The Dumb Ox

October 2026

Dancing Under the Lanterns at Homecoming

By: Gabriella Sciulli

This year´s annual Homecoming dance, held on October 11th in the gymnasium, was a magical experience under the glowing lanterns. The theme was *Tangled*, and students loved seeing how the prefects transformed the gym into a purple fantasy land, sparkling with gold. The DJ played all the greatest hits. Many students remarked how creative the Corona floor design was on the gym floor. This wonderful night was made possible by the hard work of the prefects and the homecoming committee.

At the end of September, a group of eighteen high school students formed Aquinas' homecoming committee, headed by Myah Gaydosz. When asked how the group formed, Myah remarked, "We brought together a lot of people from different grades with lots of different ideas."

The inclusion of all four grades in the high school, from the freshmen to the veteran senior, ensured that all students enjoyed the dance. A small group of sophomores brought delectable treats served at the dance, including blue-and-yellow frosted cupcakes, brownies, and Skillet Cookies! As soon as students walked through the doors, they were engulfed in purple-and-gold. Lanterns and movie scenes decorated every corner of the space. The Tangled-themed sweets were enjoyed by all, and a weapon-turned treat, the Skillet Cookies were the most creative of the mix. The night was filled with fun and was one of Aquinas' best homecoming dances! Senior Alice Dingle states her favorite part was "To be with my best friends, seniors or otherwise." Freshman Mary Stivoric also commented, saying "The freshmen were definitely the life of the party; we sang almost every song." The night ended with Eli McWilliams and Giada Buzzelli being crowned homecoming king and queen. All in all, this year's homecoming was certainly one to remember.



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A Saint in Your Corner

By: Matt McGrath

The Life and Impact of Fulton Sheen

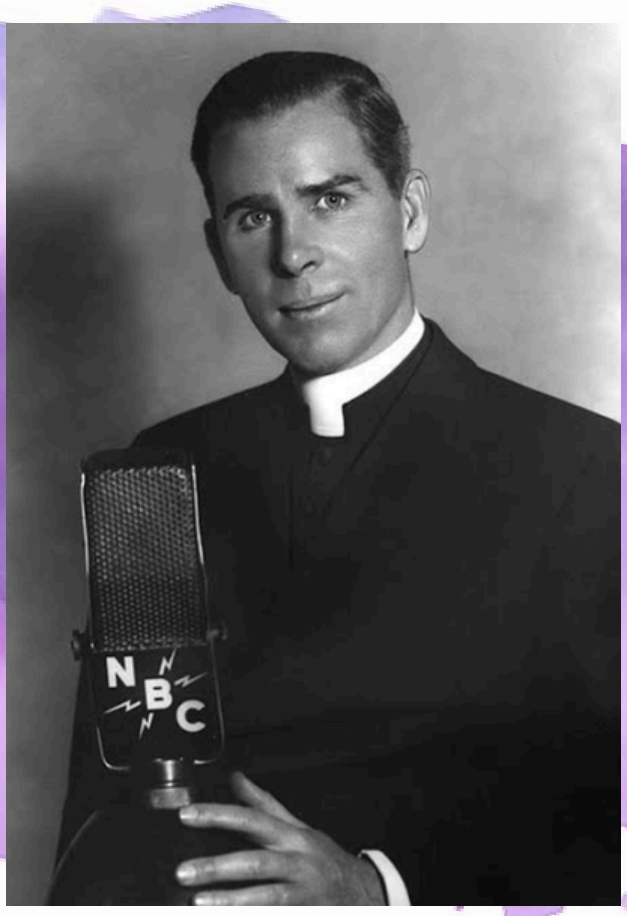
This article is unique from all other articles in this column because it covers someone who is not a saint. Blessed Fulton Sheen was an archbishop and host of a prominent TV show called Life is Worth Living. He lived from 1895-1979 and was steeped in the Catholic Church his entire life, even serving at the altar from eight years old. He had a rather streamlined upbringing, attending high school, then college, and then studying at St. Paul Seminary. He went on to work at a university, specializing in theology and philosophy, becoming well recognized as an excellent orator.

