

Feature

Hero's Journey of an SI Student

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

Editors-in-Chief

During freshman year, nearly every SI student is exposed to an enduring classic: Homer's *The Odyssey*. The epic captures the imagination of wide-eyed 13-year-olds as they recount Odysseus' cunning ploys and hapless setbacks. Alongside the backdrop of *The Odyssey*, English teachers introduce "The Hero's Journey," a blueprint for stories centered around a heroic protagonist. First popularized by writer Joseph Campbell in 1949, the pattern soon became ubiquitous and easily identifiable, the template seen in movies, novels, and even in the lives of everyday students at St. Ignatius.

The following SI student's "Hero's Journey" is based off of an updated rendition by screenwriter Christopher Vogler, adapted

for simplicity and brevity. Campbell's original version has 17 elements. While not representative of every SI

student's experience, this take on the Hero's Journey shows how a typical SI student can be the hero.

Continued on Page 10:
SI Student's Hero's Journey



c/o Zachary Zevas '29

The SI Wildcat embarks on his personal hero's journey, brandishing a gleaming sword and an SI shield.

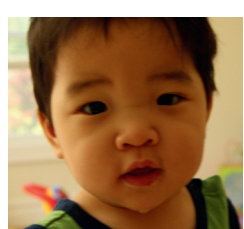


"My hero is my dad. After immigrating to America, he rose from poverty to build a better life for our family. He has displayed to me the importance of hard work, perseverance, and persistence."
- Lucas Liang



"My mom is my hero. She emigrated from China, built a new life, and now works selflessly to help find children's cancer cures. She is a living testament to the American Dream, and she is my greatest motivator."
- Evelyn Conboy

"My hero is Ms. Nickolai. She has been an amazing mentor to me, helping me grow as a leader. I admire how encouraging and supportive she is, while also being incredibly professional and organized in everything she does. She has made such a positive impact on me, and I truly respect her for the teacher and person she is." - Annika Watkins



"My hero is my grandfather. Originally from North Korea, he knows what it means to sacrifice for the wellbeing of others. In the US, he worked seven days a week, something that instilled hard work in me." - Jordan Liu

Feature

Principle Values of a Principal's Mission

Finley Wolfgram '28

Contributing Editor



c/o Slickpic

Ms. Levine sits in the St. Ignatius Church pews at Mr. Vollert's Missioning Mass.

Ms. Levine is the first female principal of Saint Ignatius, and reflecting on her values highlights the strengths she has that impact the lives of so many students. After studying psychology, Ms. Levine found herself with an internship at SI. She quickly fell in love with Jesuit education and learning about the teenage brain. As soon as the opportunity arose, Ms. Levine worked her way up from counselor, to Dean, to Principal.

During her time in high school, she was particularly struck by a discussion her parents had with her during

her junior year. They told her she wasn't contributing enough to her community. Maturing from this advice did not come easily, and Ms. Levine claimed she took this discussion very personally.

Now, after working at SI, she admires the student leadership, collaboration and involvement in activities like student council, mock trial, and campus ministry. She realized her parents were right, and she wishes she had done more in high school. This idea of contributing

Continued on Page 11:
PRINCIPAL LEVINE

FEATURE

In this issue, we wanted to explore the journeys people experience in life, literature, and in our four years at SI. Whether it's Odysseus in Homer's *Odyssey* or the average SI student, everyone faces their share of struggles, obstacles, failures, and successes.

To consider these themes, we reached out to SI students and faculty to learn about their heroes and where they find inspiration, whether it's in real-life or in fiction. We also explored the milestones that SI students experience, from walking onto campus at 2001 37th Ave for the first time as a wide-eyed frosh to catching a case of senioritis as a second semester senior.

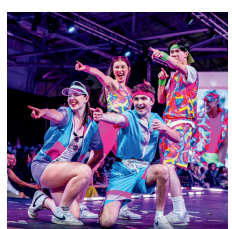
We hope you enjoy this issue, SI!

- Editors-in-Chief -

SEE INSIDE



MISSIONING MASS



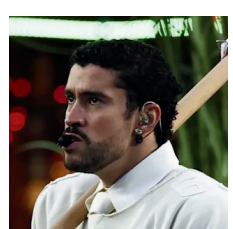
FASHION SHOW



BSU SHOWCASE



ALYSA LIU



BAD BUNNY

SI Community Celebrates Mr. Vollert’s Missioning Mass

Mika Cinco '27

Contributing Editor

The Missioning Mass celebrated at St. Ignatius College Preparatory serves as the official transition from a former president to the new president. It also provides the opportunity for the school to recommit to its Jesuit mission. At his Missioning Mass held on February 20th, SI’s new President of St. Ignatius, Joe Vollert ’84, gave a message to students, families, faculty, and administration. He encouraged every student to hold up their end of being a part of the Ignatian family by supporting each other, being diligent in their academics, and using their gifts and talents to assist others.

Chloe Lim ’28, moved by this experience, stated, “I thought it was very inspiring and heartwarming to see the SI community show up to support Vollert’s work and to appreciate his being chosen as the new president. Singing for the mass was an honor and this mass really highlighted the dedication the community puts towards SI.”

The Missioning Mass included scripture readings, communal prayer, and music in order to bring the SI community together in a spirit of reflection. The main



Tai Morganson '26 carries the Gospel in the Missioning Mass.

purpose of Missioning Mass, in addition to honoring the work of Mr. Vollert, was to allow a smooth transition for St. Ignatius as a whole. We were able to welcoming Mr. Vollert and consider new opportunities for the students and faculty to serve a mission that embodies Jesuit values.



President Joe Vollert speaks at his Missioning Mass.

Student Council Elections

Emme O’Connor ’28

Contributing Editor



Students vote for SI’s Student Council at the beginning of 6th Period on March 17th

The SI student council election was held on March 17th, giving students the opportunity to vote for peers who they want representing their grade and helping to shape the student life for the upcoming school year.

The student council at SI is a group of elected student leaders made up of sophomores, juniors, and seniors who will work together to represent voices of the student body. These students play a significant role in planning events and activities such as: Class activities, Clubs, Dances & Special Events, Intramurals, Performing Arts activities, SITV Announce-

ments, Social Media Posts, and Fun Fridays.

Each grade voted for its own student council representatives who will serve as leaders for their graduating class. In addition, SI’s administration will appoint additional members to ensure voices from all areas of the school are heard.

Participating in the election was an important way for the students to take part in shaping the experiences and traditions that will define student life at SI.

The results of the election were announced on Thursday, March 19th.

Campus Ministry Observes Lent

Adeline Maier ’28

Contributing Editor

Lent is a sacred season in the Christian tradition that begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days, leading up to Easter. It is a time for reflection, preparation, and spiritual growth.

During this season, many Christians focus on prayer, fasting, and acts of service as ways to deepen their relationship with God and make space for what truly matters in their lives.

In a school wide email, Ms. Kelly Miguens described Lent as “a journey, a season for wander-ing.” It invited students to embrace this time as an opportunity for change and connection with God. The message encouraged everyone in the community to take part in the season, emphasizing that all are welcome.

Campus Ministry is also offering several opportunities to help students participate in Lent. One is Monday Morning Ministry (MMM) at 8 a.m. in Wiegand Theater. This provides a peaceful start to the week along with a small breakfast treat. Another is the Wednesday Lenten Meal and Reflection in the Campus Ministry family room during both lunches, where students can gather for prayer and reflection. For those who want to go deeper during Lent, students can also sign up for one-on-one spiritual conversations with members of the Campus Ministry team to reflect on how they might pray, fast from distractions from the Gospel message, or create space for God during the season.



The Feb. 18th Ash Wednesday service commenced SI’s Lenten Season.

Lights, Camera, Wildcats!

Chloe Fisher '26

Managing Editor

“The Big Event” was an amazing opportunity for many SI seniors to walk the runway and represent the class of 2026 in a fantastic way! Sponsored by SI’s Ignatian Guild and Father’s Club, this event is the major fundraiser for SI. During the weekend of March 7-8, Saturday night and Sunday morning brought a lot of excitement and energy to Fort Mason, the location of the fundraiser.

From the lift by Michaela Carlevaris in the *Dirty Dancing* segment, to Ryan Rosenthal introducing Rocky, to the party at the end of the stage in the *The Great Gatsby*,

the seniors had so much fun. The theme of “Movies” led to a diverse show with varying costumes, music, visual images, and lights.

Along with the Fashion Show was the auction held Saturday night, and it was an, amazing success, raising a tremendous amount of money that will help the school continue improving in so many ways.

The Fashion Show is an amazing event that not only raised money, but gave students a chance to build community. This show really emphasized the excitement in “Lights, Camera, Action!”



The Barbie segment dances the night away,



The Senior Class of '26 opens the fashion show by dancing to the song “This is What You Came For.”



The Great Gatsby segment has a “little party.”

Students Finalize Course Selection

Ava Miseray '29

Contributing Editor

Recently, students at SI completed course selection for the upcoming school year using PowerSchool. While selecting courses online only takes a short amount of time, the process involves a lot of thoughtful decision making as students consider what classes will best fit their goals and interests for the next year.

For many freshman preparing to become sophomores, course selection brings new opportunities and decisions. One of the biggest changes is the chance to take on honors classes. These courses allow students to challenge themselves academically, explore subjects in greater depth, and begin shaping the direction of their high school experience.

Course selection is also a moment for students to reflect on their interests. Whether it’s continuing in core subjects like math, science, and English, or exploring electives that align with personal passions, the choices students made will hopefully help them discover what they enjoy most. Students also had the

with personal passions, the choices students made will hopefully help them discover what they enjoy most. Students also had the opportunity to select an art course, such as dance, drama, or other creative classes, which allows them to express themselves and explore new talents.

Using PowerSchool made the process simple and accessible. Students were able to review course options, talk with teachers and counselors, and submit their choices online.

Naina Paul Mulye '27 gave positive feedback on the counselors advice for course selection. “The counselors did a good job explaining what choices what be good depending on what we want to do in college,” she said.

Although next year may feel far away, course selection reminds students that each year SI brings new opportunities to grow. The course selection process marks an exciting step

SI	REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION			
	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
ENGLISH	R	R	R	R
MATHEMATICS	R	R	R	S
SCIENCE	R	R	S	E
SOCIAL SCIENCES	ONE SEMESTER R	R	R	ONE SEMESTER R
LANGUAGE	R	R	S	E
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	R	ONE SEMESTER R	R	R
ARTS	E	ONE SEMESTER R	E	ONE SEMESTER R
TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING	E	E	E	E
PE/ WELLNESS	ONE SEMESTER R	E	E	E
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IS NOT COURSE-BASED – 75 HOURS REQUIRED				
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	R	R	R	S

SI’s guide displays the courses required to graduate.

Wildcats Compete in Game Night

Sophie Barsoian '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, March 11, students met in the Student Center for a vibrant and competitive Spring Poker Tournament, turning the area into a center of camaraderie, strategy, and excitement. Both seasoned players and novices anxious to try their hand at Texas Hold'em attended the event, which ran from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Participants battled for prizes, including \$500 for first place, \$300 for second, and \$100 for third, with a \$10 buy-in. As players entered at various stages of the competition, the atmosphere stayed lively throughout the evening, making every round exciting and unpredictable. The larger Game Night celebrations, which featured smaller games and awards, were enjoyed by even those who were ousted early.

Students had the opportunity to unwind, mingle, and take a break in between rounds. As groups of friends gathered around tables to support one another and learn the rules together, the room was filled with laughter and friendly competitiveness.

