

Headline Banner by Cami Pyo '26

SPORTS

WILDCATS SWEEP 2025 BRUCE-MAHONEY

Bear Vida '27

Contributing Editor



The Varsity Baseball team celebrates after winning the 2025 Bruce-Mahoney baseball game.

BRUCE-MAHONEY SERIES
SI 5 - 0 SHC
SI WINS 2024-25 TITLE

On a sunny 60-degree evening at Oracle Park, the St. Ignatius Wildcats faced off against the Sacred Heart Cathedral Irish in the final game of the Bruce-Mahoney series. The Wildcats, introducing their new black uniforms, aimed to complete a historic sweep in the series, and

redeem themselves after last year's 1-0 loss against the Irish in the Bruce-Mahoney game. The game began at 5:45 PM with SI stepping up to bat first. Archer Horn '26 set the tone early with a single down the middle. The next three batters didn't have the same luck, and were unable to break down the defense. Coming into the second inning, pitcher Chase Gordon

'26 delivered a critical strikeout to keep the Irish scoreless. This is when the Cats' defense started coming alive. This momentum carried as Horn fielded a ball at shortstop and tossed it to Jack Callen '26 at second, who swung it to Beau Shaffer '25 at first, for a swift double play to end the third.

In the fourth inning Atticus Gibson '26 hit a

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FEATURE

OPINION: CONQUERING COMMON CLICHÉS

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

Clichés and biases consume high school students, impacting the decisions students make. One might hesitate to take on a new opportunity based on how it might affect their “image” and social standing among peers. Moreover, clichés may create a distorted idea of how teens should behave.

Conquering these common clichés is important so that students can gain their own knowledge of the high school experience instead of succumbing to the influence of generalized expectations.

The banner for this issue portrays how students hear biases and

clichés radiating through the halls daily, keeping them from authenticity and forming original opinions. We hope to unpack some of these clichés in this issue's Feature section.

For example, the phrase “youth is wasted on the young” emerged from the opinion of dramatist George Bernard Shaw, who added on to his point by stating that youths are “brainless, and don't know what they have; they squander every opportunity of being young, on being young.” The students at SI challenge and dispute Shaw's clichéd quote.

The 160+ clubs and organizations on campus exhibit young people's

Hey SI! Can you find all my easter eggs hidden in the issue?



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ARTS & LEISURE

AN EVENING WITH CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

Michael Grasso '25

Contributing Editor

Earlier this month on March 7th, SI students headed over to the Sydney Goldstein Theater to spend an evening listening to a talk with award-winning author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Students, led by SI teachers Ms. Miller and Ms. Lundy, awaited the wisdom from the beloved author of *Purple Hibiscus*, which remains a staple in the sophomore English curriculum. Adichie stopped in San Francisco to welcome fans, readers, and literature connoisseurs alike to the release of her newest novel *Dream Count*.

When Adichie hit the stage, SI students erupted in applause, meeting eyes with the writer who shaped many of their sophomore year English classes. When asked by Anna Malaika Tubbs about the role of writers, Adichie drew on her

early life, being a young girl spending all her time noting down stories in her exercise book. She expressed that writing isn't as much of a job as it is a vocation; to be called to writing is having the capacity to enter one's imagination and supplement it with observations from real life.



Adichie (left) discusses her experience as a writer at the Sydney Goldstein Theater.

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SI NEWS

ROBOTICS TEAM 5924 GEARS UP FOR SF REGIONAL

Evie Chen '26 & Heather Yee '27

Managing Editors

On March 22 and 23, SI's robotics team, Team 5924, hosted the San Francisco Regional. Forty-one teams participated in the competition, with some even traveling from as far as Taiwan and Türkiye.

Taking place in McCullough Gym, teams formed alliances, where they worked together to compete against other alliances. The alliances' meticulously-built robots sparred against each other over several matches, where they fought to complete a given task within a time limit.

The event was streamed on the platform Twitch, and through their screens, viewers could sense the pressure and tension in the room as alliances vied for victory.



Seniors on the Team 5924 shape up their robot and lead the crew.

Three Team 5924 members spoke about their expectations and experience with robotics. Joelle Vargas-Azucar '26 said, “We're really excited because we have a new robot in the works.” Specifying the humorous name of the robot, Natalie Wong '27 called it, “our new and improved bot, Crashout.”

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A LOVE STORY SKIT

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PATHWAYS OF REFLECTING DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON

Alex Salentine '26

Managing Editor

On February 25, Fr. Sean Carroll, Provincial of the Western Province of the Society of Jesus, came to SI to celebrate the reaffirmation of SI's Jesuit identity. Every six years, Jesuit secondary schools go through a process of discernment and prayer with the Province to reflect on how well they are living out their Jesuit identity and see where there are still areas of growth to address. This year, SI finished this process and is officially re-recognized as a Jesuit institution supported by the Society of Jesus.

During the mass, students and faculty gave reflections about what

Jesuit values mean to them and how these values have positively influenced their lives. Fr. Carroll also gave a homily on Matthew 25 and emphasized the important place of service at a Jesuit school. Then, after the homily, Fr. Carroll read the statement that formally confirms that the Jesuits sponsor SI as a Jesuit school.

On March 5, the SI community celebrated an Ash Wednesday prayer service, which marked the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. Ms. Calalo-Berry and other students led the SI community in prayer and word while

Music Ministry provided music.

Michael Grasso '25, Giovanni Gonzalez '26, and Margot Rodgers '25 also shared reflections on what fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, the three traditional Lenten practices, mean to them in their own lives. During their reflections, they also invited the student body to think about ways in which they could be more free this Lent by giving up harmful things.

Lastly, students and faculty had the opportunity to receive ashes from Campus Ministers as a sign of Lenten repentance.



Senior Campus Ministry leaders prepare to give out the ashes.



The SI community prepares of Ash Wednesday Mass to start off the Lenten Season.



Soren Hummel '25 receives his ashes through a student leader.

THE BALLOTS ARE IN FOR STUDENT COUNCIL LEADERS

Tai Morganson '26

Managing Editor

Before heading off to quarter break, St. Ignatius students voted for their peers in the anticipated Student Council election. Comprised of elected representatives from the sophomore, junior, and senior classes, the St. Ignatius Student Council has defined student leadership on campus for decades.

Representatives collaborate to plan school-wide activities like spirit week and special events which include homecoming, prom, and Friday Night Lights games. The Council also moderates the school's various clubs, reviewing applications and running the annual club fair.

Class representatives also lead the school community in their support of St. Ignatius athletics, clubs, and performing arts.

Boyd Killion '26 was elected for her second Student Council term by her peers. "I am grateful and very excited to have the opportunity to work alongside other members of the class of 2026 next school year," Killion told *Inside SI*. "I am looking forward to making homecoming, prom, and spirit week really special for our last year at SI!"

Varsity basketball captain Steele Labagh '26 was also elected, and will serve his first term next semester. Speaking to his peers, he said, "Thank you to all those who voted for me for Student Council and. I can't wait to communicate the brilliant ideas of the student body to make SI a better place!"



Student Council members work with the Student Activities Department to bring spirit to school events.

SI HOSTS FIRST-EVER ADMITTED STUDENTS NIGHT

Lucas Liang '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, March 24, about 500 newly admitted SI students flooded the student center, gyms, and foyer for the Admissions Office's first ever Admitted Students Night.

On the previous Friday, March 21, thousands of anxious 8th graders received their SI admissions decision through an update on the online application portal and a letter in the mail.

As the 8th graders and their parents entered the foyer to the sounds of SI's "High Five" band, they were greeted with tables promoting various academic subjects, parent organizations, athletic teams, and student clubs in Cowell Pavilion and McCullough Gymnasium.

Admitted families also had the opportunity to hear a panel of students from the Black Student Union and the Association of Latin American Students.

This was SI's first year hosting an event for admitted students before their commitment deadline.

Shea Morganson, a newly admitted 8th grader from Aptos Middle School, said the event helped clarify his high school choice. "I learned a lot about what SI would be like," said Morganson. "It introduced me to opportunities for clubs and other activities at SI."



SI student council welcomes students back to school in August, 2024.

A MAGNA VICTORIA FOR JCL AT STATE CONVENTION

Shay Moriarty '25

Editor-in-Chief



SI students participated in the 2025 JCL State Convention at Woodbridge High School during March 28-30th. SI took 2nd place in overall school wins!

SI's 1st Place Winners

- Connor Statton '27: Sight Latin Reading
- Georgia Parr '27: Track & Field Long Jump & Open Certamen
- Keoni Liwanag '25: Geography, Maps
- Rini Saha '25: Mosaics, Greeting Cards, Cartoons, Charts Constructed, Board Games, Black and Colored Ink, Chalk/Pastel, All-Around Individual, Overall Artistic Winner



SENIORS HAVE A BLAST AT “THE BIG EVENT”!

McCann O’Brien ’26

Contributing Editor

SI took to the runway a few weeks ago for the annual Senior Fashion Show with the theme “Bright Lights, Big City.” Over 250 seniors participated in this year’s event, with nine groups each portraying a different city while they strutted across the stage. After multiple rehearsals and fittings, at which they learned moves created by a professional choreographer, the event took place at Fort Mason Center’s Festival Pavilion on March 1-2, 2025.

Many of the clothes worn by the seniors were donated from various stores across San Francisco, like Macy’s and Marine Layer. The clothes and stylists succeeded in bringing this year’s theme to life, dressing our seniors to fit the identity of different cities across the country. This included a group representing Denver, showing off ski-themed outfits, and a New York group, whose looks embodied the iconic taxis and firefighters of the city. Other cities represented were Miami, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Seattle, Las Vegas, Honolulu, and Nashville, each with their own standout costumes and outfits.

Four-time stylist Stephanie O’Brien, who curated outfits for the Denver group, detailed the process: “We had to figure out exactly what each person’s outfit was and coordinate the different groups that walked out...Each small group had its own look within the bigger look of the city.”

Additionally, all aspects of the show are made possible by volunteers, who helped with lighting, staging, styling, and decorating, among other significant production factors. The show lasted for two days, giving many people—especially members of the SI community—a chance to see the seniors in action. The Saturday night show was in combination with this year’s auction, while the Sunday afternoon luncheon allowed attendees to shop beforehand from the different donors who contributed to the show.

The seniors certainly enjoyed their foray into fashion, even with the grand scale of the event. With a large number of the senior class choosing to participate, students found the performance to be a memorable experience as their time at SI approaches its end.

Ethan Ovbiagele ’25 described the experience: “At first, I didn’t want to do it... I didn’t want to embarrass myself. [But] it was 15 billion times more fun than I thought.”