It is after this point that Sheen's life began to take off. He began to hold sermons on radio shows and later progressed to holding his own television show. He became popular for mixing humor with serious topics, making them seem lighter, and presenting complex issues in an understandable manner. The importance of his show was made clear as thousands of listeners steadily began to learn more about their faith and grow in confidence by following his advice.

One episode in particular that still resounds today is his episode on "wasting your life" in which he preaches on the beauty of giving everything you have in service, and how only through a life of full giving away of oneself can one be fully renewed. When he says: "When we save certain things for ourselves, we spoil them. We save money, it becomes avarice... a truly happy and energetic existence is not found in cautious self-preservation, but in 'wasting' oneself for God and others."

It can still be a powerful message. Today, more than ever, it is easy to spend a day doing nothing, and while this is not always bad, his message is a good reminder that we should strive to live our lives to the fullest through service to others and hard work to attain our own goals.

Though Fulton Sheen may be dead, his legacy still lives on in the new generation of priests and theologians online who spread the message of our Catholic faith. Fr. Mike Schmitz, who hosted the #1 religious podcast on Apple music, The Bible in a Year, attributes his journey to the priesthood to seeing Fulton Sheen on the air. Though Bishop Sheen is gone, the spirit of his work continues through the others he inspired, ensuring that the message of Christ continues to spread throughout each generation.



Spike, Score, Shoot

By: Megan Policicchio

"Over, In, Undefeated no more!" The announcer's victorious shout rang out as Katie Tarquinio scored the final point with a powerful spike to the corner of the court. On October 6th, Serra Catholic was defeated and finally brought down. This win brings the Aquinas girls volleyball record to 6-3 in the section, and overall to 9-4. The game was an intense back and forth between the Crusaders and the Eagles. Carly Bezila worked her magic in the back row, getting impossible balls up in the air. Sophomore setter Mila Cugini said "I was tired but I knew we had to push in the fifth set, which was our best." Coach Chufo was proud to see her team working together so well.

On October 15th, the girls won against Saint Joe's. They took the game in three sets, sweeping Saint Joe's and making history for Aquinas. It was a nail-biter of a game, even with Aquinas winning. The girls found themselves up for the first two sets, but Saint Joe's had a five point lead in the third. It was a hot, tiresome game and the girls had to rely on each other to keep the energy up and make sure they could close the gap. Claire Bandurski scored the last point with a killer hit that slammed the court floor right in front of the Saint Joe's libero. Announcer and teacher or Aquinas Academy, Mr. Flynn said "I was watching the game online through Hudl. Those sets were too close for comfort but good for you guys for winning." With this win under their belt, their record moves up to 7-3 in the section and 10-4 overall. The Aquinas Academy girls volleyball section is a difficult one, with the now defeated Serra Catholic, the formidable Saint Joes, and the dark horse of the section, Trinity Christian.



Shootin' Par

By: John Dolan

When most people think of a "shooter" in a sports context, they think of basketball player Steph Curry. I think of the Aquinas golf team. This season they shot well, breaking their team record and sending a record three players to sectionals.

The Aquinas golf team had its most successful season ever this year, finishing with a record of 4-8. At each golf match, the top six Aquinas golfers pair up with a partner, and two members of the other team. Golf is often considered to be quiet, but while talking to Ian Patterson, I learned that the team matches are just the opposite.

There is a plethora of conversation between teammates and opponents. The golfers cheer each other on and celebrate their success.

Ian shared one special moment from the last team match when sophomore Jack Leyenaar hit a beautiful drive and followed it up by knocking in a shot from over 100 yards! Ian said the team went crazy, cheering and congratulating Jack on the shot.

On the solo side of play, the team sent three players to the individual section rounds: Luke and Ian Patterson and Asher Buchanan. It was a rainy, windy, and miserable day, and in those rough conditions, only Ian was able to make the cut, shooting an 82 to secure a spot in the WPIAL Qualifier.

Ian fell in the WPIAL championship at the fabled Oakmont Country Club, a course feared by even the strongest pro players, but when asked about the season, he said "I'm sad to see it go, but we accomplished great things as a team this year. We all improved, setting a high bar for the teams to come." When asked about his individual play, Ian said "I made it as far as I thought I would in the championship, and I'm satisfied with that." Not only did our golf team set a new team regular season record, they also set a new best team score of 200 strokes against Freedom, and set a new bar for individual play. With four of six starters returning, the team looks forward to next season when they will attempt to follow up the record performance of the 2026 Aquinas golf team.



