty '25

Editor-in-Chief



The actors in the spring musical have been working hard to bring "The Drowsy Chaperone" to life.



Sophie Barsoian '26

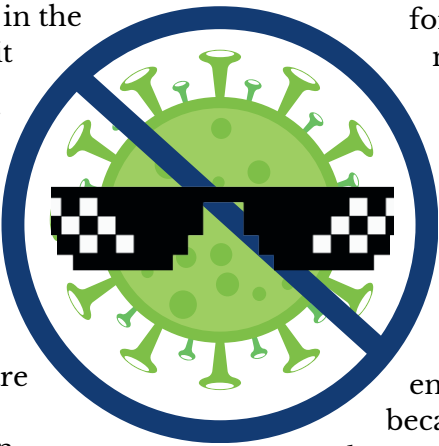
A "SICK" READ

Managing Editor

On January 28, approximately 250 students, about 15% of the student body, were absent from school. SI's once bustling hallways seemed quieter, and classrooms were left with rows of empty desks, leaving behind a perceptible emptiness in the atmosphere. What was causing these noticeable, albeit temporary, absences?

The culprit, it seems, was illness. At this time of year, students tend to catch the common cold, which often develops into other viruses. But was this level of absenteeism unprecedented at SI? When we reached out to the Dean's Office for clarity, they shared, "It is normal to have an uptick in absences during this time of the year. It's important that students wash hands and not come to school if they are not feeling well."

In addition, we spoke to math teacher Dr. Kevin Quattrin, who noted, "There's always an uptake in absences during February. It's always cold around this time, and we're in the midst of flu season. This year, it's particularly bad nationally because of Norovirus and Covid. When it comes to the Village classrooms, I don't think that the portables are causing more absences. I believe that the outdoor classrooms may be keeping



the absences down."

Ms. Kayla Gradillas, who teaches AP Biology and works in the Athletics Department, offered her perspective, saying, "As for the absences in class, I did not notice anything more than the normal cold/flu season. To be honest, Covid absences in previous years were far worse. I will say that influenza A numbers are up nationally. We haven't seen flu numbers like this since 2009 (swine flu). Schools tend to be places where illness is spread especially during this time of the year, because of inconsistent hand washing, sharing of food/drinks, and other commonly touched surfaces aren't disinfected enough. I think the Village classrooms are less at risk because students are forced to walk outside between classes, which naturally reduces close contact between them."

To help combat the spread of illness at SI, the school has provided Clorox wipes and hand sanitizers to classrooms to help contain the spread of germs. We look forward to students returning to full health.

SI STUDENTS AND STAFF JOIN THE MLK MARCH

Shay Moriarty '25

Editor-in-Chief



SI students and staff join San Fransisco's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March downtown on Monday, January 20.


VILLAGE SHOWERS, STUDENTS COWER

Madison Dela Rama '27

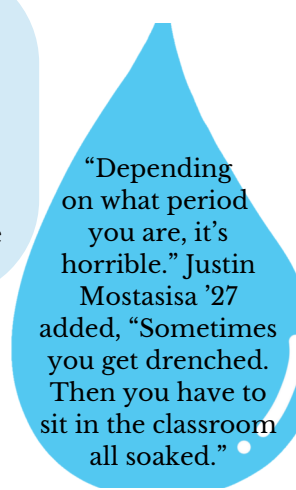
Managing Editor

Every year, the transition from January to February usually has rain mixed in the weekly weather patterns. In previous years, this wasn't much of an issue for students throughout the school day, as classes took place in the main academic building, and the only commute would be up and down the three floors. However, to accommodate for the construction on campus and the lack of classrooms due to it, SI now has twelve portable classrooms out on the Gordon Practice fields. This area is commonly known as SI's Village and is where most juniors take their classes.

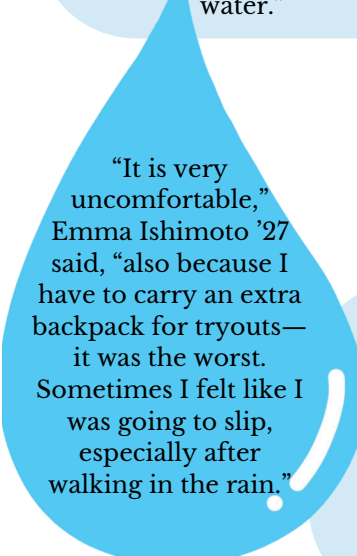
Being an entire semester and a month into the school year, the students have become accustomed to the usual commute from the academic building to the Village. While there were complaints really early into the year about rushing from class to class on opposite sides of campus, students




"I wish they would put tents up somewhere in the village," Genevieve Arcenio '27 stated, "because the metals get slippery and the grass absorbs all the water."




"Depending on what period you are, it's horrible." Justin Mostasisa '27 added, "Sometimes you get drenched. Then you have to sit in the classroom all soaked."



"It is very uncomfortable," Emma Ishimoto '27 said, "also because I have to carry an extra backpack for tryouts—it was the worst. Sometimes I felt like I was going to slip, especially after walking in the rain."



On the other hand, "I like walking in the rain!" Keira Sorenson '27 said. "It's useful to clear my head before class starts and it's always a fun challenge to keep your iPad dry."



have gotten used to these situations within the last semester.

However, because of the rain, there are new feelings arising from the students who make this commute across campus. The first week of February was nonstop wind and rain, whether a light shower or close to pouring. Many students noted that their opinions on how easy or challenging their "commute" is, depends on the time of day.

If it's the first period of the day without a blockade of students rushing from each village portable, their opinions are lighthearted. If they're already stuck in the staircase traffic in the academic building and have to face the rain afterward, their opinions aren't as joyful.

Featured inside our artistic raindrops are some insights from students who make the trek to the Village during the past rainy weeks.

KEYNOTES OF THE PIANO RECITAL

Evie Chen '26

Managing Editor

SI's annual piano recital was hosted on February 7th, free for all who attended. Since our school generally does not have many piano positions in its band or orchestra, the piano recital is a great time to showcase all of the talented pianists in our school community.

This year, we had 15 pianists from all grade levels. Pieces ranged from Chopin to original compositions, like Nicholas Shumway '26's jazzy piano piece, titled "Non-Standard." One pianist, Oliver Chan '28, got the opportunity to showcase two pieces back to back: powerful preludes by Chopin and Scriabin, respectively.

Chopin was the most popular composer this year, comprising nearly a

third of the song list.

Patrick Shi '27 energetically played perhaps the most challenging of the Chopin pieces due to its sheer length and fast pace, "Polonaise."

Alongside the beautiful classical pieces, there were several catchy arrangements of pop and rock songs. Charlie Becker '27 performed "Karma Police" by Radiohead; Simon Lim '27 played "This Is What Autumn Feels Like" by Jvke; and Kawai Jenks '27 played a rendition of the classic rock song "Sweet Child O' Mine" by Guns N' Roses. The show came to a close with Tai Morganson '26's vibrant performance of "Pictures at an Exhibition" by Modest Mussorgsky.

Two of the performers shared what playing the piano means to them. Kate Ozaeta '26 started playing the piano in the third grade. She eloquently stated, "Once you get to learn a piece, you get to express your whole emotions, and it's a very cathartic outlet to be able to participate in. And unlike other instruments, [in] piano, you have two different hands, they're extensions of you, and however you express yourself makes piano really special."

Ozaeta played the melodic Arabesque No. 1 by Claude Debussy.

Natasha Rodkewich '26, who has played for almost seven years, particularly likes the sense of accomplishment piano brings. "My favorite thing about piano is definitely hearing a finished piece. After you get to put all the hard work into playing and learning the notes, to just sit back and hear your progress through your success which is really fulfilling," she said. Rodkewich's piece was a prelude by Chopin, meant to evoke images of raindrops.

Piano is a beautiful instrument to play. It's also meant to be shared with others. Through the annual piano recital, our school celebrates the talented musicians in our community to embrace the moving qualities of music.



Connor Herrmann '27 plays Piano Sonata No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 2, No. 1.



Kate Ozaeta '26 plays Arabesque No. 1.

SI'S MOCK TRIAL TEAM VIES TO DEFEND COUNTY TITLE

Lucas Liang '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Over four weeks in late January and February, SI's mock trial team competed in county competitions against eight other San Francisco high schools at the San Francisco Superior Court on McAllister Street.

The team faced off against schools such as Lincoln and SOTA in a case concerning a kidnapping during a city council race in a small mountain town called Emerald Bend. The Wildcats went 3-1 in country rounds and advanced to the semifinals, where they defeated Lowell.

SI competed to defend their county

title on Feb. 20 at the federal courthouse. The winner advanced to the state competition in Los Angeles, which takes place March 14-16.

Mock trial coach and teacher Mr. Dan Devitt reflected on the team's success, saying, "Although we had some ups and downs in terms of roster movement, it was another fantastic year for mock trial. I'm really proud of our seniors and excited to work with the underclassmen in the years to come."



SI students pose for a picture at county competitions.

"I'm really proud of our seniors and excited to work with the underclassmen in the years to come."
-Mr. Dan Devitt



CHINESE CULTURE CLUB WELCOMES IN THE NEW YEAR

Evelyn Conboy '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, January 31, SI's Chinese Culture Club (CCC) celebrated the Year of the Snake, the 12th year in the 12-year Chinese zodiac cycle, with their annual Chinese New Year dumpling-making event. This year, they instituted a new tradition: Mahjong, a tile-based game originating in 19th century China. The competitive game has seen a rise in popularity at SI since CCC co-moderator Mr. Siteng Pang introduced weekly Mahjong tournament-style meetings.

Chinese Culture Club President Amelia Gallegos '25 shared the importance of cultural events like the one hosted by her club, stating, "I think it's so important for SI students to experience cultural events because...it brings people together from all backgrounds. I loved seeing so many people trying their hand at dumpling making." She further echoed her appreciation to CCC's co-moderator, Ms. Leona Pappas, by adding, "I think it's really special that Song Lao Shi (Song Lao Shi is Ms. Pappas' Chinese name) loves her customs so much that she works so hard to share them with others."



Ms. Pappas (right) and parent volunteers prepare to cook dumplings.

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR STUDENT COUNCIL REPS

Kate Quach '25

Editor-in-Chief

Election season has arrived for Student Council candidates seeking to represent their class during the 2025-26 school year.

