The Double - Edged Sword

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Chatting with Chris: A Day in the Life

- Emmy Sifuentes, Class of 2030



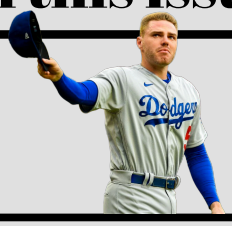
Always spotted smiling, seeing life for the goodness that it holds, and a joy to talk with ... that's exactly who Haonian "Chris" Li is. The first-year Swordsman has started this school year with goodwill at heart and is a friend to many on campus; for those who have met him, chatting with Chris is an enjoyable experience.

Chris grew up in Nanjing, China, and attended Nanjing Foreign Language School Xianlin Campus, which serves as an elementary and middle school, for nine years (the campus is photographed to the right). During his time at the prestigious school, he learned the basics of science, Chinese, English, mathematics, psychology, and computer science. He described some of the differences he has experienced between St. Paul and Nanjing Foreign, saying, "In China we cannot bring our phones to school." He also added, "After graduating from junior high and high school, we take exams which determine the high schools and universities we will attend in the future, and these are extremely important! Freer choice in schooling was available here in America." He finally explained how he had traveled to the United States numerous times before finally moving here, settling down in the Santa Fe Springs/Whitter area.

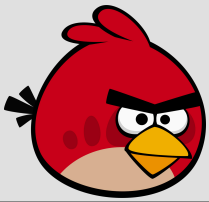


Chris continued by describing what a typical day of his life would look like. He wakes up around 6:40 am and prepares for the school day, arriving on campus at 7:40, with enough time to collect his books and settle in for the upcoming hours of learning. When the bell rings, he heads to his first period of World History, learning about different democracies, the Renaissance, and other intriguing topics. He then goes over to PE, his second period, taught by Mr. Dixon. After break,

In this issue...



Caleb recaps the MLB playoff picture, pg. 4



Angel muses over a childhood classic, pg. 7

KNOTT'S SCARY FARM

Galilea gives you the run-down on LA's spookiest spot, pg. 12

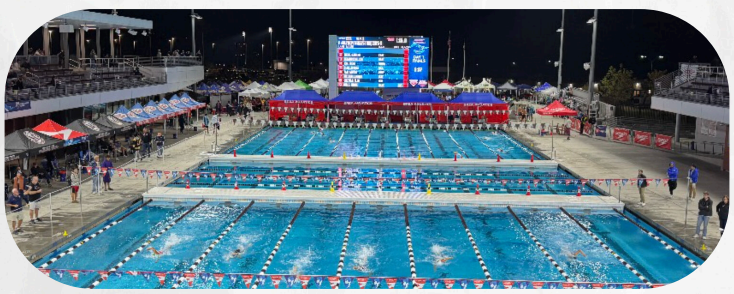
Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Chatting with Chris: A Day in the Life contd.

- Emmy Sifuentes, Class of 2030

he heads to English 1 for third period, where he is greeted by Ms. Gonzalez; in this class, he learns how to properly answer writing prompts and improve his overall English skills. Chris then hustles from the 100 building all the way to the 300 building for Religion taught by Mr. Lorenzo. There, he learns more about God and the famous computer coding teen saint, Carlo Acutis. During lunch, he likes to go to the counselor's office to cool off in the air conditioning. Once lunch is finished, he goes to Biology class, led by Mr. Duguma. Finally, he ends the day with Algebra 1 Honors, taught by Mr. Avina. Chris stated, "Odd block schedule is my favorite, Mondays and Wednesdays."

After a long day at school, Chris arrives home at around 2:30 pm and completes his homework. He then takes a small break and enjoys some fruit before getting onto an online Zoom class at about 4:15 pm to strengthen his English. Once the class is finished, he prepares to go to his swim practice from 7-8:30 pm at Mt. San Antonio College, where he represents the BREA swimming team. He then makes a quick stop at Starbucks after practice, picking up his favorite latte and finally heads home around 9:20 pm. After an extensive day full of academics and athletics, Chris prepares for bed and goes to sleep, primed to do it all again the next day.