The event was notable for its inclusion as well as its rewards. Everyone was able to participate in the tournament since students who had never played poker before were welcomed and rapidly learned the fundamentals.

A few talented players emerged victorious at the end of the evening, exhibiting both strategy and patience under duress. Amelia Haller, the tournament winner,



Students gather in the library to make friendship bracelets.



The student center transforms into a casino for a night.

expressed, “I’m super grateful to all of the people that planned the event. The tournament was lots of fun and a great way to bring people together.”

Overall, Game Night proved to be a memorable evening, bringing students together for a fun, engaging, and spirited competition that many are already hoping will return next year.

Singing a New Tune: SI's First-Ever Spring Vocal Showcase

Kate Ozaeta '26

Contributing Editor

On the evening of Wednesday, March 4th, it wasn't just the men's varsity basketball team and the Fashion Show seniors making noise. Just below the gyms, SI's choirs were stealing the show in SI's first-ever spring choral concert!

At 3:00 PM and 6:30 PM, students, faculty members, and family supporters grabbed paper programs, took their seats in the Wiegand Theatre, and prepared for their ears to be blessed through song.



Student vocalists perform under the stage lights.

Entitled "Voices: A Vocal Showcase," the showcase included traditional and contemporary songs from SI's three choirs—Mixed Chorus, Treble Singers, and Chamber Singers—as well as individual and group performances spearheaded by the students themselves. This concert served as a new opportunity for 60+ student-vocalists to share their musical talents with the school community.

In the past, the Spring Pops Concert functioned as the final culminating performance of the year for SI's orchestra, jazz band, choir, and now, pep band. This year, SI's performing arts dept. decided to create a spring choral concert to offer an opportunity for the singers to display all of their hard work.

Sawyer Salisbury '27, a mezzo soprano singer in Mixed Chorus and Treble Singers, thought the showcase was "a really good way to showcase our choirs to our fullest extent." However, in thinking towards next year's programming, Salisbury admitted there could have been more preparation for the performance and wished that she "had more time to perfect [the] repertoire." Returning after winter break, the three choirs only had



c/o Slickpic

Violinist Robert Jin '26 plays "Belonging" by Marie-Claire Saindon.

had around six weeks to learn several songs for the showcase. Treble Singers and Chamber Singers also juggled practice for external performances, including a choral festival at Santa Clara University in January and an upcoming trip to New York City during spring break.

Nonetheless, first-time showgoer Jordan Liu '26 stated that he enjoyed the evening: "It was very well-coordinated, and I liked how some pieces were student-conducted and even created by students." Indeed, about half of the 90-minute showcase featured repertoire that was arranged, accompanied, conducted, and even composed by students. With appearances by violin accompanist Robert Jin '26, bass accompanist Janice Yan '27, and seasoned student pianist Tai Morganson '26, the showcase blended instrumental and choral music, wowing the audience. "The performances were amazing and exceeded my expectations," reflected Liu.

Make sure to check out the Box Office on the SI website to support your fellow peers in performing arts! SI's choirs will return on April 16th and 17th for the Spring Pops Concert.



Get your tickets for the ALAS Showcase rescheduled for April 19th. Tickets can be purchased through Event Brite.



City Holds Annual Lunar New Year Parade

Jasmine Yan '29

Contributing Editor

The 2026 San Francisco Lunar New Year parade celebrated the Year of the Horse and was held on Saturday, March 7. It is one of the largest Lunar New Year celebrations in the world. Thousands of people attend every year to celebrate the holiday and to watch the parade.

Every year, the parade includes a Grand Marshal who assists to lead the event. This year featured Olympic champion, Eileen Gu, a famous freestyle skier who has won multiple Olympic medals. She represented both Chinese and American culture, which made her a meaningful choice for the parade.



c/o Fortune.com

Eileen Gu serves as Grand Marshal of the San Francisco Chinese New Year Festival and Parade.

This parade connects back to the history of Chinese immigrants in San Francisco. Many Chinese immigrants came to San Francisco in the 1860s, during the California Gold Rush, in search of work opportunities. The San Francisco Lunar New Year Parade started as a method for Chinese communities to celebrate their different traditions and to share their culture with others.

It also included traditional Chinese performances including lion and dragon dances, colorful floats, and traditional music. The Golden Dragon was a big highlight of this event and was carried by many different performers. The firecrackers, lanterns, and colorful decorations created a very festive atmosphere on Saturday night. Tyler Kwan '27 describes his experience attending, saying, "I volunteered to be a parade Marshall. It was really cool. My favorite part was the people dressed as Mahjong tiles".

The San Francisco Lunar New Year parade combines Chinese Lunar New Year traditions with the American tradition of parades. This cultural mix makes it one of the biggest and most popular annual celebrations in San Francisco.



c/o abc7news.com

The annual SF Lunar New Year parade draws large crowds to Chinatown and Union Square.



c/o abc7news.com

Lion dancers perform at SF's Lunar New Year parade.

The Oscars: Celebrating Film Excellence

Mika Cinco '27

Contributing Editor

The 98th Academy Awards brought together the biggest stars in film for a night of celebration, surprises, and unforgettable fashion. Held at the Dolby Theatre, the ceremony honored the best movies and performances of the year, while the red carpet highlighted glamorous and inventive styles.

One Battle After Another was a major winner, taking home Best Picture and Best Director, impressing both audiences and critics with its storytelling and performances. *Hamnet* also stood out, with Jessie Buckley winning Best Actress for her deeply moving performance. Michael B. Jordan claimed Best Actor for his role in *Sinners*, further establishing himself as one of Hollywood's most celebrated actors. He received a standing ovation after receiving his award.



c/o Oscars.org

Hollywood's biggest stars gather to celebrate excellence in film at the Oscars.

Janice Yan '27 thoroughly enjoyed the Oscars, stating, "I was at the edge of my seat when they were announcing winners." Comedian Conan O'Brien hosted the ceremony, keeping the evening lively with his humor amid award presentations and heartfelt speeches.

Overall, the 2026 Oscars celebrated not only the year's finest films but also the creativity and artistry that define the movie industry, from historic wins to stunning fashion, proving once again why the Academy Awards remain one of Hollywood's most anticipated nights.

"Wuthering Heights": Praise, Criticism, and Controversy

Janice Yan '27 & Evie Chen '26

Managing Editors

Wuthering Heights was released on February 13, 2026, a day before Valentine's Day. The movie is a film adaptation of Emily Brontë's 1847 novel *Wuthering Heights*. The novel details a love story between Catherine, a wealthy woman, and Heathcliff, an orphan. Catherine is played by Margot Robbie, an award-winning Australian actress known for her roles in *Barbie*, *I, Tonya*, and *Suicide Squad*. Jacob Elordi plays Heathcliff, an actor who has starred in *Frankenstein* and *Saltburn*, but is most known for his role as Nate in *Euphoria*.

Both stars are dynamic actors familiar with portraying emotionally complex characters. However, whereas the original novel highlights Catherine's and Heathcliff's class disparities and wealth in late 18th century England, the film focuses on the romantic parts of their story.

Wuthering Heights has received mixed but also thought-provoking reviews, making it an interesting topic for discussion. Critics generally agree that the film is visually appealing, with many praising its atmospheric cinematography and bold, stylized direction. Critics also praise the film's strong performances

specifically, Margot Robbie's emotionally intense portrayal of Catherine. However, the film also has faced criticism for its storytelling, with some reviewers describing it as incoherent or overly focused on shock value and physical desire rather than the deeper emotional and social themes found in Emily Brontë's original novel. Audience reactions are similar, often pointing out the film's portrayal of love as more obsessive and toxic than romantic.

Additionally, the casting of Robbie and Elordi was controversial. Catherine is a teenager in the novel, while Robbie is twice her age. Heathcliff is also described as racially ambiguous with darker skin in the novel, while Elordi is white. By not addressing the racial complexities of Heathcliff's original character, Fennel misses a huge part of the plot mechanics. The film's casting director, Kharmel Cochrane, declared that the film adaptation doesn't have to be accurate and it's just art.

Overall, this adaptation stands out not for universal praise, but for its ability to spark debate, presenting a darker and more controversial interpretation of a classic story.



c/o Vogue

Wuthering Heights has grossed \$234.4 million since the Premiere.

SI Students Shine in "Mean Girls" Musical

Alexandra Innes '28 and Maddie Dela Rama '27

Contributing Editor and Managing Editor



c/o Slickpic

Cady Heron is introduced to the "Burn Book."

For six days between March 19th and March 27th, SI's performing arts students performed a production of *Mean Girls*, the musical. The tickets were \$15, and performances took place in Bannan Theatre. In anticipation of the show, sophomore musical attendee, Finley Wolfgram '28 showed enthusiasm, saying, "I'm so excited to see all my friends in the iconic show. Support your classmates and enjoy a dramatic representation of high school and all its struggles."

From the pink outfits to the musical numbers, the SI theater department did an outstanding job putting together and performing the production of *Mean Girls*. With two casts, the 'Grool' Cast and the 'Fetch' Cast, students experienced *Mean Girls* with different classmates taking on the roles of the Plastics—the iconic, pink, and popular group of their school's social hierarchy.

Karina Barance '27 and Caroline Krol '27 played the role of Regina George, Cora Gallegos '28 and Sylvia Angeja '27 played the role of Gretchen, and Madison Van '27 and

Rachel Kirk '26 played the role of Karen. Taking on the lead role of Cady Heron, Gwynne Conde '26 captivated the audience with both her amazing vocals, talent, and stage presence.

The ensemble brought together the musical numbers, with the audience laughing along to their humor and cheering on their singing and dancing. The cafeteria and party scenes wouldn't be complete without them!

Ms. Donna DeBenedetti gave a rave review after watching the production. "They're stars!" she exclaimed. "They shine as bright as day!"

And of course, *Mean Girls* and its production wouldn't have been possible without the Stage Crew—led by Stage Manager Sophia Rolfe '27, who directed all the cues for sound, lights, and more.

Special thanks to the choreographers for the dance and tap numbers, and the directors of the musical, and to the entire crew for their hard work.

Farrah Almajdalani '27

Ramadan: Beyond the Plate

Managing Editor

Wednesday, February 18 marked the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, observed by Muslims all over the world. Each year Ramadan moves roughly ten days earlier on the Gregorian calendar because it follows the Islamic lunar calendar based on the phases of the moon. This allows for global fairness in fasting because if Ramadan were fixed, Muslims in certain parts of the world might always face long, hot summer days, while others would always have short, cool winter days.

With crescent decorations embellishing tables, a box of medjool dates pilling in the kitchen, the sound of the adhan reverberating throughout mosques, and families greeting each other with the phrase ‘Ramadan Mubarak,’ the month of Ramadan is when Muslims abstain from food and water from sunrise to sunset.

Ramadan days start with suhoor, the pre-dawn meal to energize for the day, and end with iftar, when families gather to break the fast and share in gratitude and reflection. However, many people may not know that the month of Ramadan is not just about fasting from food; it’s also about fasting your tongue. By fasting their tongues, Muslims focus on refraining from negative habits, like backbiting or losing their temper. Ramadan focuses on a time for self control, spiritual rejuvenation, focusing on prayer, charity, self-discipline, deep reflection,

community, gratitude, empathy, and devotion/worship.

However, Ramadan is not only about fasting one’s tongue and refraining from bad habits during this month, it’s also about bringing and maintaining good habits after the month is over.