Student Council leaders collaborate with one another, Mr. Glosser (Assistant Principal for Student Affairs), and Ms. Finn (Director of Student Activities) to organize school-wide events, from Fun Friday activities during break in the school day, to posts on Instagram announcing save-the-dates, to core class traditions like Prom.

Posters and a special-edition Election Issue from *Inside SI* will kick off the campaign week beginning on March 3rd. With the *Inside SI* catalogue featuring all those hoping to serve as representatives, student voters will learn more about candidates' intentions for running and the plans they hope to initiate during their year of leadership.

Reflecting on his two years of council experience, Noah Fernandez '25 said, "Student Council was an incredible experience for me as it taught me the power of community, collaboration, and leadership." Kate Ozaeta '26, agreeing with Noah's description of Student Council, added, "Students of various backgrounds, activities, and opinions have the opportunity to collaborate on events and activities for their class, hoping to uplift each perspective at SI." As one of the only performing artists on the council, Kate makes an effort during meetings to bring performing arts to the forefront of the conversation while emphasizing

the "balance [of Student Council's] support of the performing arts with that of athletics."

The official voting period will be open on March 14th, and Mr. Glosser and Ms. Finn will update applicants and the SI community shortly after. We wish all students running for Student Council good luck!



Student Council creates a space for leaders to advocate for their classmates.

MODEL UN: LEADING THE WAY

Madison Dela Rama '27 and Genevieve Arcenio '27

Managing Editor and Contributing Editor

Model UN is a program for high school students to simulate the United Nations (UN). If you're not familiar with how Model UN works, each student or pair of students is assigned a delegation. This means that they are the representatives of a particular country in the world.

There are several committees that you can sign up for, ranging from beginner to advanced. Each committee mimics a real international organization. There are general assemblies such as the World Health Organization, specialized agencies such as the US Senate and crisis committees. Delegates study two current world issues selected by the chairs of their committee. Delegates form a stance and come up with possible solutions in preparation for the conference. Once the conference arrives, delegates debate with each other to come up with a resolution.

From January 25-26, SI students participated in SFMUN. It was held at Lowell High School.

Schools from all over the Bay Area came together to participate. Although a very small group, SI Model UN members won several awards. Outstanding Delegate Awards were won by the following students: Evelyn Conboy '26, Claire Somsouk '26, Keira Sorenson '27, Genevieve Arcenio '27, and Adrian Liu '25.

We've asked three students to express their experiences from being a part of Model UN—two being from the mentioned students above, Keira and Genevieve, along with one of the Model UN leaders, Keelin Duffy '27.



SFMUN Competition comes to a close.

"This was my first Model UN conference, and it certainly won't be my last!" Genevieve said.

"From the chairs playing Block-blast with us to our committee coming up with a resolution to pass World War 3, these 2 days were filled with memories that I will never forget. Not only was I able to learn about some of the most pressing issues that our world is facing and participate in engaging debates, but I also gained valuable public speaking skills and met a lot of new friends."

"SFMUN was a great opportunity for me to collaborate with people I wouldn't normally get a chance to," Sorenson. "I was able to refine my speech improv-isation skills and learned how to research more efficiently. I'd certainly love to do it again!"

To conclude, Duffy stated, "Model UN is a great way to gain an understanding of some of the most important issues facing the world right now."

SAILING AND SURFING TEAMS CHAMPION THE SEA

Lilly Eugster '25

Managing Editor



SI sailors compete in the city championship.

At Saint Ignatius, sports like football, basketball, and soccer often dominate the spotlight. But beyond the well known teams, there are students competing in sports that demand just as much skill and dedication, and don't receive nearly as much recognition. The sailing and surfing teams, though thriving in their own right, remain largely overlooked by the school and wider community.

Mikah Panasik '25, a member of the sailing team, said, "I was drawn to sailing because it's a mix of strategy, physical skill, and the unpredictability of the water. Going over the Golden Gate Bridge, I always loved

seeing the sailboats from early in the morning to late in the afternoon, and it became a goal of mine to learn how to navigate and sail on the SF bay's rough waters. Being out on the bay, reading the wind and currents, and making split-second decisions makes the experience worthwhile, and is both challenging and exciting." Mikah explained the joys of sailing and how it is such an important asset to the SI community.

As the sailing program continuously develops each year we hope to shed light on its many successes. For members of both teams, sailing and surfing aren't just recreational activities; they are demanding sports requiring a lot of skill.

They, too, face challenges just like in anything else. Brooke Hiller '25, another member of the sailing team, said, "The biggest challenge our team faces is finding common ground when it comes to the idea of teamwork. The type of sailing we do at SI and at the yacht club is two people per boat. This means that it's difficult a lot of the time to outline what teamwork means especially when there's only two people to decide what that idea of working together should look like."

Leo Cannata '26, a member of

SI's surfing team, noted that many underestimate the technical skill required for their sport. "Surfing isn't just about standing on a board. You have to read the waves, react instantly, and be strong enough to paddle through rough conditions."

Despite their dedication, some members of the surfing and sailing teams feel under-appreciated. However, the sailing and surfing teams represent the spirit of determination, resilience, and passion that typifies all our SI athletes. Their athletes push their limits, and compete at high levels and are deserving of the highest respect.



SI surfers practice on Ocean Beach.

RAYMOND WHITNEY '26 SCORES 1000 CAREER POINTS

George Zaghbaba '25

Contributing Editor

At the men's varsity basketball game against Riordan, #5 Raymond Whitney '26 achieved his 1,000th career point at St. Ignatius. Raymond has been a varsity basketball starter for all three of his years at SI and has been one of the most important contributors to the team.

When Whitney was asked how it felt to achieve this feat, he stated, "It felt great to accomplish this, I've been dreaming of getting my 1000th career point ever since I was a freshman." Raymond's 1,000th career point was a layup, and he said, "I knew I was gonna get it that game so it felt awesome to be able to do it



Raymond Whitney dominating on the basketball court.

in front of all my friends and family."

The men's basketball team celebrated Whitney after the game, and even Coach Greenfield said himself, "I'm really proud of Raymond, watching him grow into the player he has become has been great to watch, and I'm excited to see where he goes."

While the men's basketball team did end up losing to Riordan in a tough game, they locked in 2nd place for the WCAL standings, and are hopeful for a great playoff run.

DOECHII'S GRAMMY WIN: A HISTORIC MOMENT FOR BLACK ARTISTS

Janice Yan '27

Managing Editor

February is a time to honor Black excellence and celebrate all the achievements of those who shape culture in our lives. This year, during Black History Month, Doechii secured her first ever Grammy for Best Rap album. Her award wasn't just a personal milestone, but it was a statement on representation, artistry, and the ongoing impact Black Musicians have in the industry.

Doechii, the American rapper and songwriter, first gained recognition on TikTok for her hit "Yucky Blucky Fruitcake." She became the first female rapper to sign with Top Dawg Entertainment in 2022. Her genre of music is built off of R&B with a fusion of rap and alternative influences. Her originality and fearless creativity is why her career has been built on her authenticity winning her a well deserved Grammy.

Another talented Black artist, SZA, won the Grammy for Best R&B song for

her single, "Saturn," and Beyoncé was another winner for Album of the Year and Best Country Album for "Cowboy Carter."

Nina Simon, Aretha Franklin and Lauryn Hill have paved the way for today's artists and now, Doechii is stepping into that legacy. Her victory is significantly impactful to the music industry, since the industry has often faced criticism for lacking inclusivity. This win isn't just for her, but also a win for all the young Black artists who dream of their brilliance being formally recognized within the music industry.

Black artists continue to shape culture and their contributions deserve to be celebrated—not just in February, but all year-round. As Doechii continues to rise, her story will inspire future generations of Black artists to dream bigger, push boundaries and claim their places in history.



Doechii delivers an emotional speech while receiving her Grammy.

IT'S QUILL O'CLOCK

Skylar Chung '27

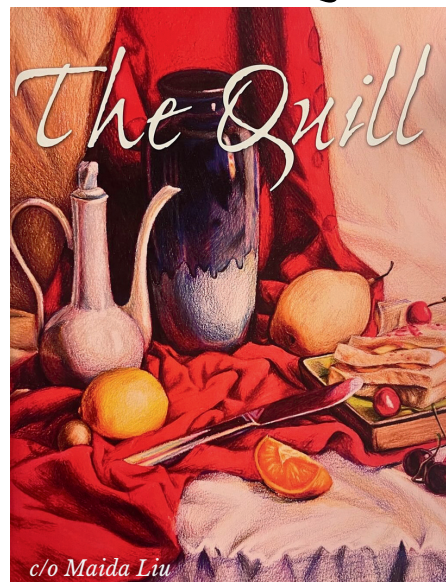
Contributing Editor

Hey Cats, it's *The Quill* Season! As the second semester begins, talented writers, artists, and photographers all over SI are submitting their best artistic work in the annual literary magazine: *The Quill*. Brooks Taylor '25, one of this year's Editors-in-Chief, shared, "*The Quill* at SI is something special—a free, weighty book filled with SI's own handcrafted emotion and expression. Having just finished training our new juniors, we're gearing up for another year of thought-provoking poetry, prose, and art production!"

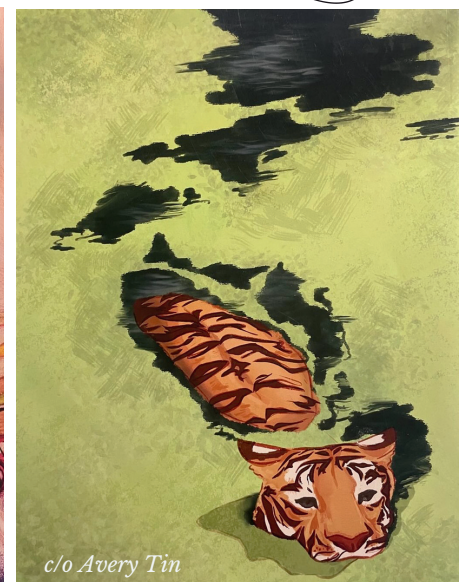
The Quill brings students' creativity to life, showcasing their artistic and literary talents through a collection of masterpieces. Writers publish their best poems, short stories, and essays, and our artists and photographers contribute their photographs, paintings, drawings, and visual art!