In his free time, Chris competes for the BREA Aquatics swim club, practicing at Mount San Antonio College. Photo Courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Chris also shared some deeper insights about himself. He explained how at home, he and his family speak mostly Mandarin, but still have a decent understanding of English. "Since my family is involved in international business, they do speak some English, though not particularly well." He then told us how having access to Google Translate helps him take better notes and fully understand the material, although he writes them in English because it is how the assessments will be written. He shared that he is happy to come to St. Paul to learn more about American culture and tackle new experiences, especially in English and history. He stated that he wants to be remembered as "an interesting student who sees his life as good (which is why he is known for always smiling)." Chris dreams of attending a university on the East Coast and continuing to try new things.

Mr. Lorenzo and fellow classmate Evan Morlet spoke about how they regard Chris. Mr. Lorenzo stated, "I am very grateful that Chris is part of St. Paul and is open to trying new things. I like his gentleness and energy he brings to the classroom." Classmate Evan said, "I like the fact that he's fun to hang around with, and that he's a great student here at St. Paul. I'm glad he's a Swordsman."

Chris is a great student, classmate, and person overall. He has big dreams for the future and is always open to exploring the world. Before the interview with him finished, he left a meaningful piece of advice we ought to all abide by: "Try different things even if you are not good at them yet; you may never know the rewarding outcome."

Volleyball Vanquishes Final Foe to Close Season

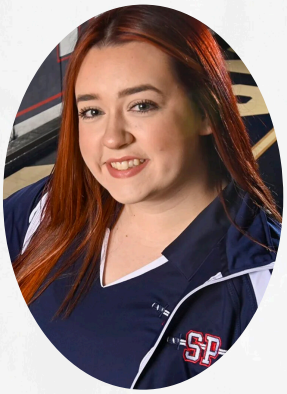
- Ariana Murillo, Class of 2030



Photos courtesy of Ms. Kelly

The volleyball team just had their last home match against Cantwell-Sacred Heart of Mary, winning 3-0. Great job, ladies! The girls volleyball team ended their season with a record of 7-17, although they swept the opposition in their concluding trio of games. Head Coach Kelly is very proud of all of the girls' hard work and dedication to the team throughout the course of the season, especially in their final game: “The girls definitely showed their skills on the court.” The varsity win over Cantwell placed St. Paul sixth in league to close 2026.

Last year’s volleyball squad had a spectacular season with a record of 23-6. Coach Kelly commented on the season’s difference between this year and last year: “We lost some of our players due to injuries.” Coach Kelly believes that they did well overall in the 2026 campaign, and also commented on the future: “At the end of this season, we were finally meshing as a team. For next season, we can hopefully take that momentum to win league and have a CIF run.” Coach Kelly also stated that she does not want to change tactics for next year; she is trusting the players will continue to advance their skills and attitude.



The final victory over Cantwell also marked senior night for the lady volleyballers! It certainly meant a great deal to the players to have their parents see them play one last game at St. Paul. Coach Kelly made a heartwarming statement about it: “My senior girls have been my players since their freshman year, when I first started coaching. It especially meant a lot to me to see them grow all these years”. Coach Kelly believes that the team will carry the momentum off of the three-game win streak into next season and improve on their 2026 record, even with the departure of eight seniors. Thank you to the graduating class for competing at St. Paul, and we wish you the best of luck!



Brewers Prevent 3-Peat as World Series Match is Set

- Jude Tellez, Class of 2030

After Tuesday's 7-3 win over Cleveland, the Tampa Bay Rays have secured their last out, winning the American League pennant. Friday, October 23rd will be the first pitch of the World Series as the Rays face the Milwaukee Brewers, who just swept the back-to-back World Series winners, the Los Angeles Dodgers. Neither the Brewers nor the Rays have ever won a World Series. The Brewers have made two appearances in the World Series, and the Rays have made it three times, but one of the teams will enter November a World Series champion for the first time in franchise history.

Wild Card Recaps:

The path for both teams was treacherous to reach the big-game. In the American League, the wild card round began with the Yankees and Red Sox. For the second year in a row, the Yankees overtook Boston. The most memorable moment was Cody Bellinger launching a grand slam in game two, to cap a six-run inning for the Yankees. Next, was the wild card round between the Chicago White Sox and the Houston Astros. The Sox ended a five-year playoff appearance drought, before they beat the Astros, advancing to the ALDS.



In the National League, the Braves and Phillies went head-to-head against one another. While the Phillies pushed the series to a third game, they ultimately went down in Atlanta. San Diego rounded out the National League with another sweep of the Chicago Cubs. Nothing special about the NL.