Although the Quran was revealed 1,416 years ago, modern day science and medicine have confirmed the numerous and ever growing health benefits of fasting for a month in a year. According to studies from the Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare, fasting can help raise endorphins (pain-blocking chemicals in the brain that reduce stress, increase alertness, and enhance your feeling of wellbeing); reduce levels of bad cholesterol; improve digestive health; reduce blood pressure and resting heart

rate; improve memory; and reduce insulin resistance for people with diabetes. Many non-Muslim people may assume that Ramadan is unhealthy or that all Muslims are required to fast; however, in reality, Ramadan is full of health and spiritual benefits.

Muslims who are sick, pregnant, elderly, young, menstruating, or traveling are exempt from fasting because God does not intend to place undue hardship on worshipers, but rather to uphold the Islamic principles of protecting life, health, and wellbeing. Fasting is not meant to exhaust the body, but to refine the heart.

Heather Yee '27, shared, “While I’m not too familiar with Islam, I really admire the practices of Ramadan. Engaging in a fast with family members and fellow Muslims seems like a highly unifying experience that encourages perseverance and heightened focus. I also find it amazing how the simple act of fasting can result in so many health benefits!”

Within our modern society, especially in the United States, Islam is painted as a violent and extreme religion, while in reality Islam is a peaceful religion that emphasizes compassion, community, and personal growth, as clearly reflected in practices like Ramadan, which focus on self-discipline, empathy, and care for others rather than harm or aggression.



Dates are traditionally the first meal item to break the fast, as they provide hydration and fast energy.

Unmasking Purim

Alexander Goldberg '26

Managing Editor



Hamantaschen cookies are an integral part of celebrating Purim.

From March 2nd to March 3rd this year, Jewish communities around the world wore costumes while celebrating with their family and friends. Why, one may ask? The answer lies in the Jewish holiday of Purim. Let us explore its history, how it is celebrated, and its meaning.

Purim comes from the Book of Esther in the Tanakh (Old Testament), taking place during King Ahaseureus’ reign of the Persian empire. During this time, an evil royal advisor named Haman wanted to kill the Jews within the empire. At the same time, Esther (the protagonist) is named Queen to Ahaseureus due to her beauty and character. However, when she learns of Haman’s plans, she risks her life to approach the King unannounced, as the King can execute those who interrupt him. Yet, instead of sending her to be executed, the King stops Haman’s goals.

To celebrate Purim, Jews are to do four mitzvot (commandments). Firstly, we read the Megillah (the story of Purim) in a synagogue and boo each time Haman’s name is spoken.

Secondly, we make Mishloach Manot for friends, which are gift baskets made of various treats. Thirdly, we do something called Matanot La’evyonim, which is giving charity to the poor so that everyone can celebrate the holiday. Finally, we have a feast with family and friends.

The holiday holds various customs, such as wearing costumes (like Halloween) and doing carnival-like activities. Further, we shake groggers during the Megillah. Ari Bushler '26 told us his favorite Purim tradition, stating “My favorite Purim tradition is making and tasting triangular cookies with sweet fillings called hamantaschen. They symbolize the power of good over evil, and are delicious too!”

Purim reminds us to always have the courage to stand against wrongdoings. Just as the Tanakh exclaims “Do not be afraid” an estimated 90 times, so too does the story of Esther enact hidden miracles, helping others within and outside of the community, and perseverance throughout history.

Painting the Piazza: ASC Holi Recap

Katelyn Tang '27 and Radhika Saha '28

Contributing Editors

On March 3rd, SI’s piazza was painted in vibrant colors as the Asian Student Coalition (ASC) hosted its annual Holi Celebration, bringing students together for one of India’s most joyful festivals.

Holi, known as the Festival of Colors, marks the arrival of spring and celebrates the triumph of good over evil. Traditionally, people throw colored powders, dance to music, and share sweets. Holi carries deep meaning: it’s about

community forgiveness, and renewal, letting old grudges fade just like the colors wash off!

During lunch, ASC hosted Holi for the SI community to enjoy. They enjoyed Indian samosas, mango lassi, and traditional sweets (mishti). Students got creative with chalk and drawing henna, alongside coloring and music. Oliver Manangan '27 said, “It was nice to see lots of people showed up — more than I expected. The food was great and the people enjoyed it all.”



Students gather around The Piazza to enjoy Indian samosas.

BSU Celebrates Annual Showcase

Aisha McCulloch '27 and Genevieve Arcenio '27

Contributing Editor and Managing Editor

On February 28th, SI's Black Student Union (BSU) and members of the SI community came together to attend the BSU showcase. The theme of the event was "Soul Train: The Rhythm of Black History." *Soul Train* was a television show that ran from 1971 to 2006. Through music, fashion, and dance, Soul Train showcased and celebrated Black art and culture during a time when Black artists were often left out from mainstream media. To this day, Soul Train's legacy lives on through its contributions to Black popular culture and its inspirations for platforms such as music video channels, hip-hop showcases, and award shows.

The evening began with opening remarks from emcees Zylah Coleman '27 and Jay Owens '27, and principal Michelle Levine. Ms. Levine shared that, "events like this remind us of something important—that school is not only a place where we take tests and write papers, it's a place where identity is honored, stories are shared, and culture is celebrated." After the nine student leaders introduced themselves, everyone joined voices to sing along to Mason Kelly '28's rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," on the piano and listened to Pamela Jones '26 as she led an opening prayer.

Throughout the night, SI students participated in various performances through song, visual art, dances, instruments, and spoken word. Zylah Coleman reflected on the evening, saying, "I felt a lot of pride in my community and the talents that we showcased." Maliah Howard '26, Zoe McCulloch '27 and Brooke Chapman '26 all performed songs from the



The BSU honored Black history by highlighting Black art and celebrating the meaning of community.

70s, highlighting a golden age of Black American music. Zoe O'Neal '26 shared her art piece called, "A Wave of Diana", which depicted Diana Ross, the lead singer of *The Supremes*, and four students performed original poetry—Princewill Onyebuchi '26, Naarai Evans '27, Aisha McCulloch '27, and Deja Jones '28. Sophomore Brazille Monroe choreographed a Majorette routine, and five juniors danced the Eskista, an Ethiopian dance, showcasing different forms of dance and celebration throughout the African diaspora.

During the event, Timothy Alan Simon, Esq. '73 received the BSU Black Excellence Award. Each year, this honor

is awarded to an alum for their contributions to SI's Black student community. Timothy Alan Simon was the founding president "Chairman" of the Black Student Union, SI's first student affinity group. He is now the Principal and Founder of TAS Strategies, a consulting and legal advisory firm which provides services in areas such as energy, utilities, and transportation.

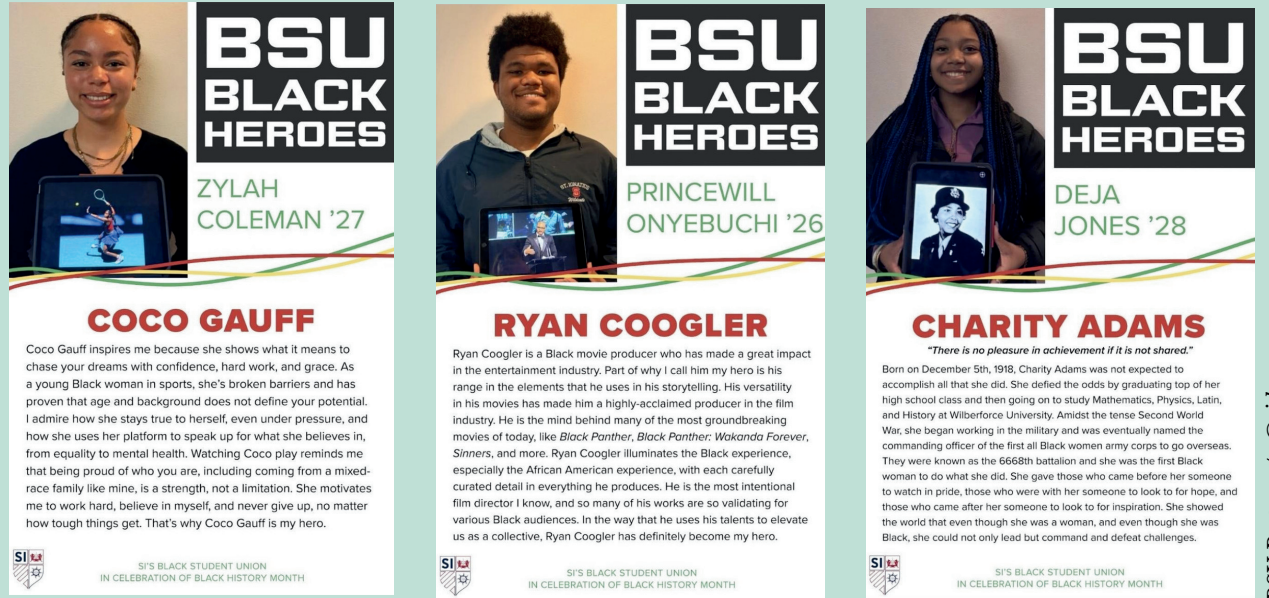
The evening closed with all of the student performers doing a Step routine—honoring the percussive dance form that's a large part of HBCU Greek Life. The Black Student Union embodied the spirit of Black Joy and the theme of *Soul Train* to put on a great show for families and the SI community.

Genevieve Arcenio '27

Posters of Pride: BSU Honors Their Heroes

Managing Editor

In the United States and Canada, February marks Black History Month. Prior to its official recognition by President Gerald Ford in 1976, it was only a week-long event created by historian Carter G. Woodson. Black History Month occurs in February because it aligns with the birthdays of two influential figures of the abolitionist movement, Frederick Douglass (February 14) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12). Black History Month is a time to recognize the history, accomplishments, and legacy of Black Americans. To celebrate the occasion, SI's Black Student Union (BSU) displayed posters with their Black heroes around the academic building.



Posters display BSU students highlighting their Black heroes.

Evelyn Conboy '26

Chinese Culture Club Teaches Dumpling-Making

Editor-in-Chief

On February 13th during X-Period, students gathered in St. Ignatius' Student Center to join the Chinese Culture Club and celebrate the Chinese New Year.

Dumpling-making attracted the event's numerous participants and marked the welcoming of the new year. Participants gathered around red cloth-covered tables while parent volunteers taught newcomers traditional dumpling-wrapping techniques. The communal learning of kneading and meticulously folding dough to form half-crescents

united students and faculty alike. Shortly after, participants enjoyed the fruits of their labor and indulged in dumplings, chow mein, tangerines, and Chinese candies.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siteng Pang, the club's co-moderator, facilitated several Mahjong games. Though only introduced to the club at the end of last year, the traditional Chinese tile-based game has quickly grown in popularity. Regular players now return every Friday to Room 302 to engage in vigorous competition.



Chinese Culture Club leadership poses behind a table filled with Chinese foods such as chow mein and traditional candies

Escalating Iran War Impacts Everyday Life

Nula Johnson '28

Contributing Editor

In recent weeks, Iran has been a frequent topic for international news headlines, as most recently, US-Israeli military strikes killed supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on February 28. Developments involving the country have drawn eyes across the world towards this complex and ongoing conflict. While it may seem like a distant issue, the events in Iran can affect Americans' everyday life.

Iran, located in the Middle East with a population of more than 80 million people, plays an important role in its regional politics as well as the global market. Its location is especially important for production because Iran holds some of the world's largest oil and natural gas reserves.