In addition to providing a great way for us to appreciate our classmates' and friends' work, the magazine presents the top two literary pieces and the front and back cover art with cash prizes! Janice Yan '27 said, "*The Quill* has allowed me to celebrate and enjoy many of my talented friends and classmates." *The Quill* editorial board and moderators are committed to putting together this gorgeous gallery of artistic and literary pieces! Be sure to get your copy in May!

The Quill 2024



c/o Maida Liu



c/o Avery Tin

Maida Liu '26 and Avery Tin '25 provided the cover art for *The Quill* last year.

NOMINATIONS ARE IN...WHO WILL WIN?

Janice Yan '27

Managing Editor

A celebration of the magic of cinema, the Oscars, unites us through the enchanting worlds of film, music, and storytelling that we carry across generations. This prestigious award show recognizes outstanding achievements in filmmaking and highlights the contributions of the talented individuals who bring these stories to life. The Oscars draws around an audience of 3,000 attendees including professionals, celebrities, and members of the media. The host for this year's Oscars has yet to be announced, so stay tuned for the latest updates!

For the category Best Picture, the films, *Wicked*, *Dune: Part Two*, and *Emilia Pérez*, among others have been nominated. Some individuals listed in the category of Best Director, include Coralie Fargeat who directed *The Substance*, James Mangold for *A Complete Unknown*, and Sean Baker for *Anora*. In the next category for Best Actress, we have Cynthia Erivo for her role in *Wicked*, Fernanda Torres in *I'm Still Here*, and Karala Sofia Gascón in *Emilia Pérez*. Meanwhile, the Best Actor features Timothée Chalamet in *A Complete*

Unknown, Sebastian Stan in *The Apprentice*, and Adrien Brody in *The Brutalist* among others.



Conan O'Brien will host the 2025 Oscars Ceremony on March 2.

The year's Oscar nominations have also shattered several records. *Emilia Pérez* has received 13 Oscar nominations for a non-English language film. However, the Oscars are not without their fair share of controversies, creating debates about representation, inclusivity, and voting practices. Critics have expressed concerns about whether the Academy's efforts to maintain diversity in key categories are sufficient, whereas others have highlighted the dominance of high-budget studios, raising the question of how accessible these awards are for independent and international filmmakers. Additionally, while the inclusion of musical performances in the acting categories is being celebrated, they are also facing a lot of criticism from the community, arguing that it blurs the line between traditional genre boundaries.

As this year's Oscars approach, this year's revolutionary achievements reflect the ever-evolving landscape of cinema. This ceremony not only honors the magic of storytelling, but it highlights the industry's commitment to embracing change and amplifying voices from all around the world. Make sure to tune in on March 2nd!

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Princewill Onyebuchi '26

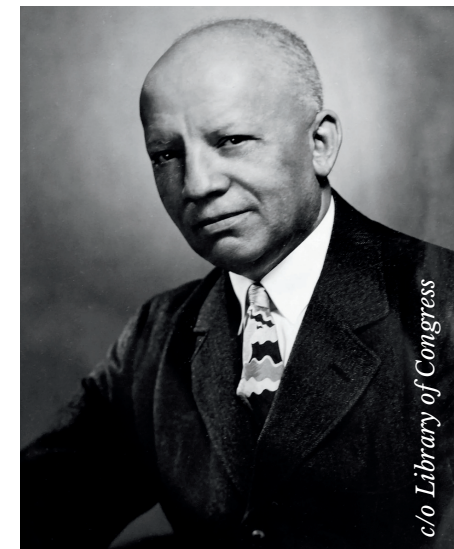
Contributing Editor

Continued from Page 1

all of February ever since. Black History Month is particularly an American-observed event that celebrates the achievements, culture, and history of Black Americans and the larger Black diaspora. SI also honors Black history through

the BSU showcase, which is an opportunity for students at SI to display their gifts and talents as well as honor their African American/Black heritage. The 2025 BSU showcase will be held on Saturday, February 22 at 5 P.M., its theme is “A Harlem Renaissance.” It is

through the celebration of ourselves that we remember that Black history is always growing, and is continuously written with every Black accomplishment and recognition of the greatness and trailblazing of those who came before.



Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month.



Students performed during the BSU Showcase in 2024.



Langston Hughes, poet and activist during the Harlem Renaissance.

SLITHERING INTO THE NEW YEAR

Jordan Liu '26 and Annika Watkins '26

Associate Editors-in-Chief

As red envelopes, lanterns and dragons hang from the student center ceiling, SI rang in the Lunar New Year. The holiday falls on the second new moon after the Winter Solstice and kicked off on January 29th. The holiday is celebrated by millions of people worldwide in countries such as China, Korea, Vietnam, and other East Asian countries. Its celebrations also bring customs and traditions. Children and unmarried adults receive red envelopes filled with money, sometimes bowing to their elders to receive them. Families feast on auspicious food, such as noodles, rice cakes, fish, and mandarins. It is essential to avoid cleaning and haircuts in order to prevent washing away good fortune. 2025 marks the Year of the Snake, an

animal known for its wits and shrewdness. It also represents a period of change and renewal. As a snake sheds its skin, we too attempt to unmoor ourselves of bad habits and negative emotions. Similarly to the Western tradition of New Year's Resolutions, the year of the Snake encourages us to make way for the new and to slither towards improvement. This year, the San Francisco Chinese Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Chinese New Year parade on February 15, ushering in the Year of the Snake—a symbol of intelligence, mystery, and renewal. Kaley Chin '26 celebrated by attending the parade with her family and enjoying a “big dinner with lots of soup.” Yurika Mui '26 had “dinner with family and friends with a lot of food,” and “received red envelopes.”

This vibrant event celebrated San Francisco’s Asian community and brought an exciting atmosphere. As the parade wound through Chinatown, the city burst with color and energy, featuring dragon and lion dances, lively music, and elaborate floats that highlight the rich traditions of Chinese culture. However, that was only the beginning. Spectacular martial arts performances, dynamic dancing, dazzling costumes, and breathtaking fireworks all made the celebration unforgettable. The Chinese New Year parade truly united the San Francisco community by welcoming all people in a joyful and cultural experience!



San Francisco welcomes in the Chinese New Year.



Fireworks mark a time of celebration over San Francisco's Chinatown.

PURIM: A CURE FOR THE MARCH SLUMP

Alexander Goldberg '26

Contributing Editor

In the month of March, many students face an increasing workload and an overall decrease in motivation. This period is often known as the "March Slump." Thankfully, there is a cure! Between March 13 and March 14, Jewish people around the world celebrate the holiday Purim, which reminds us, and all people, to keep persevering through adversity, and to find motivation in helping others.

Purim comes from the Book of Esther, a part of the Old Testament. The story begins with the King of Persia, Ahasuerus, disposing of his former Queen, Vashti, because she arrived late to a banquet. In order to find a new wife, Ahasuerus summons the most beautiful women in all the land. Out of all these women, he chooses Esther to be his new Queen. Esther is Jewish, but conceals her heritage following Mordecai's, her cousin's, advice.

After wedding arrangements are made, Haman, Ahasuerus' Right-hand man, travels throughout the capital city and everyone is instructed to bow before him. However, Esther's cousin Mordecai refuses to bow, and "Haman was filled with fury" (Est. 3:5). In retaliation, Haman vows to kill all the Jews in all the lands. Mordecai

soon learns of Haman's plans and urges Esther to seek mercy from the King. Esther, as a Jewish woman, is hesitant to do so because she could be executed for seeking the King unsummoned.

However, Esther rebels against the law, and tradition, to tell Ahasuerus about Haman's evil scheme. In the end, the King orders Haman's execution and Esther is victorious. During Purim, Jews celebrate Esther's courage, without which the Jews in Persia may not have survived. Food,



The celebration of Purim includes colorful festivities, performances, and more.

festivities, performances, charity, and storytelling play an important part in the celebration. During Purim, Jews enjoy

meals with family and friends, and make a triangular cookie called hamantaschen. In addition, Jews often donate and participate in other acts of kindness for those in need. Another important tradition is reciting Esther's story, known as "The Megillah." Jews use loud shakers whenever they hear Haman's name throughout the story. Fun costumes are also a staple of Purim celebration!

Purim, in addition to being a festive holiday, reminds us to always do the right thing, and persevere no matter what obstacles may be in our way. As Jacob Bushler '25 eloquently summarized, "Purim is important to me because it reminds me to always speak truth to power and follow my heart."

Hopefully this story inspires you to persevere through the challenges you encounter during the "March Slump," to always speak truth to power, and to find motivation in helping others. Esther's story also reminds us of the history of the Jewish people, and that good will always triumph over evil.

To celebrate the holiday, the Jewish Affinity Group will host an event on March 18th in Room 430 for all people who identify as Jewish. Please feel free to bring your friends! Shalom SI and Chag Sameach!

A SPLASH OF COLOR AND A PINCH OF CULTURE

Radhika Saha '28

Contributing Editor

Indian culture is like a giant, colorful quilt made up of stories, traditions, and values! It can feel a little overwhelming at first, but once you get comfortable with it, you realize it's the most comforting thing in the world! It's always there, like the smell of chai or the sound of Bollywood music from miles away. What I love the

most about Indian culture is how it brings people together. Whether it's a family gathering or a random get-together party, there's this undeniable sense of connection. Festivals like Holi are a perfect example. It's coming up very soon! Sure, Holi gets a lot of attention (and rightfully so - I mean, who doesn't love a good color fight?), but it's not just

about the colors. It's about the joy, the laughter, and the way everyone, no matter who they are, feels like part of the celebration. Save the date 3/14 for this year's celebration of Holi at SI!

As my mom always says:

"I love how we all come together, no matter what. Always family, always together."

She's the glue that holds everything together and always makes sure there's more than enough food.

Indian culture is all about finding joy in the little things from family time to sharing meals. It's fun, chaotic, and real, but that's what makes it so special. It reminds me every day that family, laughter, and a little bit of color are what life's all about.

And my sister always adds:

"I love how the energy in Indian culture is so full of life, it's contagious, and you can't help but get caught up in it."

She's the one who soaks in the atmosphere of the festivals, the laughter, and the feeling of being surrounded by people who care.



SI students celebrate Holi in 2024.