Divisional Round Recaps:

During the American League Division Series, the Rays made quick work of the Yankees in a sweep, punching their ticket for the conference series. In the other ALDS game, Cleveland was waiting for the White Sox to slip up, and a Jose Ramirez two-run home run pushed the Guardians to victory in game five.

In the National Division League Series, the back-to-back champion Dodgers faced the 2021 champion Braves in a four-game series with the Dodgers taking a hold of the win in game four. In the bottom half of the bracket, the Milwaukee Brewers' pitching rotation caught fire and dismantled San Diego in only four games.

Yankees left-fielder, Cody Bellinger, sent a ball to the moon as the Yankees swept the Red Sox. Photo Courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Brewers Prevent 3-Peat as World Series Match is Set contd.

- Jude Tellez, Class of 2030

Championship Series Recaps:

During the American League Championship Series, Cleveland faced the Rays in a matchup that ended on Monday, October 19th. The Rays won in six games, sending Tampa Bay to the World Series for the first time since 2020, when the season was cut in half because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The Rays lost that series 4-2 to the Dodgers, but with no Dodgers (or their $339 million payroll) in sight, they might have a chance to win it all. Even if they don't have to play LA's team, their opponent in Milwaukee is still dangerous. Uh oh!

In the National League Championship Series, the Dodgers and Brewers squared off in Milwaukee, a repeat of last year. The Dodgers lost the first two games, even after having a one run lead.

The Brewers traveled to La-La-Land, and after a Shohei three-run home run, the Dodgers had life in the potential-elimination game. However, follorwing a two-run double in the fourth inning (courtesy of Milwaukee first-baseman Jake Bauers), the Brewers surged late and swept the Dodgers. After later drawing a bases-loaded walk to tie the game, Jake Bauers was named NLCS MVP. This matchup also made history as both the Brewers and Dodgers were swept by the other team in back-to-back years during the NLCS.

St. Paul's resident Dodger fanatic, Ms. Patino, had this to say on this NLCS loss: " I am outraged! As a die-hard Dodger fan, it hurts to go through October without watching Dodger baseball and without that 3-peat. In all honesty, though, the Brewers are a great team and played the game the right way. We hope they win their first World Series. And shout-out to the Dodgers for letting the series go so that no one gets a salary cap."

With the Championship Series wrapped up, the postseason picture of 2026 is set after three weeks of franchises contending for the throne. The final clash is in motion between the battle-tested Brewers of Milwaukee and the resilient Rays of Tampa Bay. First pitch it at 5pm on October 23rd (the date of this publication) in Milwaukee. Two teams who have never won the World Series will fight to get a championship ring. Who are you rooting for to win it all?

Score Predictions:

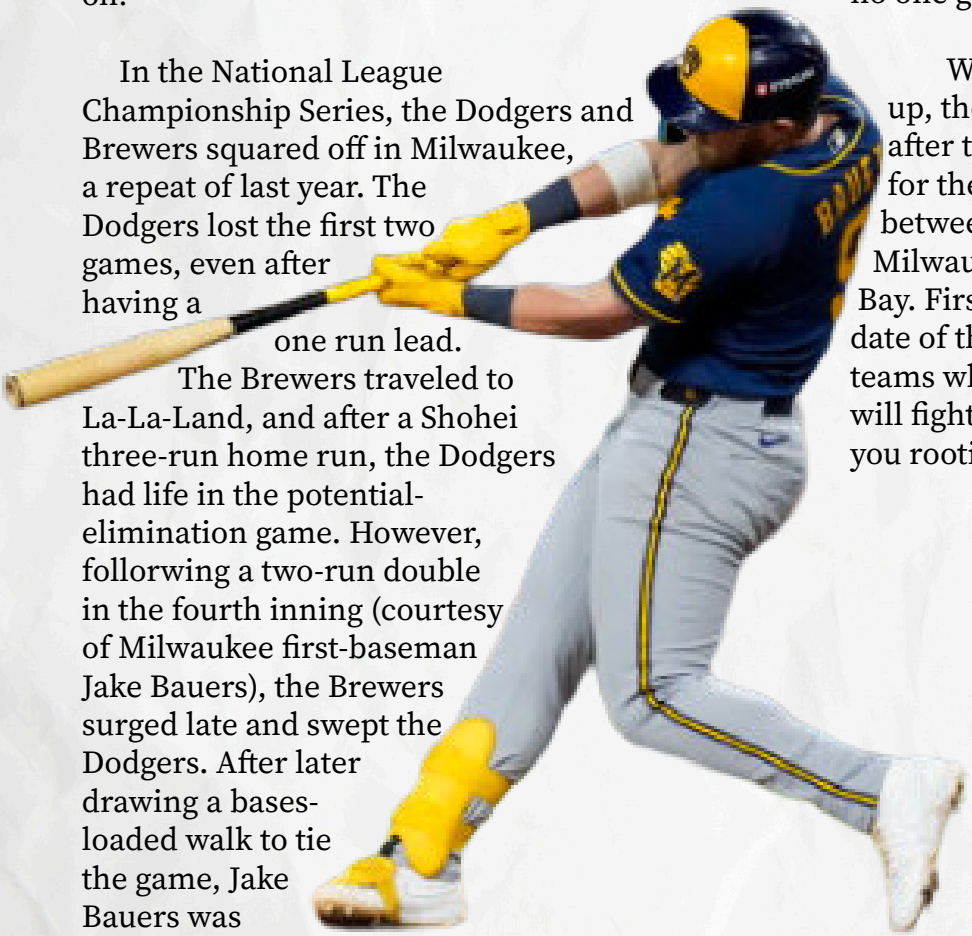
Ms. Gonzalez: Rays in 4

Mr. Tingleff: Brewers in 5

Mr. Vu: Brewers in 6

Mr. Dominguez: Rays in 6

Mr. Dixon: Lakers in 7?!



Brewers first-baseman, Jake Bauers, led the game-four charge to sweep the Dodgers in LA.

Photo Courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Pope Leo XIV Sets the Example for Returning Relics

- Josephine Mancinas, Class of 2029

Have you ever been to a museum and wondered where all the artifacts were acquired from? It is estimated that up to 85% of the objects displayed and kept in museums worldwide lack a complete paper trail of ownership; however, some are trying to fix this problem, including our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

The British Museum in London houses eight million artifacts, the largest collection in the world. Due to England's storied history, the museum acquired numerous objects during wars and England's imperial period. In addition, many of these pieces are not even up for viewing, as the gallery has at most 80,000 of the 8 million artifacts on display at any given time, which is less than 1% of the total supply available.



Photo Courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

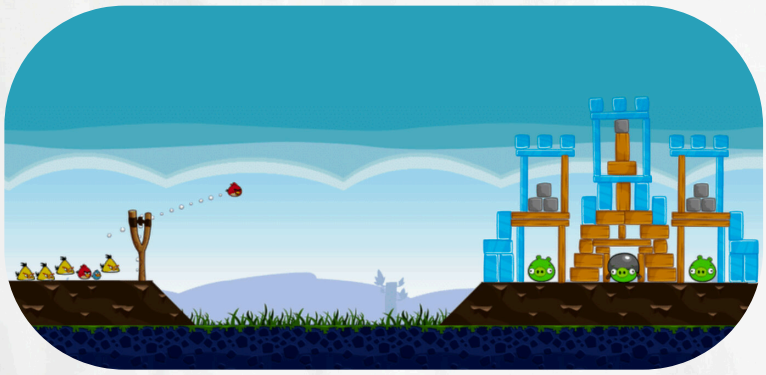
Within this 1%, it can be difficult to fathom the number of artifacts that have been acquired through seemingly ambiguous practices. Many of these relics are placed under the label of "contested objects." This means that the artifact shown was challenged by its country of origin and has become a subject of dispute. More specifically, this label is placed when a country has formally requested an object in a museum to be returned; reasons for return generally center on how the museum acquired the artifact: war spoils, colonial pressure, or other deemed unethical avenues.

However, returning these artifacts is not as simple as fulfilling the request, particularly with the British Museum. There is a bulwark of laws that forbid the institution from returning the artifacts to their country of origin. The most prominent of these laws is the 1963 British Museum Act, which prohibits the museum from removing any items from within its collections, "regardless of the circumstances of its acquisition." Given this and similar laws, it becomes apparent why these museums are unable to return objects which other countries claim are stolen.

Recently, Pope Leo XIV has helped to mend this situation. On November 15th, 2025, the Pope returned sixty-two artifacts back to the Indigenous peoples of Canada. The items returned (including an Inuit kayak) came from the Vatican Museums' ethnographic collection, known as the Anima Mundi Museum. While the acquisition of numerous artifacts at world-renowned museums is contested, Pope Leo XIV and the Catholic Church have helped to set an example for the process of returning artifacts to their country or people of origin.