Our seniors definitely worked hard in preparation for the event. After seven rehearsals in total, the class of 2025 got to show off their looks in what is sure to be remembered as a highlight of their final year at SI!



Class of 2025 lights up the stage with their fun dance moves and costumes.

A BUMPING NIGHT AT THE BAYOU BOUNCE!

Aida Artashesyan ’28

Contributing Editors

On Friday, March 14, SI’s Wilsey Library and Student Center weren’t just a place to get schoolwork done and chat with friends. That evening, both locations were transformed into a Mardi Gras-themed party, with students jumping up and down to the pounding music and enjoying tasty New Orleans-style treats.

Freshmen and sophomores in intricate masks and with snacks in hand had a blast while dancing to the energetic beats. The night felt like a true New Orleans celebration! The Bayou Bounce, the spring semester’s frosh-soph dance, definitely succeeded in honoring Mardi Gras, or “Fat Tuesday,” a holiday that falls on the day before the beginning of Lent and is most commonly celebrated in Louisiana. Its name refers to the fact that this day is considered the last time one can consume richer foods in preparation for Lent’s



The Bayou Bounce fills the student center with fun music, costumes, food, and more!

fasting season, when such foods are usually avoided.

During the dance, students had the opportunity to take festive pictures with

friends at the Photo Booth, eat delicious beignets and jambalaya, and witness performers light up the night with their spectacular moves. Attendees can agree that the Bounce was an unforgettable, fun-filled evening packed with laughter, enthusiasm, and songs that pumped everyone up.

When reflecting on her experience at the dance, Clara Brunello ’28 stated, “The Bayou Bounce was super fun and just a great opportunity to hang out with my friends.” Similarly, Julia Coughlan ’28 shared, “The dance was so fun, especially the photo booth. I made lots of great memories and captured them on camera!”

It is safe to say that the Bayou Bounce was a sure success and left all freshmen and sophomores feeling energized—and wanting more!

JUNIORS TACKLE THE SAT

Sebastian Huerta ’26

Contributing Editor

On March 20, Juniors took the SAT on SI’s official SAT School Day. For two and a half hours, students completed the SAT on their personal devices, in a new format called the “Digital SAT,” which rolled out last year.

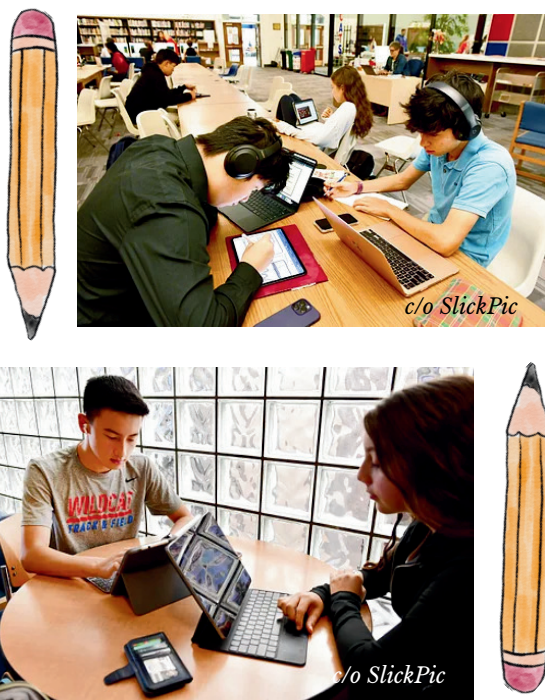
For many students, March 20 was the culmination of months of disciplined study. While some juniors felt confident about their study habits, a couple days before the test, Michael Rawles ’26 remarked, “Right now, I am not feeling too confident because I’ve been leaving my studying until the last minute.”

The arrival of the SAT test-taking season comes in the midst of a confusing time for college admissions, when many schools that chose to go test-optional due to the COVID pandemic are now reinstating their testing

requirements. While some members of the Class of 2026 are choosing not to take the standardized exam, Micheal Rawles stated, “Personally, I feel that the SAT will be very important for my college applications because many top colleges are now shifting to test-required.”

Unlike in previous school years, March 20 was the only SAT School Day that SI provided for Juniors. Additional test dates can be booked on the College Board’s website.

“Personally, I feel that the SAT will be very important for my college applications because many top colleges are now shifting to test-required.”
-Michael Rawles ’26



Students collaborate to review study guides.

ROBOTICS TEAM 5924 GEARS UP FOR SF REGIONAL

Evie Chen '26 and Heather Yee '27

Managing Editors

Continued from Front Page

Speaking about her hopes for a victory in the SF Regional competition, Vargas-Azucar added, "We did really well in our last competition. So, we're really hoping that we [will] be able to get a win this year." Wong said Crashout was "going up against 40 different teams from different countries including Taiwan and Türkiye."

Team 5924 weaves SI students together into a multifaceted team that embraces the importance of community for robotics. Regarding the international teams SI hosted, Vargas-Azucar said, "We really want to be able to create lasting relations with them if possible." Nicholas Bishop '26 also emphasized relationships, declaring his favorite part of robotics "the great people that are on it." He also was eager to meet new robotics teams. "One of the big parts about robotics is about cooperation



SI Robotics poses outside the Robotics Lab.

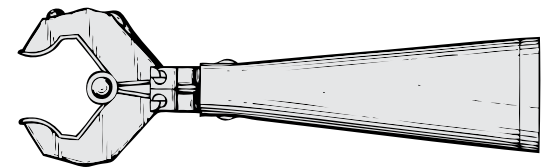


Students support Team 5924 in McCullough Gymnasium.

and competition," Bishop said, "so I'm excited to see how everyone interacts with each other."

Team 5924 combines teamwork with encouragement, collaboration, and a healthy dose of competitive drive. They hosted the SF Regionals, and looking ahead, the team will hopefully travel to Houston, Texas, in May for the FIRST Championships, an international robotics competition for the best teams in the world.

Attendance at the championships hinges on the team's performance in its upcoming matches. Until then, the team will continue to work tirelessly in preparation for these next competitions. Cheers to our engineers on Team 5924!



Bear Vida '27

WILDCATS SWEEP 2025 BRUCE-MAHONEY

Contributing Editor

Continued from Front Page

double to bring home Schaffer and Ryan Rosenthal '26, giving SI a 2-0 lead. The Cats continued to shine on offense when Emmett Johnson '25 added another RBI with a single between shortstop and third base, bringing home Rosenthal, and extending SI's lead to 3-0.

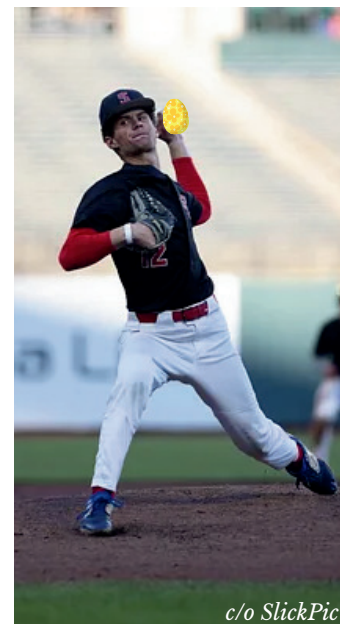
SI's momentum shifted in the fifth inning as Sacred Heart benefited off of a few SI errors, and put up three runs to tie the score. Fans of the Irish were all on their feet, confident that they were still in the game. Knowing it was time for a change, SI's Chase Gordon '26 was replaced by right-hander Spencer Guido '25. Later, Horn stepped in to secure a strikeout, getting the Cats out of a very long sixth inning. SI regained control in the seventh



SI Varsity Baseball players celebrate after the win.



AJ Wineinger '26 rushes the mound after the Wildcats secure the win.



Chase Gordon '26 throws a pitch.

inning. Johnson hit a double to left field, advancing AJ Wineinger '26 to third base. Gordon then smashed a triple down the right field line toward McCovey Cove, leaving the Irish stunned, and bringing home Gibson, Johnson, and DJ Delaney '26, raising the Wildcats' lead to 6-3.

Horn closed out the game with a strikeout in the bottom of the seventh inning. The Cats immediately ran out of the dugout to gather around the mound, throwing their hats in the air under the bright Oracle lights. "This incredible win will give the Cats great momentum heading into WCAL," said JV baseball player Connor Murray '27. This game solidified SI's definitive 5-0 sweep in this year's Bruce-Mahoney contest.



ARTS & LEISURE

A "PEACEFUL EASY FEELING" IN THE VEGAS SPHERE

Ava Murphy '25

Managing Editor

The headlights of a blue 1970's convertible barrel towards the audience at full speed. The scene envelopes the viewer as "Hotel California" begins to play. This is just the beginning of The Eagles, "The Long Goodbye" tour. The incredible viewing experience of The Sphere coupled with the melodic rock/country music of the band makes for an unforgettable show. Over the course of their residency, the iconic band has played sold out shows nightly. Fans have flocked from all over the country and even the world to take part in the epic show.

The Eagles—an iconic symbol of the 70's—thought they would never perform as a united group again when they split in the early 80's. However, they made a comeback in 1994 and have been playing shows ever since. Over the last thirty years of success and sold out arenas, each show has culminated in the performance of a lifetime.

Enter The Sphere, with over 500,000 LED lights and seating for a little less than 20,000. The experience is unmatched and incomparable to any other. With its amazing visuals, it is very easy to get lost in the moment. As the soulful music melts into the picture of a sunset over the California desert, you are captured in the storytelling. But the real pleasure in the show lies in the incredible chemistry between the members of The Eagles. Each note, strum of the guitar, and belt of a high note seems effortless and almost natural. They are infinitely in unison.

In these instances, the viewer remembers the incredible talent exuding from the band members. After all, they are "just a couple of guys with guitars," as Don Henley affectionately calls them. The current band includes veterans Don Henley, Joe Walsh, and Timothy B.

Schmit. Vince Gill and Deacon Frey, son of the late Glenn Frey, bring heart to the performance. The spectacle of The Sphere enhances the moment, and the viewer is lost in that nostalgic feeling of the 1970's. For a moment, life is simple and there is never a worry of a "New Kid in Town."



The Eagles' performance at The Sphere wowed crowds with impressive visuals and music.

AN EVENING WITH CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

Michael Grasso '25 Contributing Editor

Continued from Front Page

Adichie recounted times she spent listening in on adult conversations much more than a regular child should, adding a humorous perspective to her childhood curiosity. She advised that anyone who wanted to be a writer must first be a reader, speaking to the importance of reading from different perspectives, the canon, and what you do not enjoy.