Photo c/o Caitlin Tran '25

SI STUDENT-ATHLETES SILENTLY BATTLE TOWARD RECOVERY

Evelyn Conboy '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Nearly two-thirds of St. Ignatius students compete for an SI sports team. Unfortunately, a high number of student athletes inevitably means that injury is an all-too-common reality. While the physical consequences of injury are evident, an injury’s silent side-effects are often overlooked. Injury often significantly impacts a student’s mental health and takes serious mental tolls.

Caitlin Ciresi '26 reflected on SI’s role in supporting her injury journey and process. She expressed gratitude for SI, sharing how she had “a lot of friends and teachers check in with [her].”

Furthermore, she described the sup-

portive nature of the SI community, sharing how the community has been “really sweet.” For many SI students, sports are larger than physical activity. Sports act as social, mental, and creative outlets and provide reprieve from the chaos of their everyday lives. As coaches say, sports are where athletes can “leave it all out on the field.” The abrupt removal of this essential cornerstone when they face injury leaves many student athletes feeling isolated, unmotivated, and devoid of greater purpose.

SI provides physical rehabilitation support through its athletic trainers, but

mental health resources tailored toward injured athletes remain scarce. Recognizing the mental toll of injuries and fostering conversations around resilience can help student athletes feel less isolated in their journey back to the game.

As an SI student body, the responsibility to support those who are recovering from injury falls upon us. Unfortunately, the physical scars from injuries may fade, but emotional and mental scars often remain.



c/o @si_sportsmedicine on Instagram



c/o @si_sportsmedicine on Instagram



c/o @si_sportsmedicine on Instagram

Students enrolled in Sports Medicine (PE 615), a class that SI students can take as part of their Academic Schedule, learn how to provide care for athletes with injuries. Don’t forget to follow @si_sportsmedicine on Instagram!

THE ARUPPE SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT: A PLACE TO BE HEALED, OR TO LEARN TO HEAL OTHERS?

Claire Somsouk '26

Contributing Editor

This year, five students from SI attend-ed the Arrupe Leaders Summit at Mt. Hermon, hosted by the Ignatian Solidarity Network from Jan. 31st - Feb. 2nd. The weekend brought together young leaders from across the country to explore how to develop the skills necessary to bring about social change.

In a series of sessions, students reflect-ed on essential leadership principles: self-awareness, heroism, creativity, and the power of love. The summit also allowed time for discussions between schools, where students exchanged strategies for advocating for social justice within their institutions.

Maya Briones '25 shared her thoughts on the Arrupe Leaders Summit, stating, “The Arrupe Leaders Summit taught me that I could learn from people of all ages. As one of the oldest students there, I never expected to learn so much from those younger than me. I’m truly inspired by everyone who attended that summit, and I hope to keep finding inspiration in the



c/o Claire Somsouk '26

The cozy cabins provided a safe space for students to bond and share opinions.

future.” Her words emphasize an important lesson in leadership and healing: the value of having humility and an openness to learning from others. Maya’s experience illustrates how personal growth often arises from unexpected places and how engaging with diverse perspectives can transform our understanding and deepen our empathy. This openness to learning is vital in the healing process, fostering mutual respect,



c/o Claire Somsouk '26

Arrupe Leader Summit in Santa Cruz brings together high school students to discuss social justice.

challenging assumptions, and creating spaces where all voices are heard and valued.

The summit’s message of love as a transformative force resonated with the words of Father Pedro Arrupe S.J., who once wrote, “Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.” For the SI delegation, this powerful reminder highlighted how a deep commitment to love and justice can catalyze personal and collective healing. When we approach one another with love, we open the door to transformative growth

—not just in individuals, but in entire communities.

Inspired by this, the delegation is dedicated to fostering a more inclusive and supportive SI environment that nurtures healing by welcoming and uplifting all students, regardless of their background or identity. Their goal is to create a community where every individual feels not only integrated, but also genuinely valued, contributing to a shared sense of belonging that promotes healing and growth for all.



c/o Claire Somsouk

Arrupe Leaders take in the natural beauty of the Santa Cruz redwoods.

CONSTRUCTION CREATES GROUNDBREAKING CHANGES TO CAMPUS

Sierra Murphy '25, Shay Moriarty '25, Kate Quach '25

Editors-in-Chief

Cont. from Front Page

Mr. Christopher Meehan and his team played a large role in the Fall to prepare for the demolition. Disconnecting the water, power, and gas from the Commons and Jensen Hall took “a big effort,” recalled Mr. Meehan. However, since then, he shared that Buildings and Grounds focused most of their attention on “support[ing] the running of the school every day, the existing buildings, the students, and the people on campus.” Noise disruptions also made their way to his office. “We noticed, just like [students] have heard, the jackhammer and the foundation, that kind of disruption.”

The construction certainly causes disruption for many students across campus, and students within each grade level have viewed the whole construction process differently. While the Freshmen may be the only class to actually experience the new building, they also have to deal with the disturbances caused by the whole process for almost the entirety of their time at SI.

When asked about her experience with the construction, Josie White '28 shared, “I am kind of mad that the construction is my entire high school years, but hopefully it will be done by senior year. It’s weird sitting in class and feeling the shaking.” Although the situation is not ideal, dealing with the construction will become a normal part of their high school life since

they haven’t experienced SI without it.

As for the sophomores, adjusting to this shaky situation is not as natural. Samantha Cline '27 shared about her experience, “I have felt the building shake many times during my classes. Despite all the demolition going on, I know the final result will be very worth it.”

For some students, the shaking is a reminder of the new opportunities that are to come with the creation of the New Learning Commons. As for the juniors who attend most classes in the Village, “there is not much disruption,” according to Maddie Murray '26. “It does not bother me at all because I am in the village and can’t hear anything.” The junior class occupies SI’s new village which marks a significant change brought on by the construction process. Despite the extra time it takes to get to class, the Village proves to stand as a successful learning community since it is located further from all the commotion.

After three years of solace, seniors must endure their final year at SI alongside the worksite. “The classes are shaking on the Red Side and in the Counseling Center. It’s always so loud when I am trying to do work,” shared Julia Ting '25, annoyed with the loud noises and how the construction is impacting her final year as an SI student. “It’s not necessarily how I imagined senior year and it’s hard to feel excited when I won’t be here to experience the new

building, but I know it is a great opportunity for the SI community.”

While the sudden jolts and trembles came as a surprise to students, teachers, and faculty returning from Winter Break, the excitement of what is to come for the school is enough to get the SI community through this shaky time.



Bare ground replaces the site where the Commons and Jensen Hall once stood.

c/o Sierra Murphy

BREAKING BONDS AND BRIDGING GAPS THROUGH GENERATIONS

Zoe Omar '25

Managing Editor

It’s pretty common to be hindered by language barriers. There are roughly 7,000 languages in the world, but there are universal languages as well. There are languages of kindness in our actions. There is a language of love in the connections we make every day.

There are some language barriers we choose to not challenge, but, there are some language barriers that we must be called to challenge and eventually overcome.

Generational gaps are very prevalent in our society today, and can even affect people for the majority of their lives. Lack of communication between generations of a family can be isolating and detrimental to development. It hurts to feel like you are not understood by the people who are supposed to love you unconditionally. So how do we move forward? How do we actively work to change this, evolve, and finally heal?

I know in my experience, I have felt extremely isolated from my grandparents on my mother’s side. I call my Korean grandparents Halmeoni and Harabeoji. It’s hard to communicate with them when English is the only language I know and it’s one that is hard for them to understand fully. I bridge this generational gap through patience and understanding. I have patience when talking with them and I have gained understanding through asking them questions about their lives.

I still don’t know everything they went through growing up in a post-Korean war environment, but I connect with them through trying.

Amelia Gallegos '25 similarly reflected, “I think the largest

generational gap between me and my parents is their differing beliefs in whether talking problems or emotions through is necessary. I think my parents were raised in households where hard work was prioritized rather than their wellbeing, and mental health is almost a foreign concept to them. I think the best way I’ve worked to bridge the gap is by talking things through with my parents and showing them that receiving outside help doesn’t make someone weak but actually stronger.” Amelia talked about her own experience with the difference in how generations



Cultural events such as Pasko bring together generations within Asian-American families, such as sophomore Geraldine Segura’s relatives.

c/o SlickPic

view the importance of mental health. Her experience is one of many who feel this pressure to live up to standards of the past when the world has deeply changed.

The important thing to take away is that generational gaps will always be relevant in society because they will always be there. There is no way to avoid them, but there are ways to bridge them. There are numerous ways to create separation, maybe even infinite, so there has to be an urgency to put in the effort to overcome these barriers and enhance human connections within families.

THE MELODY WITHIN EMOTIONS

Beatrice Sopko '26

Contributing Editor

The first lyrics Adrienne Lenker sings on Big Thief's latest album, *Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe In You*, are, "Change, like the wind / Like the water, like skin."

As I have grown up, the stresses that once plagued me have changed from classic petty schoolyard nonsense to dilemmas that always appear to alter the course of my life. When I first listened to the song, "Change," by Big Thief, in the fall my mind had been reeling from worrying about a presentation in Spanish, not finishing some English reading in time, and the looming start to my college application journey. That morning I decided to try a new album, and Big Thief had just released one. I clicked on that first song, "Change," and my mind stilled.

Teenagers constantly deal with emotionally distressing situations. In a report published by the Compass Health Center, researchers found that 31.9% of teens are estimated to have an anxiety disorder, with reports being highest between the ages of 17 and 18. Although SI Students are well supported in many of their subjects, they are no strangers to stress. SI's curriculum and well-funded extracurriculars constantly challenge students to achieve new personal bests;

however, pressure to sustain good grades while also balancing clubs, performing arts, or sports often burdens students with stress and anxiety.

In an effort to aid students dealing with stress and anxiety, students have access to Wellness Counselors at SI. While this resource is available, many SI students also use alternative outlets to process their emotions. For instance, students may turn to their sports for a distraction or others might choose to draw. Numerous students have expressed that they use music to help process their more complex emotions, whether it's through listening to it, singing, or creating it.

When asked why listening to music was therapeutic for her, Rachel Kirk '26 shared, "When I'm feeling down I find that I can't always express why I'm stressed or what the root of my problem is. However, music allows me to relate to an artist, and through this connection I am able to feel comfortable, letting their lyrics and poetry speak for what I can't put into words."

Similarly to Rachel, Maya Briones '25 reflected on how listening to music grounds her in her emotions. Maya participates in SI's Music Ministry and choir, and can often be spotted strumming away at her guitar during prayer services or at mass.