Get ANGRY: Tracing the Downfall of a Once-Beloved Series

- Angel Hernandez, Class of 2028



How many of you remember going home after school, finishing some homework (curse you, fractions!), and looked for something fun to do after finally being done with the day? Personally, I would boot up the ol' PlayStation 3 and decide to kick back, but there was always an issue. My older brothers loved to hog the PS3 (shoutout *Skyrim*, *BO2*, and *Kingdom Hearts*), leaving me stuck with the VERY old iPad my older brother never touched. In their mercy, they downloaded games for me to play, and when five-year-old me looked at the app icons, one caught my attention: *Angry Birds*. My favorite color was red, so seeing the main character be a red bird (who was appropriately named "Red") fascinated me. Released in 2009, *Angry Birds* is a game where you command a team of birds (most notably "Red," "Chuck," and "Bomb"), with the player launching the feathered friends at enemy pigs. Through the use of a catapult, the goal for the player was to destroy the pigs' buildings; however, this seemingly needless act of violence was completely justified. The pigs loved nothing more than to steal the birds' eggs! As a result, the birds became angry (see what I did there?) and would battle the detested swine to reclaim their shelled young. The birds were the heroes, and nobody can ever say otherwise.

My interest in *Angry Birds* began to swell, leading me to play a trio of titles upon their respective releases: 2012's *Angry Birds Space* (a beloved adventure where the birds are in space and joined by a new bird - the famed "Ice Bird"), 2014's *Angry Birds Epic* (which strayed away from the original catapult-based game mechanic in favor of a turn-based role-playing game, including a phenomenal story and online mode), and 2013's *Angry Birds Go!* (a fun 3D racing game that was noted for its colors and fun gameplay).

While these games helped to develop the *Angry Birds* franchise while also branching out into new game styles, cracks began to surface, particularly with *Angry Birds Go!* The game was plagued with microtransactions, forcing the player to decide whether to pay for the cars that were locked behind a paywall, struggle trying to keep up with the users who paid to win, or choose not to give Rovio Entertainment (the company behind Angry Birds) a single cent. It quickly metamorphosed into a moral battle. With the release of *Angry Birds 2* in 2015, it became increasingly apparent that Rovio Entertainment was more interested in microtransactions as a means to profit than maintaining the spirit that made the original game so enjoyable. The game was fun, but it was entirely bombarded with advertisements and



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Get ANGRY: Tracing the Downfall of a Once-Beloved Series contd.

- Angel Hernandez, Class of 2028

microtransactions, unlike its predecessor. This made many dislike the sequel and placed further distrust in Rovio Entertainment.

Rovio decided they needed to do something fast in order to get their fans back, leading to the release of *The Angry Birds Movie* in 2016. Starring Jason Sudeikis as "Red," the movie follows Red as a lonely outsider on an island full of happy, carefree birds. Green pigs begin to arrive on the island, seemingly friendly at first. However, Red does not trust them, and rightfully so, as the pigs steal the birds' eggs, leading Red to team up with others in order to save the eggs. The movie was a financial success, grossing $352 million worldwide. Rovio saw how well the movie did and decided to make a sequel that, just like the game, did not live up to its predecessor. While the movie was not horrible by any means, it did underperform in theaters, relying on cheap slapstick humor that was not very humorous (but is still a guilty pleasure of mine).



Rovio decided to make more *Angry Birds* games, but failed to capture the charm of the past titles; the games did quite badly, causing Rovio to delist all the original games so users would be forced to play the new ones.

This was the final straw for many fans who decided to leave the series altogether. Rovio is still trying to get its fans to come back to the series by releasing a new *Angry Birds* movie this December, but instead of it having an amazing story like *Angry Birds Space*, it's about Red... becoming a father??? Many fans, including myself, have come to terms with Rovio becoming nothing more than a greedy company. It saddens me to say goodbye to a franchise that I loved so dearly.

Angry Birds was once more than a game hidden in the app store; it was a core aspect of my childhood, a cultural phenomenon of a generation, and a franchise beloved by millions. Yet sadly, due to corporate greed and questionable business decisions, Rovio destroyed the charm the series once had, which will always break my heart. The birds may never soar as high as they once did, but for those of us who grew up launching them at those darn pigs, the memories will always remain.