The argument over how Iran should use their oil has been ongoing; in the 1950s the United States sparked public outrage when American government officials commenced the 1953 coup, overthrowing Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh and replacing him with Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Most recently, media coverage has focused on the rising tensions between Iran and the United States. Military strikes and bombings across parts of Iran have been in the headlines since February 28th, when the United States sent an airstrike to kill the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. In response, Iran launched attacks on the US' partner Israel, in addition to other US-allied countries housing American military bases.

Through mid-March, the situation has continued to escalate — additional air strikes on Iranian military bases were sent out. A major strike on Kharg Island struck the Middle East, this island is a highly important port in the Persian Gulf that handles said oil from Iran. The strike targeted over 90 military sites on the island, but avoided any direct hits on oil developments (Reuters). On the other hand, Iranian forces and allied groups launched drone and missile attacks. These attacks affect shipping routes throughout the Strait of Hormuz, where roughly 20 percent of the world's oil supply normally passes.

Some companies have paused shipments through the area which has had catastrophic economic effects; oil prices



Buildings in Tehran are damaged by U.S.-Israeli air strikes on March 4.

have climbed to the highest levels seen in years. In San Francisco, prices range from \$5.60 to even \$6.60 per gallon. For students who drive to school, carpool with friends, or rely on family members for rides, these rising gas prices can directly impact one's daily routine.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials have stated that Iran may be showing interest in negotiating an end to the conflict, although no formal talks have been completely confirmed. Leaders on both sides continue military operations, and the situation continues to unfold.

The Iran conflict has not only resulted in economic devastation, but humanitarian casualties. Reports indicate that over one thousand civilians have been injured or killed by the fighting, and there has been major damage to local infrastructure. This has greatly disrupted daily life throughout the Middle East, and even in the United States, where spikes in global oil prices have led to higher gas prices.

Beyond the physical effects of this situation, news about Iran carries a personal connection for some students at SI. My own

family has ties to the country. For instance, my grandfather immigrated to the United States from Iran in 1958. He left shortly after the coup as tensions in Iran continued to rise. Stories like his show that while global events may seem like distant headlines, they play large roles in real family histories and experiences.

Students at St. Ignatius are paying close attention to what is happening in the Middle East. When asked about why students should maintain awareness about international news, sophomore Marina Jones said, "[Students] need to stay informed on current world events because we are the next generation of leaders, and it's important to be educated."

International news can sometimes feel distant, but it often connects to everyday life more than one might expect. From gas prices to humanitarian questions, events that feel worlds away influence communities around the globe. As the situation in Iran continues to develop, staying informed can help one better understand the ties between global events and their own personal lives.

Several Avalanches Sweep Through Lake Tahoe Area

Mika Cinco '27

Contributing Editor

A powerful avalanche swept through a popular backcountry area near Lake Tahoe on February 17, leaving residents and authorities scrambling to rescue anyone caught in its path.

The massive snow slide occurred in the early afternoon, burying several hikers and snowboarders under meters of snow. Local authorities confirmed that emergency crews, including the California Highway Patrol, ski patrol teams, and volunteer search-and-rescue squads, were immediately dispatched to the scene.

Fatally impacted was a backcountry ski excursion group of 15. Volunteer rescue teams were dispatched to the scene, rescuing six survivors and locating three individuals who did not survive.

The avalanche ultimately killed nine members of the group, including one of the four guides. "We're treating this as a life-threatening situation," said Sgt. Laura Jensen of the Placer County Sheriff's Office. "Our priority is to locate and rescue anyone trapped beneath the snow."

This was the deadliest avalanche in California history, a tragic reminder to skiers and backpackers around the world that heeding forecast warnings is crucial to basic safety. Maddie Van '27, a frequent visitor to Tahoe's snowy mountains, stated, "I hope everyone stays safe." Hospitals in the area have been put on alert, and community members have been urged to avoid the affected zones. Authorities are urging anyone planning outdoor activities in the region to check

avalanche forecasts, carry emergency equipment, and stay within marked trails.



Avalanches hit Lake Tahoe's snowy mountains recently.

Release of Epstein Files Shakes the World

Alexander Salentine '26

Managing Editor

The release of the Epstein files has shaken the global community. As more of the files come out, more top leaders are resigning from their prestigious posts.

Obviously, people in the political world have been hit hard. Prince Andrew was famously stripped of his royal titles in 2025 after his relationship with Epstein, which included the illegal sharing of confidential trade documents, was revealed. Peter Mendelson, the former British Ambassador to the US, has also been stripped of his role and was arrested on February 23rd in connection with sharing sensitive government information with Epstein. Thorbjørn Jagland, the former prime minister of Norway, has also stepped down in connection with the released files.

The business world hasn't been immune either. Thomas Pritzker, the long-time chairman of Hyatt Hotels, announced on February 17 that he was stepping down after

“I think if any world leaders were involved with Epstein we as a global community have a right to see them step down and/or punished based on the severity of their actions.”

- DJ Delaney '26

new files disclosed that he maintained close contact and friendship with Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, despite their law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

Even academics from America's leading universities have been implicated. Harvard President Lawrence Summers will step down from his position at the end of the academic year, after he maintained close financial ties with Epstein, even after his 2008 trial.

Dr. Richard Axel, a Nobel Prize-winning co-director of the Columbia Neuroscience Institute, also is stepping down after emails revealed his close friendship with Epstein. Richard Axel, another Nobel-prize-winning scientist at Columbia, also announced his resignation in connection with Epstein.

The Epstein files continue to cause heightened anxiety for world leaders, and for good reason. DJ Delaney '26 stated: "I think if any world leaders were involved with Epstein we as a global community have a right to see them step down and/or punished based on the severity of their actions."

From business to politics to academia, countless world leaders have been forced to resign because of their connections to this shady financier. As more information comes to light, more world leaders will likely be implicated. How many more firings will occur? Only time will tell.

Trump Fires Kristi Noem as Homeland Security Secretary

Angeline Hsueh '27

Contributing Editor

On March 5, 2026, President Donald Trump fired Kristi Noem from her role as secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), ending a tumultuous 14-month tenure marked by controversy and fierce public scrutiny. Trump announced that he will nominate Oklahoma Senator Markwayne Mullin to replace her effective March 31, 2026, while Noem is being reassigned as "Special Envoy for The Shield of the Americas," a newly created diplomatic security position.

Noem's leadership drew bipartisan criticism over aggressive immigration policies and operational missteps at DHS. Lawmakers grilled her in congressional hearings in early March about the agency's handling of immigration enforcement and a \$220 million taxpayer-funded advertising campaign portraying her on horseback that encouraged undocumented immigrants to self-deport.



Kristi Noem, a former South Dakota governor, was fired as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security by President Donald Trump on March 5.

Noem's claim that President Trump approved the campaign drew sharp rebukes after the president publicly denied prior knowledge. Her tenure also coincided with high-profile clashes between federal agents and civilians during enforcement operations,

including two fatal shootings in Minnesota that raised concerns about DHS's tactics. A recent *PolitiFact* review found Noem made several inaccurate statements under oath about arrests and enforcement outcomes, deepening concerns about leadership credibility.

Critics say that the decision to remove Noem reflects deeper dissatisfaction with her leadership style and policy priorities. As Dylan Lee '27, an SI student put it: "Honestly, I think she probably never should have gotten elected, and she oversaw things like ICE raids that, in some cases, ended in people's deaths."

This perspective highlights the broader debate over federal immigration enforcement under her watch and whether her approach ultimately strengthened or undermined national security.

St. Patrick's Day 2026: Establishing an Irish Cultural District

McCann O'Brien '26

Associate Editor-in-Chief



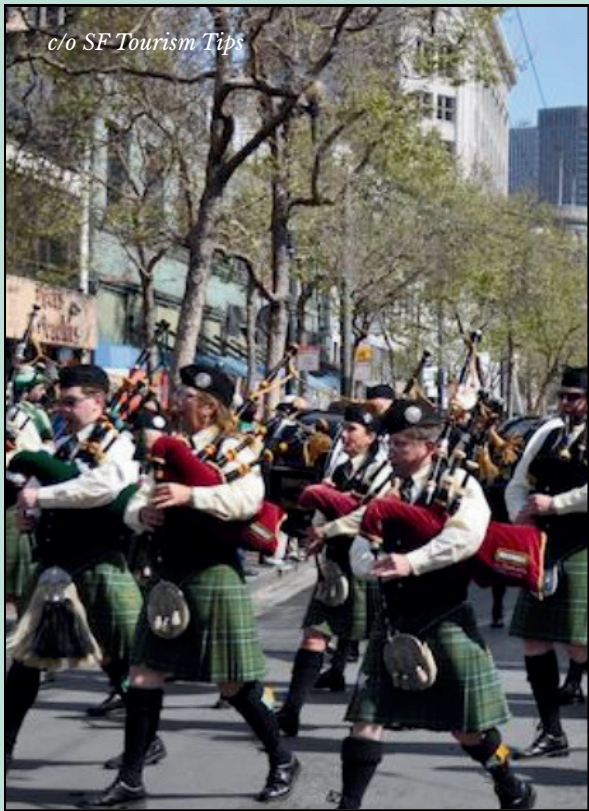
A decorated cable car joins the parade.

On St. Patrick's Day, San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously approved establishing an "Irish Cultural District" in the southwest part of the city. This would also be supported by \$240,000 to grow and develop community programs.

"The Irish community has been an integral part of San Francisco's cultural fabric for generations," said Supervisor Alan Wong. "This legislation is about recognizing that history and ensuring those traditions continue to be celebrated and supported in the Sunset."



Irish Dancers dance outside the United Irish Cultural Center.



A troupe of bagpipe players marches down Market at the St. Patrick's Day Parade held Sat., Mar. 14th.

SI Student's Hero's Journey

Continued from Front Page

12. Return With the Elixir

The hero accomplishes their goal: the diploma. They return to the comfort of their home without the stress and worry of the challenges that high school brings. They reflect on the memories made throughout their journey, just like Odysseus.

11. The Resurrection

After Easter Break (the Christian Resurrection!), the hero faces less stress and sees the finish line. They are resurrected, with a new appreciation for their school journey.

10. The Road Back

The hero navigates second semester senior year. There are still some challenges like AP exams and tests, but the end is near. Senioritis starts to settle in.

9. Reward

The hero seeks their reward after the trials they endured. They receive their college acceptances, a product of all their hard work throughout four years of high school.

8. The Ordeal

The hero encounters the hardest challenge of their high school career. This takes many forms for students: navigating college applications, taking the SAT and AP tests, starting on their varsity team, getting a time-sinking leadership position.

1. Ordinary World

The hero is still in 8th grade: mundane, simple times without the looming presence of finals or 50-question exams. Oblivious to the journey ahead, the hero is content with a system built around homerooms and breaks labeled as "recess."

2. Call to Adventure

The hero receives their SI acceptance letter in their portal. A single letter presents the future four years of the SI student's life.

3. Refusal of the Call

Naive and wide-eyed, the freshman has initial doubts about high school. Surrounded by hundreds of new faces in a crowded and overwhelming environment, it's easy to feel lost. So far, the call hasn't been smooth sailing.

4. Meeting the Mentor

The hero comes to find mentors, wise people with experience navigating high

school and its challenges. They can come in the form of upperclassmen, teammates, and teachers.