Briones's contributions to the music

that nurtures a welcoming space for SI's students has shown her how music ties people together. Maya stated, "It feels good to surround myself with people who are also passionate about creating music. It has created such an amazing community for me at SI."

Kirk and Briones's use of music as a remedy adds to a larger narrative about the collective healing experience music offers each person. The core values of Maya and Rachel's stories, those rooted in interconnectedness, belonging, and personal understanding, demonstrate the power music holds to alleviate daily hardships and help form the core pieces of a person's identity. It's important that one finds time for a momentary break from their stresses, and music can provide that break.

Those pauses in our busy lives allow us to slow down and appreciate even the simplest moments, whether it's witnessing a young child with their parents on the bus, eagerly staring out the window, or the laugh of a friend. I can always rely on the light, easy beat of the snare drum with the gentle strum of acoustic guitar, and the dainty pluck of bass, as Adrienne Lenker softly sings, to still my buzzing mind. Find your Adrienne Lenker and sing along.



Maya Briones '25 at the Performing Arts Assembly, surrounds herself with people who also have a passion for music.



"Change" by Big Thief is the perfect song to calm one's mind.



SI's Choir program at the Performing Arts Assembly provides music that inspires and soothes the SI student body.

HOW CHAPPELL ROAN HEALED WOUNDS WITH HER GRAMMY SPEECH

Annika Watkins '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

At the 2025 Grammy Awards on Sunday, February 2nd, Chappell Roan's speech resonated deeply with artists and fans alike. With raw honesty, she shared her experience of being signed to a record label at a young age, only to be dropped without healthcare or support.

Roan's words shed light on a crucial issue. Despite the industry profiting from artists' work, many face struggles like lack of healthcare, fair wages, and job security.

Roan called for record labels to treat their artists as valued employees, offering livable wages and health insurance. She explained the emotional toll of being committed to her art while

feeling betrayed by a system that failed to provide basic care. Her candid story spoke to many artists, especially those who face similar challenges in an industry built on their labor.

She concluded her speech by saying, "Labels, we got you, but do you got us?" This sentiment forces both industry leaders and record labels to deeply reflect on the value they place on their artists and whether they truly support the talent that sustains them. Her speech wasn't merely a call for change, but rather a moment of healing.



During her acceptance speech for the "Best New Artist" category, Chappell Roan urged changes to the music industry's treatment of beginner artists.

“Labels, we got you, but do you got us?”
- Chappell Roan

ICE IN SAN FRANCISCO

Nora Shaskan '27

Contributing Editor

"I'll put these vicious and blood-thirsty criminals in jail or kick them the hell out of our country and get them out," Donald Trump said in Austin, Texas only months before he was re-elected as President of the United States. He has claimed that on day one, he will conduct the largest deportation operation in American history and send undocumented migrants back to their countries of origin.

Days into his second term, Americans have already seen his plans be set in motion. He promises he will only target felons; however, hundreds of undocumented people have already been arrested, many being desperate families who fled violence before coming to the United States. Trump's presidency was fueled by panic over immigrants exclusively from South and Central America, demonstrating his racist hatred toward the Latin American ethnicity.

Arrests and deportations are not just happening around America's southern border—it's happening right here, right now in our own city. As a sanctuary city, San Francisco and its Board of Supervisors have sworn to protect the immigrant community and uphold their duties as local government officials. David Chu, the city attorney explained, "Our policy simply says you cannot deputize local law enforcement

as ICE agents. With scarce resources, we have to prioritize those resources to fight crime, not break up families."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents are American officers whose job is to find unauthorized individuals in the US and send them back to where they came from. Before the Trump administration's promotion into office, this enforcement targeted mostly criminals, and officers were prohibited from entering sensitive areas such as education centers and places of worship. But with Trump's new rulings, ICE agents are now free to raid schools and churches, searching for any undocumented immigrant.

Fear has stirred in San Francisco's undocumented population, and some refugees are turning themselves in to avoid any trouble. Maria Su, superintendent of the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), has noticed how distracting the fear of being arrested and deported is for undocumented students. She stated in an interview that the district has provided training and information to faculty and families at the schools on what to do if an ICE agent appears on campus or at their front door. She hopes to supply her teachers and staff with resources on how to proceed with these officers.

Trump's mass deportations jeopardize the safety of the undocumented community and tears apart families guilty of nothing but fear for their lives. While San Francisco is a symbol of progressive ideas, diversity, and belonging, our city is not "safe," even as local politicians attempt to protect its status as a sanctuary city.

On January 24, ICE agents were sighted searching for undocumented janitors, entering San Francisco's downtown office buildings. As Senator Scott Weiner wrote, "Trump says he's only targeting criminals. That's a bald-faced lie." More importantly, it is a lie that comes just days into a long four-year presidency.



The presence of ICE in the Bay Area raises concern for San Franciscans.

THE TALK OF SI: NEW PHONE CADDY POLICY

Tai Morganson '26 and Alex Salentine '26

Managing Editors

While phones have revolutionized online access, entertainment, and communication, they have also created internet addictions, discouraged authentic interactions, and enabled body image disorders. Additionally, the presence of phones in classrooms has been proven to affect the focus and academic performance of students, a phenomenon reflected in new classroom policy at St. Ignatius.

"Studies indicate that even the presence of a phone on a desk—whether in use or not—can reduce cognitive capacity and attention span," wrote Asst. Principal for Academics Ms. Danielle Devencenzi '97, justifying a new school policy that required students to store their phones in caddies for the duration of classes. This mandate has stirred mixed reactions among St. Ignatius students.

"In an emergency, you don't want to look through the caddy to find your number. You just want it in your backpack so you can easily take it and leave," said Tanner Olrich '26. Olrich's concerns over emergency logistics were common among students interviewed by *Inside SI*.

"I think it is a safety hazard [not] having your phone on you; in an emergency, you need to be in contact with your friends and family," said Joey Carvalho '28.

Some saw the phone caddies addressing a problem that never existed for them, interpreting the new phone



Phones take their spots in a caddy during 1st Period.

“Studies indicate that even the presence of a phone on a desk—whether in use or not—can reduce cognitive capacity and attention span.”
- Ms. Danielle Devencenzi '97
Asst. Principal for Academics



Classes of 40 students in Bannan Theatre prepare two phone caddies.

policies as collective punishment

"Not everyone should suffer the consequences because of one person being on their phones. If anyone is caught on their phone, they should serve a consequence for that, instead of [the school] taking everyone's phones at the same time," said Andrew Ennis '26.

"I think that if students can stay distraction-free throughout the day, I don't think that they should be punished by those who are distracted. If you are caught on your phone, there should be a punishment, but it shouldn't punish everyone," Simon Werbach '26 said.

"I don't like it. I don't go on my phone in class, so there is no point. I'm an honorable student," said Keaghan Goggin '26.

The majority of students interviewed by *Inside SI* felt inconvenienced by the new policy. However, others were impartial to or supportive of the caddies, seeing upsides to the new system and the limitation of classroom phone access.

"I don't really mind it because when I am on my phone in class, I get really off track," said Ben Mount '28, a proponent of phone caddies. "I hope that we don't get our phones restricted for the entire day so I can use it in between classes if I need to text my mom or communicate with friends, but I am fine with the no-in-class policy."

THE PROMISE OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT

Lucas Liang '26

Associate Editor-In-Chief

Make no mistake, President Donald Trump’s unconstitutional executive order that unilaterally ends birthright citizenship is an attack on the fundamental values of America.

Trump’s order doesn’t just strip automatic citizenship from the children of undocumented immigrants, which itself is unconstitutional. Instead, the order broadly revokes birthright citizenship for the children of many immigrants who are legally working or studying in the United States. This is a full-throated assault on the foundations of birthright citizenship.

Ratified after the Civil War, the 14th Amendment’s guarantee of birthright citizenship was meant to prevent the formation of any permanent underclass in American society. Back then, the most pressing issue was the rights of Black Americans. But the amendment’s framers didn’t add any qualifications on the basis of race, ethnicity or immigration status. Instead, they guaranteed citizenship to “[a]ll persons born...in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof...”

Opponents of birthright citizenship use the jurisdiction clause as a gotcha, claiming that it exempts certain children of immigrants from receiving citizenship. They could not be more wrong. That the federal government can deport non-citizen immigrants is evidence enough of its jurisdiction over all immigrants.

Birthright citizenship is settled law, and it has been settled law for over a century. That’s why multiple federal judges have already struck down Trump’s order as unconstitutional. One of these judges, John Coughenour, said in court, “I’ve

been on the bench for over four decades. I can’t remember another case where the question presented is as clear as this one. This is a blatantly unconstitutional order.” Coughenour is far from a raging liberal or radical leftist. In fact, he is an appointee of Republican President Ronald Reagan.

Beyond the settled legal issue, birthright citizenship poses a political question. Many of its opponents question why America should have birthright citizenship if most of the world doesn’t. These nativists ignore America’s exceptionalism. Aren’t we a shining city upon a hill? Isn’t America a New World nation crafted in defiance of the old order? On birthright citizenship, we should be emulated instead of emulating.

In Europe, where birthright citizenship is severely restricted, most immigrants and their children are life-long members of a permanent underclass that lacks citizenship and its corresponding rights. That’s exactly the type of underclass that the 14th Amendment’s framers were trying to prevent from forming. Instead, in America, immigrants and their children are a crucial part of the nation’s lifeblood, from Silicon Valley boardrooms to neighborhood grocery stores.

Amid America’s reconstruction, the 14th Amendment was born to rectify the horrific wrongs of past centuries. The amendment consigned the system that condemned Black Americans to a lifetime without citizenship to the dustbin of history, the same dustbin where Trump’s lawless order will one day reside. But today, all freedom-loving Americans ought to be incensed and ashamed of our president.

RETHINKING THE 14TH AMENDMENT: A CONSERVATIVE VIEW

Alex Salentine '26

Managing Editor

Recently, Trump’s executive order that ends birthright citizenship has rekindled the national debate about the meaning of citizenship and the 14th Amendment.

Trump’s order requires a child born in the United States to have at least one parent who is either a US citizen or a lawful permanent resident. Further, it outlaws birthright citizenship to people whose parents were here without documentation or temporarily at the time of birth.

