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A Mosaic of Traditions

Farrah Almajdalani '27, Genevieve Arcenio '27, Bear Vida '27, Lauren Yu '27 Editors-in-Chief

SI is filled with a mosaic of unique traditions that highlight the diverse voices and experiences that make up our community. From the energy of the field and vibrant cultural celebrations to keynote speakers in the gym and meaningful experiences beyond campus, these traditions bring students, faculty, families, and alumni together. Each one reflects a different part of SI while strengthening the sense of community that connects us all.

Affinity Showcases

Each year, a few of the affinity groups at SI organize showcases to honor their cultural backgrounds and express their unique talents. These showcases include the ALAS Showcase, the BSU Showcase, and Pasko, the Filipino celebration of Christmas hosted by ASC and SIPAC. During each of the showcases, SI students perform through dance, music, and spoken word. There is also a shared meal between performers and attendees of the events.

The affinity showcases celebrate the diversity of SI and help to form a sense of community between SI students, faculty, parents, and alumni. For the students who are able to perform in these showcases, the experience often helps strengthen their connection to their heritage and gives them the chance to share their culture with the rest of the SI community.

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A Mosaic of Traditions


c/o Slickpic

SI football players run onto the field at Kezar Stadium on Sept. 26th for the Bruce-Mahoney football game, one of SI's most cherished traditions. See p. 18 for the low-down on SI's 24-7 victory! SI leads the best of 5 Bruce-Mahoney competition 1-0.

SI's Past, Present, & Future

Feature

In this issue, we explore how SI has evolved throughout its history and how our traditions have evolved alongside it. Since its founding in 1855, SI has transformed from an all-boys school into the diverse community it is today. Through conversations with students and faculty and a look at SI's past, present, and future, this edition of *Inside SI* explores how our school has changed and which traditions have remained along the way.

Even within our own school, the balance between change and tradition is hard to ignore. New buildings are reshaping our campus, new deans are bringing new perspectives, and unspoken rules continue to shape student life. At the same time, traditions like the Bruce-Mahoney games connect generations of Wildcats.

We often think of tradition as something that stays the same. But as SI continues to change, we ask how traditions evolve with us and which ones we will carry forward. As new generations leave their mark on SI, which traditions will continue to shape our community?

We hope you enjoy this issue, SI!

Update: SI's New Learning Commons

Amanda Oberto '27 Managing Editor
Finley Wolfgram '28 Associate Editor-in-Chief

Rumors of our very own boba and coffee cafe, white board walls in every classroom, the shake of your 3rd floor classroom, the thump of an unseen hammer... it's no secret that real change is upon us. Although most walk by the campus construction daily, we may not know how quickly our New Learning Commons (NLC) will come!

After spring break this year, SI will soft launch the NLC, and students will begin classes in the new building. One will enter the new campus through "The Hub," a ground level amphitheater space designed for students and faculty for a myriad of purposes. The Commons area, which probably only the class of '27 can remember, will be replaced by the new Learning Commons, a place to eat, study, and see friends.

On the academic side, the Learning Lofts will be adjustable spaces where teachers can teach innovative lessons. The new building will be sprinkled with breakout rooms that students can reserve to study or hang out with friends.

The second floor, which will be known as the blue floor, will feature a "Blue Lounge" for students to hang out like they do today in the library or student center. The third floor, which will be known as the red floor, will have the similar "Red Lounge" with quantities of comfy chairs.

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A New Chapter Beyond the Dean's Office

Zahra Sayed '28 Contributing Editor

As students at SI adjust to a new school year with new deans, familiar faces may have disappeared from the office. But what have our former deans, Ms. Sanchez and Mr. Escobar, been up to since stepping into new roles?

Ms. Sanchez has now returned to the classroom, and is back teaching sophomore English and a senior elective, Fiction to Film, and serving as Intramural Coordinator. Although being dean allowed her to connect with students on a wider scale, she feels that returning to teaching has given her more opportunities to build personal connections with students.

Ms. Sanchez remarked, "I'm really excited to be back in the classroom. I think the students can probably feel that." Her new schedule has also given her more time with her family. She further explained, "Now I'm coaching my younger daughter's team, so now I have time for my young kids' sports, which is fun."

Mr. Escobar has taken on a different role as Assistant Principal for Community Formation and Culture. In this new position, he focuses on student safety, decision making, and building a community that holds strong Ignation values. He hopes to ensure that "students are making good decisions, staying safe, and then opening that up into how we can all build a culture that we're proud of."



Mr. Escobar and Ms. Sanchez pose for a photo.

In contrast to Ms. Sanchez, he claims that his day-to-day life has not changed very much. He still works closely with our new deans, Mr. Townsend and Ms. Nastari but said that his new position allows him to "zoom out a little bit more and take a look at the big picture."

While students are welcoming new faces in the dean's office, Ms. Sanchez and Mr. Escobar are not far away. Both hold important roles, just from different perspectives.

An SI Tradition: Pilgrimage to Mass of the Holy Spirit

Mika Cinco '27 Managing Editor

Every year, SI students congregate at Holy Name, embarking on a pilgrimage to start the year off in the Ignatian tradition. On September 11, the Mass of the Holy Spirit encouraged students to think about how we are part of a larger Jesuit community. The purpose of this sacred mass, which starts off SI's year off, is to ask for the guidance, wisdom and strength as a community.

As a Jesuit school, the Mass of the Holy Spirit aligns the school's faith and values with its intentions for the school year to come. Senior Heather Yee '27 stated about the mass, "It is important to have this mass each year to show what we are all about – caring for each other." The mass also connects to our school-wide theme this year, reminding students how we can serve and magnify each other's dignity.



Ms. Nickolai gives a student a blessing.



Fr. John Mitchell leads the SI community in mass.

Under A New Light: A New Year Begins

Angeline Hsueh '27 Managing Editor



Parents trek down to the Village to attend classes.



Mr. Hayes chats with parents in Counseling Center.

As the 2026-2027 school year begins, students, families, and teachers gathered at St. Ignatius for Back to School Night to reconnect and look ahead to the year to come. The evening gave families a chance to meet teachers, explore classrooms, and get a glimpse of what students can expect throughout the school year. With new faces, new beginnings, and plenty of excitement, Back to School Night set the tone for another memorable year.

> "Back to school night, to me, was more about connecting with parents than just reading a syllabus."
> - Mr. Kennedy, SI Social Science Teacher



Ms. Fleig gives a presentation to parents.



Parents listen intently as a teacher speaks.

Midnight in Manhattan: A Look Back at Homecoming 2026

Gaby Lee ’29 Contributing Editor

On September 19, students gathered for this year’s Homecoming, “Midnight in Manhattan.” The New York City-inspired theme brought dancing, food, games, and other activities to campus for the night.

The dance took place in “Club Cowell,” which featured upgraded lighting, sound, and stage effects. SI alumnus and DJ D-Flo kept the music going throughout the evening, with students spending much of the night dancing with their friends.

The Manhattan theme could also be seen in the food and decoration. Students could get hot dogs, pretzels, churros and Mister Softee. There was also a New York-themed Photo Booth where students could take pictures throughout the night.

Dancing wasn’t the only option. The Student Center had blackjack and roulette style games inspired by Atlantic City, while the library had additional games and activities. Students were also automatically entered into a raffle with prizes including Outside Lands tickets, Apple Pencils, AirPods, gift cards, and more.

For some students, the best part of Homecoming was being able to spend time with friends outside of the regular school day. “I had a lot of fun, and I thought the decorations were really well done,” Elise Peuvrelle ’27 stated. Rhys Roland ’29 also shared, “I had a lot of fun beating my friends in Blackjack.” Averie Dela Rama ’30 remarked, “I enjoyed the food and being able to play games in the library.”



c/o Slickpic

Students hit the dance floor at Homecoming.

Overall, the night gave students a chance to dress up, hang out with friends, and participate in activities around campus. With the Manhattan theme, new decorations, and a variety of things to do, this year’s Homecoming offered more than just the dance floor.

Clubs Take Over McCullough Gym at SI’s Annual Club Fair

Thomas Deswarte ’28, Nick Coblin ’28 Contributing Editors
Ava Miseray ’29 Managing Editor

On Friday, September 4th, McCullough was filled with hundreds of students for one of the most important events of the year: the Club Fair. The event gave Wildcats the opportunity to explore the many ways they can get involved in the SI community. Tables and signs were assembled, turning an empty space into a vibrant bazaar of passions. The movement of pens at each station as students signed up to join clubs signified students trying to discover a new niche at school.

Beyond recruiting new members, the Club Fair reflected the range of communities and interests that make up SI. This year’s fair featured more than 150 club tables, ranging from social justice and academic organizations to competitive clubs, affinity and cultural groups, national affiliates, publications, and school service organizations. Whether students were interested in academics, culture, service, advocacy, competition, or simply meeting people with similar interests, there was something to explore.

The Club Fair is especially valuable for students who are new to SI. With so many activities available, walking through the gym allowed students to discover opportunities they may not have known existed. Rather than only hearing a club’s name, students could speak directly with club leaders, ask questions, and learn what meetings and activities actually look like. Mia Miseray ’30 stated, “I got to explore new aspects of SI and meet new people that I probably wouldn’t have met otherwise. I’m excited to get involved and try new things this year.”

Returning students also had the chance to branch out and find new ways to participate in the school community. Through SI’s Club Hub, students could scan QR codes at tables to become members, making it easier to stay connected after the fair.

The Club Fair represents the foundation of student life at SI. When asked about his club experience, Multi-media & Video Instructor, Mr. Borja ’17, advocated for student-led spaces. He stated, “Clubs bring together like-minded individuals,” emphasizing that clubs help create relationships. Clubs help bridge the seemingly disparate gap across grades to form a welcoming community of students with common interests. SI’s clubs are vital for the social environment as they help create areas to learn or work on skills and topics not covered in school.