5. Crossing the First Threshold

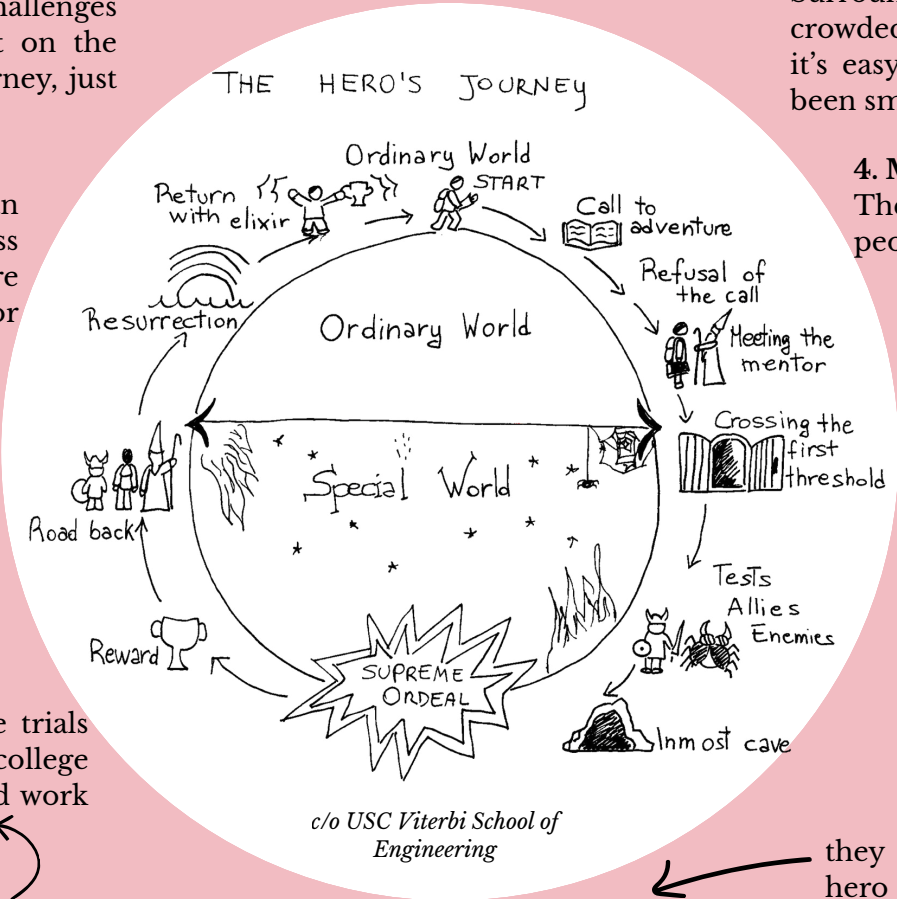
The hero faces their first major academic challenge of high school: finals. Accomplishing this feat lets the hero step across the threshold into the freedom of winter break.

6. Tests, Allies, and Enemies

The hero enters 10th grade, where they encounter numerous obstacles. The hero meets new people, makes new friends (and maybe enemies). Classes start to ramp up, as well as extracurriculars. 10th and 11th grade are periods of challenge and growth.

7. The Inmost Cave

The hero navigates their way towards the inner chambers of high school. Senior year comes with a lot of ups and downs. The increase in course intensity and activities is accompanied by prom and other celebrations.



Profile of a Modern Day Heroine:

Margaret Morse Nice, Ornithology Pioneer

Amanda Oberto '27

Contributing Editor

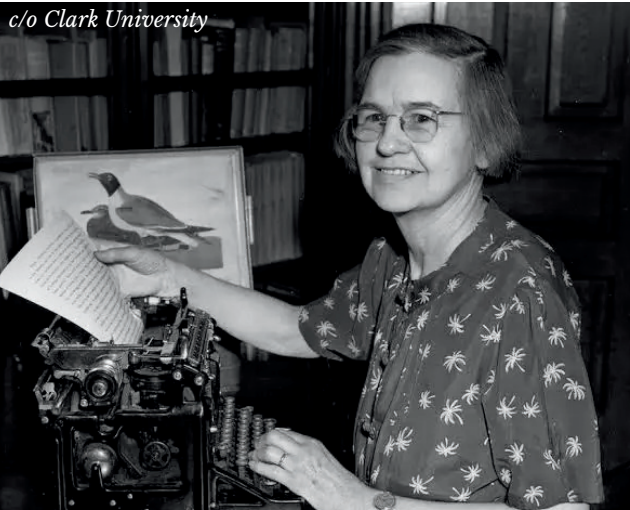
Being one of the most widespread birds in North America, song sparrows flit through most open habitats with their distinctive, prominent call. While most people have seen and heard the song sparrow, people are often unaware of the woman behind our understanding of them: Margaret Morse Nice. An American ornithologist, ethnologist, and child psychologist, she pioneered radical methods of study in the field of ornithology despite inhibiting gender barriers during the 1900s.

Born on December 6th, 1883 in Massachusetts, Morse had a passion for studying animals since her youth. Contrary to the traditional route of early marriage, Nice studied psychology at Mount Holyoke, and zoology and child psychology at Clarke University, becoming one of the two female graduates.

At Mount Holyoke she was disappointed by under-stimulating dissective zoology classes; however, at Clarke she was stimulated by practicing experimental and observational research. She soon met her husband, Leonard Blaine Nice, with whom she had five children. She studied and wrote articles on her children's language and vocabulary, putting her observational skills to use. Although she was busy raising her family, she and her family frequented trips to Oklahoma to count birds. She and her husband coauthored the bulletin Birds of Oklahoma.

After her family's move to Ohio, Nice got more into her studies, becoming in-

involved with the Columbus Audubon Society. She worked for eight years creating a two volume journal, detailing the behavior of song sparrows at Nice's 60 acre property, "Interpont." She observed the territorial fights behind two males, "Uno" and "4M," and used colored leg bands to track and observe them.



Morse studied animals at Mount Holyoke and Clarke University, and continued to study birds throughout her life.

As a pioneer of bird banding and organizer of Inland Bird Banding Association, she studied the individual songs, behaviors, and territorial tactics of the same sparrows over several years. She called her way of studying the "phenomenological method," which is research based on understanding the lived experiences of the subject, unlike the objective lab based research that was prom-

inent during the time. She published her journal, "Studies in the Life History of the Song Sparrow," in 1937, garnering her international recognition and the Brewster Medal from the American Ornithologists Union in 1942.

Nice's successful career was significant not only because of her impact on ornithology, but because of her gender. During her lifetime, it was difficult for a woman to enter the male dominated science field, be funded, and even recognized for her work.

Despite the barriers, Nice accomplished a myriad of things due to her own drive, including being the first female president over a major ornithological society. At Wilson Ornithological Club, she held honorary membership to European ornithological societies, and in total wrote over two-hundred fifty scientific articles, seven books, and thousands of scientific reviews. She even continued to fight for the conservation of areas like Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge and California Redwoods up until her death in 1974.

Chloe Masuda '27 said, "It's so inspiring to remember female pioneers in these fields because of how they persevered in male dominated spaces."

Although often obscured from the spotlight, like Masuda said, Nice's legacy is remembered as a trailblazer for women in the science field, and her work and methods remain crucial today in ornithology and science fields alike.

Literature Helps You See the Hero in You

Lauren Yu '27

Managing Editor



Pictured from left to right: The Odyssey, Little Women, The Hunger Games, Want, Mulan. Each widely recognized story centers on a compelling and enduring protagonist.

Think about the last character you genuinely loved. Not admired from afar, but loved in a way that makes you see yourself in them. Chances are, it wasn't because they were perfect. Most heroines in our favorite novels follow the hero's arc: the journey from ordinary, to tested, to transformed. This arc mirrors the experiences of real life, which is why these characters feel so relatable.

Take Jo March, for example. In *Little Women* Jo March is opinionated, restless, and perpetually ill-suited to the world that tries to control her. Her arc is not about being the perfect woman or becoming more palatable for society. Through *Little Women*, Jo struggles to find confidence in her individuality, while balancing family, relationships, and her passion for writing. Anyone who has ever felt unheard will recognize

themselves in her. Her heroism is profoundly relatable.

Another example of a relatably written character is Katniss Everdeen from *The Hunger Games*. Katniss represents a different type of journey. She never wanted to be a symbol, and her actions stem from love for her sister. When she enters the Hunger Games, she steps into responsibility before feeling ready, and discovers the power she has to change the world. Through Katniss, Suzanne Collins shows that anyone can be a leader. From a girl in the slums, to a leader who shapes a nation, Katniss is an inspiration to many girls around the world.

Even Odysseus, the quintessential

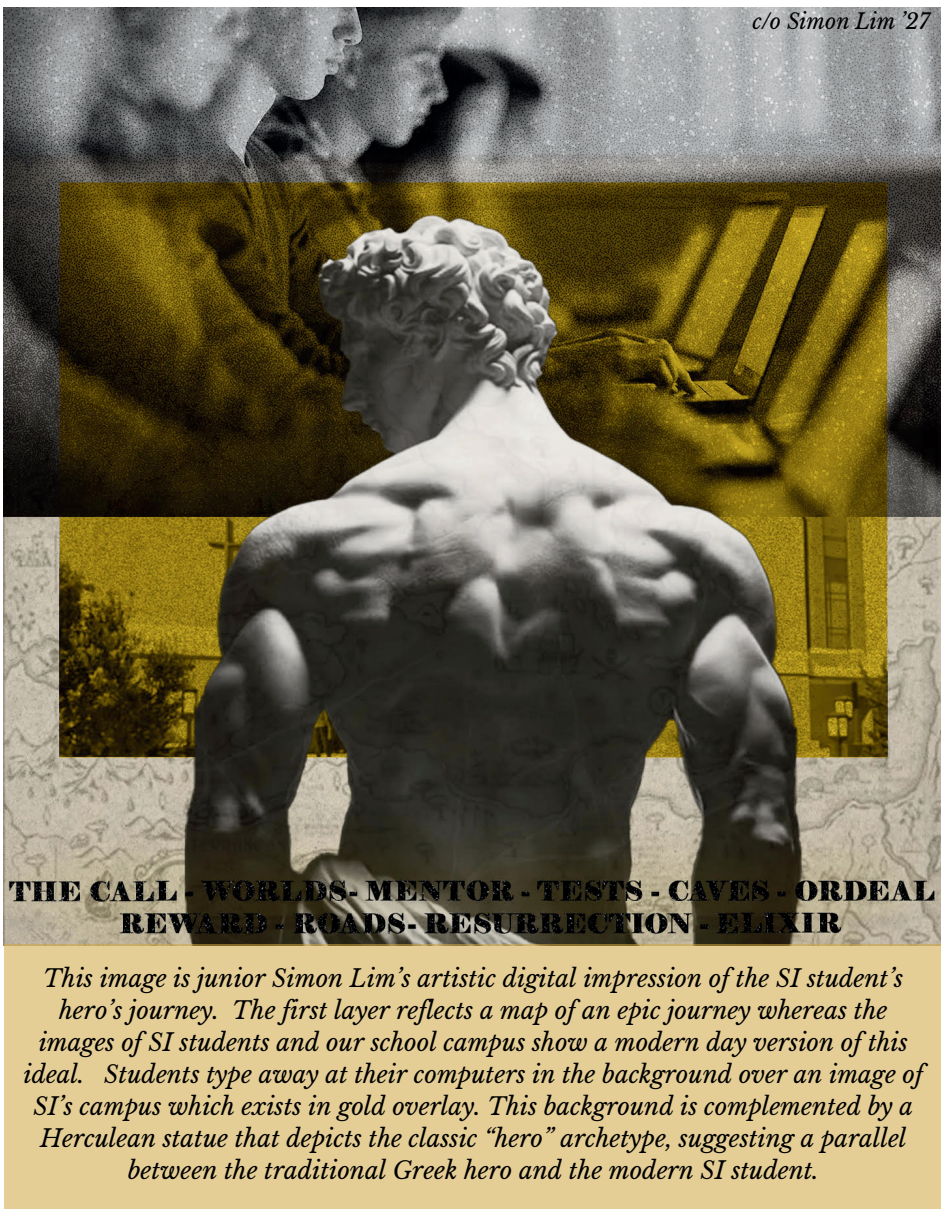
the universal human experience of struggling, growing, and resistance that resonates most.