A Sensible Start to the High School Play

By: Lily O'Neill

Get ready; the high school play this year is *Sense and Sensibility* and auditions have already wrapped up.

Sense and Sensibility is a comedic play which follows the story of sisters Elinor and Marianne finding love and navigating society after the death of their father leaves them with little money and no home. Will they find love and fortune in one, or will their fallen social status ruin them? Come see the show to find out! On October 5th and 6th Aquinas high school students auditioned for a part in one of the two casts. This year 71 students auditioned, the most in Aquinas history.

To make sure that every student had a meaningful part, Mr. Flynn split the show into two casts. Each cast will perform two shows and be made up of a mix of actors in all grades. This is done to ensure the casts are not "JV and varsity," but instead two of the best casts possible.

This year students auditioned by performing scenes on the spot, unlike in years past where students prepared a song beforehand. Senior Elise Metzler reflects on her audition saying, "While having nothing to prepare stresses me out, auditions always end up being enjoyable for their spontaneity." New sophomore, Paul, found his first Aquinas audition enjoyable,saying "It was an enjoyable experience that thoroughly tests an actor's ability to learn." As you can see both seasoned auditionees and newcomers alike thought auditions went well; director Mr. Flynn even said they went "too well" and found it difficult to cast the show due to all the talent.

Mr. Flynn is looking forward to this year's play season. Aquinas's first time double casting was eight years ago, and Mr. Flynn feels optimistic about his second go at it saying, "the experience under my belt will help me." On the other hand, he is continuing the Aquinas tradition of inserting song and dance into spoken plays. He plans to add singing minstrels and a large ballroom dance.

This show is sure to be one to remember. Best of luck to the cast and crew as they work hard to pull the show off. Be sure to come out and see the performances November 13th through 15th!



Out Clubbin'

By: Sam Ennis

The high school quarter one clubs have provided students a way to connect with each other and learn about their peers' interests. This quarter's clubs are varied, but a few popular, unique clubs include the Futsal Club, Origami Club, and Spikeball Club.

Futsal Club is the longest-lasting club here at Aquinas Academy. Meeting in 525, club members use the desks to set up a futsal arena, and play 2v2 matches against each other. When the members are not playing a match, some may be having philosophical and theological discussions with their proctor, Mr. Kuniega. Club member Tim Crawford said that they "have played a lot of futsal" and that it has "been a blast."

Led by Tommy Edwards, Spikeball Club meets outside and plays in teams of two. Sophomore Frank Fischer says, "We play spikeball the entire time, there's notmuch to it, and it's fun beating my friends." Because spike ball is such a popular game played outdoors during advisory, it is not surprising that the Spike ball Club is such a popular club. Origami Club is a new club based on the Origami and Knitting Club from last year.

In Origami Club, members follow online tutorials to learn different origami patterns and techniques to create origami models, such as boxes, butterflies, or more. Origami Club leader Brigid Mercer says the club is fun and relaxed, and that since the club is composed mostly of seniors and freshmen, the seniors can mentor and talk to them, helping them in the beginning of high school. There are many challenges of being a club leader, one of which is availability. Co-leaders Brigid and Aarona Casas-Arnedos have had struggles with availability due to sports and other activities. Other challenges include keeping everyone engaged and keeping everyone on the same page through the steps of the tutorial. Overall Aquinas clubs have had a successful start to the year, and the school is excited to see these clubs continue to grow.



Chapter Thirty

By: Annette Bentivegna

In 1996, Aquinas Academy opened its doors to 13 students in grades three, four, and six. This was spurred on by a book club, led by Father Rocky Hoffman, where six couples met to discuss parenting issues. Amongst these parents were Mr. and Mrs. Blume, a current high school and first grade teacher, respectively. According to Mr. Blume, they decided to find a school because they wanted one "that was academically rigorous while also being authentically Catholic." Mrs. Blume expressed that in their search for a local school for their children, they found none that met their standards. They took initiative and this parents' book club provided a donation that covered the cost of renting three classrooms from St. Catherine of Sweden Parish, along with the starting four faculty members' salaries.