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Hone in on Hocus Pocus this Halloween

- Anabella Bravo, Class of 2029

With Halloween right around the corner, people have traditions they like to do every year to get in the spooky spirit. One prominent tradition is having a marathon of Halloween movies throughout the fall season. However, what is the best movie to watch? A popular pick is *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, but that can be a controversial option since many claim it's a Christmas movie. Others make a frightening selection with 1978's *Halloween* but that feels a little too on the nose doesn't it? Every Halloween, the perfect movie for me is the 1993 cult classic: *Hocus Pocus*.



Hocus Pocus is the perfect middle ground between a cute Snoopy holiday special and watching *Scream* in the middle of the night. The movie follows the storyline of three witches: Winifred, Mary and Sarah, also known as the Sanderson Sisters. In addition to the trio of sisters, the film also follows the people who are responsible for the rebirth of these witches. The characters include Max (who is the main cause), his little sister Dani (who is the target for the sisters), and Allison (who is both a love interest and overall helpful person in this story).

This movie carries such key Halloween themes. Namely, it is set in a very well-known town Salem, Massachusetts. Salem is known for their haunted environment due to the Salem Witch Trials, which occurred in the seventeenth-century. In addition, the movie takes place on Halloween night, so the festive costumes are apparent (which also allow for the witches blend in due to their own unique witchy style).

What might be most entertaining about *Hocus Pocus* is the myriad of classic witch stereotypes you might hear from childhood stories. The three Snaderson sisters are the witches of old: burning in the sun and flying on broomsticks...or actually vacuum cleaners since it was the twentieth-century. Another key element to the film is their cauldrons and potion making (keeping the witches young), while they use children as their elixir for extended life.

Personally, one of my favorite reasons why this movie is so great is the aesthetic and overall visual appeal. Between the classic look of the camera, and the color scheme of the film, *Hocus Pocus* is quintessentially nineties! The setting holds good contrast between the warm oranges and yellows of falls, along with the richly dark purples and greens of Halloween and the mischievous witches.

Overall, this movie is perfect to sit down and watch with the entire family (so as to not scare the little siblings with true holiday horror) or to watch in the background while you laugh and bake cookies with friends. With an easy-to-follow pace and its classic Halloween themes, *Hocus Pocus* makes the perfect movie to get into the spirit of All Hallow's Eve; put it on your short list of movies to watch this Halloween!

1993's *Hocus Pocus* poster features the Sandserson Sisters riding a vintage upright vacuum cleaner in place of a traditional broomstick. Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Ghostly Grooves

- Nicholas Razo, Class of 2029

Halloween is one of the most unique holidays out there: it perfectly showcases humanity's interest in both the frightening and the grotesque like no other holiday. What was originally an ancient Celtic holiday has evolved into something much more...a holiday that focuses on ghosts, ghouls, "Psycho Killers," and monsters doing the "Monster Mash."

In terms of pop culture, Halloween has inspired numerous movies, television series, and video games of prominence. The horror genre has even transcended movies and made its way into our ears through music. In the spirit of Halloween, we'll be taking a look at a few of the holiday's greatest songs that you're bound to hear throughout the spooky season. So, "(Don't Fear) The Reaper," because it'll certainly be a "Thriller. "

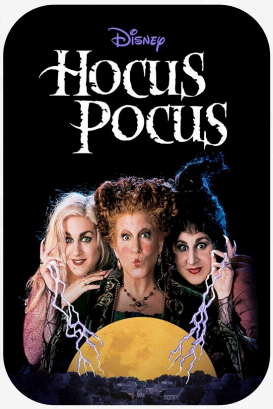
Starting this list is "**Purple People Eater**," a song created by Sheb Wooley all the way back in 1958. This two-minute song perfectly represents the goofier side of Halloween, as it features a monster that purely eats people who are purple, a subversion of expectations for sure. This blues song reached the No. 1 U.S. Billboard pop chart shortly after its release, and quickly became a cult classic for the holiday. This song is an oldie but goodie, as many may say, and definitely deserves a listen or two if you're trying to get in the Halloween mood.



The next song came out nearly ten years after the previous entry, titled "**Bad Moon Rising**," and was created by the band Creedence Clearwater Revival. This song was never meant to be a Halloween song, nor was it even released around the holiday; however, its themes of the supernatural and eerie vibe have cemented the song as a fall classic. This classic rock song has heavy themes of bad omens and classic Halloween folklore, which definitely earns it a listen.