When asked about her role as an activist, Adichie was quick to express that she separates herself as a fiction writer and an activist. She offered a nuanced opinion on the effect of some of her novels, saying that oftentimes writing done out of a non-western tradition or situated in a non-western landscape tends to be read as anthropology instead of fiction. Although containing themes about the social scope of Nigeria, Adichie responded to the common interp-retations that some of her father characters represent military dictatorship in Nigeria. She denounced this analysis, saying that these characters simply possess the traits of the type of Nigerian father she has



SI students line up outside the theater eager to hear from Adichie.

encountered and observed. At the end of her talk, Adichie read from her new novel *Dream Count*.

She began at the first page, revealing the story of four women’s perspectives on life during the pandemic. When she opened the floor to questions from the audience, Adichie gave her thoughts about AI’s impact on education. She implored the young population to read more novels entirely, stressing the importance of analyzing a book from start to finish and forming one’s own opinions and

ideas. Thanks to the English department, SI students heard directly from the voice behind their analyses. We hope to encounter more author talks like this one and continue to enrich the lives of our SI community with the wisdom of powerful writers like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Some students even scored a signed copy of *Dream Count* on the way out of the Sydney Goldstein Theater. On the way home, the words of Ms. Boland – “Literature is life” – rang in the heads of the SI students who were lucky enough to attend.



Adichie has authored many novels and released her newest book, titled *Dream Count*, in March 2025.

REVIEW: “THE GODFATHER,” GOOD BUT NOT GREAT

Nora Shaskin '27 Contributing Editor

After watching the Oscars, I decided to finally see *The Godfather* for the first time. Anticipating the best film in history, I prepared to witness cinema at its finest. However, after watching three hours of the Corleone family pursuing their mob business, I was disappointed by how little I was moved by the film. Not to say *The Godfather* wasn’t a good movie, for the incredible cast and exciting plot was quite entertaining, but I concluded that it is not the greatest movie to ever exist.

During the Oscar Ceremony of 1973, *The Godfather* won Best Actor (Marlon Brando), Best Adapted Screenplay (Mario Puzo and Francis Ford Coppola), and Best Picture. Perhaps against the other films of that year, *The Godfather* deserved all three of those awards. But, compared to “what makes a movie the best movie of all time,” I think *The Godfather* falls short. In my opinion, a great film enhances emotion in the audience; the viewer feels something just by staring at the screen, and whether that’s rage, sorrow, or satisfaction depends on the movie and the director’s underlying message. But as *The Godfather* unfolded, I sat still, waiting to be emotionally challenged. Instead, I felt nothing. Although I was a bit

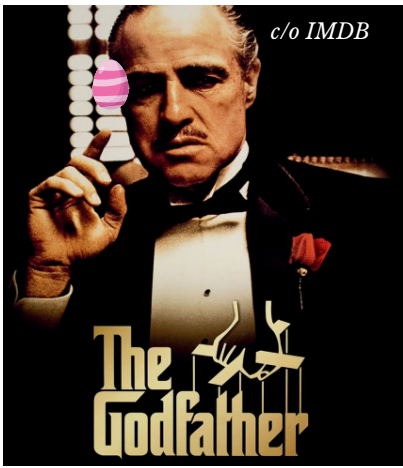
I was a bit shocked by the horse head scene, the movie lacked passion and energy; expecting to be blown away by Coppola’s famous film, I noticed an absence of sentiment. In other words, the movie had no soul.

Another aspect *The Godfather* failed to reach was emotional manipulation. Regarding storytelling, emotional manipulation attracts the audience by creating a deeper connection between the viewers and the characters. As Michael Corleone develops from the uninvolved, youngest son to the top of the Mafia, I felt no connection to his character. Therefore, I didn’t care which direction the story would go; if things went well or poorly for Michael, it didn’t affect how I felt.

Some may argue my disconnection from the film is because of a gender division. They say *The Godfather* appeals more to men than women because of its masculine storyline and consequently women can’t always understand the brilliance of the film. According to a male dominant audience, *The Godfather* is the best movie of all time. But I think that’s just another reason why it is not cinema’s GOAT. If a film only appeals to a certain group of people,

that directly speaks to the movie’s incapability to reach broader audiences.

I believe that *The Godfather* was indeed groundbreaking for 1973, but while it may be the best movie of its time, that doesn’t make it the best of all time. As a student wanting to enter the film industry later in life, I personally respect Francis Ford Coppola as a pioneer in cinematography who turned Mario Puzo’s novel into a well-recognized masterpiece. However, I did not walk away from *The Godfather* emotionally moved nor immensely impressed, and thus do not categorize it as the best movie ever made.



“The Godfather” premiered in 1972, and “The Godfather II” came out in 1974. Both films won best picture at the Oscars.

REMEMBERING MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG

Skylar Chung '27 Contributing Editor



Michelle Trachtenberg died February at 39.

for both shows. She was also nominated for a Daytime Emmy Award for her TV series *Truth or Scare*.

On February 26, 2025, Michelle Trachtenberg sadly passed away in her Upper West Side home in NYC. Michelle Trachtenberg, an American actress born Oct. 11, 1985 in New York City, famously starred in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (2000-2003) and *Gossip Girl* (2008-2012), which got her nominations in the Teen Choice Awards

Tractenberg was raised in New York and moved to Los Angeles for high school. Outside acting, Michelle became a youth representative for the anti-drug campaign with President Bill Clinton. She helped launch the Coalition for a Drug Free America. She had a passion for advocating for Recording Artists, Athletes, Actors Against Drunk Driving (and Drug Abuse Resistance Education).

Trachtenberg first rose to fame in the early 2000s for her role on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Many also know Trachtenberg from her role as Georgina Sparks on *Gossip Girl*, a show that quickly became iconic for its complexity and drama. First introduced in Season 1 as a manipulative character who caused trouble

for the Upper East Side elite, Trachtenberg’s character in the series brought chaos. However, over time Georgina’s character evolved, showing her vulnerabilities. Alyssa Lam '28 said, “Her character brought a contrast in personality to each episode, which made this show more interesting to watch.”

Trachtenberg’s cause of death remains unknown as her family has decided to refrain from performing an autopsy due to religious reasons. She leaves behind a legacy of beloved roles in pop culture.

BINGE-WORTHY MONTHLY WATCHES

Ava Murphy '25

Managing Editor

During March, incredible new watches hit the streaming screen to both entertain and thrill audiences. From murder mysteries to captivating worlds one could never fathom, these shows are here to showcase the brilliance and impact of storytelling.

Adolescence



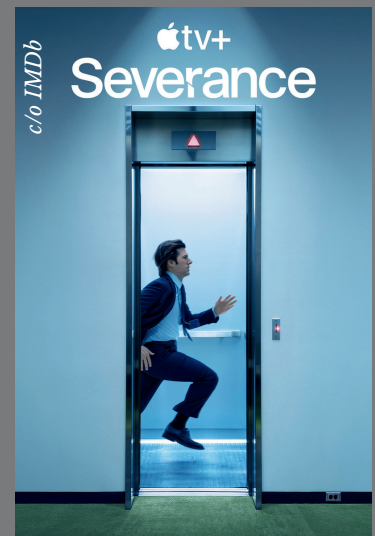
Released on March 13th, *Adolescence* is a miniseries which was released on *Netflix*. The show tells the story of a 13-year-old boy named Jamie Miller who is accused of the murder of his female classmate. The show focuses on themes of misogyny and how extreme male-dominated content online can radicalize young men to potentially commit violence and also the impact of this crime on families.

The White Lotus



The critically acclaimed murder mystery show is back for its third season in a new location—Thailand. The guests of the exclusive White Lotus Hotel are the focal point of the series as the show explores how there is much more below their glittering exteriors. And, of course, viewers speculate who is murdered by the end of the season. If you like black comedy and satirical humor that pokes fun at the wealthy, this show is for you.

Severance



In this alternative reality, characters can get a “severance chip,” so they don’t have to experience the drudgery of every-day work life. Instead, their “innies” go through the motions at work but do not know the whole story of why they have been placed in the strange reality of their jobs. Moreover, more and more secrets seem to arise around their jobs as both the “outies” and “innies” begin to realize that the mysterious Lumen company may be engaged in malpractices!

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE TAKES OVER BANNAN THEATER

Janice Yan '27

Managing Editor

From March 25-28, SI’s cast and crew members poured their dedication and hard work into this year’s musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*, written by Bob Martin and Don McKellar.

The Drowsy Chaperone is a musical comedy that is a parody of the 1920s era of Broadway musicals. The story starts off with the character known as “Man in the Chair,” played by Donovan Shinn '26, an eccentric and Broadway-obsessed individual. While he narrates most of the play, he helps the characters come to life with the use of his vinyl records. He often breaks the fourth wall, interacting with the audience and offering commentary throughout the play.

The musical follows the chaos of a woman named Janet Van De Graaff, played by Karina Barance '27, who is a show girl about to marry a rich man named Robert. Janet’s chaperone, a drunk and drowsy woman (hence the musical’s name), attempts to keep things under control, but a series of mishaps, misunderstandings, multiple dance numbers, and comical situations happen instead.

Overall, the show is a lighthearted

musical with catchy songs that capture the 1920s style of Broadway musicals.

In an interview with *Inside SI*, Barance said, “I’ve had the honor to play Janet Van De Graaff in *The Drowsy Chaperone* this year. She is a show girl who is very self-absorbed, and is conflicted with the decision to marry her fiancé or continue a life on stage. I’ve had so much fun this year in rehearsals and the overall process of creating this show.

Although the cast had to be flexible with changes mid-show, I feel like we did a fantastic job bringing this show to the stage.”

“The musical was so funny and entertaining! I loved seeing my fellow Wildcats show off their talents. I can tell how meaningful this final performance was for the Seniors especially!”

-Maggie Strain

Another cast member, Cassandra Conde '26, who plays the role of the lazy chaperone said, “This is my first musical here at SI and my role is the lazy chaperone. She has to keep Janet from seeing Robert before she gets married, but she is too obsessed with drinking, [evidenced by] the olives and a flask she holds. She is a character that is really fun to play and I really enjoyed being in the musical.”

A member of the costume crew, Michael Cinco '27 said, “It was very fun being able to make costumes and watch them perform the shows before the musical was out for everyone else. It’s inspiring being able to see how much dedication and time they put into it.”

Audience member Maggie Strain '25 shared that “the musical was so funny and entertaining! I loved seeing my fellow Wildcats show off their talents. I can tell how meaningful this final performance was for the Seniors especially!”

This year’s musical was a big success with two performances completely sold out! If you’re looking to take part in this performance, the cast and crew invites everyone to try out for next year’s musical!



The Closing Cast take a bow at the end of the show.