Many people, especially on the left, are taking offense to this, and have filed lawsuits against the administration, claiming that birthright citizenship with no restrictions has always been official US policy. These individuals think that one is an American citizen solely by virtue of one being born on US soil, and they claim that the laws of the United States have ensured this supposed right. However, this is not the case.

First, one must be aware of the context of the 14th Amendment to understand the abuses that occur because of it. The 14th Amendment was ratified during the Reconstruction and sought to primarily ensure the citizenship, and thus the voting rights, of Black Americans. Thus, it meant to enshrine the rights of Black Americans and other minorities who have had their citizenship denied.

However, the most egregious violation of this amendment occurs with “birth tourism,” where wealthy individuals from foreign countries come to the US simply to have a child who will be an American citizen at birth. This allows foreign nationals, who have no direct connection to American laws or culture, to claim citizenship rights for themselves because their children are American citizens, which directly leads to the exploitation of social welfare programs and specific rights that existing US citizens are entitled to.

Further, birthright citizenship is and has been a huge pull factor for illegal immigration, which the present administration is correctly trying to restrict. Thus, it is clear that framers of this amendment never envis-



Following his inauguration, President Trump signs off his executive orders.

ioned that the amendment would lead to massive abuse, and thus, would certainly not approve of absolute birthright citizenship.

However, many might use the Supreme Court case of Wong Kim Ark to dispute the administration’s effort to regulate citizenship. This case was a landmark case in birthright citizenship.

However, contrary to supporters of birthright citizenship, it makes the exact claim as the Trump administration. The case states that “The Amendment, in clear words and in manifest intent, includes the children born, within the territory of the United States, ...domiciled within the United States.”

The amendment clearly conveys that birthright citizenship only applies to people who are domiciled, or people who treat the US as their country of permanent residence. This is because the 14th amendment itself says that birthright citizenship only applies to people who are subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. Obviously, if one is not a permanent resident, one is not subject to the jurisdiction of the laws of the United States. Thus, the Supreme Court supports restricting citizenship only to permanent residents, as only they are subject to the laws and jurisdiction of the United States.

Birthright citizenship was never intended by its framers or the Supreme Court to be unlimited because it leads to the abuse of citizenship, and thus the abuse of American rights and privileges. To rectify these present injustices, one should support Trump’s administration’s efforts.

SECTION 1 OF THE 14TH AMENDMENT

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

THE UNELECTED PRESIDENT

Tai Morganson '26

Managing Editor

Elon Musk has assumed profound political power over the federal government and has begun to overturn monumental progress at home and abroad.

Musk, whose personal net worth exceeds \$400 billion, heads the Department Of Governmental Efficiency (DOGE), which is tasked by President Donald Trump to reduce government spending. Since the U.S. Constitution delegates the regulation of the federal budget to Congress, the creation of DOGE was a significant departure from governmental tradition. DOGE is named after Musk's meme cryptocurrency of the same name.

In DOGE's first two weeks, Musk began his efforts to shrink the number of governmental employees. On January 28th, two million federal workers received an email from the Office of Personnel Management that laid out the Trump administration's goal of minimizing government positions and agencies to ensure all federal workers are "loyal," and offered 6 months of paid leave to any federal worker who replied with the word "Resign."

Over 75,000 federal workers have said they will resign under the deal. The subject of the email was "Fork in the Road," identical to the one Musk sent Twitter employees after acquiring the platform and before laying off 80% of the social media giant's workforce.

DOGE's influence will affect the time-tested governmental aid programs that support current American wellbeing. DOGE now has access to the Treasury Department, an intricate system that has propelled and kept the United States economy the strongest in

the world despite ballooning competition from China. Since the Treasury has issued billions of dollars to Musk's own companies, particularly SpaceX, Musk's domination over the Treasury reveals a conflict of interest, one Trump's Department of Justice will ignore.

Additionally, DOGE now oversees the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), leaving Musk at the control panel of its two-trillion dollar budget, the Medicare and Medicaid payment systems, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the world's largest biomedical research organization.

More importantly, DOGE employees took over the offices of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the principal agency created by Congress to fight global poverty, encourage democratic processes, and aid countries recovering from disaster. Musk has flamed USAID, dubbing it "beyond redemption" and "a criminal organization," especially over its advancement of minority and LGBTQ representation abroad.

Leading the 1980 eradication of smallpox, preventing widespread famine in India and Mexico with the Green Revolution, and expanding global access to clean water and sanitation, USAID has been a beacon for universal human rights. However, since DOGE's takeover, the USAID website has been taken down and over ten-thousand USAID employees were commanded to stay home. USAID functions on \$40 billion, which is a negligible fraction of annual government spending (\$6.75 trillion).

Through an impromptu department named after a joke, Musk is destroying the congressionally established pillars that have upheld America as a global role model. By designating humanitarianism as a governmental inefficiency, an unelected billionaire has extinguished the American torch of freedom, liberty, and democracy that has illuminated the world through centuries of genocide, suppression, and authoritarianism.



Protestors show their disapproval of Musk's influence on the Trump Administration.

USAID'S BILLIONS IN WASTE, FRAUD, AND CORRUPTION EXPOSED

Armen Archouniani '26.

Contributing Editor



Elon Musk joins President Trump at a rally in Washington.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has come under fire for wasting billions of taxpayer dollars on fraudulent and corrupt programs that failed to deliver on their promises. Some have charged that much of USAID's funding never reached its intended recipients, lining the pockets of contractors, consultants, and corrupt foreign officials instead.

One of the most egregious examples is Afghanistan's infrastructure projects, where billions were allocated to roads, power plants, and buildings that were never completed, quickly abandoned, or destroyed. The money vanished into a black hole of corruption, leaving behind little to show for it.

In Haiti, USAID funneled billions into reconstruction efforts after the 2010 earthquake. Yet, over a decade later, promised housing developments remain unbuilt, and much of the funding ended up in the hands of politically connected NGOs and contractors rather than the Haitian people.

USAID's African agricultural programs have also been exposed as massive failures, with funds going to expensive foreign consultants instead of directly assisting local farmers. These projects enriched bureaucrats while leaving Africa's agricultural sector no better off.

A shocking example of wasteful political meddling was USAID's attempt to create a Cuban Twitter (ZunZuneo) to spark political dissent. The project, which cost millions, failed completely and was quickly shut down when Cuban authorities caught on.

Perhaps the most bizarre misuse of funds was the \$20 million given to produce an Iraqi version of "Sesame Street," a project that collapsed due to mismanagement.

These examples only scratch the surface of USAID's long history of waste and corruption. With billions disappearing into failed projects, American taxpayers deserve answers and accountability. How many more billions must be lost before real reform takes place?

DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGDALE’S WILL PERMANENTLY CLOSE

Heather Yee '27

Managing Editor



Bloomingdale’s entrance inside the San Francisco Centre Mall.

Bloomingdale’s recently announced its intent to close its San Francisco Centre flagship location after almost two decades in downtown San Francisco. It was the last remaining mainline department store in the city to have not closed or announced its closure. It is scheduled to shutter its doors at the end of March, 2025. This news comes after Nordstrom, the mall’s other anchor tenant, has already left the struggling shopping center. It also follows Macy’s announcement that it will close its Union Square location.

Bloomingdale’s opened the doors to its San Francisco flagship, its second-largest store after the New York flagship, in 2006. Efforts to bring Bloomingdale’s to Downtown were led by then-Mayor Willie Brown, following the 1996 shutdown of The Emporium, a now-defunct depart-

ment store chain that Macy’s acquired along with Bloomingdale’s in 1995. Since Bloomingdale’s opening, the store has occupied a solid block of retail between Fourth and Fifth Streets, amounting to over 300,000 square feet. It has been the place for locals and tourists alike to encounter the latest trends and discover international luxury brands for decades. Although this location will soon be gone, its other Bay Area stores in Palo Alto’s Stanford Shopping Center and Santa Clara’s Valley Fair Mall will remain open.

Unfortunately, the luxury retailer’s exit from San Francisco Centre leaves yet another scar on the shrinking shopping center and further worsens the city’s recent retail exodus. Due to diminished post-pandemic foot traffic, the 1.5-million-square-foot property has been in steady decline, with over half of its spaces vacant. Only a bare-bones food court and a narrow selection of clothing and lifestyle stores remain.

The mall’s other anchor store and largest retailer, Nordstrom, vacated its space in 2023, and Cinemark followed suit the same year. In response to the worsening retail conditions, San Francisco Centre’s former owners, Westfield and Brookfield Properties, defaulted on their mortgage on the mall in 2024, transferring control to Trident Pacific, the current owner.

The Union Square Macy’s will also soon close after a buyer for the building emerges. After Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s departure, luxury retailer Neiman Marcus will be the only department store left in the city. Despite downtown San Francisco’s bleak landscape, the city’s newly-elected mayor, Daniel Lurie, is optimistic and has promised to revive the area.

Janice Yan '27 remembers visiting the once-thriving mall regularly as a child. Using the mall’s former name, Yan reminisced, “It’s a little sad to see Westfield in this condition. It holds a lot of memories because I used to shop there a lot with my friends and just spend my Saturdays there. I hope that it can bounce back in the next few years and come back stronger.”



Luxury retailer Neiman Marcus will be San Francisco’s last department store.

HOW WILL TRUMP’S TARIFFS IMPACT SI STUDENTS?

Lucas Liang '26 and Ella Dunning-Petitt '27

Associate Editor-in-Chief and Contributing Editor

Ripping a page out of the 1800s section of the junior U.S. History curriculum, President Donald Trump has ordered new tariffs on all imports from Mexico, Canada, and China. This move will likely lead to higher prices for Americans, including SI students

A tariff is a tax on imported goods collected from companies that seek to bring goods into a given country. For example, a 25% tariff on Canada means that any company seeking to bring a Canadian-made product into the American market would have to pay the American government an amount equivalent to 25% of the product’s value. Most economists agree that the cost of tariffs are mostly passed down from companies to consumers.

Trump imposed 25% tariffs on all imports into the U.S. from Canada and Mexico, and a 10% on China. Emergency negotiations were held between the U.S. and its North American neighbors, and those tariffs were temporarily postponed until March 5. In negotiations, Mexico and Canada agreed to send thousands of troops to their respective borders with America, actions that the two countries had largely already agreed to do before the tariffs.

The 10% tariff on China, however, went into effect at midnight on February 4.