The school expanded rapidly. By 1998, 56 students were enrolled, and the campus was purchased from St. Catherine's when they moved locations.

Both Mr. Deschamps and Mrs. Mitros came to Aquinas in 1999. The former, as a student, recalled having high school classes in various locations, including the now Pre-K building and the basement of the Chapel. Due to the school's development, it had to undergo several construction projects: Dolan Field (2003), Kennedy and Mary Smith Hall (2005), The Rhodora (2008), Mross McGonigle Hall (2014), New Lower-Middle School building (2023), and now the the Chapel Project. In 2026, 602 students inhabit 40 classrooms and are taught by 69 teachers.

This school has grown statistically, but how is it the same? Mr. Blume states that the mission of Aquinas Academy is "to form future Catholic-Christian leaders who know and love their Catholic faith, are superbly prepared for success in their college and professional careers, and to give glory to God in all things." This mission is kept alive by our lively and dedicated teachers. Mr. Salinas adamantly believes that "the mission is still the same and still very much in the hearts of the teachers, which spreads to the new teachers."

Aquinas has many traits that make it different from other schools. Some of these include the opportunity to go to mass four days a week, the Christ-centered community, and the personal relationships formed between the students and the faculty, whether that manifests as engaging conversations or a fantasy football league. Mrs. Blume shared her hope from 30 years ago that this school would last for all of her children to attend, but it far exceeded her hopes seeing as her grandchildren are in attendance today. She emphasizes that "without the grace of God, Aquinas would not be here." Aquinas Academy, having graduated 523 students, some of which have succeeded in the military, as teachers, in the government, as doctors, and as parents, stands firm today in its mission.





25 Years Since 9/11

By: Peter Koble

At the beginning of this century, the United States was shocked by the deadliest terror attack in human history. Two thousand nine hundred seventy-seven innocents lost their lives in acts of terror perpetrated by Al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001. This past month marks the 25th year since those attacks.

In those twenty-five years the United States has been involved in approximately seven major theaters of conflict. 7,053 American service members have lost their lives along with over eight thousand civilian military contractors. One of those conflicts only recently came to an end with a withdrawal of American troops and assets on September 30, 2026 that ended Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq.

Although Aquinas students are too young to have been alive at the time of the attacks, many faculty members remember the day. Mrs. Heagy remembers hearing of the attacks and looking up to a clear sky devoid of any aircraft. One of the most poignant memories shared about that day is that it was a beautiful, clear, late-summer morning, contrasting with the wanton destruction it entailed.

The first certified casualty of 9/11 was Father Mychal Judge OFM, a Catholic chaplain to FDNY. Designated as Victim 0001, Judge was not the first chronological death, but the first recovered and delivered to the chief medical examiner's office. Judge had rushed to the World Trade Center at the news of the attacks. He posted himself in the North Lobby and offered last rites and counsel to first responders and civilians in the tower.

He was killed by a piece of flying debris when the South Tower collapsed at 9:59 AM and shot wreckage into the North Tower lobby incident command post. His body was carried to local St. Peter's Church. Reuters photographer Shannon Stapleton captured the moment which has come to be known as an "American Pietà."

As America enters the second quarter of this century, let us all resolve to live purposely and remember the values and traditions of our founders. May we take lessons from that harrowing day and 'Never Forget.'



One More Mile and Two More Hills

By: Anthony Keane

It is a rainy day, and eight hundred pilgrims are all walking and singing in the rain. They are on the third and last day of a sixty mile Pilgrimage.

This is called the Pilgrimage for Restoration. It is located in eastern New York. The 60-mile path starts at Lake George, formerly called the Lake of the Blessed Sacrament, and goes to the National Shrine of North American Martyrs in Auriesville, NY. The path of the pilgrimage follows the path Saint Isaac Jogues and his companions took to their martyrdom by the Iroquois.

