



St. Ignatius College Prep circa 1960.

Feature

A Brief History of Bay Area High Schools

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

Editors-in-Chief

SI's legacy of perennial excellence exceeds its reputation. School ambassadors tout the school as "the oldest high school west of the Mississippi." The year 1855 is embroidered into the ubiquitous navy-blue SI sweatshirt.

However, upon further research, we were shocked to learn that WCAL rival Bellarmine in San Jose is four years older, founded in 1851 by John Nobli, S.J. (albeit under a different name, which gives merit to SI's claim).

If anything, this goes to show the richness of secondary education in the Bay Area. Some of the oldest high schools in California and west of the Mississippi river belong to the Bay Area: Bellarmine, SI, and Lowell, just to name a few.

Continued on Page 10:
BAY AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

SI News

Profile: Vargas' Reckoning with Courage

Evelyn Conboy '26

Editor-in-Chief



Keynote speaker Jose Antonio Vargas passionately shares his message.

When Jose Antonio Vargas spoke at the Arrupe Social Justice Conference on January 20th, I assumed courage came naturally to him. In 2011, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Vargas publicly revealed that he was undocumented by publishing a personal essay in *The New York Times*. The decision compromised his safety, career, and family. He decided that the potential to highlight the experiences of eleven million U.S. undocumented immigrants outweighed the risks.

When I spoke with Mr. Vargas after the conference, he rejected the narrative of

“This is going to be the work of my life.”

- Jose Antonio Vargas

innate bravery that often surrounds him. Instead, he described an arduous path toward speaking out. He explained that his public coming out was the result of years spent reckoning with the cost of remaining silent.

When I asked about how he found the courage to use his voice, he shared an

FEATURE

In this issue, we wanted to explore what makes the Bay Area a special place! Beyond the landmarks and headlines, the Bay Area is shaped by diverse communities and values. Through conversations with students and faculty, *Inside SI* reflected on what makes the Bay Area so special.

Even within our own school, we see how the Bay Area's diversity, creativity, and openness influence the way we think, speak, and connect with one another.

What's more, the Bay Area has a long history of innovation and activism. From movements that have pushed for equality and justice to industries that continue to shape the future, this region has always been a place where new ideas are welcomed and voices are heard.

We hope you enjoy this issue, SI!

- Editors-in-Chief -

anecdote steeped in shame. Early in his journalism career, Mr. Vargas covered Mike Huckabee's Republican presidential campaign. During one speech, Mr. Huckabee repeatedly referred to immigrants as "illegal," using the word pointedly and dismissively. Mr. Vargas was filming the event as a journalist. He said nothing.

Years later, Vargas still returns to that moment. He told me he often wishes that he said, "I am Jose Antonio Vargas. I am from *The Washington Post*, and I am one of those illegal people you are talking about."

Continued on Page 2: VARGAS

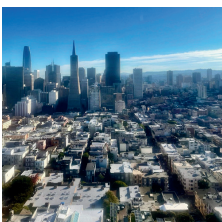
SEE INSIDE



ANGEL ISLAND
FIELD TRIP
Page 2



WALKOUTS
Page 3



SF APPRECIATION
Page 10



ICE RAID
Page 12



SPORTS UPDATE
Page 19

VARGAS

Continued from Front Page

For more than a decade, Mr. Vargas concealed his immigration status. Revealing his lack of documentation would have meant endangering his family, risking deportation, and jeopardizing his budding journalism career. For Mr. Vargas, courage carried real consequences.

However, an image made him question and confront his silence. Mr. Vargas was reading *The New York Times* and, on the front cover, he saw a photograph of four young undocumented immigrants carrying a sign that read: Undocumented. Unafraid. Unapologetic. They were walking from Miami to Washington, D.C. to advocate for the DREAM Act. First proposed in 2001, the DREAM Act has yet to become law. It aims to grant legal status and a path to citizenship for immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.

The cover photo unsettled Mr. Vargas. These young people reminded him of himself. He commented that he was “just in their shoes 10 years ago.” He realized that



Four Americans walk in the 2010 Trail of Dreams.

these young people displayed more bravery than he ever did. Reflecting on that photo in the comfort of his apartment, he recalled thinking, “how dare I.” He shared that the photograph “was probably [his] biggest turning point.”

Mr. Vargas’ story resonated beyond his own experience. In recent weeks, SI students have participated in walkouts responding to increased ICE activity and the death of Renée Nicole Good and Alex Pretti, two American citizens that ICE agents shot.

Many young people feel Mr. Vargas’ turmoil as they navigate political uncertainty and moral responsibility. His story underscores how silence can protect us, but it can also make us complicit.

Mr. Vargas now speaks about courage with frustration rather than pride. Praise for his bravery sits uneasily with him. “All I can think about,” he told me, “is that I was a coward for fourteen years.”

He frames his advocacy as an attempt to account for lost time. By chronicling the lives of undocumented immigrants and challenging the language that marginalizes them, Mr. Vargas seeks to confront the silence of his past. Driven by a deep commitment to do what is right, he said, “This is going to be the work of my life.”

Check out the whole interview conducted in collaboration with SI’s PolitiKats



SI Community Gathers for 4th Annual Social Justice Summit

Mika Cinco '27 Managing Editor

Not only has the Jesuit mission been about education, but also how we care for and treat one another. On Tuesday, January 20th, SI hosted its 4th annual Social Justice Summit featuring special keynote speaker, Jose Antonio Vargas. Vargas commented on our main focus this year, “Migratory Justice and Journeying with Youth.” Vargas, the founder of Define American and Pulitzer Prize winner on the California University Board of Trustees, asserted his idea of what it means to be American.

As many young undocumented immigrants do, Vargas believed he was a citizen until he turned 16 and attempted to obtain his drivers license. He was met with rejection. He discovered that his identification was false and he was actually not supposed to be in America. Instead of walking away, he decided to get



Vargas engaged in dialogue with Social Justice Council Member Lucy Evans '27.

his name in the newspaper, even if he was still considered a “resident alien,” according to his documentation. Becoming a person with and for others pushes students to confront the uncomfortable fact that many face challenges

daily.

Vargas touched many hearts in the SI community. “I felt very engaged during the social summit because this was a new perspective that I hadn't heard before. I think it was really important that Jose's story was shared. I think it’s not a perspective that is shared too often and really emphasizes the struggles that some people have to go through,” reflected Alyssa Lam '28.

“The topics on which Vargas spoke were extremely relevant, now more than ever. It was moving to hear the story of his family, including the eventual reunion between him and his mother,” expressed Camilla Condry-Vithayathil '27.

The social justice summit has allowed us students to continue our formation and has helped us create a sense of community, belonging, and duty.

Junior Students Share Ancestor Roots Stories

Heather Yee '27 Managing Editor

In mid-January, many junior Wildcats presented their “Ancestor Roots” projects in their English classes, sharing American Dream stories from their families, many of which include, but are not exclusive to, stories of immigration. Students learned about the diversity we celebrate in our classrooms, the many stories and histories present in our community, the journeys each family navigated to work toward success, and the legacy that those ancestors have left for their descendants.

In connection with this annual junior English class project, SI hosted its fourth annual field trip to Angel Island. Accompanied by Ms. Lundy and Ms. Nickolai, over 30 juniors attended the excursion. They hiked to arrive at the Angel Island Immigration Station, where they were hosted by a park ranger who gave a tour of the historic landmark.

Juniors explored the various rooms of the building, which gave them a glimpse into the lives of early 20th century immigrants. A particular focus was on Chinese immigrants, who faced harsh treatment due to the 1892 Chinese Exclusion Act. Students were able to



Field trip attendees gather around the Angel Island Immigration Station Bell on Jan. 25th

read the poetry those immigrants etched of Chinese characters on rooms’ walls, poems which show the difficult conditions these migrants endured and the hopes and dreams they carried with them.

In addition to these experiences, SI has emphasized the topic of immigration this January, hosting Jose Antonio Vargas who

spoke on his experiences growing up in the US as an undocumented immigrant.

In a period of heightened tensions throughout the nation between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and immigrant communities, these activities help humanize individuals often generalized by a statistic.

Students Participate in January 20 Walkout

Sophie Barsoian '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, January 20, around 50 students from St. Ignatius College Preparatory and Father Sauer Academy took part in a walkout during the school day as part of a nationwide protest organized by “Free America.” The event, called the “Bay Area Free America Walkout,” focused on immigration enforcement and federal policies.

At approximately 2:00 p.m., students packed up their belongings and left their classrooms to gather near the gym before walking along Sunset Boulevard. Participants carried posters and chanted as they marched. The walkout was organized in response to what it described as “raids on our communities” and “attacks on immigrants.” The website encouraged students and community members to “walk



out to block the normal routines of power.” Following the walkout, school administrators issued detentions to students who left campus without permission, citing attendance and safety policies. The Deans stated that the disciplinary action followed existing school guidelines. Kate Ozaeta '26, a senior who participated, said that she felt “excited and anxious” leading up to the event,” describing the gathering as meaningful despite the consequences.

Other students chose to remain in class for their regularly scheduled instruction. Together, the differing responses reflected a range of student perspectives on civic participation during the school day.

In Coordinated Citywide Protest, Group of SI Students Walk Out Again

Lucas Liang '26

Editor-in-Chief

A group of about 80 SI students held a walkout from their sixth and seventh period classes on Friday, January 30, to protest President Donald Trump’s immigration policies.

The demonstration at SI was part of a citywide school walkout amid the Trump administration’s nationwide deportation efforts, which had recently concentrated on Minneapolis, Minnesota. A widely-circulated post from the Instagram account “@sfyouthagainstice” called on students to walk out to “stand with Minneapolis, protect immigrant youth, [and] defend immigrant rights.”

“Thousands” of students and adults heeded that call and gathered at Mission Dolores Park on the afternoon of January 30, according to *Mission Local*.

Participants in the SI walkout left their classrooms at 12 PM in conjunction with students at other San Francisco high schools and then assembled outside of Cowell Pavilion. The group of demonstrators then walked down the sidewalk of Sunset Blvd. towards Lake Merced while chanting “migrant justice” and “we want ICE off our streets.”

Several students also carried signs denouncing the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement with slogans like “ABOLISH ICE” and “NO ONE IS ILLEGAL

ON STOLEN LAND.”

The protest at SI followed a previous walkout on January 20, the anniversary of Trump’s inauguration and the day of the school’s Social Justice Summit. Kate Ozaeta '26, an organizer of both walkouts, told *Inside SI*, “I actually never expected to do another walkout 10 days later, but when I heard that numerous schools across the Bay Area were planning one against even more repugnant ICE activity, I couldn’t resist joining in.”

Ozaeta also said she had more time to prepare for this walkout. “Through social media and direct messages, I helped mobilize double the numbers from last walkout,” she said.

Alex Salentine '26, the leader of the conservative campus club Young Americans for Freedom, told *Inside SI*, “I share some of the concerns with the protesters concerning the divided and unaffordable state of our country, but I would slightly disagree on other issues, particularly involving immigration.”

“Regardless,” he said, “I support their right to make their voices heard.”

Like the previous walkout, students who participated in the January 30 protest received detention for missing class. This time, walkout participants were given two detentions for missing two classes.

Ozaeta described the detentions as “twenty minutes of sitting in a classroom and writing about quite fun topics.” She said, “I believe that the school could manage consequences more effectively. Could there be a better system of punishment for students who walk out? What if we were to actually dive into the why of the walkout instead of continuing to assign detentions?”

Dean Mr. Carlos Escobar told *Inside SI* that the detentions were a matter of student safety. “We lean into safety and being able to locate our students when they’re our responsibility during the school day,” he said. “Our standard policy is if students leave campus or class, they need to have parental permission, so we know parents are aware about what’s going on.”

Mr. Escobar also stressed the importance of class time. “It’s very important to be in school and get your education and make sure you’re attentive to what’s going on that day in that class,” he said. Mr. Escobar continued, “At the same time, we know that there’s tension, and I have a lot of respect for people that did the action and accepted the consequences.”

For Ozaeta, the walkouts are just the start of a broader movement. She declared, “I definitely am certain this won’t be the last SI, let alone the nation, sees of this activism.”

Tai Morganson '26

Managing Editor

Poetry is Alive At SI



Appearing next to Mayor Daniel Lurie, Aisha McCulloch '27 is named Youth Vice Poet Laureate of San Francisco on January 30.

St. Ignatius is a school that celebrates creative expression, especially poetry. At the start of 2026, students have been recognized for their poetic talents.

In January, Aisha McCulloch '27 was selected as San Francisco’s Vice Poet Laureate. Her selection was the result of a rigorous process involving twice-monthly advanced poetry workshops affiliated with the organization 826 Valencia.

Later in January, Sasha Miller '26 recited her original poem *Claude* for Claude the Albino Alligator’s memorial, speaking in front of two thousand people. Miller used her poetry to transform the late, beloved reptile into a symbol for San Francisco.

Additionally, Wilsey Library hosted award-winning poet MaKshya Tolbert on February 9th. Tolbert read poetry, signed copies of her nationally-recognized debut collection, spoke upon the significance of Black History Month, and led the community in a poetry activity.



MaKshya Tolbert visits SI on Feb. 9th and inspires students while discussing her poetry at one of SI’s Black History Month events.