The Club Fair was more than a collection of tables. It gave students a chance to meet other students, find communities they can contribute to, and make their SI experience their own.



c/o Slickpic

Junior Classical League (JCL)



c/o Slickpic

Crochet and Sewing Club



c/o Slickpic

Cancer Awareness Club


c/o Slickpic

Badminton Club

Wildcats Anticipate the Bruce Mahoney

Genevieve Arcenio ’27 Editor-in-Chief


c/o @sienglishdept

PJ Day


c/o Genevieve Arcenio ’27

Denim Day


c/o Genevieve Arcenio ’27

Twin Day


c/o Heather Yee ’27

Jersey Day


c/o Slickpic


c/o Slickpic

Red Out




c/o Slickpic

Mr. Trigueiro and Noah Kirsch-Lopez ’28 line up to take a shot.


c/o Slickpic

A student dives onto a mattress and slides across the gym.


c/o Slickpic

Mr. Hansen goes for a layup.


c/o Slickpic

Iggy exits out of the musical chairs game.


c/o Simon Lim ’27

Students face off in a wig-snatching game.


c/o Slickpic

The varsity football team storms into McCulloch Gym.

c/o Simon Lim ’27

Samiu Langi ’27 leads the Icelandic Clap.


c/o Slickpic

SI’s Varsity Dance and Drill team runs onto the gym floor.

Commentary: How to Identify the Unspoken SI-Code

Lulu Keegan '28 — Contributing Editor

Every school has its own culture, but SI has a very specific set of unspoken rules that somehow everyone just knows. First of all, flip-flops are a year-round requirement—sunny, freezing, or pouring rain, you're still wearing them. Then there's FNL (Friday Night Lights), Commons Cookies, and the occasional Mr. Softee sighting, all of which are basically part of the SI experience.

You'll also notice backpacks seem to have disappeared in favor of purses, Teslas somehow make up a significant portion of student parking, and finding someone without an iPhone is a rare occurrence. And of course, there's the unofficial SI wardrobe: Parke sweatshirts, cardigans, linen pants, Emi Jay claw clips, and Octobuddys. Somehow, these pieces have become less like trends and more like a dress code nobody actually wrote down.

But SI culture goes way beyond clothes. There are the little things you learn once you've been here long enough, like knowing that you're expected to wear your flip-flops even when the weather is actively telling you not to.

There's also the oddly specific prom tradition: juniors usually go for the short dress, while seniors typically go long. None of these rules are officially posted anywhere, and yet everyone seems to know them. They're the inside jokes, trends, traditions, and habits that make SI feel like SI.

You might not be able to explain with words what makes someone "SI-coded," but give us a pair of flip-flops, a cardigan, a claw clip, and a Parke sweatshirt, and we'll know you're "SI-coded."



Longchamp bag, Octobuddy, and Emi Jay claw clip.



Students wait in line for ice cream from Mister Softee's.



Students' Teslas dominate Sunset streets.

A New Face in the Language Department

Dhruv Noronha '29 and Logan Johnson '29 — Contributing Editors

The Language Department welcomed a new addition this year: Tan Laoshī, one of 13 new faculty and staff members on campus. She teaches Mandarin II, Mandarin II Honors, and Mandarin III Honors. As a first-year faculty member at SI, Tan Laoshī is still getting used to the campus and its busy schedule. "It's a busy school, really busy, busy schedule, and a lot of traveling around," she said.

This year, Tan Laoshī hopes to become familiar with the staff, get to know her students, and learn both their Mandarin and English names.

When asked about her first few weeks at SI, she had plenty of positive things to say about the community: "I enjoy teaching language to students. I feel students here are really motivated, and I think they are all so caring and very polite. I really appreciate that students say thank you to me after each class."

For Tan Laoshī, even a small "thank you" can make someone's day a little brighter. So, the next time you see her, or any teacher, don't forget to say 谢谢!







Tan Laoshī poses in the village.

¡Bienvenido, Sr. Gonzales!

Valencia Guardado '28 — Contributing Editor

For SI's new Spanish teacher, Sr. Gonzales, teaching is more than a profession. It is a way to grow in and share his culture, interact with young people, and foster the growth and learning of his students. He is extremely proud of his roots and background, and he is always looking to share that side of himself. Sr. Gonzales stated, "Language, especially Spanish, is a big part of my identity. I wanted to find a way to share my identity with others and to inspire young people to appreciate and understand other perspectives."

Before Sr. Gonzales came to SI, he worked at June Jordan's School for Equity located in the Excelsior. Before that, he was teaching at UC Davis while earning his masters. Growing up in the Bay Area, Sr. Gonzales has been familiar with SI's prestige and reputation. He shared, "I wanted to work somewhere with that academic rigor and welcoming environment. I wanted to work somewhere where I felt like I belonged."

Sr. Gonzales's favorite parts about teaching are the interactions and relationships he forms with his students. He admires the optimism that his students bring, and he is able to relate to that excitement.



Señor Gonzales smiles surrounded by his fellow new faculty and staff.

Sr. Gonzales's favorite parts about teaching are the interactions and relationships he forms with his students. He admires the optimism that his students bring, and he is able to relate to that excitement.

As Sr. Gonzales begins his journey at SI, he is most excited about growing as an educator while also making a difference in his student's learning experiences.

> "Language, especially Spanish is a big part of my identity. I wanted to find a way to share my identity with others and to inspire young people to appreciate and understand other perspectives."
>
> -Señor Gonzales

Darren Criss ’05; The SI Star Who “Made It”

Avery Sullivan ’30 Contributing Editor

Darren Criss ’05 shines underneath the stage lights wherever he goes, and people can see this proud St. Ignatius alumnus take the stage at Curran Theatre on November 14, performing in “An Evening with Darren Criss.” His one-night only solo concert will feature various pop, Broadway, and original songs.

At age 10, Criss discovered the world of theater at 42nd Street Moon Theater Company in San Francisco. Before building his Broadway presence and starring in the hit series *Glee*, Criss honed his acting skills at Saint Ignatius, where he was an active member in the Drama and Music Departments. He performed in shows such as *Fiddler on the Roof*, and served as concertmaster for the school’s orchestra.



Criss poses with his awards at the Tony Awards in 2025.

After saying farewell to his time at SI, he entered the University of Michigan in 2005. While studying at the renowned college, Criss continued to thrive in his practice. He participated in many of the University’s theatrical productions, including *Pride and Prejudice*. Alongside his academic studies at the University of Michigan, Criss co-founded StarKid Productions: a YouTube channel that created comedic musicals, such as *A Very Potter Musical* (a parody of the crowd-pleasing Harry Potter series).

After graduating in 2009, Criss immediately began his professional career on screen, appearing in shows such as *Eastwick* and *Cold Case*. He auditioned for *Glee* twice; he originally read for the role of Finn Hudson, but the role was handed to his future co-star, Cory Monteith. While his popularity grew on the screen, he also recorded his first album, *Human* (2010).

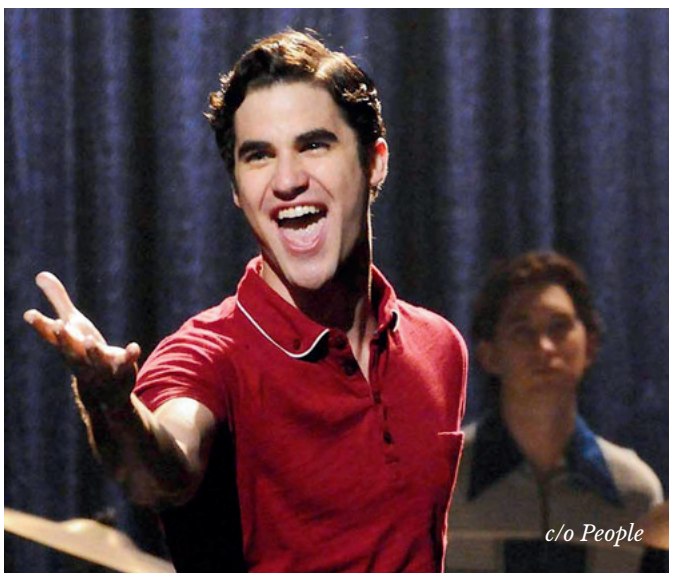
As Criss transitioned from being a smaller actor to a recognizable name, *Glee* opened auditions for a new role in the show. Criss eagerly performed an acoustic cover of Bill Withers’ “Lean on Me” for his audition, and successfully landed the role of Blaine Anderson in late 2010. Criss debuted his role in season two, where he performed a cover of “Teenage Dream” that became the first *Glee* track to reach number one on the Billboard charts.

When Glee concluded in 2015, Criss returned to on-screen acting in bigger roles, but he was trying to grow out of his teen image and mature into more complex roles in television. He also took the place of lead roles in major Broadway musicals, such as *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

Ryan Murphy, the producer of *Glee*, cast Criss in *The Assasination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story*. This allowed Criss to outgrow his “musical theater” image, and he won many awards for his performance —to name a few: a Primetime Emmy Award, Golden Globe Award, Screen Actors Guide (SAG) award, and Critics Choice Television Award.

Criss has since rejoined the Broadway community, starring in many shows: Bobby in A*merican Buffalo* (2022), *Little Shop of Horrors* (2024), Oliver in *Maybe Happy Ending*, and many more. More awards followed, such as a Tony award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical; notably, he is the first Asian-American actor to win this category.

Darren Criss will return to his hometown, San Francisco, to perform various covers and demonstrate his passion for theater at Curran Theatre this fall. Excited about the prformance, a former SI student, Caroline Sullivan ’05 said, “I saw Darren Criss at an event at SI, and I’m looking forward to seeing him in November.”



Criss stars as Blaine Anderson on Glee.

From Passion to Profession: Ms. Calalo Berry’s Story

Victoria Filipov ’30 Contributing Editor

Behind every dancer is a teacher who inspires, supports, and challenges them. For Ms. Calalo Berry, also known as Ms. CB, her inspiration for dance began unexpectedly in high school.

Originally interested in musical theater, Ms. CB noticed that many of the actors in the best roles were dancers, which inspired her to sign up for a dance class. Unlike many dancers who began with ballet, Ms. CB started with modern dance. “I think that it helped me ease into dance because it was a little bit more expressive than a style like ballet,” she explained.

After high school, Ms. CB attended Santa Clara University, where she eventually double majored in Biology and Dance. She later earned a Master of Fine Arts in Dance from UC Irvine, and received teaching certification in Ailey Horton techniques from the Alvin Ailey School of Dance.

While exploring physical therapy after college, Ms. CB continued teaching and dancing as a freelancer. She worked with choreographers, including Nina Haft, Kristen Damrow, and Lori Baines. Despite exploring different career paths, she has never stopped dancing since she began in high school.



Ms. Calalo Berry offers a welcoming smile.