This is what the best literature does. The more specific a character is, the more widely they land with the audience. You do not need to live in dystopian Taipei to recognize the exhaustion of resisting a world that wasn't built for you. You do not need to be a nineteenth-century woman with literary ambitions to understand the frustration of being told your voice is too much.

“My favorite movie character is Mulan, where she sacrifices her safety for her family. I find her relatable because she often struggles with self image and what it means to have courage.”
- Isla Johnson '27

Isla Johnson '27 claimed, “My favorite movie character is Mulan, where she sacrifices her safety for her family. I find her relatable because she often struggles with self image and what it means to have courage.” While the details of a heroine's story will be different than your own, the growth throughout is very much relatable.

Every one of these characters become heroic because of a long accumulation of choices, failures, and recoveries. They doubt themselves, take the wrong path, and carry that pain with them. Their arcs mirror our own lives, especially during times of change, like high school. It is important to remember that struggle is a natural and necessary part of a hero's journey. Just like these characters, high school students grow stronger by learning from their mistakes and pushing through challenges.



This image is junior Simon Lim's artistic digital impression of the SI student's hero's journey. The first layer reflects a map of an epic journey whereas the images of SI students and our school campus show a modern day version of this ideal. Students type away at their computers in the background over an image of SI's campus which exists in gold overlay. This background is complemented by a Herculean statue that depicts the classic "hero" archetype, suggesting a parallel between the traditional Greek hero and the modern SI student.

Principal Levine

Continued from Front Page

... is a key component in her style of mothering and also essential in helping her dream of what comes next.

So, what is next? Ms. Levine said, “No matter what I'm doing, I hope that my work is life-giving—that at the end of every day, even if I'm

nervous or worried about the next day, I feel like I've contributed. These wise words.

Alex Innes '28 mentioned, “It's inspiring to see a woman in a male-dominated field.”

SI students never fully see the entirety of the impact teachers, counselors, and leaders have on a community. Thank you, Ms. Levine, for leading our school with such grace and wisdom.



Ms. Levine was appointed SI's 16th principal in 2019.

SI's Favorite Hero's Journey Arcs

Abigail Smith '29

Contributing Editor

A 'Hero's Journey' could be defined as a cycle in which the main character undergoes a new sense of identity, bravery, realization, and more, usually through a hard adventure. This theme is typically depicted in multiple forms of media including: books, shows, movies, poems, stories, etc.

About a dozen SI students, ranging from freshman to senior year, were all asked the same question, "What book do you think resembles the theme of 'A Hero's Journey' the most?" The majority said that *The Odyssey*, by Homer, fit into that picture the best. *The Odyssey* follows a brave story about a Trojan warrior, Odysseus, getting lost at sea for years before returning home. It has resilience, cour-

age, blood, fear, and trust. Returning home helped Odysseus learn to appreciate what he had, being at war and fighting giant monsters is a turning point. This story's entire plot is almost entirely revolves around the "Hero's Journey" theme.

“The *Inheritance Game* and *Divergent* are both very good book series, and they display resilience and persistence through times of difficulty and hardship.”

- Natalie Kong '29

However, SI junior, Christopher Jeong '27, argued that *The Hobbit* by J.R.R Tolkien could also fill in this role. When asked why, he said, "Because there is a call to action, unknown of the lone mountain, the abyss of the dragon Smaug, and return."

Furthermore, another student, Natalie Kong '29, stated that *The Inheritance Game*, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, and *Divergent*, by Veronica Roth are also examples of a 'Hero's Journey.' She stated, "They are both very good book series, and they display resilience and persistence through times of difficulty and hardship."

Beyond Capes and Crowns: SI's Heroes

Farrah Almajdalani '27

Managing Editor

When people think of heroes, they might think of fictitious figures, like Superman, Hercules, Batman, Iron Man, Wonder Woman, or Superman. Or perhaps they think of a quote from one of these cultural icons pops into mind, like Hercules's catchphrase, "A true hero isn't measured by the size of his strength but by the strength of his heart" or Superman's notable line, "A hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

However, to be a hero, one does not need to possess superhuman qualities, like super strength or laser vision and one doesn't need an unlimited amount of money, or a radioactive spider. Heroism manifests in many forms, both grand and unassuming, embodied by the celebrated and the unseen alike. During the coronavirus epidemic, healthcare professionals were seen as heroes, standing alongside the countless unsung figures throughout history, from the architects who built enduring monuments, to the artists whose work shaped culture in obscurity, to the inventors whose innovations quietly transformed everyday life.

Everyone has their own personal hero, who inspires them to break boundaries, take risks, and pursue their goals with courage and conviction, even when the path is uncertain. Here at SI, multiple students shared their personal heroes, from sports stars and high

ranking celebrities to family and friends:

Heather Yee '27 shared, "My hero is **my mom** because no matter how busy her day at work is, she always takes the time to make homemade meals for me. She has always been a huge role model to me, and her love and support continues to inspire me everyday!"

Josie White '28 talked about her personal hero, saying that, "**My brother** is definitely my hero because I have always looked up to him. He is extremely smart and his work ethic pushes me to do better everyday."

Genevieve Arcenio '27 noted that, "My hero is **Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone**, the 6x world record-holder in the 400 meter hurdles and 4x olympic gold medalist. I admire her determination, resilience, and composure even while competing in one of the most difficult events in track & field."

Sydney Slakoff '27 stated that, "**Katie Ledecky**, an Olympic swim-

mer, gold medalist and world record holder, and she's my hero because she has wonderful sportsmanship, a positive attitude and a hard work ethic, and I aspire to be as optimistic and dedicated!"

Emily Peterson '28 described her personal hero to be **Kamala Harris**, "Because she is a woman of color who ran for president, which is really inspiring and impactful because we've only had old white men be president so I appreciate her attempt at switching up the status quo. #shouldvewon."



Kamala Harris addresses voters.

Each month, posters around campus highlight the heroes of SI students from different affinity groups. Right now, the Black Student Union (BSU) has their posters displayed. At the start of April, in honor of National Arab American Heritage Month, the Arab Middle Eastern Association (AMA) will share their featured heroes.

Be sure to look around campus and celebrate the inspiring contributions!



Sydney McLaughlin finishes her race.

Heather Yee '27

Alysa Liu: Oakland's Golden Olympian

Managing Editor



A colorful new mural of Alysa Liu graces Oakland's Temescal district.

With her historic gold medal win at the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics, American figure skater Alysa Liu cemented her status as Oakland's Olympic icon.

Liu's gold medal in women's singles skating represented a huge American victory, as it was the first gold medal that the US has won in the category in 24 years. It was also the first time the US had touched the podium for women's singles since 2006. In addition to her personal medal, she earned a second gold medal with her US teammates in the team competition.

Coming off the ice after her victory, Liu gave her hometown of Oakland a big shoutout. Since then, Oakland and its residents have beamed with pride and excitement for Liu and her achievement who they have crowned their "Hometown Hero." The city of Oakland planned a community rally to celebrate Liu's win, where thousands gathered in celebration on March 12 at Frank Ogawa Plaza.



Liu glides across the Olympic ice.

Taking the stage was the honoree, Liu herself, as well as Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee, Olympic figure skating icon Kristi Yamaguchi, and Grammy-winning music artist Kehlani, who attended Liu's high school.

Mayor Barbara Lee presented Liu a grand key to the city. The afternoon was filled with lively music and dancing, attendees beaming with Oakland pride.

In addition, various Oakland institutions have honored Liu in unique ways.

Continued on next page 13

LIU

Continued from Pg. 12

Five billboards can be seen along Oakland’s 880 Freeway, which congratulate Liu. Local ice cream shop Fentons Creamery awarded Liu ice cream for life, and even created a special flavor in her honor called “Alysa’s Gold,” a caramel ice cream featuring golden oreos and a caramel swirl.

Moreover, the Oakland mural group ILLUMINARIES completed a bold mural of Liu in the city’s Temescal neighborhood along Telegraph Avenue. Illustrated in the work is Liu atop a green background, proudly clenching her gold medal with a large grin. The mural also prominently features her iconic halo-dyed hair and smiley piercing, and next to Liu are the words “Shoutout Oakland,” quoted from her post-win remark.

Liu, who was born in Clovis and grew



Alysa Liu finishes her Olympic routine set to the song “Stateside.”

up in Oakland, attended the Oakland School for the Arts and trained at the Oakland Ice Center beginning at 5 years old. Since her huge win, Liu has not only become a nationwide celebrity, but also a legend at her home rink. Hanging from the rink’s walls is a large banner with Liu on the ice, whose skill and passion for the sport serves as an inspiration for many of the young skaters at the Oakland Ice Center.

Liu’s determination and passion for her sport serves as an empowering example for many student-athletes. Junior Genevieve Arcenio expressed, “Alysa Liu’s energetic, carefree skating serves as a reminder that the greatest reward isn’t the awards we receive, but the joy that is brought to us when doing the things that we love.”

Liu’s tenacity will undoubtedly leave behind a legacy that will inspire both athletes and youth for generations to come.

Bad Bunny’s Halftime Show Redefines America

Geraldine Segura ’27

Contributing Editor



At his halftime show’s conclusion, Bad Bunny carried the Puerto Rican flag and dancers surrounded him with North, Central, South America, and the Caribbean national flags.

“I want to dedicate this award to all the people who had to leave their homeland for their dreams.” - Bad Bunny

On February 8th, the NFL Super Bowl held its annual halftime show with the one and only Bad Bunny (Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio).

At the Grammy’s this year, Bad Bunny won the Album of the Year for this album *DEBÍ TIRAR MÁS FOTOS*. He is the first Latin American singer to win this award and joined other artists by saying “ICE Out” and “We are not savage, we are not animal, we are not aliens —We are humans, we are Americans.”

Bad Bunny made further history in his halftime show. The show presented many references to Puerto Rico and Latinx culture; a boy sleeping on chairs at the party, salsa music and dancing, the mariachi, Latino-owned shops, and a song about Puerto Rico’s almost yearlong apagón (blackout).

The performance was especially memorable because the final sequence featured all the Americas’ flags. Countries and islands were presented on live television and thousands of fans felt represented by their homeland (me included). I decided to ask Wesley Madrid ’27, Mr. Cafasso, and Ms. Miguens about their reactions to the Bad Bunny performance and the showing of the flags at the end.

Wesley said, “Seeing the flags at the end of the Super Bowl halftime show performance meant a lot to me. As a Latino, it felt meaningful to see all of the different Latin

American countries represented, especially on such a big event where many people were watching. It made me feel proud of my culture and where my family comes from. It really showed the message of love and unity for all of the Latino community and all of the American continent. It was very empowering to know that my culture is being represented and recognized.”