The organization that runs the pilgrimage says, "Since 1996, pilgrims walk near and along the paths the saints followed as captives of the Iroquois.Their journey was hundreds of miles over 28 days under torture. Our journey, modeled on the ancient annual Pentecost Pilgrimage to Notre-Dame de Chartres, France, is 61 miles over three days and, though penitential, is full of joy. Our purpose is to honor Christ Our King publicly, to pray for the restoration of His Reign in the family and civil society, and to make reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

The suffering is unavoidable; pilgrims' feet will be sore, they will have blisters, will want to stop and rest, but the eight hundred pilgrims will push through and help each other along. To keep one's mind off the pain, pilgrims are always singing and praying to shift the attention to God and each other. Every morning, pilgrims wake up around 5am to pack up camp and go to Solemn High Mass.

By the time mass is over, the sun is just rising. After a quick breakfast, the walking starts for the day. At the end of the second day, there is a talent show where pilgrims have the opportunity to entertain everyone and keep spirits high for the next day. For those who cannot walk any farther, there are vans where people can rest and build strength to later continue walking.

Bathrooms are porta-potties on Uhaul trailers. If you take too long, the driver might forget you are there and then you will go for a little ride. It happened to a nun a few years ago, and it almost happened to me.



Fall-ing for Pittsburgh

By: Aurora Predis

Fall is a universally loved season and Pittsburgh celebrates it like no other. There are many ways to celebrate the fall season around Pittsburgh with events for all ages!

When it gets to be sweater weather all things pumpkin arrive, and that means it is time for pumpkin patches. Soergel's Orchard is perhaps the most visited and common pumpkin patch in the Pittsburgh area with cars backing up all roads leading to it, including the highway exits, when their pumpkin patch opens. It runs for multiple weekends and offers a multitude of activities such as tractor rides, flower picking, apple picking, great food, games and activities, and of course a pumpkin patch. Soergel's Orchard is definitely a Pittsburgh fall tradition that every person should try to visit at least once in his or life. Another big fall activity in Pittsburgh is the Pittsburgh Brewery Oktoberfest, a fun filled day with authentic German food, live bands, and exclusive fall flavored beverage releases. It holds many fun games and activities for all and gives you the opportunity to pull out your lederhosen and dirndl (traditional German clothing for women and men).

The next fun fall activities are more frightening and lean into the Halloween spirit, Zombies of the Corn in Freedom, PA, is a fun activity to do with friends as it hosts a haunted house, a haunted corn maze, a giant outdoor movie always playing a Halloween movie, and campfire ghost stories. The main attraction includes a tractor ride where you get to shoot paintballs at the fast approaching zombies before they get to you. Finally, your summertime fun at Kennywood is not completely over yet as they host a series of Phantom Fall Nights. During the day, the park runs as usual with an added fall vibe and occasional trick-or-treating for the little kids. But as soon as the sun goes down, the monsters come out with seven haunted houses and four scare zones along with all the rides still being open.

When asking students from the High school what their favorite fall traditions with their families are, the answers were varying and fun-filled.

Freshman Bella Rossi enthusiastically explained, "My family does something called a Thankful Tree. Each day we write one thing we are thankful for on a paper cut-out leaf and hang it up in our kitchen. On Thanksgiving, we read all the things we wrote on the tree as a family. We also go to Penn State football games every fall with my cousins and other family members." Senior Rocco Fisher added onto the Thanksgiving side of fall saying, "We play a giant game of football with our whole family for Thanksgiving and then have a giant celebration afterwards." Leaning more towards the spooky season of fall, junior Maggie Koenig described her family's traditions, "We go out and every kid gets to pick their own pumpkin, pick a design and carve it out and after that, we line them up and put candles in them. We also always have fall fires and rake the leaves into piles."

The fall season is fast upon us and we should all spend our days outside soaking up the last bits of this beautiful weather. Whether this includes going to a farm for picking pumpkins in a pumpkin patch, getting jump-scared with your friends by zombies, or spending time with your family around a cozy fall fire, sipping apple cider, go out and enjoy the fall.





Olé in October

By: Tabitha Ridings

Runners of all ages gathered in North Park on Saturday, October 3rd to celebrate the 18th annual Olé 5K race. This event is run to benefit the Anna Seethaler Hospital in Oaxaca, Mexico. Anna Seethaler was the mother of Fr. Scott Seethaler, a retired Capuchin-Franciscan priest who lives here in Pittsburgh. He established this event as a fundraiser for the sick impoverished people in Oaxaca.