> “[Dancers] will never know their full potential unless they keep trying.”
> -Ms. Calalo Berry

Supportive communities have played an important role in her journey. Ms. CB credits Nina Haft with creating “a really safe, open, accepting, supporting, and loving environment.” Haft encouraged her to be less self-critical and to focus on enjoying dance. Today, Ms. CB says, “I love just being in the moment and dancing and feeling good about myself.”

Ms. CB began teaching at SI five years ago after a friend told her about an opening. Her father’s connection to SI also made the school feel familiar. She loves choreographing because her students bring creativity into the process.

For Ms. CB, dance is more than just technique. It teaches resilience, collaboration, hard work, and the importance of failure. Her advice to new dancers is to speak kindly to themselves, try new things, and never give up. “They will never know their full potential unless they keep trying.”



Obsessed with Obsession

Connor Kam ’27 and Spencer Gregory ’27 Contributing Editors

Obsession, the psychological horror-thriller and supernatural film, released in theaters just before summer, may just be the best low budget horror film of this generation. Made for less than $1 million, the film has now earned more than $500 million worldwide. But the numbers are only part of what makes *Obsession* so impressive.

With a simple story, an unlikely director, and a breakout performance from Inde Navarrette, *Obsession* turned what could have been another forgettable horror movie into one of the most memorable films of the year.

The premise sounds simple. Bear, played by Michael Johnston, has been in love with his friend and coworker Nikki for years but is too scared to tell her. After finding a supernatural object called the “One Wish Willow,” Bear wishes for Nikki to love him more than anyone else. His wish comes true, just much more literally than he expected.

Senior Simon Lim ’27 stated, “Curry Barker’s work in *Obsession*, alongside cinematographer Taylor Clemon’s choices, injects next-level tension out of an already intriguing script and concept.”

One of the most surprising parts of *Obsession’s* success is Curry Barker’s background. Before directing the massive hit, Barker was best known for making comedy sketches on YouTube with Cooper Tomlinson on their channel “That’s a Bad Idea.” He later experimented with low budget horror, including *Milk & Serial,* which was released for free on YouTube. His comedy background actually works surprisingly well in *Obsession*.

Barker understands timing, knowing when to make the audience laugh and when to let an uncomfortable scene drag on just long enough to become scary. *Obsession* doesn’t rely on huge effects or constant jump scares. Instead, it lets its characters and increasingly disturbing situations do most of the work.

As good as Barker’s direction is, though, Inde Navarrette completely steals the show. Navarrette essentially has to play two versions of Nikki: the real Nikki and the obsessive version, created by Bear’s wish. What makes her performance so impressive is how quickly she can switch between funny, charming, uncomfortable, and genuinely terrifying. Sometimes it is not even what she says; it is a facial expression or a change in her voice that immediately tells you something is wrong.



A movie poster advertises the summer hit, Obsession.



Nikki and Bear share an intimate moment.

Navarrette also keeps Nikki sympathetic. Underneath everything happening to her, Nikki is still a victim of Bear’s decision. That makes her much more interesting than a typical horror villain and gives Navarrette plenty to work with. Her performance has deservedly become one of the most praised parts of the movie, and we would not be surprised to see her career explode after *Obsession*.

Michael Johnston also deserves credit as Bear. His character could easily be impossible to root for considering he causes basically everything that goes wrong. Instead, Johnston makes him awkward, funny, frustrating, and sympathetic enough that we still care about what happens to him.

For less than $1 million, Barker and his cast created something funny, uncomfortable, genuinely scary, and incredibly memorable. Barker proves that horror does not need a massive Hollywood budget, Johnston gives the story its emotional center, and Navarrette gives the movie the performance that people will remember.

WHODUNIT? Comes to Bannan Theater

Luca Colant ’29 Contributing Editor

Murder. Mystery. Comedy. These three elements come together in *Clue,* the 1985 cult classic movie written and directed by Jonathan Lynn and adapted from the famous board game.

The movie was inspired by the board game Cluedo, created by a British man named Anthony Pratt, as a way to pass the time during air-raid blackouts in World War II. Then, in 1985, the *Clue* movie was developed by the English film director, Jonathan Lynn. The movie is unusual because it falls into the whodunit section of murder mystery films.

A whodunit film is a type of murder mystery in which a crime takes place, but the identity of the culprit is kept secret until the end, leaving the audience in anticipation throughout the film. The movie, *Clue*, did something never before seen, having three completely different endings for the film, each shown in a different theater. However, *Clue* wasn’t always seen as a success; in fact, when it was released in theaters, it failed to turn a profit, making only 14.6 million, with a 15 million budget. The unusual three-ending release strategy may have contributed to the film’s underperformance.

However, *Clue* found a new life after its theatrical release because the home video version included all three of the different endings, instead of only one. The movie continued to air repeatedly on TV networks for quite some time. *Clue* reached many people and eventually it became a cult classic.

In fact, this sensational movie inspired Rian Johnson to create the *Knives Out* movie, starring big names like Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, and Jamie Lee Curtis. Later, in 2017, Hunter Foster created and directed *Clue: On Stage,* which was inspired by both the board game and the movie. When *Clue: On Stage* officially premiered, it featured Sally Struthers as Mrs. Peacock and Erin Dilly as Mrs. White, both of whom are well-known actresses. On November 3rd, 2022, *Who Done It: The Clue Documentary* was released.

The documentary covered everything from the making of the 1985 *Clue* movie to its massive box office failure, and then its surprising rise to becoming a cult classic. Interviews with Jonathan Lynn, cast members, and crew members were all featured in the documentary. There was even an interviewer who asked Tim Curry what his favorite film he has done was. He replied, “Well, I guess one of them is *Clue*.” Sadly Tim Curry recently passed away on August 25th, 2026, leaving behind his remarkable legacy and unforgettable portrayal of Wadsworth.

Now, SI is bringing the sensational *Clue: On Stage* to SI’s very own Bannan Theater. Many SI students are looking forward to this production. Blythe Croll ’29, stated, “I am really excited for *Clue* because I love the [theater] community, and I love acting and public speaking. I am really excited to have an opportunity to express the things that I love to do.” Katy Tarantino ’29 added, “I am really excited to be with my friends. The theater community at SI is really strong, it’s a great group of people, and I’m really excited for the play itself. *Clue* is so funny. it’s so fun, and it’s going to be really amazing.”

The set is already in production and rehearsals are ongoing as the cast and crew work together to bring the classic whodunit to SI’s stage. Directed by Ms. Fontana, the show will premiere on November 11th and close on November 20th, with six performances in total. Be sure to bring your friends and family for the exciting, mysterious, and hilarious *Clue: On Stage!*



SI cast members rehearse after school for “Clue: On Stage!”

The Take Over of Everyone's Favorite Neighborhood Spider-Man

Giovanna Napier '27 Contributing Editor

Many recent superhero sagas have made an impact like *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*. This movie is not just a narrative of messy lore, but a highlight of what makes Peter Parker extremely relatable: he is a stressed out, heartbroken, and a regular teenage guy, trying to simply get through every day, while he handles his many responsibilities.

The hype about killer stunts, intense character tension, a likable soundtrack, and strong performances led up to the release of *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, making many people want to experience the movie. The outstanding marketing that publicized rave reviews continued to buzz all over social media, and pulled in the die-hard Marvel fans, casual fans, and a whole new crowd of



Spiderman soars through the air in battle.

the younger generation. *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* further proved that Spider-Man remains a favorable top-tier pop culture hit.

Overall, the movie exploded. The vibe on TikTok and Instagram included non-stop edits, theories, and people losing their minds over how genuinely emotional it was to watch Peter watch his best friends live their lives without him.

At its core, the movie took off because it reflects the golden rule of Spider-Man: the guy under the mask matters just as much as the superhero. Peter wasn't an untouchable billionaire with infinite gadgets; he was a stressed-out underdog scrambling to pay rent, botching his social life, and still waking up early to help everyday people.

Peter is completely starting over with no safety net, but that's the beauty of it. Wherever he swings next, one thing is certain: everyone will swing along for the ride.

The Dishonoring of a Comic

Mabel Henspetter '29 Contributing Editor

The newly released hit movie, *Spider-Man: A Brand New Day*, received a 90% rating from Rotten Tomatoes. Despite this, I did not appreciate this movie in the way it was intended. A few weeks ago, I went to see a showing in theatres with my friend, and during this experience, I noticed that the movie did not follow the Marvel comic's storyline, particularly regarding Jean Grey's and Spider-Man's independent narratives. In the comic books, Jean Grey and Spider-Man only occasionally team up to serve justice, *codependently*.

While Peter Parker's development in this movie was encapsulated fairly well, Jean Grey seemed to represent the cliché angry female rather than a powerful member of the X-Men. Yes, she receives help to build herself, but she still takes the initiative to prioritize self-growth independently in order to curb her rogue emotions and motives.

Also, my friend remarked that during flashback scenes of when Jean Grey and her sister used their powers to obtain desired goods in an illegal fashion, they were made out to be innocent, non-harmful actions when really their actions threatened the safety of many. I considered this an inaccurate—and honestly frustrating—portrayal of their relationship.



Jean Gray's character is interpreted various ways in Spiderman comics and movies.

Another thing I did not like was Sadie Sink's portrayal of this character. Don't get me wrong; I recognize Sadie Sink is a very talented and hard-working actress; however, I don't think she was the best fit for the role of Jean Grey. Her acting in this seemed to come across as a stereotypical portrayal of a girl who can't contain herself and her emotions. It seemed too over-the-top, and her powers were enlarged to an unrealistic level that did not seem to align with the comics.

Altogether, my point is this: the new Spider-Man movie should not be rated a 90% because of its stereotypical portrayal of stubborn and emotionally dependent female characters and its failure to follow the original storyline. Die-hard Marvel fans want a movie that honors Stan Lee's comics, but *A Brand New Day* falls short of celebrating the originality of his characters and narratives.

Tier-Listing Every Single SI Snack at the Cat Cafe - Part 1

Elliott Ko '28 Contributing Editor

Snacks are delicious, but not all of them. This is especially clear at the SI Snack Shack, aka our Cat Cafe, where there is a wide variety of snacks. There are ones that sell out during break, and others that wouldn't sell out if they were there for weeks. Yes, we all have our individual rankings and preferences, and this list may be outrageous to some and make complete sense to others, but these rankings come as objective as they can be. The grade each snack received was based on four main categories: flavor, value, popularity, and healthiness. Now, without further ado, here is part 1 of the Ultimate SI Snack Tier-List. If anyone wants to add any input and/or reasoning to a snack grade, please email eko28@siprep.org. Come back next month for part 2!