Cassandra Conde '26 plays the Drowsy Chaperone in the Opening Cast.



Sami Halteh '26 and Jack Bennett '28 pose after their tap-dancing number.

CRACKS IN AMERICA’S EGG SUPPLY

Heather Yee ’27

Managing Editor

Amidst rising inflation across the country, eggs have quickly become the latest hot commodity in American grocery stores.

With the price of eggs increasing and cases often being found half-empty, shoppers might wonder about the reason why. This nationwide egg shortage is largely due to bird flu, otherwise known as H5N1. The disease first infected European poultry and mammals in 2020, but in January of 2022, it began to circulate throughout North America — infecting poultry, wild mammals, and dairy cows. Nearly 80 million U.S. chickens died in 2022 and 2023 due to bird flu, and 13.2 million were killed in December 2024 to prevent further spread, according to the USDA. Fortunately, the number of infections in birds seems to be trending down, as about 13 million were affected in February, and only 6.5 million within the last 30 days.

There have been 70 reported cases of H5N1 in the U.S. within humans; however, most cases were due to close contact with animals on pultry or dairy farms, and risk

to the general public remains low. Despite the decrease in bird flu infections within animals, the consequences of the disease remain potent.

Over the past 12 months, egg prices have skyrocketed, from a national average



An industrial egg farm.

of \$3.00 per dozen in February 2024 to \$5.90 in February 2025. In spite of record high costs, the USDA predicts a 20% increase in the already-expensive grocery staple. The shortage is affecting regular consumers and business owners alike. Many diners and bakeries have been left with no

choice but to raise the prices on their items because of how scarce eggs have become. Grocery stores across the country have instituted egg limits, restricting the number of egg cartons customers can buy on each visit.

In late February, President Donald Trump sent a letter to Denmark’s egg association, requesting that they and other European nations export eggs to the American market, despite new, heavy U.S. tariffs. The association responded by saying that it would look into the request, but that there was no surplus of eggs in Europe.

Aimee Mao ’27 noted, “This ‘eggstra’ horrible crisis makes consumers reconsider their dependence on this grocery staple. We humans think ourselves invincible, or at least relatively unaffected, from natural glitches. Time and time again we are forced to recognize that we cannot control everything.” Until the American chicken population recovers from the lingering effects of bird flu, egg prices do not seem they will be decreasing anytime soon.

GOVERNOR NEWSOM’S NEW PODCAST FACES BACKLASH

Amanda Oberto ’27 and Lauren Yu ’27

Contributing Editors

California Governor Gavin Newsom recently released a podcast called *This is Gavin Newsom*, hosting numerous supporters of President Donald Trump and extreme right-wing Republicans, sparking controversy across the United States.

This podcast, according to *The Hill*, appears to be harming his public image, as the main objective of his episodes is to seek common ground with conservatives. He said in an advertisement, “I’m going to be talking to people directly that I disagree with, as well as people I look up to.”

His podcast is facing backlash for the way he goes about interviewing people and who he chooses to interview. In his podcast, he covers sensitive topics with right-wing leaders, such as transgender athletes’ participation in sports, the use of pronouns that reflect the way a person would like to be identified, and the term “Latinx.” Some of the views he is expressing on his podcast reveal how his politics have begun to change, as he seems to have adopted more conservative perspectives while he’s

talking with Republicans.

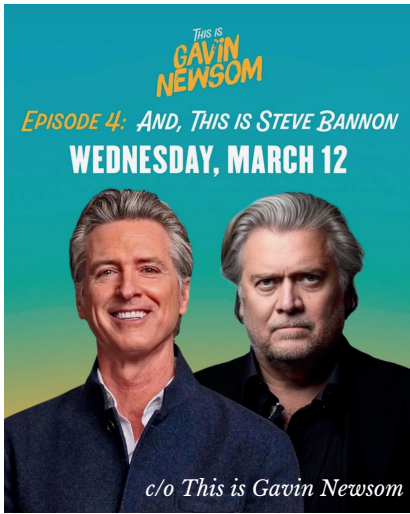
His recent guests have included Charlie Kirk, a media famous conservative activist, and Steve Bannon, a media executive and Trump’s former White House chief strategist. Both of these men are known for their extreme right wing ideas and major part in Trump’s campaign.

Newsom is seen as a likely candidate for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination, and some are saying that he is trying to appeal more to centrist and conservative voters.

Podcasts are now a common strategy in politics to reach younger generations, and one that was adopted by Trump, who gained support from younger conservatives through similar methods. With the new data being released on the amount of undecided voters, political figures are taking this opportunity to sway as many people as possible. Still, this undecided middle ground Gavin Newsom has set foot in has potential to backfire on him as he goes back and forth between Republican

and Democratic ideals.

However, some liberals claim that his podcast sheds a new light on politics, encouraging positive conversations where both sides are treated equally. Arwen Hwang ’27 said, “It’s good to get multiple perspectives on things, but the podcast could show biases since it is edited and manipulated by Gavin Newsom.”



A poster advertising Governor Gavin Newsom’s podcast episode with right-wing media personality Steve Bannon.

HOW POPE FRANCIS CHANGED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mika Cinco ’27

Contributing Editor



Pope Francis’ health concerns many as people recall his impact on and role in the Catholic Church.

Recently Pope Francis’s health has been a cause for concern. As we pray for the Catholic Church’s 266th pontiff, we can also think of the ways Francis has reformed and changed the rules and regulations of the Church.

These changes give women a greater role inside of the Catholic Church, who can now participate for the first time in the Synod. Pope Francis also has encouraged the Church to be more inclusive to LGBTQ+ communities.

Pope Francis hopes that these efforts will bring voice to all members of the Catholic Church. Though he has been hospitalized with pneumonia, Pope Francis continues to try and help modernize the Church with its governance and its inclusivity in the roles it has in its churches.

Pope Francis appointed 21 Cardinals in 2024 with different backgrounds and has appointed women to high ranking positions inside of the Vatican.

He plans to strengthen policies against clergy abuse and increase transparency

throughout the Catholic Church. He also is calling for action on climate change and economic justice.

But one of his biggest requests is decentralization, where local bishops have higher authority over their area not only relying on the Vatican.

Skylar Chung ’27 said, “I think it’s great that Pope Francis is taking initiative on modernizing the Church to be more inclusive.”



St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City.

THE LEGACY OF FATHER PEDRO ARRUPE

Elizabeth Foster '27

Contributing Editor

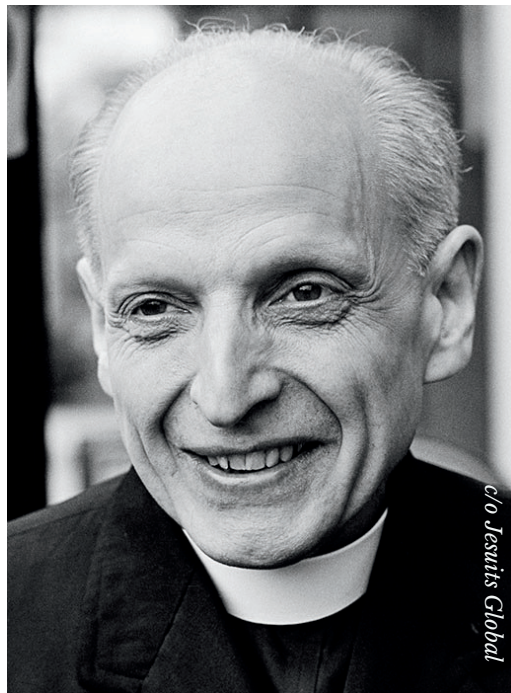
The name "Arrupe" can be seen in many parts of SI's community. We see it in the name of the Arrupe Center and the Arrupe Social Justice Council, listed in the influences of SI's Graduate at Graduation values, and often referenced in the guiding principles of the SI community. But who is Pedro Arrupe, the former Superior General of the Jesuit Order?

Born in Bilbao, Spain, in 1907, Pedro Arrupe first pursued an education in medicine and anatomy. Exposure to poverty and issues in the world around him called Arrupe to join the Jesuit order and be ordained as a priest. His education and missionary work took him around Europe, the United States, and during World War II, to Nagatsuka, Japan.

The city's proximity to Hiroshima made Pedro Arrupe a first responder to the victims of the United States' atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Together with other missionaries, Arrupe risked radio-active exposure to care for hundreds of sick and injured civilians.

He later described that, "A priest cannot remain outside the city just to preserve his life. We pray for all those who are victims

of wars, for a world where war is not needed to solve our differences, for a world filled with peace." His experience caring for the injured of Hiroshima and his other



travels to Jesuit provinces of Latin America later informed his mission as the Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

After serving as a missionary for 27 years, Father Arrupe was elected to be the Jesuit successor of St. Ignatius in 1965.

Following the Second Vatican Council, Arrupe worked to implement changes in the Society of Jesus, and especially established social justice and care for the poor as a guiding tenet for the worldwide Jesuit community.

In 1980, Arrupe founded the Jesuit Refugee Service as a humanitarian team working worldwide to uplift the same care for human life and dignity that he promoted in his missionary work. He worked for these goals until his death in 1991, and in 2019, the diocese of Rome began the process of considering Father Arrupe for sainthood.

His legacy continues to impact the Society of Jesus, Catholics worldwide, and the mission of Jesuit schools like SI. Our Philosophy of Education and Grad at Grad is inspired by Father Arrupe's message that faith and justice come from Christ and lead back to him, and his legacy shows us a path to working for social justice through action in our communities.

GREEN TEAM: CHANGING THE WORLD ONE STEP AT A TIME

Genevieve Arcenio '27

Contributing Editor

Are you interested in learning more about the impact that humans have on the environment? Do you want to take the initiative to help protect our planet? Are you looking for a club where you can make an impact while also meeting fellow members of the SI community?

Then the Green Team may be the right club for you! Green Team participates in various activities to promote preserving the environment. One of these activities is monthly litter walks. These take place during X-Period or after school and are open to SI students of all grades. Students walk down 37th Avenue and Sunset Boulevard while collecting litter that they find on the ground. This helps to preserve the wildlife around SI.

Non-biodegradable waste such as plastic can take centuries to decompose. In the process, toxins are released into the environment which contaminate the soil and water and can harm animals. With the beach nearby, the litter has a chance of blowing into the ocean and can lead to more water pollution. Students can earn 1 hour of community service from attending one of these litter walks. Green team also participates in events outside of SI, such as workshops with the Bay Area Youth Climate Summit (BAYCS).

Student leader Kate Ozaeta '26 explained that Green team is, "not only a place to earn service hours and meet other people, but it's also a place to protect your environment in your school community."