Fr. Scott Seethaler was first inspired to help these people when he traveled in Oaxaca a few years before 2000 to visit a friend who was helping the poor. Upon realizing that the people in this small town had no healthcare, Fr. Scott fundraised enough money to start a small clinic, which opened on January 1, 2000. It soon grew to become a hospital due to the generosity of many donors. Fr. Scott named the hospital after his mother, Anna, because he took care of her for the last five years of her life while founding this hospital. The Anna Seethaler Hospital now treats over 1200 poor people in Oaxaca, which really embodies Fr. Scott's favorite saying: "God is good all the time; all the time God is good."

Since the Olé 5K is for participants of all ages, everyone runs the race at his or her own pace, which adds to the excitement. Both the young and the old are simply trying to do their best, and to have fun and make friends while participatin While the times officially ranged from 15 minutes to an hour and 24 minutes, every participant received a medal and a T-shirt, commemorating their participation in this fundraiser. Senior Claire Urban, who placed 3rd in the teenage girls division, comments on the joyfulness of the event saying, "The people at the Olé 5K are so happy to be there and support this amazing cause, which makes the environment extremely supportive!

No matter your time, there are always people at the finish line cheering you on!" After the race, a taco lunch is served, where runners can socialize and participate in raffles. Fr. Scott's favorite part about the Olé 5K is seeing both people he has been friends with for many years and generous supporters of this cause.

As a whole, the Olé 5K is a very joyful event, and shows that God truly is good all the time.



A Spooky Halloween Dilemma

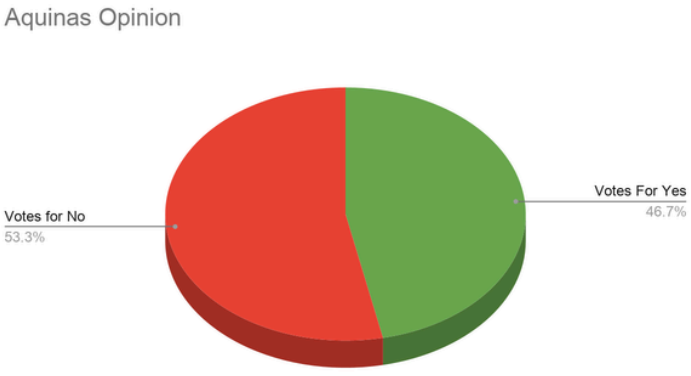
By: Matthew Bauer

Should Trick-or-Treating have an age limit? Aquinas high school students and faculty were polled on this very pressing question.

We had many responses, and the school seems to be pretty split. Of the students that responded that there should not be an age limit, Clayton F. responded: "I think anybody should have the ability to get candy and have a good time." Other students responded that it is fun to dress up in costumes and go door-to-door asking for candy. Thus, they think that this experience should not be ruined. However, of the students that responded that there should be an age limit, Sam E. responded with: "As long as you are a juvenile it's okay, but anything else would be strange." Additionally, the seniors heavily believe that there should be an age limit, as all but two voted for an age limit. On the contrary, the juniors think the opposite, as all but one voted for no age limit.

Reasons people in favor of an age limit provided usually came down to three things. People thought that older kids lose "the spirit" of Halloween. Additionally, they think their costumes tend to be bland and that seeing kids older than teenagers while trick-or-treating weirds them out.

Finally, those who believe that there should not be an age limit on trick-or-treating believe that it should be for everyone, everyone deserves candy, and it is great to go out with friends and go trick-or-treating even if you are older. What do you think? Should there be an age limit, or no age limit for trick or treating?



Magic Numbers

By: Thomas Bird IV

Work ethic, cognitive capabilities, and ultimately your future:, all of these can be represented in one number. Your standardized test score gives college admissions counselors a view into your future productivity and potential for success in college.

There are three different standardized tests: the CLT, the ACT, and the SAT. The Classical Learning Test, the CLT, is the least known and least accepted test, focusing on traditional education. The CLT consists of a math section, a reading/writing section, and a verbal reasoning section. The verbal reasoning section covers classic literature, philosophy, and historical texts of the Western Tradition. The CLT is scored out of 120.