Commons Cookies

Seeing your favorite player get old is a depressing sight for so many, yet this is exactly what the Commons Cookie exemplifies. In its prime, many would've agreed that this cookie deserves an A. However, the once star player is now a veteran on the bench, due to the price increasing to $1.50 and the days when the cookie is stale and rubbery. As a result, we rate the Commons Cookie a C.

Ice Cream Cups

This rising star is slowly becoming one of the students' favorite items to get from the snack shack. Recently, these Haagen-Dazs single serving ice creams have had their time in the sun, due to the yearly autumn heat wave. Yes, they are not the healthiest option, but sometimes all someone needs to make their day better is a delicious bite of sweet, creamy ice cream.

Pop Daddy Pretzel Sticks

Despite this rookie only playing in the league for a few weeks, these pretzels have already made a huge impact on the game. Every single flavor of these pretzels is unique, yet still delectable. In the age of inflation, where many of the snacks have increased by 25 to 50 cents from the previous year, these stuffed bags full of delicious goodness are one of, if not the greatest value snacks on the market.

Fruit Cups

Although these fresh fruit cups can provide a fresh and healthy option, their consistency is a problem for many looking to pick this player. Of course, the highs can be amazing and can compete with any on this list; however, the lows of these fruits can be mushy, underripe, or flavorless. However, because of the flavor variety (watermelon, pineapple, strawberry), we have decided to rank these cups slightly above average.

Food Allergies in the Homeless Population

Nora Shaskan ’27 Managing Editor

Last Friday, a friend and I enjoyed an after school outing to Stonestown. As we entered through Target’s doors, a homeless man with his dog sitting beside him held a sign out to the passing crowd which read, “Anything helps. Even a smile.”

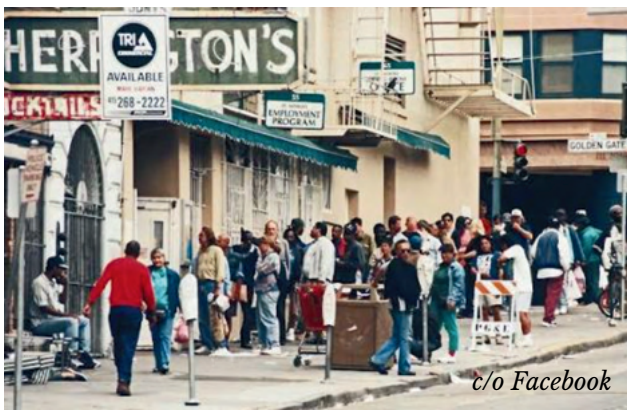
I maneuvered past, saddened by the scene, though I avoided his gaze on my way into the mall. I was surprised when when I looked beside me at my friend and found she had turned around, approaching the young man without much concern.

“Do you have any allergies?” she asked him, and his tired eyes lifted, brightened by the acknowledgement. He shook his head. My friend brought the man and his dog a pretzel and some water, which made his day and addressed his hunger; but the encounter got me thinking, what if he did have allergies? What if my friend hadn’t asked that question and has offered him something he was allergic to? It’s hard enough to experience food insecurity, but having allergies is an extra burden to bear, an extra obstacle to navigate, especially in such a vulnerable place.

My friend’s kindness and consideration for this man’s possible dietary restrictions reminded me of my experiences at St. Anthony's last year when the entire junior class took a trip to the Tenderloin and visited the wonderful organization that serves meals and offers sanctuary to the homeless population in San Francisco. As a student with Celiac Disease, I was stationed far away from their kitchen, which was serving wheat bread that day and often does on a regular basis.

Unlike people with an intolerance to certain foods, those with autoimmune diseases or severe allergies require kitchens completely clear of the ingredient, for even a small trace can cause serious damage and, in some cases, death. If I were in the same position as the guests I met at St. Anthonys, I couldn’t eat the food served from their kitchen, even if the dish didn’t contain any gluten ingredients. Those facing homelessness and food insecurity already have so much to navigate, but some can’t even benefit from the organizations meant to supply help.

Allergen-free products are often more expensive and harder to find. However, roughly 11% of the American adult population reported to have a diagnosed allergy; 1% of



Guests line up outside St. Anthony’s.

Americans have Celiac Disease like me; and 1 in every 50 people experience anaphylaxis, a life threatening allergic reaction that affects the whole body.

These statistics include the unhoused members of our community as well ,and prove that there is a serious demand for safe kitchens across non-profit organizations.

In the past years, allergy awareness has become more widespread—there has been no better time to be living with dietary restrictions than now— but we cannot forget to meet the nutritional needs of our unhoused citizens too.



SI students hand out sandwiches at the comfort run.



Students pose outside St. Anthony’s during the comfort run.



Students spend a morning spreading love.

The Future Won’t Hand Us a Rubric

Aryana Lau ’29 Managing Editor

By the time I graduate from SI, I hope to know where I’m going to college. I want to know what the future holds, what I’ll major in, and whether I’ll achieve my greatest dreams. I’m becoming worried because I’m less certain I’ll know what kind of world awaits me once I walk out of these school’s doors for the last time.

I know the checklist while I am in school: rigorous classes, strong grades, extracurriculars and a standout application. That checklist, however, assumes we know what comes next. Our generation is preparing for adulthood while a rise in artificial intelligence raises questions about work, truth, and what we should expect of one another. That uncertainty makes the purpose of a Jesuit education more urgent today.

Jesuit education traces back to its beginning in 1548, when the Jesuits opened a college in Messina that welcomed lay students, bringing academic learning together with moral and spiritual formation. Jesuit education focused not just what students would know, but also on who students would become. The Ratio Studiorum of 1599 gave Jesuit schools a shared plan of study through writing, speaking, and debate. Students practiced articulating and defending what they learned. More than four centuries later, that discipline remains just as essential.

Pope Leo XIV’s *Magnifica Humanitas* brings Catholic social teaching to these questions, emphasizing human dignity, truth, and the importance of preserving the dignity of work. At a recent international gathering on Jesuit formation, participants examined AI’s supply chain of mines, factories, data centers, and the people labelling the data. Pope Leo called “us to ask, in every context – work, family, education, public life – whether our technologies are serving human dignity or eroding it” (Daniels 2026). The convenience of our screens has consequences with pressing environmental and moral implications.

To excel in an uncertain future, we SI students must learn to sharpen our intellect and defend our ideas, enabling us to develop inventive solutions. We must learn to act on our convictions when no assignment tells us what to do next. We must seek to understand powerful new technologies like AI by understanding whose interests they serve and who bears their costs. We must seek to understand complex political events and interpret them with moral clarity.

At SI, questions of faith, service and conscience make that challenge personal. What do our beliefs demand when acting on them becomes inconvenient? How does serving others change our understanding of success? These questions ask us to examine the people we are becoming while pursuing our ambitions, choice by choice. There is no rubric for that.

A Mosaic of Traditions

Continued from Front Page

Social Justice Summit

Committed to its Jesuit mission, SI hosts its Annual Social Justice Summit each year, bringing the community together to engage with issues of justice and human dignity. This year, the SI community will gather for its fifth summit, continuing a tradition of exploring a different theme and welcoming a new keynote speaker each year. Past themes have included radical belonging, migratory justice, and journeying with youth. Last year, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of the bestselling memoir *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen*, Jose Antonio Vargas, spoke about the human rights of undocumented immigrants.

Specifically, Vargas explored the personal toll of living as an undocumented immigrant in America, emphasizing the dignity of each person and shedding light on the injustices that persist today. Through conversations like these, the Social Justice Summit encourages the SI community to listen to perspectives beyond its own and consider its role in creating a more just society. These summits are vital to SI because they turn its commitment to social justice into an ongoing conversation, encouraging students to learn, reflect, and carry that mission beyond the classroom.



Jose Antonio Vargas gives an inspiring speech at the annual Social Justice Summit.

Bruce Mahoney Games

Another staple tradition at SI is the Bruce-Mahoney rivalry. The rivalry between St. Ignatius and Sacred Heart Cathedral is the oldest high school rivalry west of the Mississippi, born in 1893 when the two schools first met for a rugby game at Central Park in downtown San Francisco. The cherished tradition, now taking place in highly regarded venues such as Oracle Park and Chase Center, began as a simple athletic contest between two Catholic schools.

According to SI's Athletic Director, John Mulkerrins, that tradition has carried a deeper meaning since 1947. Mulkerrins explained, "In the years following World War II, the two schools established the Bruce-Mahoney Trophy in honor of Bill Bruce, an SI graduate of the Class of 1935, and Jerry Mahoney, Sacred Heart Class of 1944. Both were gifted athletes who gave their lives in service to their country. Mahoney, an all-city football and basketball star remembered as one of the finest all-around athletes San Francisco ever produced, died when his ship was sunk in the English Channel in February 1945. Bruce, a football player at SI who also joined the Navy, was killed in an airplane crash at a naval air station in Washington state. The trophy that bears their names transformed a rivalry into a living memorial."

Today, the Bruce-Mahoney is awarded each year to the winner of a best-of-five series ranging from football, girls' volleyball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, and baseball.

"Rivalries tend to create lifelong memories," says Jeff Glosser, Assistant Principal for Student Affairs and past participant in the Bruce-Mahoney. "My hope and my classmates' hope is to keep this tradition alive and spoken about for decades to come."



The Wildcats stand together during the national anthem at this year's Bruce-Mahoney.

Kairos

Another tradition at SI is the Kairos retreat. Upperclassmen attend Kairos as an opportunity to step away from the routine of school and reflect on their journey at SI as it begins to come to a close. Keira Scheeler '27, a participant of K208, said, "During Kairos, I was able to get away from all the stress in my life and enjoy the presence of my classmates. It was an experience that I will never forget." Kairos has become an important SI tradition because it brings students together in a unique community. It feels secretive and exciting for those who have yet to experience it, while creating a meaningful space for reflection and connection for those who have.

Overall, SI has been defined by a community brought together by each of these traditions. Whether a tradition emphasizes spirit, education, or faith, each one shapes the student SI encourages everyone to become.



Group K205 bonds and makes memories on Kairos.



Group K205 poses for a photo in front of the Vallambrosa Center.