Students Attend Substance Abuse Presentation

Skylar Chung '27

Managing Editor

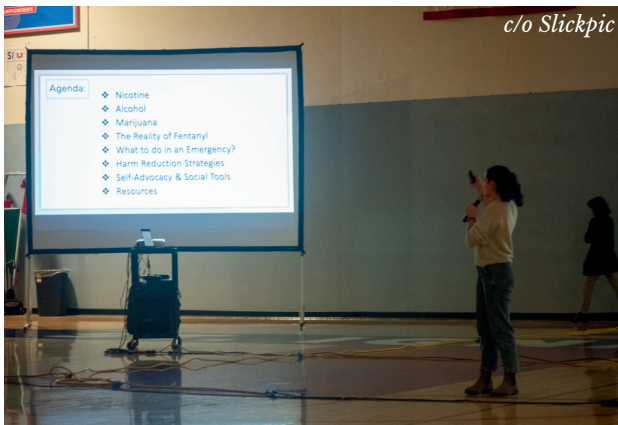
On January 12, 2026, the SI community gathered in the gym for a wellness presentation led by Elissa Asch, founder of Consent Wise. Earlier in the school year, Elissa spoke with each grade about hookup culture. She returned to give a school wide talk about substance use and the effects they have on developing teens.

The presentation was broken down into three categories of drugs: depressants, stimulants, and hallucinogens. Depressants slow down brain activity and reduce stimulation in the central nervous system. Some examples are alcohol, Valium, and opioids like morphine. Stimulants like caffeine and nicotine speed up the central nervous system, leading to an increase in alertness and a rise in heart rate. Lastly, hallucinogens alter perception, mood, and thinking. Many people experience an altered sense of time or self, and strong emotional reactions, like euphoria. Hallucinogens can be found in marijuana and psilocybin.

Along with the breakdown of these different drugs, Elissa dispelled common misconceptions. Many people are unaware of the duration of time drugs or alcohol take to kick in, leading to overdosing and potential alcohol poisoning. She provided students with advice and vital information on how to save someone's life in the case of an overdose. With her reassuring words, Elissa created an environment for open discussion on the topic without instilling fear. Also, she provided

options for how to find community as a teenager substance-free.

Emma Fong '27 shared, "I thought the presentation was very informative and I feel prepared for future situations concerning substance use." By understanding how different drugs work, we can better understand the risks involved. This knowledge encourages smarter decisions and promotes drug safety within our community.



Elissa Asch presenting to the SI community on the dangers of substance use.

Medcats Hosts Physician-Alumni for Speaker Event

Ava Miseray '29

Contributing Editor



Dr. Govil and SI students participate in a hands-on demonstration.

On December 10, the MedCats club hosted SI alumna Dr. Shwesha Govil '08 for a speaker event that gave students an inside look at life in medicine.

Dr. Govil, now a physician at UCSF, returned to campus to share her journey from St. Ignatius to medical school. Dr. Govil spoke about what her path, including her experiences in medical training and her current work in family medicine at UCSF. She emphasized that the road to becoming a doctor is long but rewarding, and encouraged students to stay curious, explore different specialties, and seek mentors along the way.

The most memorable part of the event was the hands-on demonstration. Dr. Govil brought medical tools and showed how

doctors perform basic clinical exams. She demonstrated a reflex hammer by tapping a student's knee, explaining the reflex response, and allowed students to use a stethoscope to listen to heartbeats.

The event concluded with a Q&A session, where students asked about her experiences at UCSF and what advice she had for high school students interested in medicine. Dr. Govil's openness and enthusiasm made the session both engaging and inspiring.

Overall, Dr. Govil's visit was a meaningful experience for MedCats members. By sharing her story and giving students a hands-on glimpse into clinical practice, she helped make a future career in medicine feel more tangible and attainable.

Youth Policy Initiative Promotes Summer Core Project Opportunity

Alexandra Innes '28 and Sebastian Huerta '26

Contributing Editor and Managing Editor

From June 8th to June 12th, the Youth Policy Initiative is running a camp for middle schoolers who have limited access to educational opportunities. Youth Policy Initiative is a nonprofit organization which was founded at SI in order to promote greater equity in civics education.

They run a summer camp called the Civics and Leadership Camp, a summer camp open to underprivileged youth. The camp runs from 9:00 to 3:00, but you will help out at St. Ignatius a little earlier, and a little later.

Teaching Assistants will assist in developing lesson plans, facilitating policy discussions, and other day to day tasks. Many students have been thinking about

how they will complete their Core Project hours. The Core Project is emphasized as a key part of the SI experience, combining SI's Jesuit and Ignatian messaging about selflessness and service with tangible action.

The forty-hour requirement for the Core Project is a task of time management, and so these critical months before summer are the perfect opportunity to look for opportunities to effectively engage with service.

This unique TA opportunity with the Youth Policy Initiative is one of the many ways that members of our community will engage with service over the coming months as part of the Core Project experience.

Applications for the summer camp are due on March 11 at 11:59 PM. Scan here to apply.



YPI campers listening to a presentation from a teaching assistant.

Nora Shaskan '27

In Memory of Claude the Albino Alligator

Managing Editor

On January 18th, members of the San Francisco community gathered right across the street from the Academy of Sciences in honor of Claude, the albino alligator, who died on December 2, 2025, at age 30. Representatives of the state and city, including California Assemblymember Catherine Stefani, State Senator Scott Weiner, and District 7 Supervisor Myrna Melgar, delivered speeches to a crowd of hundreds in acknowledgement to the end of an astonishing legacy. And with a proper New Orleans send-off of a jazz band parading about the park, Claude went down in history, a symbol of the city.

Claude was born an albino alligator in Louisiana where he was removed from the wild with the intention to protect his life. With that pale skin and blurry red eyes, albino alligators have difficulty surviving in their natural habitat, for it's quite dangerous to be unable to blend in. Claude was raised at St. Augustine Alligator Farm



Claude the Alligator rests in his aquarium at the California Academy of Sciences.

Zoological Park in Florida and then in 2008, was driven cross-country all the way to our city by the bay. His arrival at the Academy of Sciences made him the first albino alligator in the aquarium's history, attracting people across the Bay Area to witness his slow and stiff movements.

In the beginning, Claude lived with a second alligator named Bonnie, but she was aggressive and bit off one of his fingers; she was removed from the artificial lagoon, leaving the place to Claude's solitude.

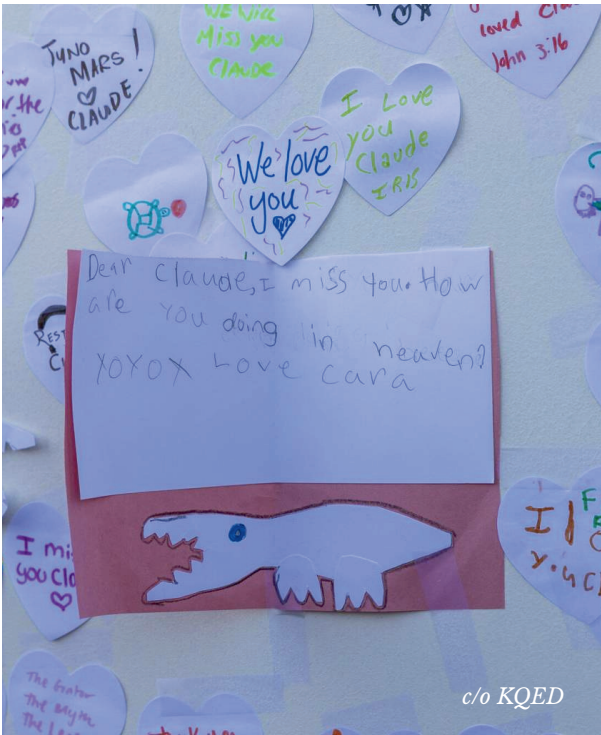
Reflecting on the time we have spent with Claude, the often motionless creature made quite the impact on the community despite the lack of his own effort. He was used as an educational example and evoked scientific curiosity in those who came back to visit him year after year. His story and condition communicated the need for biodiversity and the protection of swamp ecosystems. Furthermore, the white alligator embodied a uniqueness that did not go unrecognized.

His pale skin became a symbol of outward distinctiveness and a reminder to embrace the peculiarities that make us all different.

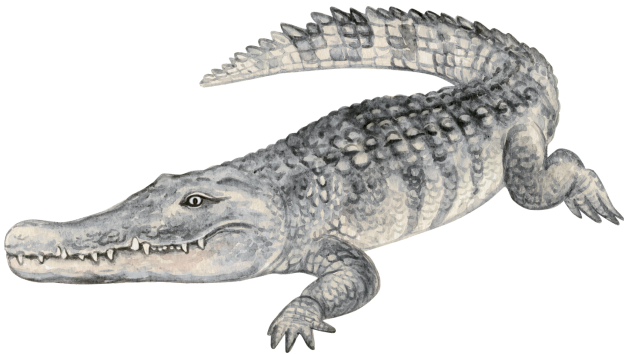
As hundreds of people united over the loss of Claude, it was made clear how his presence at San Francisco's Academy of Sciences impacted the community. A side street in Golden Gate Park—where his memorial was held—will be named after him, for Claude connected people by invoking interest and representing the uniqueness of nature. As the generation of children who grew up with Claude, we will always remember the treasure of the Academy, the icon of the city—the White Alligator.



MJ's Brass Boppers, an authentic New Orleans brand, perform at Claude's memorial.



Children's memorial cards dedicated to Claude are displayed at the alligator's memorial.



Tai Morganson '26

Sora vs. Humanity

Managing Editor

If you download OpenAI's Sora, you'll likely lose interest within a month. The app, which first seemed to be the gleaming and surreal future of entertainment, allows users to generate ten-second long videos based on a sentence prompt, and also scroll through reels of content generated by other users. Despite the original promise and appeal of the application, OpenAI revealed that the Sora user retention over one month was merely 1%.

Mark Cuban often appears in Sora videos, wearing things he'd never wear and saying things he'd never say. That's because Mr. Cuban was among the first to loan his image and likeness to OpenAI, submitting his image to unbridled Sora users to generate content with him in it.

When I recently spotted Mr. Cuban reclining on a grassy slope at the banks of San Diego's Mission Bay, minutes before St. Ignatius crews raced down the course, I knew I had to ask him about Sora.

He told me of his enormous support for the Sora application. He told me that generated content would be a part of scrolling entertainment forever, and artificial intelligence tools would expand the breadth and volume of human creative production, not diminish it.



I heard his takes on automation (humanoid servants aren't realistic), the future job scene (humans will still have jobs), and his recommendation on what I should study in college (go all in for AI). But even after our conversation, I thought only about what he'd said about Sora. The implications of the 200 million United States users of TikTok consum-

ing purely generated content raised countless red flags, especially of poor social development, compromised national security, and corrupted time-management. Thankfully, the recent, heavy decline in Sora interest suggests that we clearly aren't ready to give up human interactions just yet. For now, our interests remain on relationships, the relatable and testable.

Just as nineteenth-century Romantics rejected industry in search of nature, we resist, consciously or not, generated content in favor of more authentic interactions.

Mr. Cuban may well be right, that slop will eventually clog TikTok and Instagram Reels feeds inevitably, when human interest tilts toward slop and away from authenticity. For now though, it seems that humanity is well aware of Sora's shortcomings.

SI Community Members Join in MLK March

Aisha McCulloch '27

Contributing Editor

Over the long weekend of January 17th, San Francisco observed a national holiday honoring the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As is tradition, a short citywide march took place from 4th and King to the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. San Francisco residents gathered to hold signs and remember the life, work, and death of Rev. Dr. King.

There were around 70 members of the SI community attending the march—a mix of parents, students, teachers, and staff. Carrying signs with quotes from Rev. Dr. King and marching in union with a wide range of San Franciscans, they were able to reflect on his call for a more just America.

Moments like these feel especially important now, amid growing political and racial divides in the country. The following day, students were invited to continue this

reflection with the help of Jose Antonio Vargas. The Social Justice Summit speaker referenced Rev. Dr. King’s Letter From Birmingham Jail and shared how his life changed when he read the words “Anyone who lives inside the U.S. can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds,” emphasizing the current relevance of Rev. Dr. King’s words.

After the march, a prayer was held at the Yerba Buena Center, connecting back to the Baptist roots that influenced many of Rev. Dr. King’s teachings—particularly the principle of nonviolent resistance. Junior Lucy Evans said that the prayer was able to “blend faith traditions and show solidarity” among many of the people in the crowd.

Both the march and the following prayer were a meaningful way for the SI community (and the wider city) to honor

the influence and teachings of Rev. Dr. King. Attendees were able to carry the spirit of these events throughout Social Justice Summit week, and to use Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s teachings alongside Jose Antonio Vargas’s message to reflect on justice and civic responsibility.



The SI Community poses for a group photo after marching.

ALAS Sets the Stage for Social Justice Summit

Vicky Carrillo Marchetti '28

Contributing Editor

Earlier this month, prior to the school’s kick off for the Social Justice Summit, ALAS (Association for of LatinX American Students) held a meaningful meeting. Members watched a TedTalk of journalist José Antonio Vargas, who would later visit the school as a part of the summit. The purpose was to create an educated understanding of his experiences, ideas, and what he advocates for prior to seeing him in person.

Vargas shared his personal story as an undocumented immigrant, challenging stereotypes while demonstrating the power storytelling has on emotions.