She concluded, "Overall, we hope to mobilize students in taking action for the planet." One of the Team Green members, Heather Yee '27 added, "I love attending Green Team's litter walks because it gives me an opportunity to take care of our environment, while also being a super fun way for me to hang out and socialize with other club members. It's always fun to see what kind of interesting trash we can find!"

If you want to learn more about Green Team or are interested in joining, don't hesitate to reach out to Kate Ozaeta at kozaeta26@siprep.org to join the email list. Make sure to follow Green Team's official Instagram account @greenteamsi for updates on litter walks!



c/o @sigreenteam on Instagram



c/o Kate Ozaeta '26

Green Team members meet after school to clean up Sunset Boulevard.

RANDY RIBAY VISITS SI!

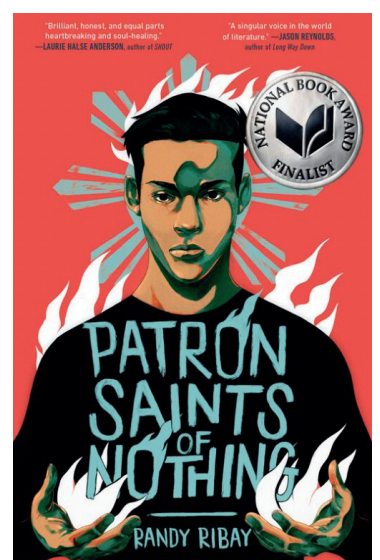
Kate Quach '25

Editor-in-Chief

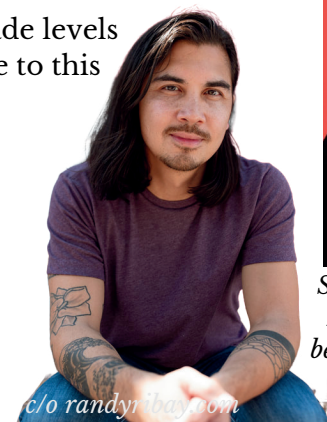
Hear from Randy Ribay, award-winning author of *Patron Saints of Nothing*, in Cowell Gym during X-Period on Friday, April 4 (today!). *Patron Saints of Nothing*, a fiction novel centering a Filipino-American character and his journey to investigate his cousin's murder, recently became an addition to the sophomore English curriculum.

All grade levels are welcome to this event!

There will be a book signing held near Jensen chapel after the event!



SI introduced Ribay's *Patron Saints of Nothing* as a summer reading option before integrating it into all Sophomore English classes.



c/o randyribay.com

THE HUMAN PERSON: THE SOCIAL ANIMAL

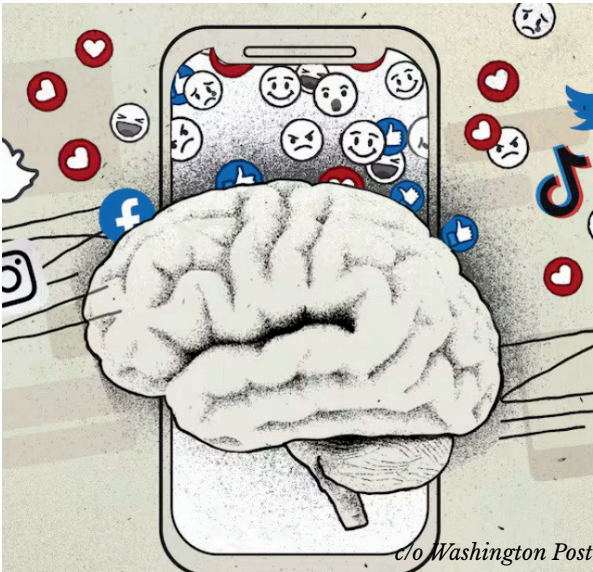
Alexander Salentine '26

Managing Editor

Liberalism, that is the political and moral philosophy based on the rights of the individual, says that individual humans come together to form a society using a social contract that we all agree to. On the other hand, conservatives stipulate that humans, being social animals, are made to live in community with others and denial of this nature of mankind leads to isolation and scientifically proven poor health. In our present age, extreme culture-driven individualism and distractions like phones and social media challenge our ability to live in community with others, inhibiting our ability to flourish. In response, we must work against these obstacles to live in full communion with others.

Toxic individualism poses a direct threat to man’s nature as a social being. During the Great Depression, US President Herbert Hoover famously reiterated the classic American line of “rugged individualism,” that is, the belief that the individual should be completely self-reliant and independent of government institutions. Many families needed help during the Great Depression, but Hoover categorically resisted any form of direct government help to people in need because of his deep belief in extreme individualism. This led to massive hardship on the part of families and communities, as they sunk deeper into poverty.

This example illuminates how extreme individualism destroys efforts to secure the general welfare of society, which leads to direct harm, especially to those on the margins. After all, if we are all just egotistical individuals that are detached from each other, why do I need to help my neighbor? However, toxic individualism is and has been rampant in American culture for centuries. Its reinforcement of egotism leads to people not being able to ask for help and being horribly stuck in their own despair when things go wrong. Indeed, this was the case in the Depression, when many Americans blamed themselves for their financial decisions instead of the stock market. Therefore, we ought to work against extreme individualism embedded in our culture to be able to flourish.



While social media creates community online, physical connections face harm.

Phones and social media distract people from being in real community with others. On many occasions, I have seen many of my friends and colleagues on their phone in my presence, which has made me experience feelings of loneliness, disrespect, and of not being seen, because although I am in proximity to another, no real connection is felt between us. Even online, many social media sites give the illusion of connection. However, this connection is not tangible and oftentimes not even real, which does not fulfill the personal connection we seek. The only way to experience real connection is to encounter someone, which is inhibited when phones and social media distract us from pursuing physical connection and inhibit our ability to form community.

As people, we have the innate desire to be in a tangible community with each other. Instead of resisting this good and natural feeling, we ought to conform to it to live as flourishing people. First, this can be achieved by having healthy individualism that is able to be independent, but also able to recognize the importance of living in community. Second, for crying out loud, put the phone down and seek to encounter someone! In these ways, we can foster stronger relational bonds and strengthen community ties, which helps us reach our full potential and be in touch with the world around us.

IMPORTANCE OF FILM IN THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM

Bobby Mullin '26

Contributing Editor

Our current English curriculum nearly exclusively relies on novels to convey narratives. To many students, the constant stream of new books can appear daunting and somewhat repetitive. One way to make the English curriculum more accessible to all students is to incorporate film into it.

I personally find film to be a more digestible medium, as it preserves and occasionally accentuates the themes of the story. This year, I have watched both *Past Lives* and *The Substance* for my English class. Not only have I found them to be incredibly interesting films, but they also tie directly into the subjects we are learning about in class. *Past Lives* delves into the health of the American Dream in a tangible and heartfelt way. *The Substance* connects our readings on women’s roles in the early twentieth century to modern day gender-based scripts. Beatrice Sopko '26, another junior who has viewed films for English class, said, “the incorporation of film into my junior year curriculum has helped to expand the ways in which themes of our current units are encountered outside of literature. The addition of movies into our unit acknowledges that outside of the literary canon, artists and writers compose works that deepen the canon through visual storytelling.”

Not only can we make room for film in our standard English curriculum, but we can also explore it through the current offerings in the curriculum, such as Fiction into Film, taught

by Mr. Taxis. Mr. Taxis stressed three key reasons why teaching film is so important in increasing student engagement. First, he reminded us that “we are extremely visual creatures [with] a natural aptitude for visual analysis . . . We live in a visual world, and we use our eyes to make sense of it more than any other sense of ours.”



Students in Ms. Nickolai’s English 303H class watch film clips from “The Great Gatsby” to help interpret literary passages.

The visual aspect is deeply ingrained into human nature and may be lost in medium like literature.

Next, Mr. Taxis said, “[film] is the densest art form in the world.” A truly great film will have so much to pick apart in nearly every frame, with analysis just as complex as literature.

Finally, Mr. Taxis said, “teaching film levels the playing field. You can make great points about [a film] even if you aren’t in honors.” The accessibility of film lets students engage with important themes.

Reading should remain at the forefront of the curriculum,

but incorporating film would diversify the stories within it and increase engagement among students. While film is sometimes considered a less elevated form of media, it is the one that our generation consumes most. Therefore, it is crucial that we learn to think critically about film, just as we do with novels, in order to truly appreciate the art form—an art form with equal power to inspire change in our society.

OPINION: CONQUERING COMMON CLICHES

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

Editors-in-Chief

Continued from Front Page

intentions to pursue purposeful goals. Behind every club exists a teen founder who did not squander the opportunity to engage their peers in service.

The Daraja Club, for example, roots itself in the phrase “Let Her Learn,” drawing in students to support young women studying in Kenya’s Daraja Academy. Bridget Stecher '25 used her leadership within the club to emphasize that all women should have the opportunity to go to school. “I am connected to the girls in Kenya whose education we raise money for. They work against the cliché by taking advantage of all the opportunities that come their way and appreciating everything, which is something we can all take inspiration from.”

Teens like Ella Walti '25 are not wasting away youth with “brainless” and aimless activities as Shaw supposes; rather she makes use of her use through the workforce as she prepares for her future. “Working a job on weekends has taught me valuable skills, such as time management

and responsibility, while still allowing me to enjoy the freedom of being young,” said Walti. “I believe youth is about learning from mistakes, exploring new opportunities, and balancing joy with the important lessons that come from taking on more-adult tasks.”

Another cliché – “everything happens for a reason” – implies that roadblocks are part of our journey and not necessarily something that impedes success. Through this simple cliché we may find a lot of comfort. People can find meaning in difficult situations, and hardships can feel meaningful. “I think it’s important to believe that setbacks help us grow, instead of continuing to dwell on everything that could or has gone wrong. It’s all about mindset,” shared Bobby Hulsmann '25. By believing that everything does happen for a reason, we can live life free of regrets and focus on taking actions to move forward.

However, this cliché may have other implications. The phrase is very general and does not take into account the many cases where we should not promote the idea that “everything happens for a

reason.”

“When a crime or injustice occurs, then you can’t just say it’s for a reason. In this case, someone did something wrong and accountability needs to be taken,” shared SI alum Martin Murphy '84, a lawyer who has seen the extent to which wrongful doings have impacted many lives.

“Actions speak louder than words” is another common cliché thrown at us; this one may be true. Like many problems that we face, it is hard to always be honest and truthful with everyone involved. Letting the idea of backlash from others control our own mind, telling other people what you plan to do instead of executing it, and ultimately digging yourself a deeper hole are all outcomes that come with this cliché.