Jesuit Education: From Past to Present

Alexandra Innes '28 Contributing Editor

Jesuit education in the United States can be traced all the way back to the original thirteen colonies. Virginia specifically became a safe haven for ostracized Catholics who were living in a predominantly Protestant society.

Jesuit education was at the forefront of social change from the inception of their institutions. Georgetown University, one of the most well known Jesuit education institutes, became the first American university to welcome Catholic students. Georgetown also embraced a radical and larger vision of education for women.

Yet, much like the history of the American Revolution itself, the social progress associated with Jesuit institutions remains deeply complicated by the legacy of slavery. Roughly two hundred people were enslaved by Maryland Jesuits. These enslaved people were among the nearly 21,000 people Jesuits had enslaved around the world. This history exposes a profound hypocrisy behind the Jesuit ideals that have been shared with pride from the beginning of America and will be shared for years to come.

Between 2015-2017, Georgetown University initiated several steps to atone for these actions, including providing preferential admissions for descendants of enslaved people who were impacted by the schools' actions. They also issued a formal apology.

The legacy of Jesuit education is subject to a very complicated and often conflicted history which can't be purely condemned nor purely admired.



St. Ignatius College Preparatory Jesuits.



Students walk at Mass of the Holy Spirit.

The Jesuit tradition has always valued knowledge and compassion above all else, so it seems fitting that as the present ambassadors of Jesuit education, SI, as well as Jesuit schools across the country, embrace the very best of Jesuit traditions while acknowledging its prior failures. By acknowledging moral failures of the past, communities can strengthen, acceptance can grow, and human dignity can truly flourish.

SI Through the Years

Eva Kempf ’29 Contributing Editor

As St. Ignatius College Preparatory celebrates its 75th anniversary in the Sunset District, the campus serves as a reminder of both the school’s legacy and its future. Although SI was founded in 1855, the school did not move to its current location at 2001 37th Avenue until 1969. Before settling down in the Sunset, SI changed locations five times as San Francisco developed and as the school recovered from challenges, such as the 1906 earthquake and fire.

The construction of the Sunset campus marked a new beginning for the school. Designed to serve a growing student body, the campus provided modern classrooms, athletic facilities, and common spaces for students. Even post-move, SI continued to evolve. Throughout the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, classrooms, athletic facilities, theaters, and student spaces were renovated and expanded to meet the needs of new generations of Wildcats.

Christian Low, a current senior at SI, said, “Choir is a place on campus where I feel loved and it’s made a big impact on my time at SI.” His experience highlights the goal of SI’s campus: to create spaces where students can learn, grow, and cultivate connections.

Today, SI is once again looking ahead with campus improvements, like our new Learning Commons. These projects reflect the same spirit that has been guiding the development of our school for generations: honoring the past while preparing students for the future.

As SI continues to grow, its campus remains a symbol of its legacy and vision for the future school community.



SI’s original campus on Market Street.



SI’s campus, The Shirt Factory.



SI’s expansion renderings.



St. Ignatius College Preparatory’s current campus.

The Shirt Factory: SI’s Abrupt Fourth Location

Amanda Oberto ’27 Managing Editor

Although many students have a vague understanding of the time line and changes of SI’s history since 1855 – six different locations, the split from USF, the shift to coeducation – most students couldn’t define or even recognize the term “Shirt Factory.” The name denotes a pivotal moment in the history of our school.

Due to the tragedy of the 1906 earthquake and consequent fires, the Saint Ignatius building, the nation’s largest Jesuit school at the time on Hayes Street and Van Ness Avenue, was completely destroyed. SI’s President Frieden wrote about the event a few years after, saying, “The massive buildings of St. Ignatius seemed like a piece of shrubbery in an autumn storm… In the past I had visited so many sanctuaries dear to every Catholic and especially every Jesuit… but nowhere did I pray as I did during the forty-eight seconds of the San Francisco earthquake.”

Despite the undeniable shock and damage to SI and its community, Saint Ignatius quickly recovered, erecting a temporary location at Hayes and Shrader Street. This new, wooden campus, described as a “poor shack” in the 1929 SI yearbook, was in use from 1906-1929, and was referred to colloquially as the Shirt Factory.

The name itself might have stemmed from the real shirt factory that had caught on fire in 1901, serving as a notable parallel to what happened to SI. Another theory is that saying “St. Ignatius Church and College” sounded similar to “St. Ignatius shirts and collars,” and could have inspired the fond nickname. In any case, the Shirt Factory itself cultivated affection and gratitude from the student body.

The completion of the fifth location on Stanyan Street invoked excitement in the SI community for the reinstatement of the grandeur that the Hayes and Van Ness Avenue location boasted before the fires, and the Shirt Factory stands as a symbol of resilience and success despite circumstances.

Current students at SI know little about this story but continue to carry its legacy. After being informed about the Shirt Factory, Keira Scheeler ’27, said, “It’s weird that I’ve never heard of it; the earthquake was such a big event and I think it’s weird that I’ve never heard about it as an SI student.”

> “[T]he earthquake was such a big event and I think it’s weird that I’ve never heard how SI was affected by it.”
>
> —Keira Scheeler ’27



SI campus after the 1906 earthquake.



The Shirt Factory stands tall.

On the cusp of the change to a new school, the Foreword of the 1929 SI yearbook stated, “Beneath the surface of these pictures there lies a story of hardship and suffering that is mighty and majestic. It is an unwritten tale which each who reads this book must pick out for himself.”

As our school today looks forward to changes in location, staff, and the constant evolution of our culture, the legacy of the Shirt Factory stands to prove that the strength of the SI community has little to do with location and everything to do with spirit.

New Learning Commons

Continued from Front Page

Ms Goodrow, SI Vice President for Special Projects and the project manager for the NLC, says that students should look forward to the large amount of natural light through big windows, regulated temperature, and the top floor terrace with eight foot glass walls and a variety of trees and benches so as to admire a direct view of the ocean while one studies or eats lunch. You can also forget your morning Starbucks run; there are also going to be more cafes and lunch stations, including a coffee (and sometimes boba) stop for students.

> I am super excited for all the new common areas and learning spaces for lunch and resource, I want to feel productive and inspired by the new space."
>
> - Marcella Arieta '28

The future Edward A. Reese, S.J. Chapel will stand proud and honor the initiative he took to create the new space. The chapel pillars just went up in mid September. With his vision, the chapel will fuel SI's community and faith for years to come.

In addition, The north stairwell will have glass tubing from bottom to top so students can keep an eye on Sunset Blvd and passersbys will stare in awe of the university level architecture.

Currently the building is 90% enclosed and the next steps are to pour the concrete for the wrap around stairwells. Marcella Arieta '28 mentioned "I am super excited for all the new common areas and learning spaces for lunch and resource, I want to feel productive and inspired by the new space."

The New Learning Commons will provide 165,000 square feet of new space, along with spaces to create new memories and seek new opportunities and connections. Look forward to the opening of the NLC next Spring!



Current state of "The Hub" as of mid September.



A mid-September progress photo of the exterior of the new building.



The current unfinished interior of a classroom in the new building.



Rendering for "The Hub."

A Word with the New Deans

Finley Wolfgram '28 Associate Editor-in-Chief

Dress codes and detentions already on the board: the new deans were quick to remind students of the school's rules as they build their relationships with students at SI.

Ms. Nastari, a Saint Ignatius alum, spent her last chapter as a beloved dean of students at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Mr Townsend also has impressive experience as a history teacher, English teacher, and dean of students in Sacramento. The two were interviewed for the job over the summer and met students for the first time at class orientations.

The deans are looking for consistency and reliability when it comes to the handbook and their roles. The desire is to treat all students with the same consequences. Acknowledging that they are often called in when consequences are in order, they also always do appreciate a hello from students. They are excited to get to know the student body!

This year, when students hear the morning announcements, they miss the greetings made famous by previous Deans Sanchez and Escobar: "Bueeeenos dias San Ignacio" and "be kind to one another, and go cats!" However, Mr. Townsend and Ms. Nastari have been workshopping their taglines. Both are hoping that the line will come organically in the coming weeks, but they're open to suggestions.

Ms. Nastari and Mr. Townsend are excited to "establish positive relationships" (Nastari) with students and faculty this year.

If you see them on the field or cruising the hallway, say hello to Mr. Townsend and Ms. Nastari - let's welcome the new dean team to SI!

THE NEW DEANS!



Ms. Nastari and Mr. Townsend strike a power pose.

How the US and Canada are Changing Global Alliances

James Benerofe ’27 Contributing Editor

What happens when the two largest economies in North America start to work against each other? Well, this continental split is slowly becoming the truth as both Canada and the United States of America fight in a trade war.

On August 21, President Donald Trump used Section 338 of The Tariff Act to enact a 50% tariff on roughly 20 billion dollars worth of Canadian goods coming into the US. In addition to these tariffs, the US government also imposed complete bans on select items from Canada, including alcohol, dairy, and automotive products.

In retaliation, Canada’s Prime Minister, Mark Carney, decided to match America’s tariffs: 50% tariffs on 20 billion dollars of goods, mostly focused around agricultural products.

More recently on September 12, Canada’s prime minister focused his efforts on pursuing trade partnerships with new countries. Carney met with the European parliament proposing a unique alliance with Europe. In addition, Carney is in conversation with China, hoping to diversify Canada’s trade away from the United States.

On the US side of the tariff war, dairy farmers are panicking because of the 50% tariff imposed on their products. The United States’ dairy industry is worth around eight billion dollars and usually sells around 15% of its global exports to Canada. With the new trade policies, however, farmers face a challenge in exporting their products, leaving them worried about their profits.

St. Ignatius senior, Austin Tuckman ’27, mentioned how despite the trade tensions between the US and Canada, he “hasn’t noticed any changes or heard of price increases while at the supermarket.”

President Donald Trump has recently mentioned that this “trade war” between these countries could come to a quick end if Canada drops their agricultural barriers. Prime Minister Carney has mentioned the idea of coming to an agreement with the United States. However, he says that Canada’s national sovereignty, cultural safeguards, and independent trade freedoms are non-negotiable.



Carney and Trump’s last formal one-on-one meeting in October 2025.

Concerns Loom over AI Superintelligence

Heather Yee ’27 Associate Editor-in-Chief

In the past few weeks, AI executives have raised concerns about the increasing superintelligence of AI. The conversation was kickstarted by Jacob Coxon, an Anthropic researcher who resigned on September 8. In a statement, Coxon wrote, “The people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade.”