The ACT is becoming more and more prevalent. Scored out of 36, the ACT consists of a Reading, a Writing, and an Arithmetic section. Originally the ACT was known as a STEM test, for it was the only standardized test to have a science portion. Now the science portion is optional and scored separately from the main score. When administering the ACT, Aquinas gives the Science section.

The SAT is the most well known of the standardized tests. Unlike the other two tests, the SAT is only composed of two sections: reading and math. I like that the SAT has only two sections," says senior Liam Kelch. "It makes it easier to study for." However, each section of the SAT is broken up into two modules. The difficulty of the second module depends on your performance on the first. This, argues sophomore Sam Ennis, makes the SAT "not a real standardized test.

Most people are very forceful about their testing preferences. Sam Ennis, for example, is a proud ACT supporter. However the "best test" is the one that fits an individual the best, each having their own quirks and specialities. And as is said amongst college counselors, according to Mrs. Martyak, "Your standardized tests are like children, we love them all and just want them to be good."





Swinging into Homecoming

By: Katrina Kedzierski

After the very successful carnival-themed event in August, the prefects continue to build community and fun with two events: a movie night and color wars.

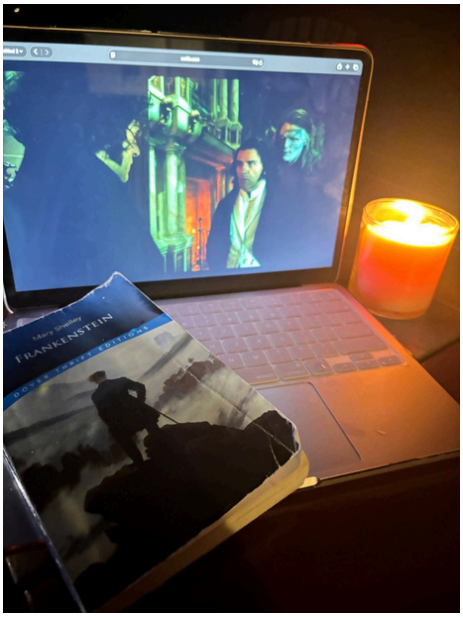
On September 19th, students crowded into the side parking lot on lawn chairs around a blow-up projector screen to watch Spider-man: Homecoming. This was a fitting movie, because at this event, the prefects revealed the homecoming theme to be Tangled. The bright sun made the first half of the movie an auditory experience, but students were able to see more as the evening progressed and the sky darkened. A sudden rain shower pushed students inside, and they finished the night inside the triples. "In spite of the sun and the rain, I loved the opportunity to watch the movie and be with my friends," shared freshman Anna Kedzierski.

A few weeks later, a majority of the high school came to Aquinas on October 3rd to continue the tradition of color wars. The event was held in the green space by the senior parking lot, taking advantage of he last few days of warm weather to grow in community and color team spirit. Students grabbed cups of multicolored chalk and withdrew to a corner according to their color teams. When the airhorn blew, they dashed to the middle and threw fistfuls of the chalk at each other. This continued for two more rounds, with small breaks in between. The night ended with a cozy bonfire and s'mores in the senior parking lot. This last part was freshman Alexandra Robinson's favorite part; she commented, "It was really fun! I ate seven s'mores."



A Monster Mash Up of Opinions

By: Mackenzie Sparrow



Each summer, incoming 11th graders read one of the first horror novels, Frankenstein by Mary Shelley. The story follows Victor Frankenstein's quest to bring down the monster which his own ambition created. While a beloved story by most of the world, there are always strong opinions surrounding school books, so what does this year's junior class have to say?

Many students thoroughly enjoyed the novel. Tim Crawford said that he generally liked it, and his favorite part was when the monster was telling his backstory to Frankenstein. This scene was a major favorite throughout the grade, as it provided an explanation to why the monster wished to hunt down Victor. Tim rated it a solid eight out of ten.

Other students held more neutral and mixed opinions. "It was interesting, and I liked the different aspects of the book with the different points of view throughout," said Clare Feeley. Clare also mentioned that while it was hard to understand at times, it was one of the better assigned reading books in High School Literature.