When faced with a challenge the best path is always to take direct actions that lead to change, instead of letting the situation get out of hand with hearsay. Senior Sadie O’Leary shared the importance of this cliché saying, “In our superficial world it becomes harder to believe what others say. Be the one to make the real change instead of talking about it.”

THE COLLEGE PROCESS: EXAMINING AND OVERCOMING BIAS AND PRESSURE

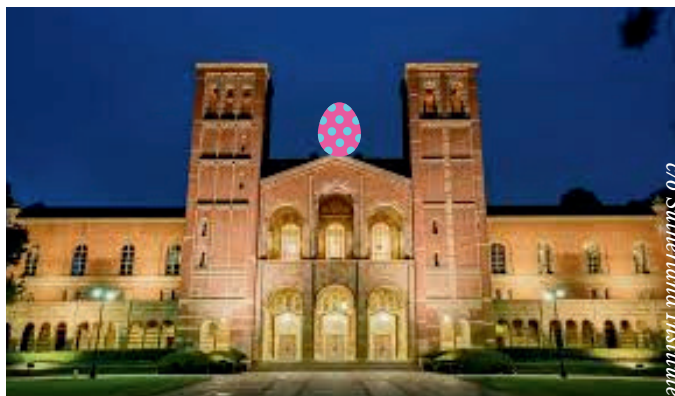
Emma Wong '25 and Rini Saha '25

Contributing Editors

What is the first image that comes to mind when you picture your potential future college campus? Brick buildings? Sunny beaches? A cozy college town? As high school students, during a time when many of us are considering the path we would like to take in our near future, the topic of college, as well as the question of which one we hope to attend, may become increasingly familiar and quite exhausting.

With this prospect of college on the horizon coupled with the growing landscape and media coverage of the overall college experience and application process, college has become an even more talked about subject, with parents, college counselors, friends, and even online voices all contributing to the conversation. Whether a childhood dream or an affinity born from television, social media, or rankings, many of us may also have our hearts set on that one special university going into that application process. But what are the effects of these preferences? A major one would be the emergence of strong narratives, both positive and negative, that have pervaded our common perceptions and images of certain institutions. These narratives can prove to be very influential and heavily inform seniors’ mindsets when choosing which schools they want to apply to.

Sofia Filice '25 commented on the “common anxiety at SI about college status and getting into the most prestigious schools” and how “that can definitely take a toll on seniors in general.” While the stress over applications may be initially born from one’s personal hopes and preferences towards getting into a specific school, there is also an expectation and pressure to apply to certain colleges that soon arises from talks of status, rank, popularity, or prestige, rather than interest or preference. On this topic, Kylie Tam '25 reflected that despite being most drawn to the University of the Pacific for its accelerated dental program



UCLA received more than 145,000 applications in the 2024-25 cycle.

and welcoming campus, she still felt and experienced “a lot of pressure to apply to UCLA and UC Berkeley” as she had heard about their “reputation and prestigious STEM programs.”

After considering the pressures and popular narratives that may influence seniors during the application process, it is interesting to then note how they may manifest themselves as application trends among SI students. According to the SI College Counseling Department, 9 of the top 10 most applied to schools for the Class of 2025 are in California- UC schools leading the pack with 6 campuses making the list.

Also in the top 10 are the 2 CSUs (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and San Diego State), Loyola Marymount University as the only private school, as well as University of Washington, a school that in recent years has gained major popularity becoming the only out of state public school to make the lineup. The class of 2025’s #1 most applied to school is Cal Poly SLO with *SF Chronicle*’s acceptance rate chart showing how SI’s acceptance rate into Cal Poly is higher than the national average. SI students exceed the A-G requirement which is the standard for college eligibility school is Cal Poly SLO with *San Francisco Chronicle*’s acceptance rate chart showing how SI’s acceptance rate into Cal Poly is higher than the

average. SI students exceed the A-G requirement which is the standard for college eligibility.

Chatter around school talks about East Coast schools, but with the West Coast schools - the Top 10 list doesn’t lie. With the clear popularity of the UC campuses here at SI, college counselor Mr. Lorenzo also provided some notable insights on one of the most common misconceptions he encounters during application season regarding these schools.

Despite the narrative that the UC system is impossible to get into, this is more so a result of the 6 UCs often dominating the perception of these schools due to being the ones that students apply to most. Mr. Lorenzo offered, “There’s schools like Riverside and Merced which are accessible to more students. But students choose not to apply. That’s why I don’t like perpetuating the narrative that it is impossible to get into UCs.” While the six schools that are most applied to tend to be more selective, there are nine UCs total. The UCs are possible to get into!

On a wider scale regarding all colleges, one piece of advice is to remember that the process is personal and different for everyone. “You have to be cautious and considerate about how you choose to engage in conversation about results,” said Mr. Lorenzo. Everyone is sitting in the same boat, but dealing with different results. There is excitement and disappointment, frustration and relief so it is important that we respect boundaries.

To students who are soon to partake in the college journey- remember to choose the school that you feel is best for you, regardless of popularity or status. Slowly, with the support of trusted adults and friends, we can slowly remove some of the influence of perceived prestige of different institutions so we are more free to make choices that most respect our individual identities.

OPINION: STUDENT RANKINGS ARE NOT BENEFICIAL FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Donovan Wu '25

Contributing Editor

Although SI has the honor of holding several different city, state, and national rankings in academics, athletics, performing arts, and other co-curriculars, students are not ranked within our own school. Student rankings at SI haven't existed since 2009, and there have been mixed opinions as to whether or not this change was good for our school overall. Outside of swaying colleges' opinions, students may feel an unnecessary pressure regarding their academics because of the rankings, which could foster an overly competitive environment within our student body. Hence, SI does not rank students in relation to each other.

Though rankings may come with some pros, there are some flaws with regard to its effects on the student body. Mr. Vollert, an English teacher and SI alumnus, voiced his opinion on the subject, stating that "I guess it's a necessary data point for colleges... but families would [care] due to the competitive nature of colleges and using it as a deciding factor for admissions." This brings up an alarming point – the overall competitive nature of families would most likely bleed into student lives, adding stress along with high



expectations on students to maintain a ranking among their class. Whether or not this would boost student performance isn't certain, but the mental health and well-being of students should be a priority instead of the minor potential benefits of student rankings.

In terms of student opinions, some agree that the addition of student rankings would be negative for their learning and personal lives. Student Sadie Powers '25 said, "Student rankings would be bad for student's mental health and add unnecessary competition in an already highly competitive academic setting." This concern is widely spread among Sadie and her peers, with several other people voicing that this added stress would probably be the tipping point for the already stressed students of SI. With extracurriculars, sports, volunteering, and schoolwork, the addition of student rankings to manage would be another thing to worry about for our college applications, therefore avoiding them seems like the best option for our school and our students.

OPINION: STICK TO THE HIGH SCHOOL CLICHES!?

Beatrice Sopko '26

Contributing Editor

In high school, most students desire the same experiences the media idolizes, whether that's a spectacular Prom night like the one Bella has with Edward in *Twilight*, or the hyped up basketball game seen in *High School Musical*. Romanticized experiences play a large factor in people's expectation of high school, and SI strives to ensure their students can access these dreams. SI promotes Friday Night Lights, the Bruce-Mahoney Games, and dances like Prom and Homecoming, among other activities, to succeed in curating a collection of meaningful high school memories.

SI's work to recreate experiences the media portrays benefits students. These events bring life and vibrancy to the reality of burned out student life. In an interview, Aiden Guerrero '26 stated, "School events can break up my daily routine in a way that allows me to escape from the stresses of school." Engagement in these activities also strengthens student and staff interconnectedness. SI's famous school rivalry, the Bruce Mahoney, encourages students to encounter one another outside of school, and facilitates ways for students to form connections through shared experiences. Along with helping to develop a stronger school environment, these experiences, which have become traditions for most high schools, also bridge generational gaps, helping to develop a stronger connection between current students and alumni. As prom increasingly becomes the focus of upperclassmen conversations, students and their parents share the gaiety of prom traditions, either as excitement for new experiences or a nostalgia for old memories.

While these events provide students with access to relaxation and connection, a constant emphasis on living through "essential" events, like Prom and Friday Night Lights, in order to take away the same experiences as those around you subliminally creates a culture of cliché. In an interview with Avery George '25, she stated, "These clichés we so often see in coming of age films about prom, relationships and sporting events we now see as the ideal high school experience. If we fail to have these events and experiences in high school, we may think our four years were less meaningful."

"I think something special about SI is that we truly foster a community that is diverse with numerous talents and strengths."

-Natalie Bravo '26

However, a focus on standardized activities creates an environment that easily stimulates insecurity. Students struggling with developing bodies, new relationships, and normal self-actualization are more susceptible to social pressure, and grapple with fears of missing out (FOMO) that social media platforms, like Instagram and Snapchat, reinforce. When reflecting on how he feels about missing a football game or a dance, Bobby Mullin '26 described, "I feel a lot of anxiety over it. The feeling creeps in that I have missed one of my only chances to have a movie-esque high school experience."



Although most of SI's media displays its most popular, and often standardized, experiences, SI also opens up ways for students to explore alternative experiences. Students who have the opportunity to explore programs and events that defer from the norm are able to explore unique passions and develop the person they desire to become in the future away from the pressures of conformity. When asked about SI's work to offer diverse programs Natalie Bravo '26 explained, "I think something special about SI is that we truly foster a community that is diverse with numerous talents and strengths." SI's culture connects a diverse group of students, something schools strive for, but rarely achieve.

However, if SI desires a balance between idolized and unique experiences they must work to promote both aspects of SI's culture equally. Ella Walti '25 discussed the more unique programs and events offered at SI, stating, "I feel like SI does a good job of providing these opportunities and having adult leaders who support students, but there isn't enough promotion among social circles to join such activities."

Ultimately SI requires an alternative approach when constructing an environment focused on giving students a memorable high school experience, one that pushes students towards an exploration of unique passions and a development of a sense of self less influenced by social pressures.



"The Breakfast Club" depicts a group of high schoolers during Saturday detention.



"Mean Girls" portrays cliques and stereotypical social groups in high schools

OPINION: OUR ENDLESS OBSESSION WITH THE CULT OF COMPARISON

Evelyn Conboy '26 & Zoe Omar '25

Associate Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor

It's easy to think we are above it all. It's easier to justify loneliness and feelings of being the "outsider" by pretending to be satisfied with our current lives. If we admit we are "weird," then no one has the power of using that word with malice. We become invincible. Yet, this invincibility is the sad kind, maybe even the dangerous kind. Comparison is a human addiction, something we haven't been able to rid ourselves of in the past, and something we won't likely be able to do so with soon. It is natural to want what others have, and it is natural to feel out of place, especially in the not-so-completely-forgiving environment of high school.