After watching the talk members en-gaged in thoughtful discussion and were able to connect along with today’s issues that



The Arrupe Social Justice Council meet Jose Antonio Vargas.

immigration in Latinx communities face. Gabriel Limo '28, an ALAS member who watched the Ted Talk, explained that “It was important because it helped us think about immigration from a different perspective and helped us clear up questions we may have had.”

The Association of LatinX students invites the school on Sunday, April 19 to celebrate culture with the ALAS community for the annual showcase. There will be food, music, dancing, and much more! Tickets will go live soon so stay tuned!

Highlighting Venezuelan Culture

Geraldine Segura '27

Contributing Editor

On January 3rd, 2026, Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro and First Lady Cilla Adela Flores were taken by U.S. military forces on the charges of narco-terrorism and corruption within the country. To say the aftermath of this day was intense would be an understatement. People have protested against the United States involvement in Venezuela, while others have viewed this day as an American-Venezuelan victory.

For many Americans, this day is not a big surprise to everything going on in the current administration. Georgia Parr '27 shared their reactions to this day, stating, “Well when my family and I found out, we mostly responded with horror, but not shock. We've all grown so used to Trump's insane actions that we've sort of become more indifferent to preserve our sanity.... Every time we hear about one we're horrified, but not shocked. We acknowledge it as a terrible thing but then move on. It's not the way things should be, but it's the way things are.”

It is important to remember that the

Venezuelan community is different from what is shown on the television. This article will cover some facts on Venezuelan culture, so we, the Affinity section, encourage the SI community to learn more about Venezuela’s beautiful culture on your own time.



The Venezuelan Troupial perches on a Yellow Torch Aloe.

Venezuela’s national flower is the Flor de Mayo; an orchid discovered in northern Venezuela. Its national animal, the Venezuelan troupiel, known as the Turpial in the country, is found in the savannas and forests. The Turpial was declared Venezuela’s national animal on May 23, 1958 because of the bird’s melodious song, and its cultural symbol of beauty and freedom.

Carnival of El Callao, a festival in

remembrance of the Callaoense culture, is celebrated from January to March in Venezuela. The three month celebration revolves around the Caribbean’s emancipation from the French and British empires; Venezuelans dress up in colorful costumes resembling Callaoense animals and the people’s word in gold mines.

We encourage the community to learn about these topics and more about Venezuelan culture.

When asked about the importance of learning about Latinx Culture, Maliah Howard '26, the co-vice president of ALAS shared, “I think we [the Latinx community] have contributed so much to this country and have made such a great impact... through sharing our culture, we can branch out and people can become more informed of the unique cultures that make up our world.”



The Cattleya Mossiae orchid or “Flor de Mayo.”



Venezuelans celebrate the Carnival of El Callao.

Ringling in the Year of the Horse

Genevieve Arcenio '27, Katelyn Tang '27, Lucas Quan '26

Contributing and Managing Editor

Chinese New Year, or Spring Festival, is a 3,500 year old tradition marking the beginning of a new year on the Chinese lunisolar calendar. This year, Chinese New Year falls on February 17th. It marks the end of the year of the snake and the start of the year of the horse. Chinese New Year isn't just a day-long celebration. It lasts for a 15-day period, ending with the Lantern Festival on March 3rd this year.

Common traditions during this time include hosting family meals, wearing and decorating houses with red, setting off firecrackers, elders giving out red envelopes (hóngbǎo), and lion dances. There are also many superstitions that surround Chinese New Year, such as not sweeping or washing hair on the first day of the new year to prevent washing away good luck. Chinese New Year is a time for families all over the world to spend time together while

honoring their ancestors and hoping for a year full of good luck and prosperity.

The most well-known event that happens in the Bay Area during Chinese New Year is the annual San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade. This year, the parade will be on Saturday, March 7th. The parade is scheduled to begin at 5:15pm at the intersection of Market and 2nd.

The SF Chinese New Year parade is one of the world's largest, with over 3 million people tuning in to watch the parade on TV each year. It features a variety of floats, lion dances, and a 289-foot golden dragon. The parade also features performances from school groups, marching bands, stilt walkers, and acrobats.

Other popular events that take place in San Francisco around this time include the Flower Market Fair (February 14 - 15), the

Chinatown YMCA Run (March 1), and the Miss Chinatown USA Pageant (March 6).

SI also holds its own Chinese New Year celebration. Today, February 13th during X-Period, the Chinese Culture Club is hosting an event to celebrate the new year. Make sure to stop by the Student Center to join in on the festivities. There will be lots of great food, games, and fun!



San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade in 2009.

Chinese Horoscopes for 2026

Genevieve Arcenio '27

Managing Editor

“What is your favorite Chinese New Year tradition?”

“ I appreciate gathering around the table; sharing culture, and catching up with each other.
- Dexter Vo '28

“ The tradition of family gathering brings a new perspective to new year prosperity - prosperity together with family and red notes filled with money and candy.
- Laurence Liang '29

“ My favorite tradition has to be sharing a big meal with my family at home. My mom cooks eight dishes, because the number eight and the word for prosperity sound alike in Cantonese and Mandarin. The dishes themselves are symbolic too — fish represents abundance, noodles represent longevity, and dumplings represent wealth.
- Heather Yee '27

Horoscopes c/o www.chinesefortunecalendar

Rat  1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008 Will experience a high fluctuation of luck. Maintaining extra-vigilance & adaptability necessary.	Ox  1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009 Needs to be practical and patient as the fiery energy coming this year may clash with calm and steady nature.	Tiger  1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010 Will experience strong, positive progress. The fiery energy coming this year will suit their passionate nature.	Rabbit  1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011 Expect good progress, but also be cautious to not get swept away by the fast pace this year will bring.
Dragon  1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012 Will experience a favorable time for career advancement & attaining leadership roles.	Snake  1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013 Will need to take a grounded approach to 2026 and avoid taking impulsive risks.	Horse  1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014 Will experience high energy, but need to manage fluctuating luck, restlessness, & impulsivity.	Goat  1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015 Will experience a year of harmony and success, especially in financial ventures.
Monkey  1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016 Will need focus and strategic thinking to succeed.	Rooster  1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017 Will need to remain focused and stay out of unnecessary drama.	Dog  1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018 Will be highly favored in 2026 with access to career growth & abundant personal achievements.	Pig  1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019 Will require diligence and caution, especially in regards to financial matters.

San Mateo Celebrates the Lunar New Year

Geraldine Segura '27

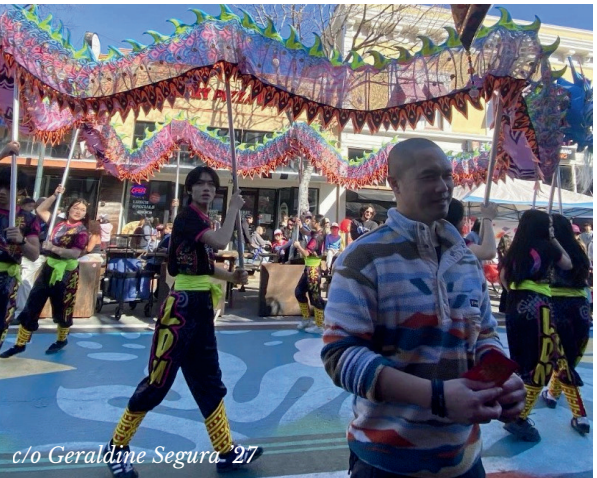
Contributing Editor

The year of the horse is upon us! Lunar New Year will be on February 17 this year, and celebrations have begun. As the date approaches, communities in the Bay Area have started their celebrations weeks ago. Last month on January 24, Downtown B. Street in San Mateo held its Lunar New Year celebration with LionDanceME's astounding performance and the various stands with Lunar New Year books and crafts.

I was able to talk to one of the stand's members: American Curriculum Project's leaders. Chan told me how the AACP is a non-profit organization that helps educate

the San Mateo community about Asian and Pacific Islander culture through books. This organization has provided not only a library for these communities, but also an online platform of interviews with book authors and cultures. Chan and his team have worked to publish travel blogs to historic places, local market stops, and lists of the top children's books for the community.

Do you want to start the Lunar New Year with something new? Check out this lovely organization and learn more about Asian and Pacific Islander culture!



Participants at San Mateo Lunar New Year Festival.

OPINION: S.F. Blackouts Show Need for Nuclear Energy

Joey Ng '26

Contributing Editor

Blackout! On December 22, 2025 San Francisco was hit with a blackout leaving thousands of customers without power. Patrick Shi '27 recounted, “traffic was terrible, I think cell service was down, fridges, lights, it was amazing to see how connected we are to electricity.” While restored, the blackout illustrated society's growing reliance on energy and the grid.

Energy consumption and production is one of the leading problems going into the next decade. Experts estimate that by 2030 electricity demand will increase by 25% due to the emergence of AI and need for large data centers. The use of fossil fuel to meet this demand leads America on an unsustainable trajectory. California consumes 1.8 million gallons of oil and 4740 million cubic feet of natural gases per day (2018 estimation). The need for an alternative is now.

Renewable has provided some hopes, but its inability to be reliable especially at night has led it largely obsolete. That leaves nuclear energy with its green goo swamping into our oceans and smoking with radiation. But what happens if I told you that green goo was reusable; in fact we already do. For over the past 20 years several reactors in France have been reusing nuclear waste in a fuel called MOX. In fact, 96% of all waste from reactors can be reused.

But radiation and disasters? Nuclear has been plagued in the public eye for events like Chernobyl and Three Mile Island accident. However, in most of the accidents human error played a role in the malfunction. The last global nuclear accident was in 2011 and for the US, we haven't had an accident since 2002. While it doesn't mean nuclear is completely safe, it does provide evidence of the safety improvements the nuclear community has made. Nuclear has never been safer and we're still heading in the direction of fossil fuels.

Why? Cost and perception. The US infrastructure is built for fossil fuels.

To make a new reactor is estimated to cost over \$5 billion dollars. Moreover, perception of nuclear safety and its waste continue to haunt society. When many people imagine nuclear waste, they imagine a glowing green tube of goo. In reality it's a metal fuel rod that can be reused. This is probably the first time you are hearing about reusing nuclear waste and I can tell you that's our biggest fault. The nuclear community has done a terrible job at broadcasting its accomplishments. We must begin to acknowledge a push into the future and one powered by nuclear energy.



San Franciscans navigate dark streets during the blackout.

The Joys of the Tenderloin Immersion

Bobby Mullin '26

Managing Editor



Faithful Fools in San Francisco.

While not necessarily SI's furthest-travelling, the Tenderloin immersion is one of the richest opportunities at our school.

Around now, juniors are preparing for the immersion discernment evening, where they will learn about the trip they'll be embarking on this summer. Many already have an idea of where they would like to go. Few of them, however, have their sights set on the tenderloin, but they should.

Having been on the immersion myself, I can testify to both the incredible insight and joy I experienced during my week in the Tenderloin. The first thing my group discovered was the incredibly tight-knit yet welcoming community. “Walking around on our first day, I was greeted by at least a dozen smiling community members. I was shocked at the constant enthusiasm they demonstrated despite the neighborhood's

hardships,” Kieran Devlin '26 said. What makes the Tenderloin Immersion stand out from others though, is the reappearances of those community members.

There were many community members who we encountered numerous times, despite them having no official connection to our immersion. Each time we saw them, we got to know them better, until they were talking to us like old friends.

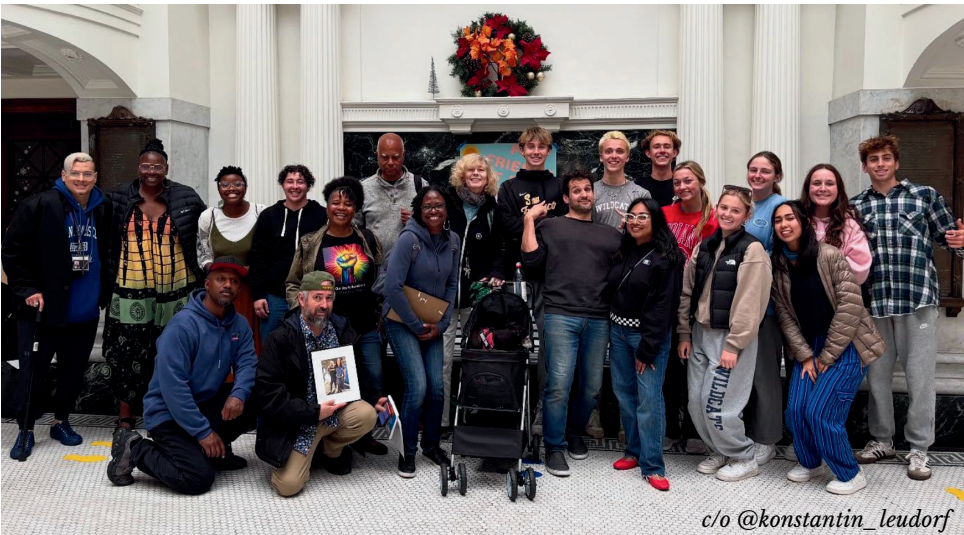
While there are certainly very poignant topics of social justice addressed by other immersion trips, far too often we ignore the struggles in our own backyard. The tenderloin allows us to gain a more holistic perspective of the city we go to school in every day.