Ms. Miguens shared, “In a world that often feels chaotic, violent, and uncertain, the halftime show offered the kind of hope, joy, and invitation my heart desperately needed. Every detail of Benito’s performance was intentional and thoughtful, celebrating culture, love, and humanity. From honoring the artists who paved the way for Latinx music worldwide, to highlighting Toñita’s achievements in Brooklyn, to centering the very heart of Latinx culture (if the boy sleeping at the party resonated with you—you know what I mean!)—each moment carried a story, a history, and the uplifting of a people and culture that is too often overlooked or shoved into a single story.”

She added, “Benito brought his iconic music to life with the story of his homeland and culture—the beauty, the struggle, and everything in between. I would be lying if I said there weren’t tears in my eyes when he blessed America, reminding us that ‘America’ is not just one country, one identity, or one language. The halftime show felt like healing. I loved every minute, and I’ve watched it more than 25 times.”

Mr. Cafasso, an immigrant to this country when he was 11 years old, stated, “Having others recognize that I come from a country that is part of the ‘Americas,’ seemed like an insurmountable challenge. Whenever I said I was from Argentina, and that Argentina was part of the Americas, the kids in my class would look at me, and sometimes they would laugh and crack jokes, and I’m not gonna lie, it was somewhat painful.

But of course, time passes and you learn more, and you adapt more. You put up walls inside of yourself to protect yourself from the ridicule born out of ignorance and arrogance.

Then I started teaching, and I asked myself if I should say that I am ‘Latino’ or ‘Hispanic’ or “European” or of ‘European descent born in South America.’ It’s always a question. It bothered me that I didn’t have a good answer. My parents were born and raised in Italy. They met in Argentina where I was born. So, it wasn’t really that complicated. I am Argentine and therefore I am South American.

“Benito brought his iconic music to life with the story of his homeland and culture—the beauty, the struggle, and everything in between.”

- Ms. Miguens

But then, seeing the halftime show (sent to me by Anthony Otis ’27), it dawned on me that, yes, I am part of America. And everybody in this hemisphere is part of America and that’s it. I suppose I should thank Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio, Bad Bunny, for reminding me that I am American.”

Bad Bunny’s performance brought the LatinX community together, and its final message emulated the importance of America’s many countries. As Ms. Miguens, Mr. Cafasso, and Wesley beautifully explained, the performance this year brought all Latinos a sense of representation and belonging to a world within this part of the world. Latinx music, culture, flags, and the celebration of love was done with full dedication thanks to Bad Bunny and his team. For us Latinos; God bless all of America!

SI Robotics Finds Major Momentum

Annika Watkins '26
McCann O'Brien '26

Editor-in-Chief
Associate Editor-in-Chief



Robotics Team celebrates success at the Half Moon Bay competition.

SI's Robotics Team has kicked off their season with a bang as it has quickly become "one of the fastest-growing communities at the school," according to captain Jack Peterson '26. Under Peterson's leadership, the team has already built two robots, with a third currently in progress.

The team also found success at their competition in Half Moon Bay from March 6–8, where junior Natalie Wong '27 earned the Leadership Award, and the team was recognized with the Gracious Professionalism Award.

Continuing their momentum, the SI Robotics Team hosted the California

San Francisco District Event on March 14–15. The competition brought together 38 teams to compete for first place and drew a crowd of over 1,000 attendees, along with hundreds more viewers tuning in via livestream. SI did not compete in this event, but will participate in a future trial in the upcoming weeks.

Joelle Vergas-Azucar '26, the team's outreach leader, volunteered on the final day of the event and reflected on the experience: "I love seeing how there were so many different kinds of people at the event. I think it's really valuable to engage directly with people who are my age and passionate about the same things as me."

Speech and Debate Update

Sebastian Huerta '26 Managing Editor

On Saturday, October 11th, SI's Debate Team competed in their first tournament of the year. Held at Emerald High School in Dublin, California, debaters from around the Bay Area came to show off their debating skills as the debate season entered full swing. At the tournament, the SI team competed in public forum debate, which is a team based format where debaters compete in pairs of two.

The topic debated was "The United Kingdom should rejoin the European Union." Team members were assigned both sides of the topic throughout the three rounds. Many of the debaters on the SI team were new, and so this was an opportunity for them to learn the ropes of the tournament environment.

In reflection after the tournament, debate team captain Autumn Ragone '27 stated, "This month's tournament was one of our best because the newcomer's preparation and determination led to excellent preparation and performance."

In the end, the team ended up bringing home four undefeated trophies, and four winning record trophies. Yet, for team captain Autumn Ragone '27, winning isn't the most important part. She stated, "Most importantly we all had a lot of fun in the process of building community"

The Speech and Debate team was also awarded the 2024-2025 Leading Chapter Award. SI's Speech and Debate team is among 106 schools nationally to receive this award.

When announcing this achievement on SITV, Mr. Christian Rodriguez stated, "It's a testament to the talent, the passion, and the tireless dedication of every single Speech and Debate student."

Op-Ed

Aryana Lau '29

Debunking the Myth of Hawai'i

Contributing Editor

For many, Hawai'i exists as a postcard: turquoise water, swaying palms, and a life defined by ease—the paradise ingrained into the public's imagination. It is marketed as an oasis, effortless, and abundant. But that romanticized image often obscures the more complex reality experienced by the people who call the islands home.

I am not Native Hawaiian, and I do not claim to speak for that community. My great grandparents immigrated to Hawai'i, and my family lived there for generations. While I was born in California, much of my family, including my dad and grandparents, still live on Kaua'i. I spent a large part of my childhood there to remain close to them, and that experience shaped how I understand the islands. Hawai'i is not simply a vacation destination to me. It is family history and an ongoing community.

I have noticed how casually language flattens that distinction. When I tell people I grew up in Hawai'i, some respond that they did too because they vacation there every summer. The comparison may seem harmless, but it reveals something deeper. Visiting a place—even frequently—is not the same as building a life there. When we equate tourism with upbringing, we unintentionally water down what it means to belong to a community. A vacation is temporary. A home carries responsibility, relationships, and con-

sequence.

One of the most common responses to criticism is that tourism supports the economy. While tourism does generate significant revenue and sustains many local businesses, that argument is incomplete. Hawai'i's economy has been structured so heavily around tourism that it creates dependency. When visitors become the primary economic focus, housing, land use, and infrastructure begin to follow their interests. On islands like Kaua'i, where land is limited and development space is finite, outside wealth has intensified an already fragile market. Properties are increasingly purchased as vacation homes or short term rentals rather than primary residences. As demands rise, housing prices outpace local wages. Families with deep roots in the community are forced to relocate, often not by choice but by cost.

Beyond economics, there is also a cultural loss. Vacations encourage people to relax, but too often that relaxation becomes detachment. Visitors arrive seeking escape and temporarily suspend the awareness about space they would exercise at home. Beaches become party venues. Sacred or environmentally fragile spaces are treated as photo backdrops. Service workers are expected to absorb frustration with a smile. 'E hele me la pu 'olo,' or, translated, "Make every

person, place or condition better than you left it," a Hawaiian proverb that perfectly conveys a mindset appropriate when visiting a place that is someone else's home- we should treat it just as we would our own. The issue is not that people travel. It is that many forget they are entering someone else's home.

Hawai'i is not an empty paradise designed for consumption. It is a living community sustained by workers, families, and history. Respect should not be optional simply because the setting feels idyllic. If we continue to romanticize Hawai'i without recognizing the responsibility that comes with visiting it, we reduce a home to a fantasy. And, fantasies, however beautiful, rarely tell the whole truth.



Hawai'i is rich with both beautiful beaches and a rich history.

Tai Morganson '26

Barring BART

Managing Editor

The beloved grey and blue trains that have long connected the Bay Area appear to be at their direst state. Recent *NYT* coverage brought the transit system’s systemic issues to the nation’s attention, shining light on the combination of fiscal mismanagement and the key demographics at stake.

Proponents of public transit argue that BART access ought to be defended at all costs, because the system connects workers with their places of employment across the Bay. BART stands for a future where all citizens use public transit regardless of their income and background. These proponents have ardently supported BART’s plea for additional funding through a proposed hike

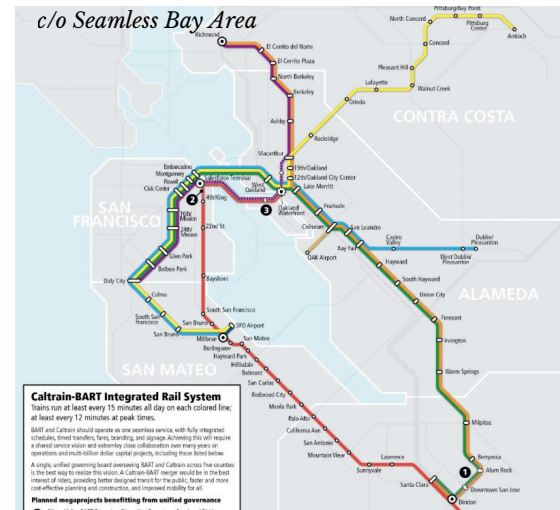
to sales tax, which Bay Area voters in five counties will face. BART and its supporters offer a daunting contingency plan, which includes higher fares, fewer operational hours, laying off workers, and shuttering 15 stations.

Skeptics of BART question whether it’s worthy of additional funding. Despite a booming tech-driven economy, work-from-home culture and post-pandemic commuting patterns have dragged BART ridership to less than half of its pre-pandemic numbers. Also, despite decades of funding, BART is on track to lose \$400 million every year indefinitely. In addition, over two hundred BART employees have

salaries over \$250,000.

“Am I a fan of public transport if it’s executed properly? Sure. We don’t have that,” Mr. Maychrowitz told *Inside SI*, explaining his reservation about more funds for BART.

For BART to continue to connect the Bay Area, it must prioritize the “proper execution” Mr. Maychrowitz spoke of. Increased public fiscal support for BART will only be effective alongside streamlined payrolls, cuts to the dozens of bureaucratic advisory committees, and reviewing the question of expansion. While the track forward is not clear, BART funding without accountability will never roll.



Maps of BART stops show where you can travel to using the trains.



BART is often the choice for transport for many people to get to their jobs.



BART stations across the Bay Area are hubs for transportation.

Cancel Culture Has Gone Too Far

Gabrielle Lee '29

Contributing Editor

It feels like every week, someone new is being “cancelled.” A celebrity posts something offensive. An influencer’s old tweets resurface. A video goes viral for the wrong reasons. Within just hours, thousands, even millions are watching the situation unfold. Cancel culture has become one of the most powerful forces on the internet, and its impact isn’t always positive. While holding people accountable is obviously important, cancel culture has started to feel less like justice and more like entertainment.

When a celebrity or influencer makes a mistake, people seem to “tune in” to watch the fallout. Instead of focusing on how the situation can be fixed or what lesson can be learned, the internet becomes obsessed with the drama of someone’s downfall. On TikTok, Instagram, and X, outrage spreads faster than facts.

“With cancel culture, people will feel unable to speak candidly about their opinions. You shouldn’t be alienated for having an opinion others may not like.”

- Vega Glosenger '29

Updates appear instantly, comment sections fill with hot takes, and reaction videos multiply; the situation becomes a trending topic, and people refresh their feeds to see what happens next. Media outlets add fuel to the fire, highlighting the most dramatic parts of the situation, and keeping the controversy in the spotlight.

The media doesn’t care whether it harms



“Cancelling” celebrities and brands has become a common practice among internet users.

the person; it only wants people to tune in. In this type of environment, the person being criticized can feel less like a human and more like a headline.