St. Ignatius is a "college preparatory" after all, a breeding ground for top notch athletics, academics, and extracurricular involvement. When students look around at their peers, it can be easy, if not inevitable, to fall victim to comparison. At St. Ignatius, comparison can be crippling. It seems everyone in the crowd marches to the same beat, all at once. But who gets left behind, and who is brave enough to be the contrarian? These are bold questions to ask of teenagers who are just breaking

away from adolescence and deciding who they want to be.

As teenagers, emotions during this crucial period of development can be overwhelming and at times unbearable. Students cope by joining groups such as athletic teams or clubs in order to find "their people" separating themselves into groups with a common outward appearance. The ways we dress, talk, and behave all contribute to those that are attracted to us or those we surround ourselves with. It can be disheartening to hear that we naturally segregate ourselves like this, but the truth is that there are those that are similar to us, and those that are not.

Furthermore, it is not merely just St. Ignatius College Preparatory that falls to the threat of constant comparison. It's shocking how many students, everywhere in the world, are affected by it. This is not something new. The myopic high school environment fosters scrutiny, and if anything is a right of passage in one's youth, carrying on to adulthood. Perhaps, this self-critical nature never disappears, but only wanes as we grow into ourselves.

But, we can all get better at interpreting what the comparisons mean. Whether it is appearance, athletic performance, performing arts, GPAs, or test grades, the need to compare ourselves can feel unbearable. But it is also important to remember that no one is perfect, despite the flawless veil one might hold up. Everyone encounters their own struggles and experiences the same desire to compare oneself to others. The key isn't avoidance, but instead acceptance of who we are, and the knowledge of who we can become when we stop giving in to the need to compare.



High school students risk falling victim to academic comparison.

AFFINITY

ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH: CULTURE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Annika Watkins '26 & Jordan Liu '26

Associate Editors-in-Chief

April marks the beginning of Arab American Heritage Month, a time to commemorate the numerous contributions that Arabs have made to the country and the rich Arab culture they celebrate. In 2017, Arab American Heritage Month started as an initiative celebrated by a handful of cities and states. In April of 2021, former President Joe Biden created a proclamation solidifying April as Arab American Heritage Month, recognizing the resilience, achievements, and cultural heritage of Arab Americans.

Today, America's Arab population stands at around 3.7 million, with diverse representation from 22 countries, including Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and more. Arab Americans also come from a mix of religious backgrounds, consisting of Islam, Christianity, and Druze traditions, among others. Despite facing challenges such as discrimination and cultural misunderstandings, Arab Americans have played a



George Zaghaba '25 serves as co-president of SI's AMA.

vital role in shaping the nation's history, contributing to fields such as medicine, science, literature, politics, and the arts.

This month serves as an opportunity to highlight the profound impact of Arab American leaders, innovators, and artists who have helped shape the country's social and economic landscape. Figures like Helen Thomas, a pioneering journalist; Dr. Michael DeBakey, a renowned heart surgeon; and Rashida Tlaib, one of the first Muslim women in Congress, showcase the diversity of Arab American excellence. SI's Arab Middle Eastern Association (AMA) upholds these

values of celebration, fostering a sense of pride and community among students of Arab descent. Through events, discussions, and cultural showcases, this month highlights the beautiful backgrounds and cultural significance of Arab Americans. Whether through storytelling, music, art, or cuisine, Arab American Heritage Month is a time to reflect on the rich traditions and enduring legacy of Arab Americans in the U.S.



Rashida Tlaib represents Michigan's 12th Congressional District.

HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORY OF WOMEN

Josie White '28

Contributing Editor

March 2025 officially marks the start of Women's History Month. Beginning with the first woman's rights convention in July 1848 to the current works of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mala Yousafza, women have been fighting for generations. This month is the time to acknowledge their struggles and remember the obstacles overcome.

The tradition stems from a celebration in Santa Rosa, California. In 1979, when the Education Task Force of Sonoma County issued a "Women's History Week," meant to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8th the celebration quickly grew. In 1980,

after gaining traction, a group called National Women's History Alliance lobbied for recognition. This came by President Jimmy Carter who declared the week of March 8th, National Women's History Week.

However seven years later, the week grew even more, fitting to become the entire month of March. Every year since then, presidents have issued annual proclamations designating March as Women's History Month. This is taken to recognize the contributions of women in the U.S., and celebrate their achievements in various fields. The entire month, commemorates the years taken toward

the fight for equality. March shows support to ladies around the world and highlights the importance of women to the future generation.

People often show support by buying from women owned businesses and donating to women's charities. However, most importantly, people take time to reflect on the crucial role women have played throughout history. So the next time March rolls around on the calendar, celebrate the month for women and the fight for equality.



THE MEALS AND STORIES OF PASSOVER

Alexander Goldberg '26

Contributing Editor

Passover is one of the most significant holidays in Judaism. Occurring at a similar time to Easter, Passover lasts eight days, and is one of the three Jewish pilgrimage holidays.

Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jewish people from Egypt, highlighting the exodus of the Jewish people from slavery with Moses leading the way. After 400 years of slavery, God guided Moses to free the Jewish people by stating, “Let my people go” to the Pharaoh. When the Pharaoh refused, ten destructive plagues were unleashed, eventually leading to the Pharaoh to allow the Jews to leave. However, after the Jews left, Pharaoh changed his mind, and went to bring the Jews back to Egypt. Using his staff, Moses split the Red Sea, allowing the Jews to pass through, and thus freeing the Israelites from Pharaoh’s wrath.

The Jewish people celebrate their liberation by doing a Seder, a ritualized meal consisting of retelling the story of Exodus, singing songs and prayers, having discussions, and eating food. A notable item during the meal is a Seder plate. This plate contains foods that symbolize the Exodus. For example, Maror, or bitter herbs, remind us of the bitterness of what we endured in Egypt. We also eat Matzah, which is unleavened bread, as the Jewish people did not have time for the bread to leaven before leaving. An activity in relation to Matzah is called the Afikomen, where an adult hides the Matzah, and we have to figure out where it is. The Seder brings families and friends together in order to commemorate the Exodus.

Passover is essential to Jewish identity because it reminds us to remember our challenges in our history, so that we can

appreciate what we have now. It reminds us to always seek freedom for all people. Furthermore, Passover brings together communities, as we can rejoice about the Exodus together. In our lives, let us always be thankful for what was given to us, and work together to create one united people. Shalom SI and Chag Pesach Sameach!

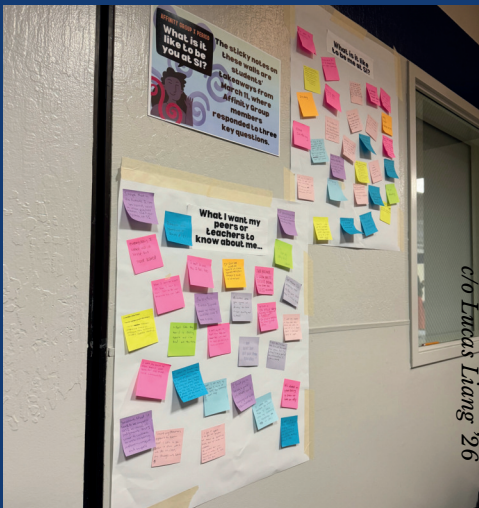


A Seder plate.

BUILDING IDENTITY: AFFINITY X-PERIOD

Jordan Liu '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

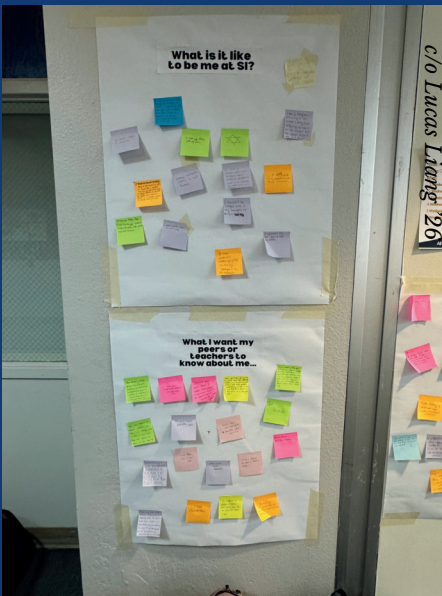


A display of post-it notes outside the Dean’s Office from attendees of the Affinity X-Period.

On March 11, the seven affinity groups at SI held an X-Period event with the theme “What is it like to be you at SI?” In breakout sessions amongst their groups, students took time to reflect on their experiences at SI, highlighting the positive qualities and also naming critiques within the school.

Students also talked about the uncertainty within their lives, especially amidst a time of unpredictable change. Through group discussions, students both shared and appreciated thoughtful reflection on the importance of identity.

Towards the end of the event, students created a collage of notes in response to the event’s theme. This mural of responses was displayed next to the Dean’s Office, giving insight into the various identities that form SI.



FESTIVAL OF COLORS: ASC’S HOLI CELEBRATION

Madison Dela Rama '27 and Rini Saha '25

Managing Editor and Contributing Editor

On March 14, millions of people around the world celebrated Holi, including many students and staff at SI. Many know Holi is about food, celebrating, and dusting colored powder on others in order to celebrate life’s joys and the brightness about life. The day is marked as the last full moon, or the purnima in the Hindu lunar calendar, and the indicator that spring has sprung.

On March 14 during X period, after a presentation on Holi’s history, the SI Choral Room was filled with the delicious aromas of food from Chaat Corner. The food included stuffed samosas, savory paneer tikka masala, and garlic naan, to creamy mango lassi, the iconic Parle G cookies, and cool kulfi.

There were many activities for everyone to enjoy—including rangolis, henna, and color wars. Rangolis are traditional Indian floor arts made with colored powders, rocks, rice, and flower petals. They are present on important occasions to invite guests and deities. If you see one, you know your luck is good and your prosperity is flowing! Henna, also called Mehndi, is often used to dye hair or stain the arm with floral and nature motifs! Claire Cadiz '26 and Naina Paul Mulye '27 took the initiative and drew on many people’s hands.

Although the designs might be temporary, it’s worth the experience. Sadie Powers '25 loved getting her Henna done because, as she stated, “I got to spend time talking to my friends while I got a pretty design on my arm.”

Leaders of the ASC board and the attendees spoke about their experiences. ASC board member Naina Paul-Mulye '27 said, “Holi was such a fun celebration for ASC this year! We had amazing food, color wars, rangoli, and henna! It was fun to celebrate a holiday that is not very well-known at SI, and I loved sharing my culture with students and staff.”