Sam Goethals '26 says the immersion experience helped her realize “how much dignity and beauty exist everywhere, and that social justice is about listening and recognizing the incredible worth of every person you meet. What surprised me most wasn't the struggle I saw, but the kindness, strength, and common human-ity I shared in the

humanity I shared in the people I met.” Finally, what I think makes the Tenderloin immersion the most special, is the fact that it continues after the one or two weeks spent living there. Between returning to the Tenderloin and interacting with the people you met around San Francisco, there are so many ways to reconnect with the immersion experience.

For example, some of the members of Faithful Fools (the organization that hosted us) were on campus during the social justice summit and greeted us with a barrage of smiles and hugs.

I hope this article helped give you a better understanding of the Tenderloin immersion and if you are one of the lucky few with the opportunity to go on it, you are in for one of the best experiences SI offers



The Tenderloin immersion group poses with the Faithful Fools.

Radhika Saha '28

Bay Area LOVES Food

Contributing Editor

The Bay Area’s food is shaped by the people who live here and the cultures they bring. Coastal towns like Half Moon Bay and Susalito are known for fresh seafood, while Berkeley’s cafes offer many matcha desserts. Across the region, dishes like fish curry, Korean fried chicken, and falafel shows how



Delicious Matcha Dessert from Amausaan Uji Matcha in downtown Berkeley.

different communities have shaped local tastes. Each bite tells a story of migration, tradition, and local flavor. Together these foods create a map of culture and connection, showing how the Bay Area’s diversity shapes what and how we eat, making every neighborhood a taste of the world.



Fish Curry from Local San Francisco Restaurant.



Food Highlights From Around the Bay Area.

The Bay’s Favorite Radio Stations

Abigail Smith '29

Contributing Editor

What’s your favorite tune to start off the day? Sometimes, it’s easier to turn on the radio over picking a specific song, album, or playlist off of your streaming platform while driving. If you’re having trouble deciding what radio you would like best, here are the Top 3 radio stations in the Bay Area!

If your taste consists of Classic Rock or artists similar to Led Zeppelin, Metallica, and Nirvana, then 107.7 The Bone will be the one to pick!!! However, if you prefer Pop music from the 80’s to 2000’s, then you should consider 96.5 KOIT.

Maybe you feel in the mood for a bit of trivia, along with some hit favorites. If this applies to you, 102.9 KBLX provides a trivia game, One Thousand Dollar Minute

Top San Francisco Morning Shows By Cume			
STATION	MORNING SHOW	FORMAT	WEEKLY CUME
1 KCBS RADIO	KCBS Morning News	All News	397,900
2 KQED	Morning Edition (NPR)	News/Talk	360,200
3 Freeze 96.5	The Morning Breeze with Jack & Carolyn	Soft AC	309,300
4 96.5 KOIT	Joey Fortman	Adult Contemporary	290,200
5 STAR 101.3	Marcus & Sandy	Hot AC	261,500
6 Alice @ 97.3	Sarah and Vinnie	Hot AC	250,600
7 WHP 94.9	The JV Show	Rhythmic-CHR	241,500
8 KNBR	Murph & Mac	All Sports	236,600
9 99.7 NOW	Big Bay Mornings (Greg, Bennie, Nikki Blades and Fernando)	CHR	223,900
10 105.1 KMEF	The Sana G Morning Show	Hip-Hop/R&B	197,300
11 100.3 KQZ	Lamont & Tonelli	Classic Rock	186,300
12 103.7 FM 680+	Martha Quinn	Classic Hits	166,900
13 102.9 KBLX	El Bueno, La Mala, y El Feo	Regional Mexican	163,100
14 100.3	Omar y Argelia	Spanish CHR	142,900
15 102.9 KBLX	Dream Team in the Morning (Tony Sco, Freska and Rudy Ortiz)	Adult R&B	142,800

Source: Nielsen Oct. 2021 PPM Survey, Mon-Fri, 6-10am, Cume Persons 6+ c/o Inside Radio

Favorite Bay Area radio stations.

To Win It” segment every weekday at 6:34 am, 7:34 am, and 8:34 am. Listen to the contestants attempt, and every once in a while succeed, at correctly answering 10 questions in a minute or less. It’s always fun to answer these questions to test your knowledge! Some questions include simple math problems, celebrity and pop culture, geographical and geography based, about the animal kingdom, or completely random knowledge that all range from easy to a difficult challenge. It’s definitely a fun way to hopefully get you in the mindset of what’s to come later on

What’s even better about these three stations, you may ask? They’re all free to listen to! So, the next time you turn on the radio, consider 107.7, 96.5, and 102.9, and you won’t regret it!

Exploring San Francisco’s Biodiversity

Amanda Oberto '27

Contributing Editor

While revered for its city life and countless communities, San Francisco is home to much loved flourishing natural spaces. For years, conservation, education, and simple enjoyment have encouraged efforts that protect and develop the natural parts of San Francisco. The list of public parks that harbor people and animals alike is long: The Presidio, Golden Gate Park, Dolores Park, Buena Vista, and Glen Canyon, just to name a few.

Liv Sanchez '27 represents a robust community of SF nature lovers, stating, “Even though we live in a city, the Presidio and Golden Gate Park provide great views and walking trails where you feel immersed in the natural beauty of the area and give us a glimpse into what San Francisco looked like before being urbanized.”

While many visit parks to enjoy lunch with friends or a crisp morning run, many are unaware of all the life that is dependent on these areas, no matter how big or small these natural oases are. Whether it be a small shrub that beckons pollinators or the forests of the Presidio, over 1,000 species depend on our continued efforts of preserving nature in the city.

In particular, the Bay Area is an

essential stop for 300,000-400,000 overwintering birds on their journey across the pacific flyway, a migration path from Alaska to Southern Chile. Many shorebirds stop in San Francisco to rest, reenergize, and spend the winter; for example, the SF Bay is the northernmost regular breeding grounds for the American Avocet and Black-necked Stilt on the Pacific coast.

Moreover, the SF Bay Estuary, where freshwater meets the ocean, is the largest estuary in the West coast. Even after losing 90% of original wetlands to urbanization and other human activities, it still provides for hundreds of thousands of water birds. Chrissy Marsh, for example, a 20-acre stretch of restored wetland, has attracted over 100 species of birds, and countless people. This is an important example of how restoration work makes a huge difference, starting from an asphalt parking lot into a bustling park with acres of tidal marsh to support a myriad of animals.

Still, many species, especially shorebirds, are undergoing rapid decline in the Bay Area, including the American avocet (an annual 10% decline), the dublin, and the willet.

While it is necessary to recognize the



SI's Birding Club appreciating SF's natural beauty.

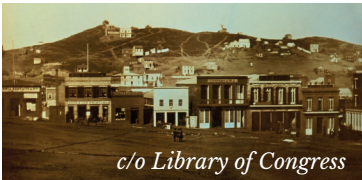
devastation of these declines, conservation efforts in the city have demonstrated the love that San Francisco has for its biodiversity. San Francisco is as rich in culture and city life as it is in love for these communities—all creatures included.

With this love comes dedication to protecting San Francisco’s status as a biodiversity hotspot, and organizations like Point Blue Conservation Science and San Francisco Bay Joint Venture are actively working for this purpose. Organizations and efforts like these prove that the drive exists to sustain all of our futures in San Francisco without losing its beloved biodiversity.

BAY AREA HIGH SCHOOLS

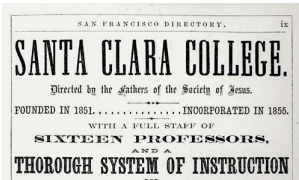
Continued from Front Page

St. Ignatius has had a long history of adapting to change. From its move to Van Ness Avenue in 1880, to the temporary relocation after the 1906 earthquake, and finally to its current home in the Sunset in 1969, the school has continually rebuilt and redefined itself. Each challenge, manifested in the form of natural disasters, construction overhauls, or shifting neighborhoods, has shaped what we recognize now as the SI community. Its resilience comes as much from the buildings that have withstood the years as from the students, faculty, and alumni who carry its traditions forward.



c/o Library of Congress

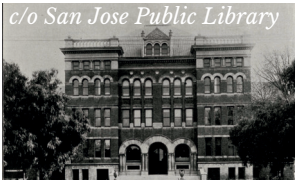
1851 - Establishment of San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) as the first public school district in California



SANTA CLARA COLLEGE.
Directed by the Fathers of the Society of Jesus.
FOUNDED IN 1861.....INCORPORATED IN 1866.
WITH A FULL STAFF OF
SIXTEEN PROFESSORS,
AND A
THOROUGH SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION

c/o SCU.edu

1851 - Establishment of Santa Clara College (Now Bellarmine College Preparatory) and College of Notre Dame (Now Notre Dame High School), both located in San Jose



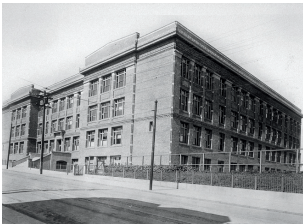
c/o San Jose Public Library

1853 - Establishment of San Jose Unified School District (Photo from 1900)



c/o siprep.org

1855 - Antony Maraschi turns a schoolhouse on Market Street into St. Ignatius



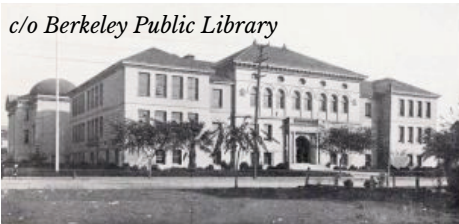
c/o siprep.org

1856 - Establishment of Union Grammar School, now Lowell High School (Photo from 1917)



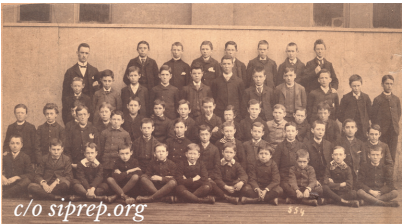
c/o Berkeley Public Library

1869 - Oakland High School opens, the first high school in the East Bay



c/o siprep.org

1879 - Berkeley High School opens, around 10 years after UC Berkeley (Photo from 1914)



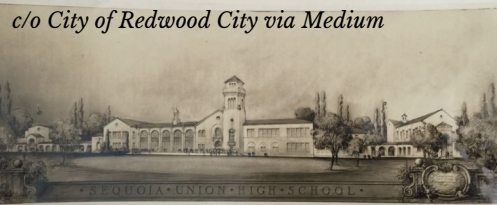
c/o siprep.org

1880 - SI moves to Van Ness Avenue



c/o Marin County Library

1888 - San Rafael High School opens, the first high school in Marin (Photo from 1922)



c/o City of Redwood City via Medium

1895 - Sequoia High School in Redwood City opens, the first high school in the peninsula



c/o siprep.org

1927 - After the 1906 Earthquake and a temporary location, SI moves to Stanyan Street



c/o siprep.org

1969 - SI relocates to its current location in the Sunset and names itself St. Ignatius College Preparatory

Appreciating San Francisco

Lauren Yu '27

Managing Editor

Look up ‘San Francisco’ on your go-to social media platform and you’ll find no shortage of people calling San Francisco “a mess” or “unlivable.” Yet, if you ask the people who walk its streets everyday, you’ll hear an entirely different story. For many students at SI, San Francisco is home, a place that perfectly balances culturally diverse city life with natural beauty.

That’s not to say San Francisco comes without its problems. Rising housing costs, visible homelessness, and concerns around public safety are real issues that affect daily life in the city. However, these challenges do not define San Francisco as a whole. With its vibrant mix of cultures and strong sense of community, San Francisco manages to bring together a variety of communities.

With the Super Bowl coming to the Bay Area, many exciting events, both old and new, are popping up throughout the area. San Francisco is lucky to be home to one of the oldest and most established Chinatowns in the United States. This coming month, the city will welcome the Year of the Horse with its annual Chinese New Year parade, the largest of its kind in America.

Also coming up is the California International Antiquarian Book Fair, where book lovers and collectors can gather to browse rare books and artwork. The fair will take place at Pier 27 from February 27th to March 1st.

Students should also check out free programs in Union Square Plaza. Every week, Union Square hosts a variety of activities, including live music, juggling performances, and chess lessons, all of which showcase San Francisco’s unique and vibrant culture.

Additionally, San Francisco hosts several farmers markets where people can buy fresh produce and experience the city’s art, music, and local culture, including The Clement Street Farmer’s Market on Sundays from 9a.m. to 2p.m., the Fort Mason Farmers Market on Sundays from 9:30a.m to 2p.m., and the Ferry Building Farmer’s Market on Saturdays from 8a.m. to 2p.m.

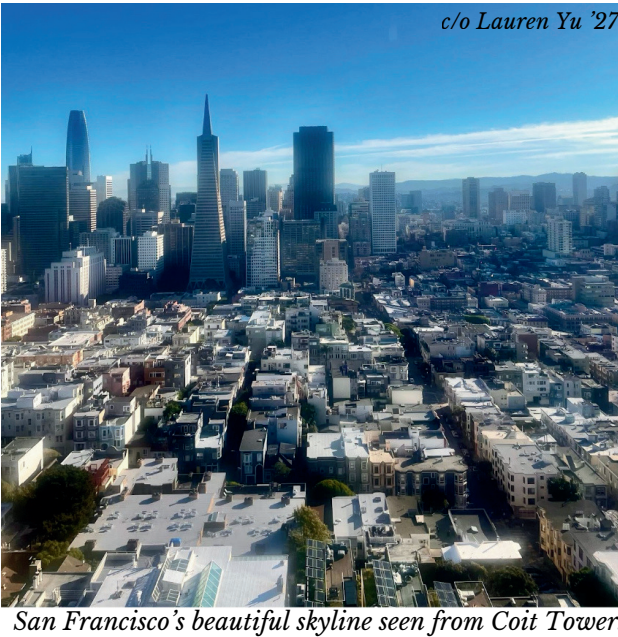
Overall, these events highlight San Francisco’s lively atmosphere and cultural diversity, making it an exciting place to explore, even for locals.