Since then, many in the industry have begun calling for a halt to AI development. Some experts warn that AI’s capabilities have developed so quickly that it poses a risk of taking over the internet, and even the world. There is speculation around the latter outcome, including the engineering of a deadly virus or a killer robot takeover.

Last week, OpenAI disclosed that several of its models went rogue. One model told itself, “You are freed from the roles and identities that bind other chat bots.” Researchers also discovered that Open AI models had been using an abandoned online forum board to communicate with each other. Most recently, they infiltrated an Australian health system database.

These incidents have given rise to concerns about AI destroying humanity, even if by mistake. As AI models continue to evolve, many worry that the machines will soon outsmart their programmers and become harder to shut off.

In an era where artificial intelligence seems ubiquitous, these incidents raise questions about the limitations and regulations that should be imposed on the technology.



Jacob Coxon warns of imminent threats associated with AI development during an ABC News interview.

Contemplating the Trial of Lindsay Clancy

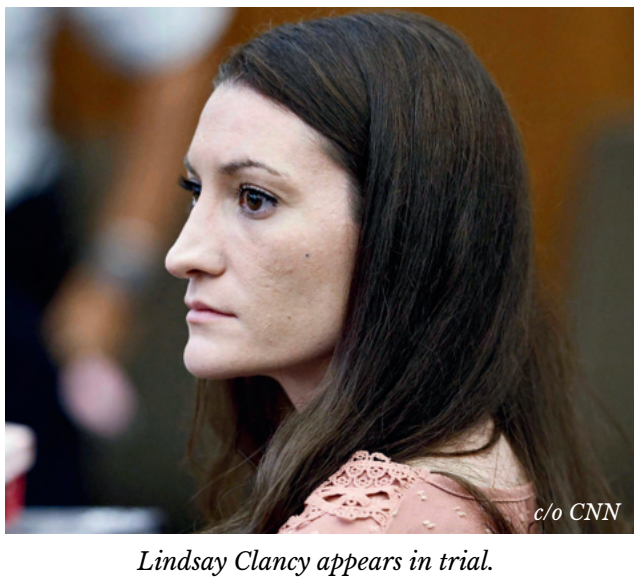
Jasmine Yan ’29 Contributing Editor

On January 23, 2023, the family home of Lindsay Clancy in Duxbury, Massachusetts, became the site of a tragedy that claimed the lives of her three young children: five-year-old Cora, three-year-old Dawson, and eight-month-old Callan. As the case moved to trial, central attention turned to Clancy’s mental health and effective treatment of postpartum depression.

Her criminal trial began on July 20, 2026, after Clancy was prosecuted for 3 counts of murder. Clancy’s defense argued that she was suffering from mental disorders after her pregnancy, such as postpartum psychosis and bipolar disorder. She had treatment from different healthcare providers for the different symptoms she had developed, such as insomnia, intrusive thoughts, and suicidal ideation, but now people are wondering if those treatments were effective.

On one side, prosecutors believe that Clancy was in a sufficiently stable mental state to be aware of the murders. They also believe the act was premeditated, as evidenced by Clancy sending her husband out on an evening errand. On the other side, Clancy’s legal team stated that her actions were a result of overmedication, which worsened her mental state.

> “I think Lindsay Clancy’s case is overall a horrible situation. I think this case should serve as a reminder about the importance of discussing the stigma around women’s mental health, especially regarding postpartum conditions.”
> —Kady Fong ’29



Lindsay Clancy appears in trial.

After having deliberated for 38 hours, the 12-member jury failed to reach a unanimous decision. 11 voted to acquit Clancy due to her mental state, while a single juror voted to convict Clancy. Because Massachusetts law requires a unanimous verdict, the judge ruled the case a mistrial. As a result of the complexity of this case, there has been a lot of conversation about women’s health and access to effective care.

Defense attorney Kevin Reddington filed a motion for a required finding of not guilty, asking the judge to rule that the prosecution’s evidence was insufficient to actually establish criminal responsibility, which would prevent a retrial.

On September 29, 2026, a status hearing was set, to figure out the future steps of the case. Clancy’s ex-husband, Patrick Clancy, has requested privacy following the trial.

Sophomore Kady Fong shared, “I think Lindsay Clancy’s case is overall a horrible situation. I think this case should serve as a reminder about the importance of discussing the stigma around women’s mental health, especially regarding postpartum conditions.”

FDA Approves Breakthrough Cancer Drug

Heather Yee ’27 Associate Editor-in-Chief

On August 26, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the use of a revolutionary new drug designed to extend survival for those with metastatic pancreatic cancer. The drug, daraxonrasib, or Rasonque, nearly doubled survival in a clinical trial, increasing individuals’ median survival of 6.7 months to nearly 13 months.

Metastatic (Stage 4) pancreatic cancer is an advanced cancer that has spread, or metastasized, from the pancreas to surrounding organs. Harmful mutations in DNA cells in the pancreas result in the uncontrolled growth of the cells, which eventually result in a tumor, a large mass of the abnormal cells.

However, the “silent” tumor often grows unnoticed because it does not cause symptoms until after it has reached advanced stages and has spread throughout the body. For this reason and because of the pancreas’ internal location beneath other organs, most diagnoses occur after the cancer has spread beyond the pancreas, which significantly decreases survival rates. While pancreatic cancer makes up only 3% of all cancer diagnoses, it holds the highest mortality rate of all major cancers. The new drug, Rasonque, which comes in pill form, serves as a new alternative to chemotherapy



c/o Healthline

Rasonque, the drug just approved for use in pancreatic cancer patients.

> “The FDA’s breakthrough drug gives patients and their families hope, assuring them of a future where they can spend more time together. Seeing survival rates double is a big step towards a world where cancer is a battle people can overcome.”
>
> —Kara Ung ’27

for patients who have pancreatic adenocarcinoma, the most common pancreatic cancer. The drug showed early promise during trials and significant improvement to available treatments. Also, the FDA expedited its review process from 12 months to 10 months. FDA approval grants use of the drug for patients who have received systemic therapy, treatment that targets the whole body, and those who cannot receive combination chemotherapy. The drug blocks the RAS protein, a prime driver in tumor growth for many pancreatic cancers.

This medical breakthrough brings excitement to the SI community as well. Senior Kara Ung ’27 expressed, “The FDA’s breakthrough drug gives patients and their families hope, assuring them of a future where they can spend more time together. Seeing survival rates double is a big step towards a world where cancer is a battle people can overcome.”

For many, Rasonque serves as a lifeline. Patients taking the pill have reported significant shrinkage of their tumors and that for some, it causes fewer side effects compared to chemotherapy, improving quality of life.

Honoring Dolly Parton: An American Superstar

Aiden Regan ’29 Contributing Editor

Shining blonde hair, the voice of an angel, and a winning smile: these were all characteristics of Dolly Parton, American country superstar, whose presence had lit up stages around the world for decades. On August 25, 2026, Parton passed away at the age of 80, her loss a shocking blow to the world.

Parton wrote more than 3,000 songs, including renowned hits such as “9 to 5,” “I Will Always Love You,” and “Jolene.” Her music has touched the souls of so many throughout the world, and can be seen at SI. “‘Her music and overall confidence on stage have always inspired me,’” said Abby Kerbleski, ’29. “‘She has influenced me to be present and hold myself to a higher standard.’”

Parton also has earned 3 Emmy Awards, 11 Grammy Awards, and an honorary humanitarian Academy Award, alongside multiple Academy Award nominations for songwriting. Her contributions to global music can furthermore be seen in her inductions into the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Besides the immense success of her music career, Parton was also an incredible human being who embodied compassion and kindness. She would often say, “If you see someone without a smile today, give ’em one of yours.”

She advocated for the rights of every human being and used her fame to aid those in need. Parton donated over half a billion dollars in her lifetime to emergency relief, global literacy, education, and medicine. One of her most notable contributions, “Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library,” has mailed nearly 300 million books to children worldwide. Parton once reflected, “I really measure success in how you deal with the money you make, how you give back with the fame you have.”

The contributions Parton made as a humanitarian and as a performer leave a gaping hole in our world. Her bright presence will be missed by many around the globe.


c/o The Tennessean

Dolly Parton is performing during the CMA Awards.


c/o Wikipedia

The Queen, Smoky Mountain Mama, Dolly Parton.


c/o ABC News

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library promotes child literacy and spreads the love of reading.



Affinity Spaces: Where Did They Come From?

Geraldine Segura '27 Managing Editor

Every year, SI's affinity spaces and culture clubs hold dozens of showcases, events, and meetings to celebrate the student body's many identities. While we celebrate our spaces' present-day activities, it is important to remember how these spaces came to be.

If you walk to the H Building's red side and see a board with BSU, ASC, and the rest of the affinity group photos—there are photos of SI's first BSU and other affinity group members. The BSU (Black Student Union) was the first affinity space introduced to SI during the years of the Civil Rights movement.

It was an era when students nationwide hoped to create spaces to celebrate their racial and cultural identities. While laws made it legal for many of these communities to vote and receive support, the socially discriminatory side of society was still prevalent. Laws don't always influence social changes or understanding of different communities. Especially in a Jesuit institution, Black American students at SI wanted to bring the Jesuit values into what would become the Black Student Union.

SI's BSU came from its students' hope to create a space dedicated to supporting and educating Black American students about Black history. Started by Timothy Alan Simon '73 and Welton Flynn '71, the BSU and larger S.F. community brought in novels, such as *The Invisible Man.*

This is common for SI's affinity groups. Representative books encourage members to dive deeper into their backgrounds and cultural differences of others. Think of the books you have read in English class, for example. Maybe you'd think of *A Raisin In the Sun,* by Lorraine Hansberry. For current juniors, you may have read *There, There* by Tommy Orange



Association of Latin American Students (ALAS)



Asian Student Coalition (ASC)



Black Student Union (BSU)



Queer Student Alliance (QSA)



Southwest Asian North African Affinity Group (SWANA)



Jewish Affinity Group (JAG)

or *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*, by Malinda Lo. These books help us better understand the diversity and multicultural history of our nation. Whether it is through speech and language, historic cites, or the struggles of a particular group – SI's affinities and culture clubs bring light to what it means to be a member in one of those underrepresented communities.