It is unclear exactly what the Trump administration wants from the tariffs. Trump has repeatedly accused Mexico and China of allowing illicit drugs to flow into the U.S. The specific new steps that the Trump administration wants these

countries to take to stem the flow of drugs is unknown. China has also emerged as a global adversary to the U.S. Regarding Canada, Vice President J.D. Vance also accused the close American ally of allowing illicit drugs to flow into the U.S., even though Canada is the source of less than 1% of the illicit drugs that end up in America. In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said the Canadian tariffs were actually supposed to force the country to become America’s “51st state.”

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum responded to Trump’s demands with tariff threats of their own. They both promised to place reciprocal 25% tariffs on all American products if Trump’s tariffs go into effect.

CANADA

The Canadian tariff may be the least felt in the SI community. Canada is far more reliant on U.S.-Canada trade than the U.S. One industry that will, however, be especially impacted by the Canadian tariffs—and the impending North American trade war—is the automobile industry. Most of the cars that are made in the U.S., Canada, or Mexico have parts that come from all three of those countries. Without the free flow of goods that exists now, the tariffs could essentially cripple North American car manufacturing. Car enthusiast Damien Lai '26 told *Inside SI*, “Cars have already been expensive enough as they are, so this won’t help.”

CHINA

The Chinese tariff will perhaps have the most wide-ranging impact. Much of America’s consumer goods like electronics and clothes come from China. Trump’s tariff order also eliminated the \$800 tariff exception for Chinese goods. This exception had allowed imports under \$800 to pass through customs duty-free without any tariffs. Now, fast-fashion companies like Shein and Chinese e-commerce platforms such as Temu will have to pay a new 10% fee on everything they import into the United States, introducing a new cost and more bureaucracy that may threaten their survival in the American market.

MEXICO

The tariffs on Mexico will likely hit agricultural goods especially hard. In 2021, Mexico was the source of two-thirds of America’s vegetable imports and half of America’s fresh fruit and nuts imports. Avocados are one item that will be especially impacted, as 90% of America’s supply comes from Mexico. Nora Shaskan '27 told *Inside SI*, “I love my avocados, but they’re from Mexico, so I guess I’ll have to buy more expensive ones with these new tariffs.”

A PRESIDENTIAL UPDATE

Jeremy Hornik '26 and Chase Kendall '26

Contributing Editors

On January 20, 2025, Donald J. Trump was sworn in for his second term as the United States' 47th president, with former Ohio Senator J.D. Vance as his vice president.

Many prominent business executives, such as Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg, along with former presidents including Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, were in attendance. This inauguration, originally planned to be held outdoors, had to be moved inside the U.S. Capitol due to the dangerously cold temperatures that swept across America's East Coast.

After being sworn-in, Trump gave his inaugural address to the country, discussing national issues and his proposed policies. Trump boldly promised a "Golden Age" for the United States. The

inauguration ceremony concluded with the newly elected president and vice president shaking hands with former President Joe Biden and former Vice President Kamala Harris, along with their



Donald Trump takes the presidential oath of office for the second time.

partners, signifying a peaceful transfer of power between the two administrations. Biden and his wife, Jill Biden, then departed via helicopter from the Capitol,

symbolically drawing Biden's presidential term to a close.

In other presidential news, less than a month before the inauguration, on December 29, 2024, former President Jimmy Carter passed away at 100 years old. He was most known for his focus on human rights and humanitarian work, brokering a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt called the Camp David Accords. After his term as president, he began to focus his efforts and resources towards honorable causes, such as fighting disease and building homes in impoverished areas. Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his efforts in diplomacy and human rights, and his legacy as a man of the people is cemented in United States history.

WILDFIRES RAVAGE LOS ANGELES

Amanda Oberto '27 and Lauren Yu '27

Contributing Editors

It's likely almost all students at SI have been hearing all about the devastating Los Angeles fires, as it's been all over the news and media. While California is known for its fires, the recent ones in Southern California have been particularly detrimental due to many factors, particularly the strong Santa Ana winds.

You might be wondering things like: how did it start, what damage has been done, and what can I do to help? To give a brief background, one of the first fires, the Lachman fire started on January 1 and is believed to have been caused by the fireworks. Many sources say the Palisades Fire was first seen on the 7th near a hiking trail, and is believed to be caused by people. Not only that, but the Eaton Fire, Hurst Fire, Sunset Fire, and Hughes Fire all occurred around this time as well. Due to the rapid movement and growth of these fires, many hydrants were running dry, delaying responses to the fires.

According to Cal Fire, the 17 destructive Southern California fires, which were responsible for the destruction of 17,000 structures and a reported 29 deaths, are at near or full containment

However, the rebuilding process has proved difficult as remaining toxic debris must be taken care of by licensed contractors, specializing in handling waste.

Residents have been warned against returning to their homes to look for belongings. The Palisades was open to the public the weekend of January 31st. Many have protested this, their belongings unsecured and unprepared for such quick reopening. Many officials have voiced concerns about the health hazards that will come with visiting the site, raising even more concern with the reported rain in the past weeks. They argue that people who do not have a legitimate reason to be on the fire sites should not be allowed in the area.

On the other hand, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has claimed that reopening the Palisades to the public is an important step to move forward in the rebuilding process. Other towns such as Malibu, Topanga, and Altadena have already reopened to the public.

At SI, it is important to be aware and supportive of the many friends, family, and others who have been affected by

these fires. There are many organizations working to house, provide food, and contribute to the rebuilding of these fire affected areas. Of these many include American Red Cross, Calif. Fire Foundation, Calif. Comm. Foundation, Pasadena Comm. Foundation, Black LA Relief & Recovery Fund, SoCal Fire Fund, Habitat for Humanity LA, and Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. In addition, SI held fundraisers on Feb. 12th & 13th to support relief efforts.

To support those that have lost so much due to the fires, please contribute, by researching your own information, spreading awareness, or donating to these organizations.



A row of burnt-out homes along the coast in Malibu.

MONA LISA WILL GET A \$800 MILLION NEW HOME

Farrah Almajdalani '27

Contributing Editor

Last year, 8.7 million tourists swarmed the Louvre, easily the most popular museum in the world, with 66% of its visitors lining up to see the "Mona Lisa." Stemming from a newspaper leak of an internal memo from the president of the Louvre, concern is rising about the current conditions of Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece.

In her confidential memo, Laurence des Cars, the first woman to head the Louvre, reported that some spaces in the museum "are no longer watertight, while others are experiencing worrying temperature variations, endangering the conservation of the artworks." Moreover, according to the newspaper Le Parisien, the director warned of "a proliferation of damage to the museum's spaces, some of which are in poor condition."

Louvre employees have also indicated similar concerns over flooding and lighting. Italian authorities are now pressing for the "Mona Lisa" to be



The Mona Lisa at its current location in the Louvre.

returned to Milan, Italy, where Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" is located. Many people are against moving the piece and an opinion article in *The Guardian* stated that the "Louvre's decision to move the "Mona Lisa" is a misguided act of snobbery."

In response to the Italian authorities' statement, Emmanuel Macron, the president of France, announced that the famous paintings will, "Be installed in a special space, accessible independently of the rest of the museum." Moreover,

Macron added that a new entrance to the Louvre would be built near the River Seine and they would create underground rooms. The estimated cost of Macron's project is expected to be around \$800 million. Moreover, the president of France branded the new renovation as the "Louvre New Renaissance Project," and it is expected to be completed by 2031.

Hannah Tran '27, who has visited the Louvre, said, "I remember the "Mona Lisa" was on a blue wall and the painting was very small. There were a lot of people lined up to see it and it was unorganized because there was a huge crowd of people pushing to see it. I feel like there is too much focus on the "Mona Lisa" and I feel like there were a lot more beautiful art works that were much more impactful. I overall enjoyed the Louvre experience, and I hope that the "Mona Lisa" stays in the Louvre to support the attraction and to draw more people to the museum to see the other art pieces in the museum."

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE

Nick Luongo '25 & Lilly Eugster '25

Managing Editors

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Record as of 2/17: 17-6



Andrew Ennis '26 aims to sink a free throw.

The basketball team is having a strong regular season with several big wins recently. Most notably, on Friday, February 7, they won against Mitty by two in an overtime thriller on a game winning layup by Sebastian Fisher '25. This clinched the team's regular season sweep of Mitty for the first time since 2014.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Record as of 2/17: 11-6



Haylee McGee '26 puts up a jumper.

Varsity women's basketball defeated SH twice and Riordan once to dominate the City. They played Riordan on February 18th for their Senior Day and last home regular season game.

MEN'S SOCCER

Record as of 2/17: 9-5-5



Mikel Gonzalez '25 dribbles up the field.

Men's Soccer fights for top placement in WCAL in the final few regular season matches. They held their Senior Day on February 19, their final home game of the regular season.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Record as of 2/17: 9-5-5



Taylor Belotti '26 takes a shot on goal.

Varsity Women's Soccer celebrated 10 seniors on Wednesday, February 12 as they took on SHC at home. Senior Sophia Ting scored both goals in a 2-0 win.

SPRING SPORTS

SEASON START DATES:

- Track and Field: 3/1
- Swimming: 2/24
- Diving: 2/24
- Crew: M- 2/15, W-3/9
- Baseball: 2/18
- Softball: 3/3
- Men's Tennis: 3/4
- Men's Golf: 2/25
- Men's Volleyball: 2/20
- Lacrosse: M- 3/7, W- 3/10



Spring Sports began the week of Monday, February 3.

RUGBY

Regular season record as of 2/17: 2-4



Nick Luongo '25 runs across the field with the ball.

Varsity Rugby in its second year back at SI played an extremely physical and competitive match against Jesuit Sacramento in a rematch from last season on Saturday, February 8, falling just short 29-26. The team celebrates its Senior Day on February 22 against De La Salle.

SIGNING OFF: COLLEGE ATHLETE RECOGNITIONS

Kate Quach '25 & Shay Moriarty '25

Editors-in-Chief



c/o Slick Pic



c/o Slick Pic

On February 5th, 15 athletes from the Class of 2025 celebrated their recruitment to play their respective sports in colleges across the United States.