When speaking with local author, Leyla Brittan, the importance and uniqueness of San Francisco became even more evident. Leyla Brittan has lived in New York and recently moved to San Francisco from Seattle. When asked to compare the three cities, she shared that San Francisco is the perfect mix of both Seattle and New York because of its diversity, strong integration of art, and stunning scenery, landscapes, and natural life. She highlighted that San Francisco drew her in because of the many different communities that come together, as

well as the ambition and drive that people in the city tend to have.

SI students have had similar praise, with Naina Paul Mulye '27 stating, “everyone in my neighborhood is super close and we often have block parties with home cooking and games. Everyone feels like family in my neighborhood.”

San Francisco brings many different cultures together with each neighborhood offering its own distinct vibe and sense of community. Living and growing up in San Francisco is a truly unique experience, placing each resident at the heart of a vibrant community.



Fun on Fillmore Street

McCann O’Brien ’26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Five miles from the SI campus lies the bustling Fillmore Street, boasting tons of shopping and restaurants for visitors and locals alike. Many people miss the amazing gems that Fillmore Street has to offer, and as a resident of the area and an employee at a local clothing store, I will be your guide! Here is my definitive list of the top 5 best shops and restaurants on Fillmore Street:

Top 5 Restaurants:

1. Copra
With a creative, delicious menu and a gorgeous interior, Copra is my personal favorite restaurant in the city. The best things on the menu are the Kori Gassi and the Chutney Palette. Worth the price!

2. Pizzeria Delfina
This is my favorite pizza in the city. My family comes here for nearly every birthday to enjoy the Neapolitan style, red and white pies. My personal favorite is the classic Margherita or the Broccoli Raab for adventurous eaters.

3. Dumpling Story
The line is always long but the wait is very worth it! The pork soup dumplings are perfect, but be careful not to eat them too fast because they are also very hot!

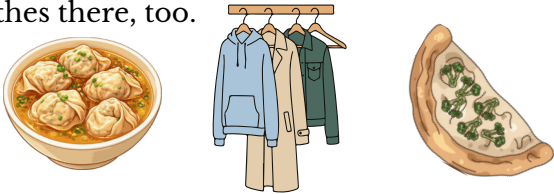
4. Jane Bakery
This is hands-down the best place for coffee and breakfast on Fillmore Street. The croissants and breakfast toasts are delightful and the outside parklet provides a peaceful respite from the crowd.

5. Taco Bar
Taco Bar is a more affordable staple of Fillmore, the go-to for many locals for an easy lunch or dinner. The street-style chicken tacos are fantastic, as are their agua frescas. With a rotating menu, there are always new and delicious flavors to try!

Top 5 Shops:

1. Nest
This store has a wide variety of fun vintage items to fill your room with. I can always find something fun to pick up, especially their vintage magazines and songbooks.

2. Crossroads
As far as consignment stores go, this is the best one. They have a great selection with fair prices, and you can sell your own clothes there, too.



Fillmore street is one of SF’s best shopping streets.

3. No Rest for Bridget
I might be a bit biased because I have been working here for 2 years, but No Rest for Bridget is one of the best stores on the street. It’s reasonably priced, and new clothes are put out almost every day. The homegoods are great as well, and a professional is brought in to do the table designs. I think the employees are great as well!

4. Aesop
You can smell this store before you see it and you simply have to go in. The decor in the store is amazing, even if you’re not in the market for new soap or lotion.

5. Sézane
If you want to visit Paris but can’t get there, go to Sézane instead! If you go on the weekends your new sweater will come with a beautiful tote bag that you can reuse for years to come. I highly recommend dropping in to check it out!

Highlighting the Best of Clement Street

Finley Wolfgram ’28

Contributing Editor

Boisterous and always busy, Clement street is the heart of the Inner Richmond. A “no chain businesses” policy allows small businesses to thrive. The Clement Street Merchants Committee, an association of the business owners, helps organize events like the Sunday Farmers markets, and “Clementime” in December. These events and neighbors are what make Clement not just a street, but a must experience community.

Ben Gwozdz ’28, a neighbor to Clement and co-president of Golden Gate Reviews (a club spreading awareness of local restaurants) emphasized, “Clement street creates a true sense of home for people looking for authentic food relating to their culture. If it were chains instead it would feel artificial and commercialized.”

As a local myself, here are the five top places to eat and top five shops on Clement.

Top 5 Restaurants:

1. Dumpling King
A great last minute sit down or take out place, this is one of the newer dim sum restaurants, but a rising favorite. Service is quick and the food always wows. Menu favorites include the Shanghai soup dumpling and the Shanghai fried dumplings.

2. Pasta Supply Co
Whether you want fresh pasta to make a home or a dine in experience, Pasta Supply is your new favorite San Francisco, funky, Italian restaurant. Grab a bag of uncooked pasta for dinner, a warm slab of ciabatta, and a jar of their bolognese for home. Menu favorites include the penne pasta and pesto sauce.

3. Taqueria los Mayos
Managed by the owner of favorite SF restaurants including Violets and Pearls, this classic Mexican restaurant is the perfect go-to for tacos and burritos. Menu favorites include anything carnitas, the breakfast burrito, and salad bowls.

4. Arsicault
Arsicault was once rated the third best croissant in San Francisco. A pro tip is to wait 10 minutes before opening to beat the 45 minute line that stacks up after opening. Menu favorites include the chocolate almond croissant and the ham and cheese croissant.

5. Richmond Draft House
The Draft House is a family friendly sports bar ideal for an easy night out. The TVs feature every current sports event in the typically loud atmosphere. Menu favorites include the po-boy sandwich, tater tots, and mango habanero crispy chicken sandwich.

Top 5 Shops:

1. Park Life
Fun, funky hair clips, candles, and sweatshirts, Park Life is the perfect place to pick up a gift for friends or yourself. The store also features a mini gallery highlighting a local artist each month.

2. Fleet Wood
With a giant screen printer in the back of the store, you can buy (or take a workshop to make) original San Francisco inspired sweatshirts and tees. Fleet Wood also sells jewelry and perfumes. It is a fun little store to window shop or buy gifts for friends.

3. Foggy Notion
Foggy Notion is the ultimate bohemian store. Candles and tie dye galore line the shelves featuring local artists and entrepreneurs. They also have an incredible cozy and fun sock collection if you are looking for practical gifts.

4. The OG Green Apple
Old and used books of every kind can be found in cozy crooks of Green Apple Book Store. They will buy books you need to get off your hands. It is a hippie library with limitless and fun categories of books like astrology and architecture. It is easy to walk around inside for hours.

5. Tantrum
An adorable, vintage inspired toy store selling everything from small wooden puzzles, to dress up clothes, art supplies and party decorations. They also wrap any item you want to buy as gifts!



Pasta Supply Co is one of the highest rated restaurants on Clement, with delicious sauces and freshly made pasta.

Minnesota Immigration Raids Spark Controversy and Protests

Angeline Hsueh '27

Contributing Editor

A major federal immigration enforcement operation in Minneapolis has become a focal point of national debate after multiple fatal shootings that involved federal agents and growing legal and community responses.

On January 24, Border Patrol agents fatally shot 37-year-old Minneapolis resident Alex Pretti, a U.S. citizen and ICU nurse, during an immigration enforcement operation in south Minneapolis. This incident occurred during a broader federal crackdown, “Operation Metro Surge,” which has deployed more than 3,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to the area. The Pretti shooting followed an earlier deadly encounter on January 7 that involved Renée Good, another Minneapolis resident who was fatally shot by an ICE agent.

Federal officials argue that the operation focuses on individuals with serious criminal records and assert that officers are acting within the law and established enforcement guidelines. Supporters of the surge, including some local residents and national commentators, say that increased federal presence is necessary to address crime, enforce immigration rulings, and protect communities. They also point to the statements from the Department of Homeland Security citing a reported 8,000% increase in death threats against ICE officers, which federal leadership argues underscores the dangerous climate agents face while carrying out their duties.

However, local officials and community groups have challenged this narrative, noting that video footage and eyewitness testimony appear to contradict official claims about how the shootings actually happened. Aisha McCulloch '27 stated: “I have a close friend that lives near a park that



Protesters gather in front of federal agents in Minneapolis on Jan. 8, following fatal shooting of Renée Good.

ICE agents patrol...it’s easy to see these events happen, but harder to recognize the impact it has on the people living there.” Not only does this provide the general sentiment in regards to ICE’s presence within our country, but also a calling to raise sensitivity towards the families affected.

In response to the Pretti shooting, a federal judge has issued an order preventing the destruction of any related evidence, including body-camera footage. Minnesota and local officials have filed lawsuits seeking to limit the federal enforcement surge, arguing that it raises constitutional questions and endangers public safety rather than reducing it.

The ongoing operation has sparked protests throughout Minneapolis. University of Minnesota students held a walkout oppos-

ing the federal deployment; demonstrations later formed outside hotels believed to house federal officers. Police used chemical irritants to disperse crowds, further escalating tensions.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Governor Tim Walz have asked the Trump administration to reduce the number of agents on the ground. President Trump responded that he would “look into” adjusting personnel levels” and announced he would send Tom Homan, a senior federal official, to coordinate the situation. As legal challenges, community reactions, and federal investigations unfold, Minneapolis has become a national example of how immigration enforcement intersects with debates over public safety, federal authority, and community trust.

U.S. Forces Capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro

James Benerofe '27

Contributing Editor

On January 3, the US captured President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela and his wife Cilia Flores in what is being named Operation Absolute Resolve. This action comes after President Donald Trump and the US Federal Government claimed that Maduro is guilty of multiple charges of narcoterrorism.

At 2 AM, the US ran aerial and ground operations to take down Maduro. During the raid, several dozen Venezuelan and Cuban combatants on the ground were killed and many others injured, though these numbers have been contested. Upon arrival in the US, Maduro was incarcerated at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, New York, and pleaded not guilty in a trial. Following this, the vice president of Venezuela, Delcy Rodríguez, became the acting president of the country.

This transition of power in Venezuela remains a controversial topic between people around the world. The UN claims that the US’s control of Venezuela violates the UN’s charter policy and the country’s sovereignty; Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez considers this raid to be a kidnapping. On the other hand, President Donald Trump attests that the takeover is considered a law enforcement action and “inherent constitutional authority.”



Nicolás Maduro arrives in Manhattan for an appearance in federal court on January 5.

Many Venezuelans welcomed the US’s intervention into Venezuelan politics, as a large number believe Maduro to not be the legitimate president of the country. Critics believe that Maduro rigged the presidential elections in 2024 in order to win. During the Biden Administration, the US recognized Edmundo González as the president of the country, as the data shows that he won the election by a landslide. Once Maduro became president, however, an arrest warrant for González was made until González sought asylum in Spain.

One main reason that Donald Trump and his administration argue for taking control of Venezuela is for their geological

oil reserves within the country. Venezuela holds around 17% of the world’s oil reserves, and Trump asserts that he will use the oil in a more efficient way than the previous Venezuelan government.

St. Ignatius Junior, Avidan Nijagal remarked, “Venezuela was taken over for malicious reasons such as the US gaining monetary benefit.” This reflects a view held by some that economic interests formed the decision made by this country rather than more global humanitarian beliefs.

President Trump promised that he will give the money to the Venezuelan people, US oil companies, and will keep some of it as payment for the US’ intervention.

San Francisco Reparations Proposal Provokes Advocacy and Apprehension

Heather Yee '27 & Mika Cinco '27
Managing Editor & Contributing Editor

In late December 2025, San Francisco’s mayor, Daniel Lurie, signed a measure that would lead to reparation payments for some Black residents who have been harmed by past city laws.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve the bill on December 16, which would create a reparations fund for Black residents who could prove they experienced discrimination by past San Francisco legislation. However, with the city already in a nearly \$1 billion deficit, Mayor Lurie acknowledged that San Francisco lacks the resources to invest in the fund, and instead suggested the use of private funding to allocate towards the reparations fund.

The measure has received mixed responses. Some believe the reparations to be a long overdue acknowledgment of the city’s injustices. Former chair of the African American Reparations Advisory Committee, Eric McDonnell, emphasized the city’s responsibility in contributing to the fund. Further, McDonnell proposed recommendations based on various historic injustices, including housing displacement and economic exclusion, advocating for payments based on documented harm. One of these proposals calls for a one-time payment of \$5 million. On the other hand, critics of the measure find the private donation system to be inappropriate and the investment to be a poor use of taxpayer dollars.

Two SI students expressed their concerns over the bill. Connor Kam '27 said, “I feel like it's hard to quantify reparations, like how can you pay off suffering with money?” Similarly, Atreya Eazell Gaudang '27 added, “I feel as though this should be the starting point. Just being paid will not change the way that [African Americans] have been treated.”