Myah Gaydosz agreed that the book was hard to understand at times, especially during the beginning, but she enjoyed the suspense that built up throughout the novel. "I liked the wedding scene. It was really entertaining and interesting to read, and also was one of the main scenes where you can see the monster's ambition," she said. "The book had deeper perspectives and horror aspects that made you think about why we have God and can't create life." The idea of Victor "playing God" was brought up in both classes, and each class seemed to come out with a deeper appreciation of God, knowing what humans could do with that power.

In all, it seemed that this year's class enjoyed the novel and was able to persevere through the difficult parts of the book. Hopefully the classes to come will also enjoy it and will use these reviews as a motivator to dive into the book.

Taste of Fall

By: Claire Urban

Biting into warm, soft pumpkin bread straight from the oven sends the taste of fall all through your mouth.

Five generations ago, this recipe was created and passed down through the women of my family until it got to me. My great-great-grandma Wagner created this recipe and it might even go farther back, but that information was lost with time. When asked about this recipe and what it means to her, my grandmother recollects that, "It reminds me of my mother" who would "make this recipe in the fall." This tradition continues as this recipe is my family's favorite way to kick off the fall season. I would always know hen it was fall because I would smell the delicious aroma of pumpkin and chocolate cooking into a beautiful loaf of bread or bite sized muffins in the oven. I love to eat this recipe for breakfast, a snack, or a sweet treat after dinner.

Everyone in my family is involved with making this recipe too. My grandma is the most well known for actually baking it, but my grandfather also plays a big role in the success of the recipe. After Halloween, he buys large quantities of pumpkins and turns them into the pumpkin puree used to get that delicious pumpkin flavoring. He then freezes the puree to be baked into delicious dishes the next fall.

This recipe is also quite customizable as well because it can be made as bread or muffins and can include multiple different add-ins. Favorites in my household include nuts and chocolate chips. After tasting these muffins, senior Katrina Kedzierski describes them as "having a very autumned taste" and says she is "very excited to try and make them."



Pumpkin Bread/Muffin Recipe:
[Makes 1 loaf or 15 muffins]

Sift together:
1 cup flour
¾ cup sugar
½ tsp salt
½ tsp baking soda
¼ tsp cinnamon
¼ tsp nutmeg

Make a well in the center and add:
¼ cup vegetable oil
3 tbsp water
1 egg
½ cup pumpkin
¼ tsp vanilla
¼ cup add-ins (optional)

Mix well and add the add-ins. Pour into greased and floured muffin tins or bread pan.
Bake 350° for tin or 325° for glass for 15 minutes for muffins and 1 hour and 5 minutes for bread. Let cool and enjoy!

Snips and Quips

"I don't need men, I just need kettle corn." Brigid M.

"Why do they always make everything about themselves?" - Thomas B. IV *listening to his sisters fight*

"Who, me???" - Rebecca B.

Asher solving a rubik's cube
"Asher, stop, that's annoying me." -Mr. Volkwein

"I know, it's annoying me too, I just can't stop." -Asher B.

While peer reviewing Brigid M.'s super long Creative Writing fairytale
"I need a LitCharts for this" -Alice D.

Mrs. Meland explaining the Trinity
"Oh, like the Powerpuff girls." -Fredy G.

"What's a deluxe album?" -Mr. Malchano

"I feel like a pentecostal right now." -Matt B. at Hoco

"It's when they put lettuce and tomato on it." - Miller R.

"Boom, triple big slip, see you at Wendy's." - Mr. Thornburgh

Writer's Favorite:

Halloween Movie

Brigid: *The Addams Family Values*
Elise: *Gremlins*
Aarona: *Hotel Transylvania*
Annette: *Ghostbusters*
Matt B: *The Nightmare Before Christmas*
Thomas: *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*
John: *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*
Sam: *Ghostbusters*
Katrina: *The Addams Family*
Anthony: *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*
Peter: *The Nightmare Before Christmas*
Matt M: *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*
Lily: *The Nightmare Before Christmas*
Aurora: *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*
Megan: *Goosebumps*
Tabby: *The Nightmare Before Christmas*
Gabriella: *Hocus Pocus*
Mackenzie: *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*
Claire: *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*

Please send articles, ideas, corrections, or Snips and Quips to:
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