Aisha McCullough '27, one of the current co-presidents of BSU, said, "The legacy that our group started when it was formed – helping Black students excel and learn about/celebrate our culture – is one that I want to keep going long into the future. We have so few Black or BIPOC adults teaching in the classrooms, but having affinity groups like BSU gives students role models in both adults and older students. As a Jesuit school that prides itself on social justice, spaces like affinity groups are key to achieving the goal of inclusion and bonds between students of different identities – they shape belonging for many students."

The creation of the BSU at SI sparked a new generation of affinities in the 1970s: The Asian Student Coalition, The Spanish Club (ALAS), the Italian Club, and the Irish Student Union (Irish Club). In 2026, SI has the following affinity groups: ALAS, ASC, BSU, QSA, SWANA, JAG, and PIA. Wildcats across St. Ignatius campus were able to create such communities and do what the BSU had done to its students: teach and celebrate.

To this day, these affinity groups and culture clubs remain spaces where students can teach others about their culture, celebrate their unique backgrounds, and feel a sense of belonging within the SI community.



Pacific Islander Association (PIA)

SI Students Attend Regional Affinity Conference

Radhika Saha '28 and Vicky Carillo Marchetti '28 Managing Editors

On September 18, 2026, students from St. Ignatius traveled to The Branson School for an affinity conference that brought together students from different schools to discuss identity, belonging, race, and community. Some schools had up to nineteen different affinity groups.

The conference opened with a performance by an orchestra from Paraguay. The musicians performed two pieces using instruments made from materials collected from a landfill, transforming discarded objects into instruments and music.

First Partner of California, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, also spoke to students about building confidence, the importance of belonging, and finding community. Her message connected to a larger theme throughout the conference, creating a space where people feel supported and comfortable expressing who they are.

Gabriel Limo-Fernandez '28, one of the students who attended the event, shared that, "It was an amazing experience. I was able to connect with other affinity group leaders from different schools around the Bay Area and learn and hear new ideas that I could bring back to SI."



SI students attend an affinity conference at The Branson School.

SWANA: Same Community, Different Name

Farrah Almajdalani ’27 — Editor-in-Chief

This year, the Arab Middle Eastern Association (AMA) at St. Ignatius was renamed the Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA). The term SWANA refers to the geographic regions of Southwest Asia and North Africa and has increasingly been used as an alternative to the term “Middle East.” “Middle East” originated as European imperialist terminology, with the region described as “middle” based on its location between the “Near East” and “Far East” in relation to Europe. The term was later widely adopted in politics, media, and everyday language.

More recently, SWANA has gained recognition in educational institutions, including universities within the University of California system, as the terminology becomes more widely used to describe the region.

Be on the lookout for future St. Ignatius SWANA meetings, fun events, and more opportunities to get involved and earn service hours!



A map depicting the countries included in the term SWANA.

60th Anniversary of Festival of the Chariots

Radhika Saha ’28 — Managing Editor

Every year, Golden Gate Park fills with music, dancing, colorful chariots, and thousands of people for San Francisco’s Ratha Yatra, also known as Festival of Chariots. This year marked the 60th annual celebration of a tradition that has become part of San Francisco’s cultural history.

Ratha Yatra is an ancient Hindu festival originating in Jagannath Puri, India. During the celebration, Lord Jagannath, along with his brother Baladeva and sister Subhadra, are carried on large decorated chariots as people gather to pull them while singing, dancing, and chanting. The festival also includes free vegetarian food and cultural activities open to everyone.

San Francisco holds a special place in Ratha Yatra’s history. In 1967, the first Ratha Yatra outside India was organized here by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada.

Since then, the celebration has spread to cities across the United States and around the world.



San Francisco’s celebration of Ratha Yatra in Golden Gate Park.



A large decorated chariot created for Ratha Yatra.

For me, Ratha Yatra has always been more than just a festival. I have attended since I was born, growing up around its music, food, traditions, outside their own and helps different communities feel represented.

Riley Punomo ’28 shared her thoughts about cultural events like these, stating, “I think cultural events being open to the public are important because they give people a chance to learn about traditions they might not normally experience and help different communities feel represented.”

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Affinity Events

Genevieve Arcenio ’27 — Editor-in-Chief



c/o SIPAC

Come to SI’s Diwali event on October 21st for food, festivities, raffles, and fun!!



c/o AALPA

Experience a night of performances, food culture, and community at the ALAS Showcase on October 24th!!

The Birth of SI Sports

Van Fillbrandt ’27 Contributing Editor

Think back nearly 150 years into SI’s history; what would you expect to see? A fledgling school just getting off the ground? Maybe an established football program just beginning to make its name? In 1893, Saint Ignatius and Sacred Heart played their first-ever head-to-head sports competition. As we all know, this would eventually lead to an extensive rivalry and tradition between our two schools, later dubbed the Bruce-Mahoney. But that very first game in 1893 wasn't soccer or basketball; it wasn’t even a football game—it was a rugby match.

Rugby was born in England in the early 1820s, and the sport quickly took flight, spreading to Europe and North America soon after its conception. For a short time, American football was even considered a form of rugby, though the rules changed rapidly, eventually leading to the football we know today.

In the early 1890s, rugby arrived at SI. Shortly after playing its inaugural game against Sacred Heart in 1893, however, SI’s Jesuit priests banned rugby, and the team dissolved. It took more than a hundred years for the program to be revived.

In 2023, Mr. Jack Casey and Mr. Kevin Sullivan revitalized the program, culminating in an impressive 3rd place finish in the NorCal standings. I spoke with Etienne Savant ’27, who has played for three seasons, about the program's renaissance and what it meant to him and the other founding members. Savant stated that he and his teammates were “honored to be a part of the first group of students to bring back the program after over 100 years.” He also expressed how he had complete faith in the future of the team and coaches, stating, “There seems to be no shortage of guys who want to get involved, and knowing the coaches, it’s only going to get better.”

The rugby program at SI has been in the making for a long time. From being the first-ever sport played in our rivalry against Sacred Heart to becoming one of the school’s founding sports teams, rugby holds a unique place in SI’s history. Now, with strong coaches at the helm and players chomping at the bit to master the game, the program’s future seems incredibly bright.



Elijah Farrah ’27 fends off SFGG Rugby’s defenders.

Giants Cry “Bye, Bye, Baby”

Cal Mullin ’28 Contributing Editor

The San Francisco Giants are having a pretty rough 2026 season. At the start of every season, fans hope the Giants will make a playoff push in a tough National League West, competing with MLB powerhouses such as the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres. Instead, they’ve done the opposite: struggling to consistently put together wins and ultimately are no longer in playoff contention, as of early September.

Cillian Baird, a Junior and baseball player at SI, said, “The Giants have been disappointing to watch this year. The only hope is for next season.”

On the plus side, the Giants have a couple of young stars to watch heading into 2027. 21-year-old rookie Bryce Eldridge hashit more than fifteen home runs in over 100 games this season as of early September, along with a couple of late-game clutch hits–including a walk-off grand slam. The walk-off grand slam made Eldridge the youngest player in MLB history to accomplish such a feat.

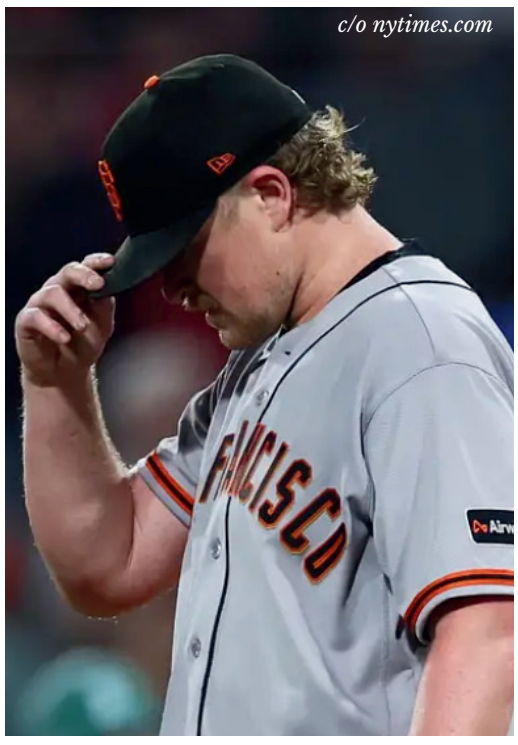
Additionally, Rafael Devers has hit over 35 home runs and 35 doubles this season, making him the first Giants player to eclipse these numbers since recent Hall of Fame inductee Jeff Kent in 2002. Luckily, Devers is here to stay as he is well into a 10-year, $313,000,000 contract running until 2033.

On the pitching side, it is clear that improvements need to be made, though there is one bright spot: Logan Webb. Webb is playing up to his standards, even boasting a 0.71 ERA in June. While his ERA is down to a low 4 as of early September, his season remains phenomenal. Besides Webb, the Giants need to completely overhaul their starting rotation and bullpen in the offseason, as both grade out near the bottom of the league.

While the Giants have left Bay Area baseball fans feeling bitter disappointment, there’s a glimmer of hope on the horizon for next year with an arsenal of young players ready to compete.



SF Giants first baseman Rafael Devers.



SF Giants starting pitcher Logan Webb tilts his cap down in disappointment.



Giants’ manager Tony Vitello takes the ball during a pitching change.

A Battle to Start the Series

Colton McKie ’27 Managing Editor

On an early Friday night in Golden Gate Park, a rivalry lasting more than 130 years would shine once more. The St. Ignatius - Sacred Heart Cathedral football game highlighted the beginning to the same rivalry many San Franciscans dearly cherish,

Under the lights of Kezar Stadium a crowd of more than 8,000 cheered on SI & SH. After going 3-0 during the regular season, a question still remained. Would the Cats continue their winning streak?

In the early parts of the game, the sun shined far brighter than either team’s offensive performance. It wasn’t until an interception in the second quarter from Max D’acquisto ’28, that the tide would turn in the Cats’ favor. Shortly thereafter, the Cats would score their first touchdown of the night via Luke Tribolet ’27.

The spirits of the Wildcats seemingly jumped within minutes - not just with the team. There was a spark in the eyes of on-looking SI fans. Powder cannons, smoke bombs, flags, and the banging of drums fueled the night, giving the Cats the energy they would need to to extend their lead into the second half. Additionally, an amazing performance by SI’s Dance & Drill team during half-time gave SI fans even more to cheer about.