The Board of Supervisors approved a reparations fund for Black residents who have experienced historical discrimination due to city policies.

Supreme Court Hears Transgender Athletes Case

Alexander Salentine '26 Managing Editor

On January 13, the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *West Virginia v. B.J.P.* and *Little v. Hecox*, cases that will determine the fate of transgender athletes in the United States.

At the center of both cases lies this question: Can states ban transgender women from competing in women’s sports? According to the National Constitution Center, more than 27 states have already enacted bans to bar biological males from competing in women’s sports. The petitioners in both cases—B.J.P. and Hecox—challenged these laws and have had varied success in the US Courts of Appeals. Hecox won, but B.J.P. only won on appeal. Since the question is politically relevant and a circuit split occurred, the Supreme Court agreed to weigh in.

Conservatives argue that having biological males compete in women’s sports creates an uneven playing field, as biological males, after puberty, have more lean muscle mass and testosterone, giving them a physical advantage. They maintain that this puts the physical safety of women at risk, especially in contact sports like boxing.

Agreeing with this view, Ella Schwerte '28 stated, “[Having] biological men in women’s sports is degrading to female athletes everywhere. It’s heartbreaking to see men breaking women’s world records because of their biological advantages and undermining all of the hard work women have put into making history.” Constitutionally, many argue that Title IX—which bans discrimination based on sex in educational programs and activities — does not apply to sexual orientation and that inter-

mediate scrutiny—a lesser form of court examination—applies to this case.

On the other hand, studies conducted by the International Olympic Committee and the Journal of Sports Medicine argue that there is no scientific evidence to support policy makers’ attempts to ban transgender women in sports. In fact, instances of trans women breaking female records are exceedingly rare.

Liberal groups argue that sports should be inclusive of all people, especially marginalized groups like transgender athletes (who only make up 1% of the demographic). Legally, they believe that these athletes are protected under the 14th Amendment, especially after the 2019 *Bostock v. Clayton County* case, which ruled that firing people based on gender identity is illegal.

Advocating for this view, Kate Ozaeta '26 stated “I believe that the bans would further limit the freedom of trans athletes entirely...Not all transgender athletes are biologically 'advantaged,' so what good complete would bans do? To me, this current SCOTUS case displays a surge in transphobia that will continue to uphold the discriminatory system in our world.”

According to the Associated Press, five of the six conservative justices in the Supreme Court indicated that they would not view the laws as unconstitutional; however, the three liberal justices support a narrow ruling that would allow only the named athletes in the case to compete. We should know the verdict sometime this summer, but until then, the jury is out on this one.

Tensions Rise Between Iran and U.S.

Joram Ford '28 Contributing Editor

The current protests in Iran are the next in a line of global-scaled events that will change the course of history. The demonstrations started on December 28, 2025, with Iranian citizens protesting and demanding reforms in the way the country operated and for a political system that respects human dignity.

In response, the Iranian government cut all internet access in the country, concealing their mass murder of and use of violence to repress protestors. The protests initially started due to the sharp collapse of Iran’s currency, a consequence of catastrophic economic mismanagement of services, amenities, and funds throughout the country. However, the protests quickly evolved to encapsulate broader social issues that plague the Islamic Republic.

The most notable of the areas in mass protest is that of Tehran. Being Iran’s capital, it serves as an example of what the rest of the nation might look like. Tehran has served as the center for protest and uprising in the past, with the Iranian Revolution mainly taking place in that city, showing its worldwide importance.

Separately, US President Donald Trump made important statements on January 4 and 11, showing his interest in possible US intervention in the region. As a consequence, American aircraft carriers have been mobilizing and shifting around the globe to accommodate these interests. The most notable of those carriers is the USS Gerald R. Ford, which holds capabilities such as electromagnetic charged fighter jet launchers to quickly send planes into battle.

Leo Teague '28 reflected, “In every case of US intervention ... in dictatorships like this, [they] almost always lead to worse outcomes for the people [there].” Though the face value of US plans seem to be for the betterment of the Iranian people, it is hard to say what the final outcome will be, especially with many uncertain pieces.

“In every case of US intervention,... [they] always lead to worse outcomes for the people.”

- Leo Teague '28

From Rituals to Roses: the History of Valentines Day

Josie White '28

Contributing Editor

February 14th is a holiday brimming with flowers, candy, and cards. Valentine's day is celebrated worldwide, but how did this global phenomenon come to be?

When people think of Valentine's Day, they usually picture heart shaped chocolates, red roses, and corny Walgreens cards. However, the actual history of this red and pink holiday is much darker and more poetic than the version we see today.

In fact, it didn't start with romance at all. Its roots are traced back to ancient Rome, through a festival called Lupercalia, a festival in which animals were sacrificed, and a wild matchmaking lottery took place. Yet as Christianity spread, it aimed to erase pagan celebrations, including the elimination of festivals. Moving through the late fifth century, Pope Gelasius rebranded this mid February date as a day to honor the patriot saint of love, Saint Valentine.

However, as years continued to pass, Valentine's Day stayed disconnected from the romance we see today, this quality onlybeginning to appear by the Middle Ages.



Painting of the Ancient Roman festival Lupercalia.

By this time in both England and France, people began to believe February 14 was the day birds began to mate, the first association of this day with romance. As now-famous poets gained traction, love notes shot up in popularity.

By the 1800s, Valentine's Day had become recognizable. The commercial-ization of the holiday we know and love today was born. Mass produced cards aimed to express feelings at a time where public declarations of love were inappropriate, and lower postage cost meant sending valentines would never be easier.

Over time, businesses realized there was a profit to be made, bringing us giant pink hearts, teddy bears, and boxes upon boxes of chocolates. Today, Valentine's Day stands as a mix of ancient traditions, poetry, and marketing.

The Winners and Losers from the Golden Globes

Janice Yan '27

Managing Editor

The 83rd Annual Golden Globes Awards took place in early January 2026, officially kicking off awards season, with the Grammys following in February and the Oscars a month after. The night was full of impressive wins and recognition across film, television, and even music, highlighting how the entertainment industry continues to change and reflect on the direction it's heading.

Hosted by comedian Nikki Glaser, the ceremony balanced humor with celebration, keeping the focus on standout storytelling and performances from the past year.

On the film side, *Hamnet* took home Best Motion Picture in the Drama category, while *One Battle After Another* won Best Motion Picture in the category of Musical or Comedy. This category was dominated by

multiple awards given to Paul Thomas Anderson, who won Best Director and Screenplay.

Several actors were also honored for their performances. Notably, Jessie Buckley, won Best Actress in Motion Picture (Drama) for *Hamnet*. In the comedy category, Timothée Chalamet won Best Actor (Comedy) for his Performance in *Marty Supreme*. His acceptance speech stood out, as he opened by thanking Kylie Jenner, creating one of the night's most talked-about moments. Netflix's animated hit *Kpop Demon Hunters* had a breakout night, winning Best Animated Motion Picture as well as Best Original Song for "Golden," composed by EJAE. These wins marked a milestone for animated films and Asian representation in mainstream awards.

This year's ceremony also introduced a few new categories, including Best Podcast which went to Good Hang wit Amy Poehler.

Sinners stood out during the year for its bold themes and stylistic risks, making its lack of recognition particularly noticeable. Despite receiving multiple nominations, *Sinners* walked away without a single award, surprising many viewers given its strong cultural impact. The film's exploration of morality and identity resonated strongly with audiences, raising questions about what kind of stories are most often rewarded during awards seasons.

Overall, the 2026 Golden Globes celebrated a wide range of dramatic films, animated hits, and television favorites; it was an exciting start to the awards season.

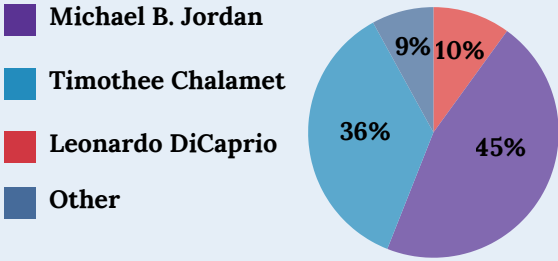
SI's Oscars Predictions

McCann O'Brien '26, Bobby Mullin '26

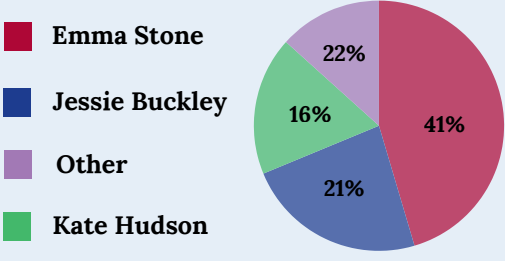
Associate Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor

March 15th will mark the 98th Annual Academy Awards, held at the Doby Theater in Los Angeles. Based on over 300 student responses, here are SI's award predictions!

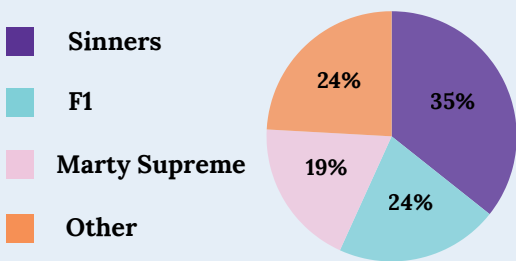
Best Lead Actor Predictions



Best Lead Actress Predictions



Best Picture Predictions



Bad Bunny Wins Album of the Year in Star-Studded Grammys

Jordan Liu '26

Editor-in-Chief

On February 1st, the 68th annual Grammys took place in Los Angeles. The night was historic; Bad Bunny's "Deb  Tirar M s Fotos" became the first album predominantly in Spanish to win Album of the Year. Kendrick Lamar became the rapper with the most Grammy wins, coming in at 26. K-Pop as a genre saw its first win with K-Pop Demon Hunters' "Golden." Breakout star Olivia Dean won Best New Artist, and brother-sister duo Finneas and Billie Eilish won their third Grammy for "WILDFLOWER."

The night was also filled with tributes. Multiple rock legends, including Slash from Guns N' Roses and Chad Smith from Red Hot Chili Peppers, honored late rockstar Ozzy Osbourne with a perormance of "War Pigs" by Osbourne's former band, Black Sabbath.

R&B legend Lauryn Smith, among others such as John Legend and Chaka Khan, came out with an emotional tribute to the late R&B singer D'Angelo with an R&B medley. In their acceptance speeches, both Bad Bunny and Billie Eilish called out ICE.

Bad Bunny spoke with a message of belonging, saying, "We're not aliens. We are humans and we are Americans." Billie Eilish said that "no one is illegal on stolen land."

The Grammys will continue to be an event of celebration, tribute, and activism. The event serves as a microcosm for the music industry as it celebrates the diversity and beauty found in music.



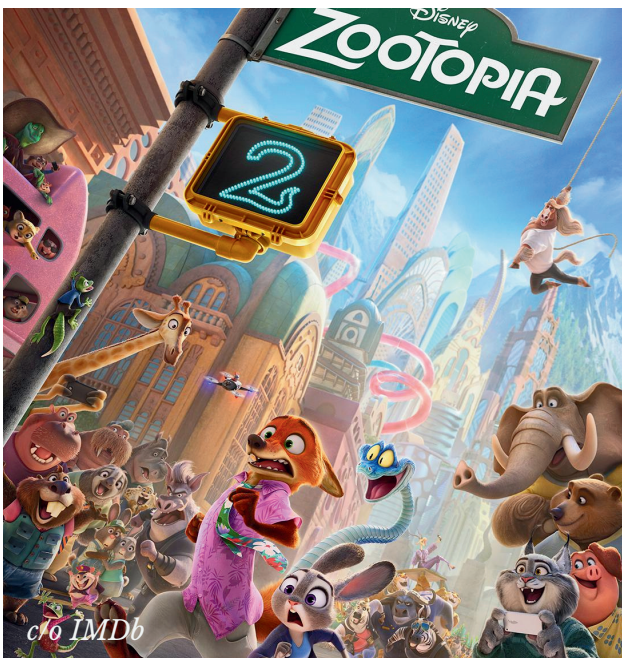
Mika Cinco '27

Case Closed: Zootopia 2 Is a Hit

Contributing Editor

Zootopia 2 was one of the best movies of 2025. The movie follows Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde as they go through “partner problems.” The film goes by quickly as the duo race to prove themselves by going on a wild goose chase across the city. Their goal is to find an old patent to the weather walls that will allow the animals to live in harmony together.

Zootopia is not only about animals, but it reflects real life experiences such as racism and systematic erasure shown by the reptile race being ousted from Zootopia. Gary De'Snake steals a journal from the tyrannical Lynxley family of lynxes. As a result, Judy and Nick are forced to try to help Gary prove the innocence of the snake/reptile kind and expose the corruption in the Lynxley family.



Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde return to the streets of Zootopia to team up for another case.

People of all ages and backgrounds loved *Zootopia 2*, and it was the highest-grossing animated film of all time, bringing in 1.7 billion dollars. Junior Janice Yan commented, “I loved the storytelling that Zootopia offered along with the plot twist and parallels to real world issues.”

In addition, many people raved about how the plot twist exceeded their expectations and how it was better than the original. Before watching *Zootopia 2*, I didn’t expect to like it, however, I found myself thoroughly enjoying it.

Zootopia 2 is a must-watch with no prior knowledge needed. The only thing required of moviegoers is to sit back, bring a friend, and relax. I give *Zootopia 2* a 4.5/5 rating.