This shift can cause negative effects. A single mistake—even an adolescent one—can still come back to haunt one’s reputation forever. This leaves little room for growth or understanding.

People like Constance Wu, who was “cancelled” after a Tweet, have spoken up about how public shaming not only ruins one’s image, but also damages one’s mental health and future opportunities. With these consequences at risk, cancel culture installs fear within the public. People may become afraid to share opinions, ask questions, or admit to wrongdoing because they worry

about being publicly attacked.

Vega Glosenger '29 commented, “With cancel culture, people will feel unable to speak candidly about their opinions. You shouldn’t be alienated for having an opinion others may not like.”

Accountability should focus on educating the person and pushing them to change, not humiliation. If we truly care about progress and fairness, we need to examine why we’re so entertained by and reactive towards another person’s collapse. As a society, why do we feel the need to attack and berate someone instead of allowing growth? We need to leave room for people to improve, and see them as real people, not just headlines or a viral video.

Spring Sports Update

Bear Vida '27

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Men’s Lacrosse

Record as of 3/23: 6-1



Men’s varisty lacrosse storms the field.

Men’s lacrosse is ranked 2nd in California and has recently come back from a successful trip in Colorado.

Women’s Lacrosse

Record as of 3/23: 4-1



Women’s lacrosse huddles together in Denver.

Women’s lacrosse recently tested themselves with elite competition in their trip to Denver.

Baseball

Record as of 3/23: 6-2



Baseball kneels together before taking the field.

Baseball is preforming well this season with sixteen seniors currently leading the way.

Softball

Record as of 3/23: 3-5



Sasha Vassar '27 gets ready to field a ball.

Softball is off to a good start this season with big wins against Aragon and Burlingame.

Men’s Golf

Record as of 3/23: 5-2



Rex Williamson '27 hits a ball.

Men’s golf is delivering wins this season and are looking forward to the Father Barry Invite and the Monterey Classic.

Men’s Volleyball

Record as of 3/23: 4-7



Volleyball lines up before a match.

Men’s volleyball is starting this season off motivated to prove themselves in the difficult WCAL conference.

Spring Sports Update Continued

Bear Vida '27

Associate Editor-in-Chief

Men's Tennis

Record as of 3/23: 10-2



Austin Tokar '26 strikes the ball.

Men's tennis is currently number 1 in WCAL and just took a trip to Carmel for a tournament where they competed against two teams.

Swim and Dive

Record as of 3/23:
Women's: 2-1
Men's: 1-2



Swimmers get set on their blocks.

Swim and dive is handling the intense WCAL competition and also crushing its opponents, having recently won the city invite.

Track and Field



Runners take off down the track.

Track and field is off to an impressive start this season so far hosting two meets and having a select amount of athletes invited to two invitationals.



Jack Farrell '26 makes a big jump.

Previewing SI Crew

Tai Morganson '26

Managing Editor

The men's and women's St. Ignatius crew programs are building into a competitive season of racing at regattas across the country. Both programs sent their top boats to the San Diego Crew Classic in late March, lining St. Ignatius up against the West Coast's toughest competition for the second year in a row.

Looking forward, both programs will host various regattas at Lake Merced, where the St. Ignatius boathouse is located. Wildcats will then seek to claim national titles at the Scholastic National Regatta (SRAAs) hosted this year in Oakridge, Tennessee, and at the Youth National Championship in Sarasota, Florida. The

men's top eight-oared shell is coming off of a gold medal finish in the Junior 8 from the 2025 SRAAs.

Wildcat rowers spend three hours after school at the St. Ignatius boathouse, pushing themselves on indoor rowing machines and rowing lengths of Lake Merced in eight- and four-oared shells.

In addition, the St. Ignatius program continues its historical trend of connecting Wildcats with top American universities, sending athletes to Berkeley, Georgetown, Washington, Princeton, Texas, MIT, Navy, and Stanford over the last three years. The crew program always welcomes young, motivated athletes motivated in learning the sport.



Senior crew team members pose for a picture on Senior Day, March 20, 2026.

Basketball Recap: What a Year for the Red 'N Blue

Colton McKie '27 and Dominic Vicino '27

Contributing Editors

What makes a high school basketball team truly remarkable? Is it their win total at the end of the year? A state championship? For the St. Ignatius Wildcats, overcoming the loss of numerous starters led to one of the best seasons in their half-century of hoops.

The team began its season in late November with a home game, where the SI student section proved once again that there truly is a home-court advantage. The Wildcats then travelled to Southern California to compete in the Torrey Pines Holiday Classic and be crowned tournament champions. The roster was packed with talent and depth at every position, and the team's heart and hustle pushed them to new heights. Coming off their trip to Southern California, students started showing up and would continue to support the Cats whenever they could.

Wildcat Nation knew what this team was capable of and, with the team's most passionate fans, formed a group called "Sixth Man." The term "Sixth Man" refers to fans who directly impact the game without being on the court. Students showed their SI pride by cheering on the team, especially through the ups and downs of a game. Injuries are tough, but the Wildcats showed resilience, with senior Raymond Whitley battling through a torn meniscus while still giving his

best for the team.

Leading up to the midway point in the year, tensions were high, and the biggest obstacle yet was in the Cats' way to the league championship: Archbishop Riordan. With multiple star players, it was their toughest matchup yet. The Wildcats' synergy would prove an even match for Riordan, culminating in one of the greatest games our school has ever witnessed. The cheering and jeering from both sides of the crowd kept everyone invested in the game. Not every story has a happy ending, and the Cats lost in heartbreaking fashion on a buzzer-beater.

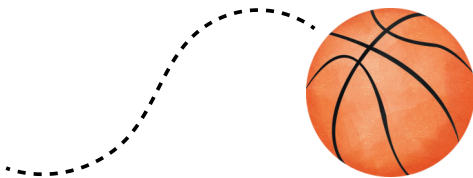
The Cats would rebound and go on to win nine of ten games, all while being down key contributors. The first two were sophomore Alex Moore and senior Andrew "AJ" Ennis. Alex and AJ brought tenacity and determination whenever they stepped on the court. Unfortunately, the two impact players suffered injuries. The MIT commit, senior Steele Labagh, just before another rematch with Riordan, suffered a concussion.

The team would take a leap forward and reach the CIF Open Division semifinal. It would be a tough battle against Salesian College Prep, and ultimately, the Cats' season would end there.

When asked about the season, junior Sawyer Muzzy said, "We showed a lot of strength this season, despite facing a lot of adversity, losing three starters to injuries just as the playoffs began. We stayed one of the top teams in NorCal and all of California and still made it to the NorCal Open Division semifinals, proving that we are one of the top teams in California."



The 'Cats gather together in prayer before taking on Riordan at USF.



Senior Night Success for Women's Soccer

Natalia Juarez '26

Contributing Editor

On February 2nd, the Women's Varsity Soccer team celebrated an unforgettable Senior Night, with a thrilling 2-1 victory over Valley Christian. Before the kickoff, 12 seniors were honored for their dedication and commitment to the program. Congratulations to Taylor Bellotti, Lauryn Brugioni, Emily Alvarez, Giulia Bryant, Gussie Robillard, Alva Fahlgren, Ava Humphreys, Elise Abbott, Riley Hartnett, Alexandra Villalta, Norah Aldrich, and Sophie Vlahos! This recognition created an emotional atmosphere as friends, family, and classmates showed up to support the team.

When the match began, the Wildcats quickly showed their determination to make the night even more special. Senior Ava Humphreys took the lead, scoring both

goals in the hard-fought 2-1 win. After a dominant four-goal victory in their previous match, the Wildcats proved they can win close battles as well. The team maintained control late in the game to secure their ninth consecutive victory over Valley Christian.

The win improved SI's record to 11-3-1, reflecting the consistency and grit the team



The twelve seniors on women's soccer hold flowers they were given on their senior night.

has worked on throughout the season. Senior Taylor Bellotti shared her experience of the game, saying, "It was such a memorable night and I am so grateful for everyone who worked so hard to make it so special. I especially loved seeing all my friends out in the stands there to support."

Although the Wildcats celebrated an emotional Senior Night and an exciting victory over Valley Christian, the season continued to bring new challenges. In their next matchup, SI faced Cardinal Newman in a playoff game but ultimately fell 2-0 to the Cardinals. The loss brought SI's record to 13-6-2, but the team's strong season, dedication, and unforgettable moments, especially celebrating the seniors, remain a proud highlight for the players and the entire school community.

Wildcats' Baseball Builds Momentum for Upcoming Season

Joey Keegan '27

Contributing Editor

The St. Ignatius College Preparatory Wildcats baseball team continues to establish itself as a strong competitor in the highly competitive West Catholic Athletic League. Last season, the Wildcats finished with an impressive 17-10-2 overall record and a 10-4 league record, showcasing a balanced team built on strong pitching, disciplined defense, and timely hitting. Competing against some of the top programs in Northern California, the Wildcats proved they could stay competitive throughout the season, winning key games and demonstrating resilience in close matchups.

One of the team's biggest strengths has been its ability to compete consistently within the demanding WCAL schedule. Facing talented opponents week after week forces the team to stay focused and prepared

and the Wildcats have embraced that challenge.

Senior right handed pitcher Charlie Stecher agrees. "Not trying to change too much," he said, "right now it's just about staying consistent, especially heading into league next week. Trying to make sure everyone does their part and as long as we keep winning each pitch we should be pretty set for the rest of the year."

Throughout the season, players stepped up in key moments, contributing both offensively and defensively to keep the team in contention in one of the toughest high school baseball leagues in the region.

Looking ahead, the future of Wildcats baseball remains promising. With experienced players returning and younger athletes developing within the program, the

team is focused on continuing to improve in areas such as pitching depth, defensive consistency, and situational hitting. As the program builds on last season's success, the Wildcats hope to continue growing as a team and remain a competitive force in the WCAL for seasons to come.



Luke Van De Braak '26 fields a ball.

March Madness Teachers’ Final Four

Bobby Mullin ’26

Managing Editor

Ms. Sanchez

Ms. DeBenedetti

Ms. Nickolai

Mr. Stecher

SI teachers battle it out as they predict the final four teams for March Madness

Humor

Hero’s Journey Crossword Puzzle

Matthew Wheeler ’27

Contributing Editor





Down:

1. Super-soldier well known for his shield

2. Gotham’s masked vigilante

3. Alien hero weakened by kryptonite

5. Hero whose ring can create anything he imagines

10. Hero who gets stronger as he gets angrier

Across:

4. Wall crawling superhero who got his power from a radioactive spider

6. Sorcerer who protects reality through magic

7. The king of Wakanda

8. Amazonian warrior with a magic lasso

9. Norse god of thunder who wields a hammer

11. The fastest man alive

12. Genius billionaire who fights in a high-tech suit

St. Ignatius Connections

Bobby Mullin '26

Managing Editor

How to Play:

Sort 16 words into four groups based on a shared theme. For example, “types of fruit” or “things that are green.”

WILDCAT	BLUFF	WOLVERINE	RIVER
BARBIE	DEPARTURE	RETURN	MENTOR
DISCO	STAR-WARS	DEVIL	BLIND
HOLLYWOOD	GATOR	CALL	RAISE

Click here to see solution: <https://bit.ly/ConnectSI>



Fourth Quarter Memes

Connor Comolli '27
Sophie Barsoian '26

Contributing Editor
Associate Editor-in-Chief