“The turnout was super exciting, whether for the food or fun activities, it seemed like everyone there was enjoying themselves, which made me very happy!” Jett Dixon '26, another ASC board member, added.

Attendee Jack Baxter '25 recalled that his favorite part of Holi was the color wars. “As much fun as it is, the importance is in its ability to get so many different people together. Celebrations like this build community in SI while also encouraging students to take part in other people’s culture.”

Margot Rodgers '25 added, “It was amazing! I remember laughing so hard it hurt (and my neck is still a bit blue). It was such an honor to be invited to participate in the color wars tradition.”

The celebration ended with chaos and turned into a color free-for-all. It wasn’t about games or winning, but a reflection of the community we can build. This game appeared to be intense, but imagine having hundreds more people throwing color, and colored water, and launching water balloons in the sky!

Next year we hope you bring some more color into your life and participate!



Holi event attendees during color wars.

SPORTS UPDATE

Lilly Eugster '25

Managing Editor

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD



Alex Chow '25 hurdles during a meet.

Men's Track and Field stays dominating in their competition this season, as always. Chase Wiley '25, after coming off of an injury, is already jumping 21 feet from a short approach, and Zui Shelton '26 had a successful meet at Bellermine.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The Women's Track and Field season has been off to a solid start! For field events, Zylah Coleman '27 went 36 feet for the first time, moving up Sophomore rankings. Another powerhouse, Ellie McCuskey-Hay '26 broke her own 200 meter record.



Ellie McCuskey-Hay '26 competes in the long jump event.

SWIM AND DIVE

Men's Record as of 3/31: 2-2
Women's Record as of 3/31: 2-1

"Our season is off to a great start! We have had some big wins including winning the SF City Invitational. We are hoping to win WCALs this year," shared Eliza Harlow '25.



Ella Schwerte '28 competes in the freestyle.

MEN'S GOLF

Record as of 3/31: 8-0

Men's Golf dominates their season with an undefeated record, hoping to reclaim the WCAL trophy once again.



Declan Mahoney '26 and Daniel Doan '27 walk the course.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Record as of 3/31: 6-12

"Halfway through the season, we've had our share of losses, but I'm glad of our performance overall, especially at tournaments, and how we're building relationships with this year's new coaching staff!" shared Julian Ozaeta '25.



Julian Ozaeta '25 jumps over the net.

MEN'S TENNIS

Record as of 3/27: 6-2

Men's tennis has been going strong this season with Devin Stuppin '26 dominating at singles and Marco Magnano '27 with an undefeated record.



Callum Mahoney '25 competes in doubles.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Record as of 3/31: 9-0



Sophie Ghosh '26 runs up the field.

The women's lacrosse team returned from Colorado after defeating the state's top teams, continuing their dominant streak. With an undefeated record, they show no signs of slowing down.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Record as of 3/31: 10-1

The men's lacrosse team traveled to Los Angeles and Colorado to face off against the top teams on the West Coast, delivering dominant performances with crushing scores.



Men's lacrosse competes on the SI field.

MEN’S CREW

Record as of 3/27: 6-2



Teammates cheer on Drew Cecchini '25 during his Senior Day.



Men’s and women’s crew celebrated Senior Day on March 22. The teams travelled to compete in a regatta in San Diego on March 28-30th. Women’s Varsity placed 3rd in the “petite final.”

WOMEN’S CREW

Record as of 3/27: 3-6



Marcela Hernandez '26 (left) and Amelia Haller '26 (right) row in a regatta.

BASEBALL

League Record as of 3/31: 6-2-2

Men’s baseball closed off the Bruce-Mahoney series with a 6-3 win.



Archer Horn '26 throws the ball in the final plays of the Bruce Mahoney.

SOFTBALL

Record as of 3/31: 9:1

The softball team demonstrate a strong record as they move forward in their season.



Cassidy Chew '25 pitches against Capuchino HS.

HUMOR

WHEN FANTASY MET REALITY (A LOVE STORY)

Ava Chiappari '26

Contributing Editor

SETTING: A COZY COFFEE SHOP WHERE JAMIE, A HOPELESS ROMANTIC, DRINKS THEIR LATTE WITH THEIR SARCASTIC BEST FRIEND, SAM.

Jamie: (Jamie looks up, excitement in her eyes) Sam! I rewatched “Cinderella” for the 50th time yesterday, and you know what I love about romance movies? The whole "love at first sight" thing! It’s so magical!

Sam: (raising an eyebrow) Yeah, because that’s totally possible and not at all unrealistic.

Jamie: Absolutely! Picture this: you lock eyes with someone across the room, and suddenly, the world fades away. (dramatic pause) Cue the romantic music!

Sam: (laughs) Until you realize they’re just staring at the slice of cake behind you.

Jamie: (waves it off) I mean, their connection is just so instant and intense!

Sam: Sure, but what happens after that? Do you just run into each other’s arms?

Jamie: Of course! Then you can share your deepest secrets over coffee and—

Sam: —and then what? You discover that they think DC is better than Marvel and that pineapple belongs on pizza? That’s a complete deal-breaker!

Jamie: (dismissively) Okay, maybe it can get a little complicated, but in the movies they always work it out!

Sam: Right, ignoring red flags is the key to a happy ending. Classic!

Jamie: (sighs) But what about the grand gestures? Like running through the rain to confess your love?

Sam: (rolls eyes) But then what, you’re just cold, wet, and out of breath from running after them? Sounds like a dog after a day at the beach. Would you want to kiss that?

Jamie: (frustrated) You’re missing the point! It’s about taking risks for love!

Sam: You mean like risking sickness because you couldn’t run to a more dry place?

Jamie: (laughs) Okay, maybe it’s not always practical. But it’s about the emotions!

Sam: No better feeling than exhaustion and regret because you ran after eating 5 slices of pizza, over someone that you’ve known for 2 weeks at that.

Jamie: (playfully) You just don’t understand the magic of clichés!

Sam: No, I understand the chaos they create. But hey, let’s not ruin your daydreams.

Jamie: (sipping coffee) You’re right. Maybe I’ll just stick to the movies!



STRANDS ANSWER KEY

Conquering Clichés



STRANDS

Rini Saha '25Contributing Editor

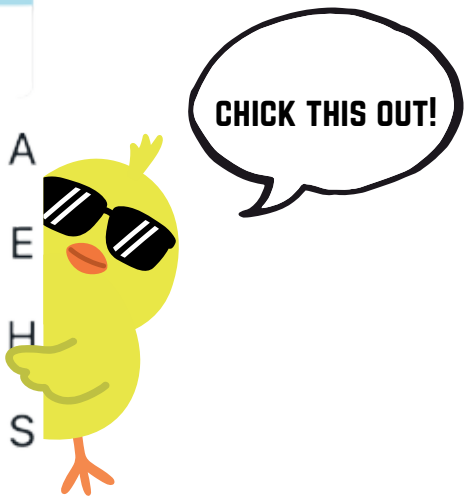
Strands #5

Find hidden words and uncover this issue’s theme!

TODAY'S THEME

Conquering Clichés

A	F	A	S	L	A
N	H	E	E	S	E
S	T	N	M	N	H
O	R	W	O	I	S
Y	R	O	N	F	I
H	D	A	E	I	P
A	S	D	A	S	S
N	D	E	E	Y	A



__ of 5 theme words found. See Solution on p. 15

MARCH W/ IGGY

Geraldine Segura '27Contributing Editor

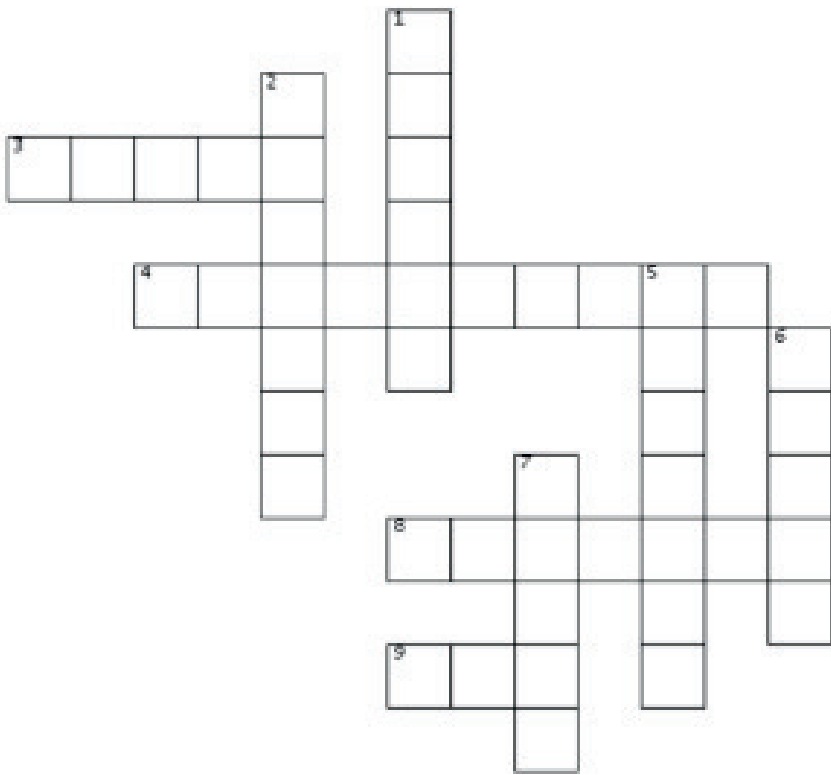


ME WHEN SOMEONE ASKS HOW MY LENTEN PROMISE IS GOING:



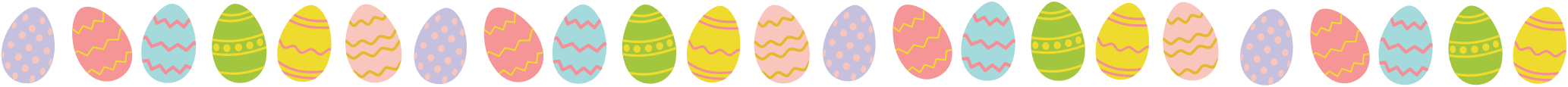
SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Evie Chen '26Managing Editor



- ACROSS:
- 3. Women’s History Month is celebrated in ____
 - 4. SI’s annual junior-senior face off, the ____ Game
 - 8. March Madness, when ____ basketball teams compete
 - 9. Easter eggs are decorated using this liquid

- DOWN:
- 1. Thrown during Holi, the Hindu festival of colors
 - 2. April ____
 - 5. Bring May ____
 - 6. Placed on foreheads for the 1st day of Lent
 - 7. What we lose from springing forward



Inside SI

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