SUPERBOWL SNAPSHOT

Nick Luongo '25, Aiden Tran '27 and Mason Wong '27

Managing Editor and Contributing Editors

The Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles played a rematch from Super Bowl LVII on Sunday, February 9. This year's Super Bowl was played at the Caesars Superdome in New Orleans for the 8th time in NFL history. The average ticket cost was around \$10,000 and the most expensive ticket was \$75,500 as of February 3rd and continued to rise in price as gameday approached. The National Retail Foundation and Prosper Insights & Analytic predicted approximately 203.4 million people worldwide to stream this game. During this year's Super Bowl, we saw the performance of 21-time Grammy Award winner Kendrick Lamar.

WHAT DOES THE SUPER BOWL MEAN FOR BOTH TEAMS?

With the Lombardi trophy on the line, the stakes were high for each team. For the Kansas City Chiefs, this year's win would have made them one of the greatest football teams in recent years—they would have been the first team in NFL history to successfully complete a three-peat. That would have essentially solidified Andy Reid as one of the greatest head coaches of all time along with icing Patrick Mahomes as one of the greatest quarterbacks alongside Tom Brady. However, the Eagles had more at stake. In Super Bowl LVII, the Eagles fell short to the Chiefs 38-35. A Super Bowl win meant redemption for Jalen Hurts and the Eagles. The Eagles' last Super Bowl win was in 2018 and they have come close but fallen short of the trophy each year since. With a compelling victory, the Eagles came out on top!



SI STUDENT PREDICTIONS

We spoke to a few students regarding their prediction of this year's Super Bowl. Connor Comoli '27 said, "I believe the Eagles will win with their offensive strength and individual player skill. Another student stated, "The Chiefs will win Super Bowl LIX because Patrick Mahomes has proven the world before with his skill and he is definitely capable of adding another ring to the collection." Looks like Connor's prediction was correct!

THE ACTUAL GAME

Immediately from the opening kickoff, the Eagles were in control. Philadelphia's defense completely dominated Mahomes and the Chiefs, and the Eagles' offense began to get going at the end of the first quarter. They then exploded in the second quarter, going up 24-0 at halftime. The game was never close, continuing to be a blowout through the entirety of the second half. The final score was 40-22 Eagles (most of the Chiefs' points came in garbage time). Quarterback Jalen Hurts won Super Bowl MVP, though the Eagles' defense was the key to winning the game.

PLAYER STATEMENTS

DeVonta Smith, an Eagles wide receiver, made his second Super Bowl appearance, and he came with a lot of confidence regarding his big game on Sunday. Smith has won the college football championship twice with his alma mater, Alabama. He said in a pregame interview, "Every level of my life, I've been playing in the championship game."

Patrick Mahomes has been the two-time MVP and three-time Super Bowl champion. Kansas City has been extremely dominant in the NFL, ending the regular season with a 15-2 record. Mahomes is not afraid of the backlash his team has received. He said, "If winning football games makes you a villain, we're gonna keep going out there and doing it."

The Super Bowl is once a year and is the biggest game for NFL fans and players. It determines who walks away with a happy season and gives the other 31 teams a reason to change.

SPORTS & FRIENDSHIPS

Dixon Fordyce '28

Contributing Editor

Sports at SI is one of the best ways to make friends in school, but I wanted to see if they're effective for meeting athletes from other schools. Although I don't play a sport at SI, I thought it would be interesting to see if my theory was correct. I interviewed some of my friends who play different sports at SI and asked them how their experience was playing other schools. My first interview was with Fletcher Fritts, the first string Quarterback for our freshmen team. When asked about the environment at football games, he said, "Football games are very fun. Although they get competitive the sportsmanship between teams stays positive." He continued, saying that he's "made many friends from other schools through sports and playing freshman football, leading to the love of the game." This shows how not only has he made friends through sports, but it's even contributed to his "love of the game."

Next, I interviewed Jordyn Belotti '28, who plays on the varsity soccer team. When I asked her if she's made friends through soccer, she said, "High school sports are a great way to catch up with old friends who

don't attend your same school. It's always fun seeing a familiar face on the opposing team and being able to catch up with them after the game." She mentioned how she gets to see old friends that she normally wouldn't, because they went to different high schools. No, this isn't technically meeting new friends from other schools, but it does show how sports broadens your social horizons beyond that of your own school. Belotti went on to reassure me, saying, "Of course before and during the game is always a time for focus and competition, but afterwards is when the friendships form." She also added, "I love catching up with my old teammates from my club teams or from my old school." In conclusion, both of these students showcase how sports at SI not only help make friends in school, but also help making friends at other schools and growing your love for the sport.



The Women's Varsity Soccer team huddles to share words of encouragement before a game

WILDCATS SWEEP BRUCE MAHONEY IN CHASE CENTER DEBUT

Lilly Eugster '25

Managing Editor

For Saint Ignatius basketball, January 14, 2025 will be remembered as a night of dominance and pride for the athletic program. In an electrifying game against long-time rival Sacred Heart Cathedral, both the girls' and boys' teams delivered incredible performances, securing victories and reclaiming the trophy.

This year's win was even more special. It marked the first time the teams played on the grand court of Chase Center, home to the Golden State Warriors. Playing under the bright lights of an NBA arena brought an entirely new level of energy to the longstanding rivalry. The crowd was electric, with students, alumni, and fans packing the stands to witness the big game. From the opening tip-off, both Saint Ignatius teams showcased their talent, determination, and teamwork, proving

why they deserved to take home the trophy once again.

When talking with one of the seniors on the men's team, George Zaghbaba '25 said,

"Playing in the Chase center and being able to defeat our rivals was a really cool experience, especially being able to go 4 and 0 for all four years of our basketball careers at SI."

As Zaghbaba mentioned, this victory wasn't just about one night but was also about continuing the legacy of Saint Ignatius basketball. The wins showcased all of the hard work, dedication, and spirit on both teams, who rose to the occasion in such a special place.

With the trophy back where it belongs, Saint Ignatius once again proved that when it comes to this historic rivalry, they are a force to be reckoned with. This was more than just a game but also was a big moment in Saint Ignatius history and it will inspire the future athletes at SI and beyond to play hard, and not be afraid of a challenge.



The Women's and Men's Varsity Basketball teams come together to prepare for a victory at the Chase Center.

HUMOR

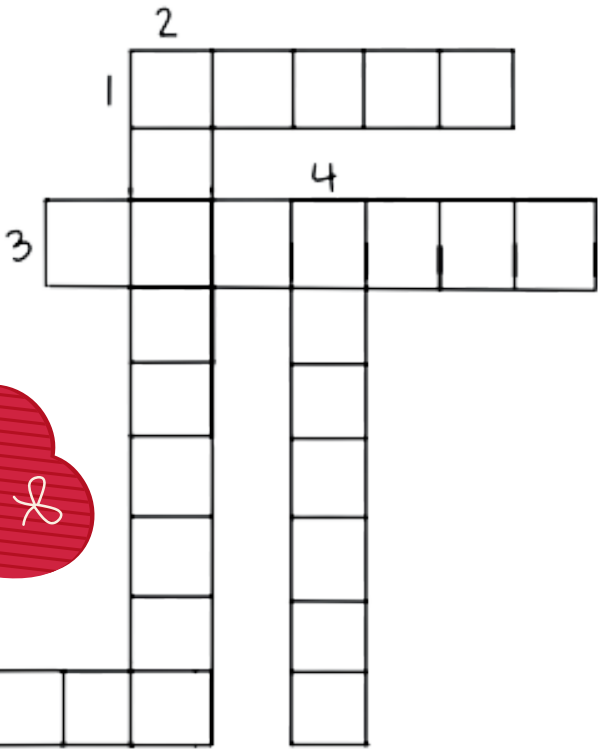
CUPID'S CROSSWORD

Ava Chiappari '26

Contributing Editor

- Across:
- 1. He shoots love arrows with his bow.
 - 3. Valentine themed movies are typically in the _____ genre.
 - 6. Will you be my _____?
 - 8. Valentines Day occurs on February _____.
 - 9. Snow White awoke from a kiss of true _____.

- Down:
- 2. The best gift is a box of _____.
 - 4. You might get a card from a secret _____.
 - 5. It is the shape of love.
 - 7. The most popular red flower



STRANDS

Rini Saha '25Contributing Editor

SI MEMES

Shay Moriarty '25 and Sierra Murphy '25Editors-in-Chief

Find hidden words and uncover this issue’s theme!

POV: THE WALK TO THE VILLAGE AS OF LATELY...

TODAY’S THEME
Healing & Creating Scars

H S C R U H
E I M T C E
R S E L B S
S T T O R E
A I N T Y D
C C O B E M
L H A D D E
A E N A I R

__ of 8 theme words found.



PHONE CADDY PRISON



SHARING A PIECE OF MY HEART

Geraldine Segura '27

Contributing Editor



Inside GA

VOLUME 73 ISSUE 7
FEBRUARY 2025

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Shay Moriarty '25, Sierra Murphy '25, Kate Quach '25

ASSOCIATE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:

Lucas Liang '26, Evelyn Conboy '26, Jordan Liu '26, Annika Watkins '26

MANAGING EDITORS: Sophie Barsoian '26, Evie Chen '26, Cassidy Chew '25, Sienna Cline '25, Evelyn Conboy '26, Lilly Eugster '25, Madison Dela Rama '27, Lucas Liang '26, Jordan Liu '26, Nick Luongo '25, Tai Morganson '26, Ava Murphy '25, Zoe Omar '25, Julian Ozaeta '25, Alex Salentine '26, Annika Watkins '26, Janice Yan '27, Heather Yee '27

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Farrah Almajdalani '27, Genevieve Arcenio '27, Armen Archouniani '26, Ava Chiappari '26, Skylar Chung '27, Ella Dunning-Petitt '27, Dixon Fordyce '28, Alexander Goldberg '26, Jeremy Hornik '26, Chase Kendall '26, Amanda Oberto '27, Princewill Onyebuchi '26, Rini Saha '25, Radhika Saha '28, Geraldine Segura '27, Nora Shaskan '27, Beatrice Sopko '26, Aiden Tran '27, Mason Wong '27, Lauren Yu '27, George Zaghbaba '25, Claire Somsouk '26, Cami Pyo '26

LAYOUT: Kate Quach '25, Sierra Murphy '25, Shay Moriarty '25, Lucas Liang '26, Evelyn Conboy '26, Jordan Liu '26, Annika Watkins '26

BENEVOLENT CENSORS: Ms. Carole Nickolai
Ms. Jacqueline Boland
Ms. Jamie Lundy