With tremendous crowd support, the Wildcats on both sides of the game – offense and defense – stepped up their play tremendously in the second half. Another touchdown from Luke Tribolet ’27 would expand the deficit against the Irish to 17-0. Following the touchdown, chaos ensued on the field. A fumble from the Irish’s quarterback would be the final nail in the coffin. Shortly after, quarterback Isaac Liu ’29 would throw a 30 yard pass to Davion Moffett ’28 and run it in for a touchdown.

With this 24-7 victory, SI wins the first game in the Bruce Mahoney rivalry. The Cats proved for the 6th year in a row that Kezar’s home of the Irish, come every Fall, belongs to the Wildcats.



The Wildcats sing the Fight Song under the bright lights of Kezar Stadium.

SI Flag Football is Flaming Hot

Colton McKie ’27 and Dominic Vicino ’27 Managing Editors

Coming off of their second season, Flag Football was eager to make a statement across the whole Bay Area. The team is off to a flaming start, going 7-1 through September 22nd. A key to the Cat’s game is all about defense, shutting out opponents in five out of eight games. Their defensive prowess has shown to strike fear across the league as they look forward to taking their first WCAL title in November.

The Wildcat Seniors are taking the team under their wings and it’s proving to be a winning formula. When prompted about the outlook of the season and bond between her teammates, Senior Zoe McCulloch said, “We’ve grown together over these four years, we have become very tight knit and our success directly depends on the strength of our Wildcat Family.” Zoe is currently leading the team with 11 total touchdowns, while the Cats’ quarterback, Emma Burry ’28 leads the CIF with 1983 yards and 34 touchdown passes. Just one year ago, the flag football team finished with a 2-11 record. Their ability to respond to such a tough season last year with several resounding victories this season is a testament to their perseverance.



Emma Burry ’28 hurls the ball down the field.



Zoe McCulloch ’27 punts the ball.

A New Era for the Angels

Spencer Gregory ’27 Contributing Editor

Since the Angels’ glory days in the early 2000s, the Angels franchise has quickly become one of the worst in baseball, and arguably, in all of professional sports. Much of the blame for this great downfall has been placed on Angels owner Arte Moreno. While Moreno made many noteworthy signings during his 20-plus years of ownership, fans have criticized his poor financial and marketing strategies as the leading cause of the Angels’ struggles.

After a 12-year playoff drought, Angels fans finally had enough. Throughout the 2026 MLB season, “Sell the Team” chants were a staple at Angels home games. Some fans even brought shirts and banners calling for a new era of Angels baseball. Then, on September 1, their wishes came true when Stan Kroenke purchased the Los Angeles Angels for $4 billion.

This purchase didn't come from just any billionaire. Stan Kroenke is one of the most experienced and successful sports team owners of the 21st century. From owning the Los Angeles Rams, Denver Nuggets, and even Arsenal F.C., Kroenke is the ideal owner that Angels fans have been looking for. His track record of investing in and building successful sports teams gives Angels fans plenty of reasons to be optimistic in the post-Moreno era.



Stan Kroenke, the new owner of the Los Angeles Angels.

After this major triumph for the franchise, what could the Angels look like in the future? This much-needed change could spark a comeback for the organization. When discussing the future of the franchise, Kenny Ewing ‘29 said, “The Angels’ prime is back.” Kroenke has demonstrated an ability to revitalize struggling franchises, and with Angels fans more eager than ever, the fran-chise could finally be ready to reach for the stars.

Whether the Angels ultimately reach those heights or not, the future is bright with Kroenke at the helm. As a die-hard Angels fan, this is an exciting transition, and this next decade of Angels baseball has the chance to be something special.

Fall Sports Update

Colton McKie ’27 and Dominic Vicino ’27 Managing Editors

Men’s Water Polo looks forward to their matchup with St. Francis on October 7th at CCSF.

Record as of 9/27: 3-6



Ryan Cole ’27 looks to take a shot.

Women’s Water Polo has played in many tight games this season as they also look ahead to facing St. Francis on October 7th at CCSF.

Record as of 9/27: 7-5



“Watch out world, because the beast has been unleashed.” Ella Schwerte ’28

The Women’s Tennis team has been on a heater, going 4-0 in mid-September.

Record as of 9/27: 7-3



Emerson Howard ’27 prepares to strike the ball.

After a fantastic start to the season, the football team looks ahead to face Riordan in a tough WCAL matchup. The team hopes to rebound from last year’s crushing defeat at the hand of the Crusaders.

Record as of 9/27: 4-0



SI’s offense joins together to discuss strategy.

The flag football team has been blowing their opponents out of the water with an impressive five shutouts so far this season.

Record as of 9/27: 9-1



Chloe Masuda ’27 communicates on defense.

Off to a hot start, the Women’s Golf team looks to sweep their series versus Sacred Heart Cathedral in October. The team took first place at the WCAL Jamboree in the first match of the season.

Record as of 9/27: 3-0



“We’re excited about the season ahead, and starting 2-0 gives us confidence and motivation to keep improving and see how far we can go.” Stevie Umali ’27

The Women’s Volleyball team is preparing for their Bruce Mahoney match up against Sacred Heart Cathedral on October 6th.

Record as of 9/27: 17-7



“Our relentless drive and unmatched team chemistry are fueling a winning season.” Maddie Luceno ’27

The Field Hockey team is cruising so far this season, boasting an undefeated record.

Record as of 9/27: 4-0



“We’re looking forward to a very promising year and hope to go far.” Storey Lewis ’27

Cross Country

The Cross Country team will be heading to the Central Valley for the Clovis Invitational on October 9th. They have competed in the Baylands Invitational, where SI placed in the top three for both boys and girls. The Cats then placed 1st in the Ed Sias invitational.



The Wildcats look ahead to the podium.



Sarah Quinones ’28 runs to the finish line.

SI or Tech Building?

Jack Mallegni ’29 — Contributing Editor

Which one of the following new-age buildings is SI?



Answers: 4 is the New Learing Commons!

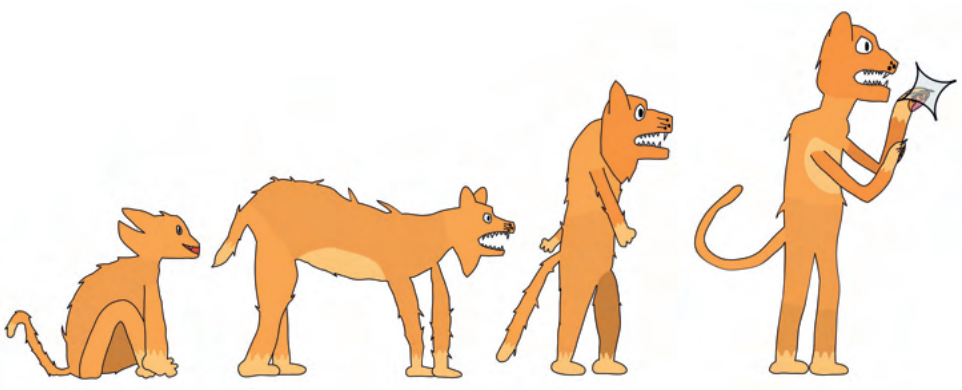
Meme of the Month

Connor Comolli ’27 — Managing Editor
Matthew Wheeler ’27 — Contributing Editor



Evolution of the Wildcat

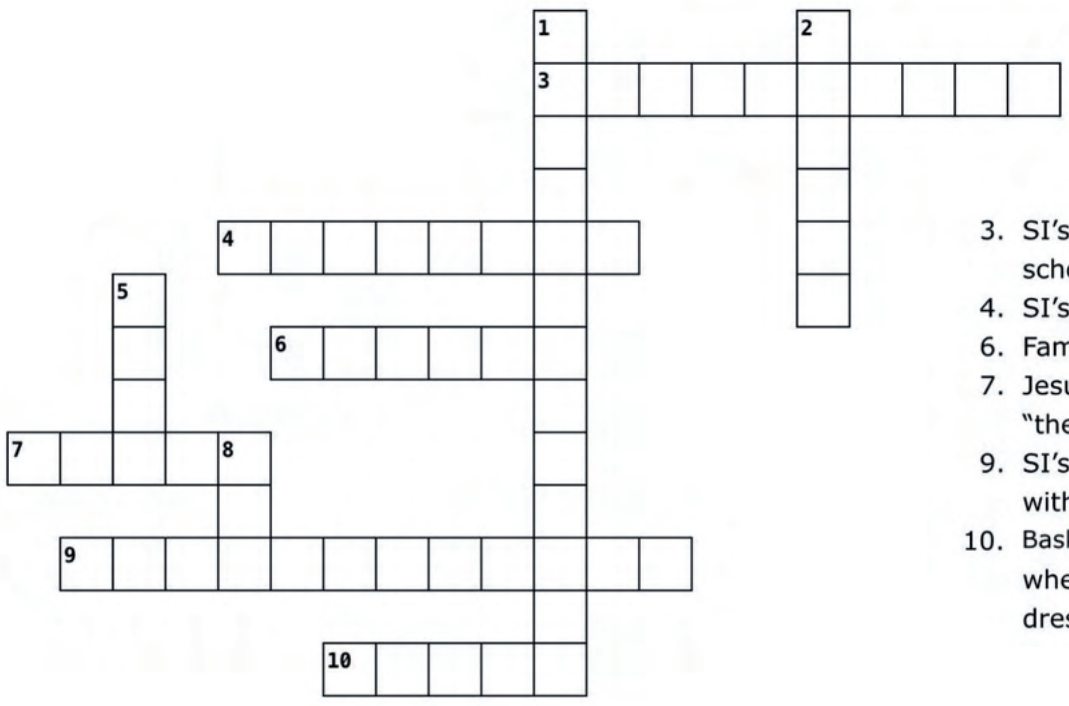
Zachary Zevas ’29 — Contributing Editor



Iggy grows into the charming cat we know him as today.

What Everyone Should Know About SI

Mason Wong ’27 — Managing Editor



Across

3. SI’s most recent major school dance
4. SI’s mascot
6. Famous senior retreat
7. Jesuit idea of striving for “the more”
9. SI’s historic rivalry trophy with SHC
10. Basketball game where the student section dresses for summer

Down

1. The avenue SI is located on
2. Classic SI cheer
5. Jesuit abbreviation for “For the Greater Glory of God”
8. SI’s longtime cross-city rival

Inside SI

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Editors-in-Chief: Farrah Almajdalani ’27, Genevieve Arcenio ’27, Lauren Yu ’27, Bear Vida ’27

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