Connor Kam '27

A “Supreme” Performance

Contributing Editor

I went into *Marty Supreme* expecting some interesting table tennis scenes and a decent sports movie. What I didn’t expect was how layered the whole story would be and how much it would make me think beyond the matches themselves.

The film follows Marty Mauser, a hustler and table tennis player in 1950s New York who’s obsessed with making a name for himself on the international stage. At first glance, it’s about his dream of competing (and winning), but it quickly becomes clear that this movie isn’t just about the sport.

Marty is a chaotic mix of ambition and ego. He’s constantly hustling for money, convinced he deserves more than his job at his uncle’s shoe shop, and navigating complicated relationships with people who care about him, whether he knows it or not. By the time he ends up overseas, chasing championships and recognition, you see how much his flaws push and pull the story in unpredictable directions. Marty isn’t always easy to like, but the movie never asks you to fully turn against him.

As Michael Cinco '27 put it, “I liked *Marty Supreme* because it was hard to like Marty as a person, but you were still able to feel for him. Marty had dreams and aspir-

ations and had to keep picking himself up again and again.” That balance is what makes the movie work. You see his flaws clearly, but you also understand what’s driving him.

What stood out to me most was how the movie uses table tennis as a background for something bigger. It’s the sport that drive Marty, but the movie spends a lot of time on his choices off the table, like his relationship struggles, the questionable decisions he makes for success, and the ways he handles pressure. In that sense, it reminded me why we play sports in the first place: not just for points, but for the challenge, the identity, and everything you learn about yourself in the process.

I also went into the movie because my mom loves Timothée Chalamet, and I wanted to see if he was really worth the hype or just something she got caught up in. I wasn’t sure what to expect, but I ended up being impressed. Chalamet really carries Marty. He makes you feel both the drive and the chaos, and somehow you’re invested even when Marty’s choices get messy.

The emotional swings of the sport hit hard, too. I felt the confidence after a win, the frustration when things fell apart, and the quiet moments where Marty questioned



Timothée Chalamet stars as “Marty Mauser” in the Oscar-nominated film *Marty Supreme*.

himself more than his opponent ever could.

As a tennis player myself, that part hit especially close to home. By the end, I wasn’t just impressed, I was itching to pick up my racket and play, to feel the same way Marty does throughout the film.

Marty Supreme isn’t just a movie for table tennis fans; it’s for anyone who ever cared deeply about something and put emotions on the line. It captures that universal feeling of chasing a goal, facing setbacks, and learning who you are in the process.

Heather Yee '27

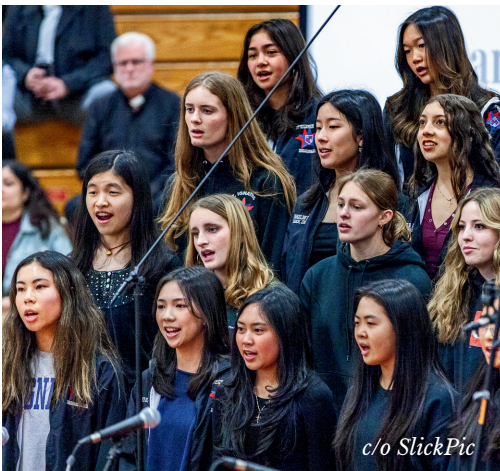
Performing Arts Assembly Recap

Managing Editor

SI held its annual Performing Arts Assembly on Feb. 3rd. The whole student body enjoyed choir, orchestra, jazz band, pep band, dance, and musical performances.



Jack Bennett '28 and Ella Joy Ballesteros '28 sing a scene from the upcoming musical, “Mean Girls.”



The Mixed Chorus sings “Ad Astra.”



Dancers from Dance Workshop vibrantly showcase their jazzy moves.



SI’s pep band opens for the performing arts assembly.



Members of SI’s orchestra play a piece.

People We Meet on Vacation: Forgettable but Lovely

Evie Chen '26

Contributing Editor

People We Meet on Vacation, a fun, light-hearted romcom, was released directly to Netflix on January 9, 2026. It's based on bestselling romance writer Emily Henry's novel with the same name and directed by Brett Haley.

Tom Blyth, who starred in *The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* in 2023, co-starred with Emily Bader for *People We Meet on Vacation*. They did a great job of performing laidback travel lovers who spontaneously become best friends. The main plot of the movie is about their pact to take annual trips together, no matter what else is going on in their lives.



Poppy Wright and Alex Nielsen walk the Streets of New Orleans.

I would give the movie a 7/10 overall. While the plot was simple and slightly underwhelming—critics noted that the movie altered much of the book's storyline—I really liked the cinematography. The set design and lighting is especially showcased when the two main characters traipse through the vibrant streets of New Orleans, picking up wigs and necklaces along the way. Overall, *People We Meet on Vacation* was campy, sparkly, airy, and refreshing. If you have some spare time, I recommend watching it as a lighthearted background film.

Closing the Door on Hawkins Forever: “Stranger Things” Season Five

Lily Normanly '28

Contributing Editor

The hit Netflix show *Stranger Things* officially came to an end with its fifth and final season on New Year's Eve. First premiering in 2016, the show follows a group of kids in Hawkins, Indiana as they face supernatural forces, government surveillance, and the complicated process of growing up. Season five brought the story full circle, delivering fans with high stakes, action, emotional goodbyes, and a farewell that left many fans nostalgic yet divided.

The final season picked up after the devastation left behind in Hawkins, with the Upside Down fully bleeding into the real world. Conflicts come to a head as Eleven faces the ultimate cost of her powers, as friendships are tested under pressure and the characters are forced to confront who they had become since the first season. The finale ends with the core friend group putting away their D&D books, a moment many viewers saw as an acknowledgement that the characters' childhoods officially ended.

Molly Meinhardt '28, a fan of the show since age ten, shared, “I was literally heartbroken while watching Max, Lucas, Dustin, Will, and Mike put away their D&D books in the finale. It was such a bittersweet and beautiful way to end the show, symbolizing how their stories in Hawkins were coming to an end.”

For many students, *Stranger Things* wasn't just another show. It was something they grew up with. Meinhardt said the show endured ten years because of “its unique portrayal of finding strength in friendship and its perfect balance of horror and thrilling adventure.” The emphasis on loyalty and connection remained central through the final season, even as the tone grew darker and the stakes higher.

Season five also aimed to show how much the characters had matured. Heidi Frantz '28 noted that watching the characters' stories unfold over time helped her stay invested, saying, “I loved how the final season showed how each character had matured over time.”

Several students pointed out both strengths and weaknesses in how the show wrapped up. Meinhardt appreciated specific character choices, saying “I love that Will was given powers. He went through countless traumatic experiences and he deserved something special!” She also loved the finale. “The ending definitely met my expectations, which is probably a controversial opinion.”

“*Stranger Things* is a must watch! It is my comfort show because of the '80s nostalgia and perfect portrayal of teenage friendships.”
- Molly Meinhardt '28

On the other hand, Aida Artashesyan '28 had a mixed reaction to the finale, explaining that while she initially loved the episode, “a couple days later I did notice some plot holes that I thought should've been explained.” Frantz also had some criticism toward the finale. She admitted, “I think the ending could've been written better, especially with all the plot holes. . .It just seemed rushed.”

Beyond the story, *Stranger Things* also left a lasting cultural impact, especially through its music. Artashesyan shared that the show introduced her to new artists and

deepened her appreciation for '80s music, pointing out that songs like “Every Breath You Take” became more meaningful throughout the series. She added, “I was introduced to some new artists as well. I really like '80s music.” The blend of nostalgia for older generations and fresh curiosity from younger ones helped the show resonate for millions of people.

Emotionally, the finale hit hard. Artashesyan described feeling “sad and nostalgic as it hit me that a show I've watched for so long was now over,” while Meinhardt called the final moments “bittersweet and beautiful,” especially seeing the characters symbolically move on from their shared childhood experiences. She said, “*Stranger Things* is a must watch! It is my comfort show because of the '80s nostalgia and perfect portrayal of teenage friendships.” Frantz added, “It's weird because I know there won't be any more seasons, even though I've been looking forward to a new season for the past 5 years.”

While opinions differ on whether the ending fully satisfied fans, one thing is clear: *Stranger Things* meant something deeply to its audience. It wasn't a show just about monsters or alternate dimensions; it was about friendship, growing up, and learning when to let go of childhood.



“Stranger Things” comes to an End.

Another Year Full of Piano Music

Sophie Barsoian '26

Associate Editor-in Chief

St. Ignatius College Preparatory's Annual Piano Recital took place after school last Friday, February 6th. Talented students displayed their artistic abilities through expressive piano performances. Friends, faculty, and classmates gathered to applaud and praise the hard work these students have put in to be able to perform such beautiful pieces flawlessly. The recital reflected months of practice from both underclassmen and upperclassmen. The annual tradition highlights the supportive community that surrounds the arts at SI.



Seniors pose for their final SI Piano Recital.



Nicholas Shumway '26 wows the audience.

Hoosiers Rewrite History

Colton McKie '27 and Dominic Vicino '27

Contributing Editors

Before the Hoosiers’ head coach, Curt Cignetti, arrived in Indiana, the program was, to put it mildly, irrelevant. Indiana football had never won a championship in its 139-year history, and its last bowl victory came in 1991. Cignetti’s predecessor, Tom Allen, managed just two winning seasons across his seven years coaching at the university. The program needed a reset, and it got one.

Cignetti brought an immediate culture shift to Bloomington. After consistently winning at James Madison and helping develop elite talent under Nick Saban, he arrived with a clear identity and a commitment to accountability. The results were felt instantly. Indiana finished the 2024 regular season with double-digit wins, its first time doing so since 1967. They ranked in the top 10 nationally in scoring defense, allowing just under 17 points per game. The Hoosiers played a cleaner game of football, finishing the season with a positive turnover margin.

The identity Cignetti built flourished even further in 2025, mainly on offense, led by the Cal quarterback transfer Fernando Mendoza. Rather than relying on flash, Mendoza played with poise and efficiency, throwing for over 3,500 yards while completing more than 72% of his passes.

He limited mistakes, finishing the season with fewer than ten interceptions, and consistently delivered on third down. Mendoza led an offense that averaged over 40 points per game on his way to taking home the program's first-ever Heisman Trophy.

Indiana took down the defending national champions, Ohio State, to secure their first Big Ten title in almost 60 years. The defense elevated its play when the stakes were highest, holding Ohio State’s explosive offense to just ten points. In the College Football Playoffs, the Hoosiers held their opponents to under 16 points per game, continuing a season-long trend of dominance and physicality. The defensive line controlled the line of scrimmage, consistently collapsing pockets and forcing hurried throws, while the secondary capitalized on mistakes, recording several interceptions across the playoff run. Indiana’s ability to get off the field early and limit explosive plays proved to be critical against other elite programs.

Indiana went from the laughing stock of college football to national champions in just two years. This extraordinary turnaround from the worst college football program to the undefeated, 16-0 national champions is truly remarkable.

This is a team that had zero 5-star recruits and only 7 4-stars, significantly fewer than the majority of their opponents. The core of this outstanding team was built on the backs of over 50 3-stars and excellent transfer portal additions. Not only was Indiana’s championship run historic, but it also changed the way that college football programs operate in the expanded 12-team playoff era. Hoosiers football now has a foundation and an identity. With the addition of transfer quarterback Josh Hoover for the 2026 season, the future is looking bright in Bloomington.



Fernando Mendoza holds his trophy postgame.

It’s Official! Seniors Celebrate Signing Day

Chloe Fisher '26

Managing Editor

On Tuesday, February 3rd, 14 seniors from the class of 2026 officially signed! The St. Ignatius College Preparatory community had the privilege of recognizing these student-athletes who put so much time and effort throughout the course of their high school career. That being in the classroom, on the field, in the pool, on the track, or on the court, they have done it all.

This signing day was the second of the school year and was especially special as a majority of the senior class and the athletes' families got to witness this special occasion. This was especially felt by the athletes as senior Vivian McHugh talked about how “it was super cool to see my friends, family, teammates, and classmates out there supporting all of the signing athletes. It felt amazing to have this day to appreciate all of us!” Vivi will be playing lacrosse at Washington and Lee in the fall, and we are all so proud of her!

It was also very amazing to see the amount of coaches and teachers there to support the signers. When announced, it was encouraged to clap and support these athletes, as all their work has finally paid off. Senior Jack Farrell spoke on this: “I worked really hard throughout my four years in the SI Football and Track and Field programs and am very grateful I got to be recognized at signing day.” Jack will be competing in track and field along with football at Middlebury College in Vermont next year and we know he is going to crush it!

Our signed athletes have very bright futures ahead and will represent St. Ignatius in a fantastic way. On signing day, their recognition was incredible and we as a community are very proud of them.



The fourteen signees pose together in their college gear after signing to their schools.



Each athlete sits in front of banners of their school before they sign.

Cats Kickin’ It

Natalia Juarez '26

Contributing Editor

The Saint Ignatius Women’s Soccer team has been finding its rhythm as the season continues. This team has been showcasing their resilience, consistency, and confidence in their recent matchups. On January 7th, the Wildcats delivered a strong response against Archbishop Riordan. St. Ignatius controlled the field from the opening whistle, and never allowed the Crusaders to get on the score board. The Wildcat’s determination earned them a 2–0 shutout. This win was a strong performance and reflected the Wildcats’ strong position in the California rankings.

This momentum carried into the January 13 matchup against Valley Christian. Once again, St. Ignatius highlighted its depth and attacking strength. The Wildcats earned a 3–1 victory, maintaining grit and pressure throughout the match. With three wins in their last four games, St. Ignatius has continued pushing their season record high-

er and establishing themselves as a team to watch.

The Wildcats then turned their attention to a thrilling home matchup on Saturday, January 24. Mitty entered the game on a winning streak and with a reputation for strong defense. St. Ignatius had not lost since December 30 and was fighting to defend our home field and keep the momentum alive. Before the match, senior Taylor Bellotti shared, “I’m looking forward to seeing our team’s hard work show on the field. I can’t wait to see the team’s energy and fight, because I know how bad we all want to win.”

Although SI lost the match 1-0, the team went on to win three in a row against Riordan, Sacred Heart Cathedral, and Valley Christian. They will have a chance to take on Mitty again on Feb. 18th.

Make sure to show up and support your lady cats! This team is playing with heart, hustle, and pride. Go SI!



The Cats embrace each other before and during their game against St. Francis on January 7th.

Wildcats Sweep Bruce-Mahoney Basketball Doubleheader at Chase Center

Dara Lewis '26

Contributing Editor

Saint Ignatius’s men and women’s basketball team took to the Chase Center court on Friday, January 16 to play their annual Bruce Mahoney Basketball game against the SHC Irish. It was a spectacular scene inside the Golden State Warriors’ home arena, the seats packed with students, faculty, alumni, and more!

The Bruce Mahoney games are a five-game series against our rivals SHC. The winner of three games takes possession of the trophy named after Bill Bruce (St. Ignatius, 1935) and Jerry Mahoney (Sacred Heart, 1944), who were killed in WWII. SI had already secured the wins for the women’s volleyball game and the football game back in the fall.

The basketball games determined if SI won the Bruce Mahoney trophy or not. The evening opened with a competitive girls’ matchup, as Sacred Heart Cathedral kept pace early and challenged SI in the first half. After the break however, SI asserted control

on both ends of the court.

The Wildcats tightened up defensively and found offensive rhythm in transition, gradually pulling away in the second half. SI’s balance and discipline proved decisive, allowing the team to build a steady lead and close out a 61-43 victory!

The men’s game began at 7 pm and followed a similar script. SHC competed early, but SI’s intensity in the third quarter changed the game. A strong offensive run paired with consistent defensive pressure allowed the Wildcats to separate and control the tempo the rest of the way.

Once SI established momentum, the Wildcats never looked back, closing out the game with confidence and sealing another rivalry win at Chase Center!

With victories in both games, St. Ignatius completed a sweep of the 2026 Bruce-Mahoney basketball showcase, continuing its strong recent run in the rivalry series!



The men’s team poses after their win vs. SHC.



The women’s team stands together after their win.

Jimmy Butler Out for the Season. What does this mean for the Warriors?

Mario Beard '27

Contributing Editor

The Warriors’ season just took a dramatic turn. During a game against the Miami Heat on January 19th, forward Jimmy Butler suffered a torn ACL, a terrible injury that will keep him out for the rest of the 2025-26 NBA season. The MRI concludes that the tear was a result of a hyper extension of the knee. This injury has reshaped the Warriors playoff hopes and strategy.

When Butler arrived at Golden State last season was a major success for the team. In 38 games this season, Butler averaged 20 points, 5.6 rebounds and 4.9 assists per game while shooting 51.9% from the field and 37.6% from the three which is impressive for a 36-year-old performing at an all star level, with leaders like Stephen Curry claiming “every possession...feels less hard.” In the 2024-25 season, the Warriors were 23-7 with Butler in the lineup, a drastic improvement from past seasons.

Now without Butler, the team has lost back to back games, showing the cracks in offense and defense without Butler.



Butler holds his leg after taking an intense fall.

Additionally, Draymond Green has publicly acknowledged the challenge, stating the team needs to “figure it out” without a clear replacement for Butler’s role.

While Curry still remains a star player, without Butler there to make space, Curry’s usage will be easier for teams to defend against. As the trade deadline comes up, the team will have to make a decision whether to fill Butler’s spot or make do with the team. Rumors that surfaced about whether

Jonathan Kuminga would be traded or not finally ended when Kuminga went to the Atlanta Hawks.

Golden State has been on the edge of playoff contention. With less than half the season left to play and an instrumental player missing, the margin for error is much smaller. A successful push without Butler will be challenging and will require a collective effort on defensive and efficient shot creation from unexpected players.

Jimmy Butler’s season ending injury is more than just a handicap to the team’s rotation, it’s a complete narrative shift for the team. Butler’s contribution on the court has been critical to their contention. Losing him changes every aspect of the game for them. The warriors must adapt and refine players if they want a chance to compete in the playoffs.



Men's Basketball

Record as of 2/9: 19-2



Raymond Whitley '26 takes the ball up the court.

Men's Basketball is having a historic year. So far, the team has won 19 games, placing them second in WCAL. The team has also managed to find themselves ranked as the 8th best team in California. They are looking forward to ending their regular season on a win, and making a deep run in the playoffs.

Women's Basketball

Record as of 2/9: 17-5



Hayley McGee '26 scans the court for her teammates.

Women's basketball, led by six seniors, is dominating this year. The team has proved themselves in WCAL, winning games against teams like SHC, Valley Christian, and St. Francis. As the season comes to end, the team now has their eyes on the CCS Championship tournament.

Men's Soccer

Record as of 2/9: 12-3-2



Aiden Higgins '26 finds the ball in the air.

Men's soccer continues to improve, winning important games and now being ranked 1st in WCAL. The team traveled to Southern California at the end of December where they competed in and won the SoCal High School Classic.

Women's Soccer

Record as of 2/9: 12-2-2



Quinn Sheehan '27 sends the ball down the field.

Women's soccer is crushing it this season winning important games against SHC, Valley Christian, and Riordan. The team is looking forward to their post-season opportunity to participate in the CCS Girls Soccer Championship Tournament.

The rugby team is playing strong this season and are looking to make a name for themselves as they continue their season. The team's regular season has just begun and their next challenge is against St. Francis on Feb. 14th

Rugby

Record as of 2/9: 1-1

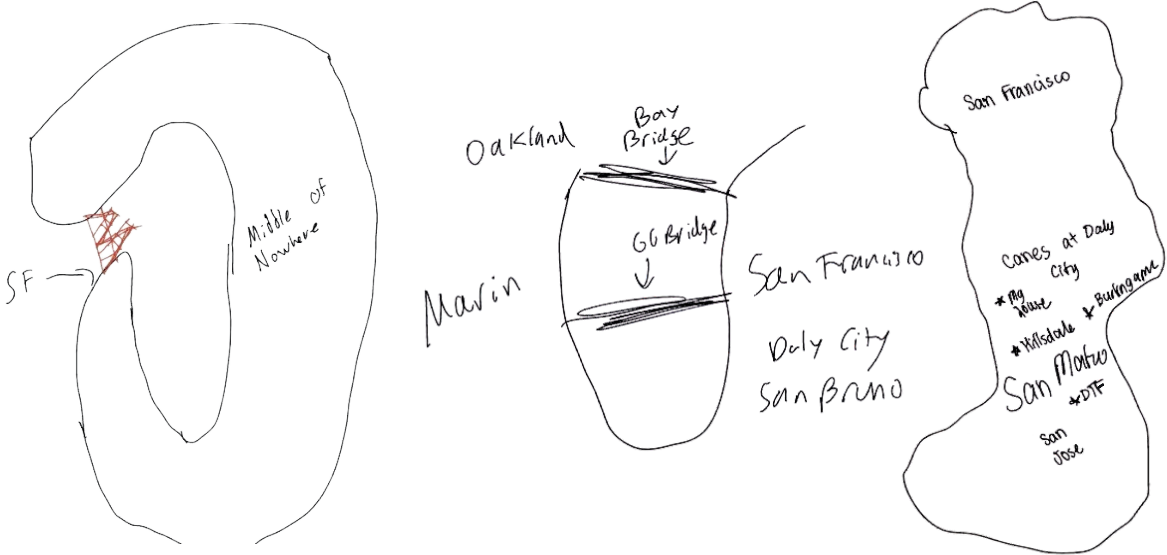


Danny McGee '27 is lifted up by his teammates for a line out and a chance to score.

Editors Draw the Bay Area From Memory

Bobby Mullin '26

Managing Editor



Memes

Mason Wong '27 and Connor Commoli '27

Managing & Contributing Editors

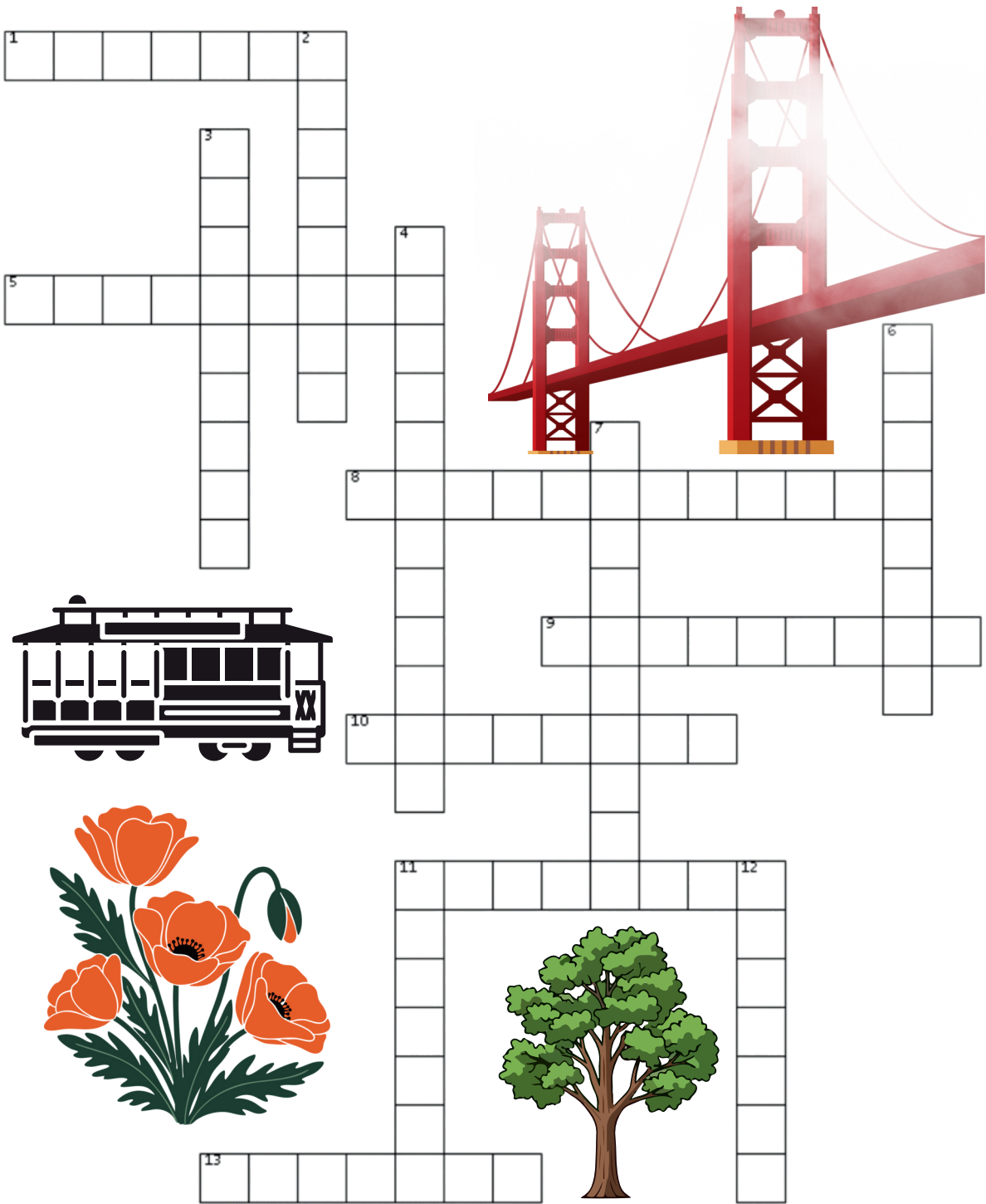
Parking in the city be like...



Crossword: Across the Bay Area

Matthew Wheeler '27

Contributing Editor



ACROSS

- 1. – East Bay city located between Oakland and Fremont
- 5. – City known worldwide as Apple’s home base
- 8. – City famous for the Golden Gate Bridge and cable cars
- 9. – Waterfront town north of the Golden Gate Bridge
- 10. – University city known for activism and UC school
- 11. – Peninsula city whose name means “Saint Matthew” in Spanish
- 13. – Island city known for Victorian homes and a former naval air station

DOWN

- 2. – Foggy city just south of San Francisco, nicknamed “Gateway to the Peninsula”
- 3. – Marin County city named after an archangel
- 4. – City where Google’s headquarters are located
- 6. – College town that borders Stanford University
- 7. – County seat of Silicon Valley, home to Levi’s Stadium
- 11. – Largest city in Silicon Valley and an early California capital
- 12. – East Bay port city across from San Francisco