"**(Don't Fear) The Reaper**" is yet another older song that has taken its place amongst the great Halloween songs. Created by the band "Blue Öyster Cult" (a fitting name), this rock song features motifs of accepting death as a natural part of life, as well as understanding that life continues on even after death in the form of an afterlife. So although this song may not exactly have such a gritty or edgy theme as other Halloween songs, it focuses on a core part of Halloween...death. The song itself is definitely another rock classic, featuring heavy usage of the guitar and other hard rock elements, and thus makes its way onto this list among the greats.

Sung by one of the most talented vocalists of her time, "**I Put a Spell on You**," by Screamin' Jay Hawkins, is another older song that was revitalized into the horror genre by a feature film; 1993's *Hocus Pocus*, an extremely influential Halloween movie, features Hawkins' iconic musical piece. The themes of magic and the supernatural are strong throughout the song (perfectly fitting the



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Ghostly Grooves contd.

- Nicholas Razo, Class of 2029

Halloween setting), while the vocals are loud and crazy-sounding. Due to the R&B genre of the song, it gives off an eerie and comically evil vibe. Although this song is only at the ninety-second mark, it captures the craziness and chaotic nature of Halloween perfectly, and thus deserves to be near the top on any Halloween playlist.

"**Psycho Killer**" was released by The Talking Heads in 1977 and is the first alternative rock entry on this list. This song was a part of their debut album and launched the band into the spotlight due to its popularity. This defining track has made its way into the “Rock and Roll Hall of Fame’s 500 Songs That Shaped Rock and Roll” and continues to be one of the band's most covered and listened-to songs. This song follows motifs of flawed social behavior, as well as themes of anxiety and instability. "Psycho Killer's" dark and unsettling subject matter has made it a widely accepted Halloween song in the eyes of many. The alternative rock genre-defining classic helps to convey a less-sane side of the holiday that is oftentimes depicted in movies and television. It’s definitely a good listen if you're into rock or are looking for a song that doesn’t quite fit the norm.

"**Monster Mash**" is debatably THE Halloween Song. Created by Bobby Pickett in 1962, this song was literally made for the spooky holiday. Pickett’s tune has reached the top-100 nearly every Halloween



for years since its release, and has had a lasting impact on popular culture. Dozens of films have featured this song, and it has inspired several Halloween-themed films as well. The lasting cultural impact of this song can not be overlooked; it has become a staple of every Halloween since 1962, and is projected to stay that way for years to come.

And now for the song you’ve all been waiting for, the Halloween Song that contends annually with "Monster Mash" for the top spot... "**Thriller**."



Released by Michael Jackson in 1982, "**Thriller**" was a part of an album of the same name and was the King of Pop's best-selling album. The song specifically broke multiple records, and the music video is widely considered one of the best music videos of all time (if not the best). Calling back on classical horror films such as *Dracula*, Jackson's piece uses spooky and cinematic imagery to evoke classical horror tropes. The album itself has not only reached the number one spot on the Billboard charts multiple times, but also stayed on the billboard for thirty-seven consecutive weeks. The song “**Thriller**” is still considered one of Michael Jackson's greatest hits, placing it as the #1 Halloween song on this list.

Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Berries + Scarries: A Spooky Good Time

- Galilea Placencia, Class of 2030

Knott's Scary Farm has the world's first and longest-running Halloween-themed event at any theme park since its inception in October 1973. This fall marks fifty-three years of the annual transformation of Knott's Berry Farm into a spook-tacular venue for six weeks. Per promotional materials, this thrilling event is based on "a sprawling, interconnected universe where the fictional town of Calico is plagued by dark magic, ancient curses, and recurring central villains." This year, the park welcomed two new mazes, Inked and Unearthed, along with eight returning mazes. Throughout the park, there are five themed scare zones, with actors waiting to terrify and thrill you at every corner. Prepare yourself to explore all the mazes and scare zones in chronological order, but read at your own risk!

Mary

Are you brave enough to survive malevolent spirits? With the returning maze, Mary, you can now live out every terrifying movie about specters from the other side. Mary is based around the urban legend of Bloody Mary, who is summoned by chanting her name three times in the mirror. In the maze, you're taken through the house of a family that summoned her, as Mary unleashes chaos throughout the home. Just don't stare into the mirrors too long, or something else might stare back.

Widows

This maze is not for those with arachnophobia, but if are not afraid to see large spiders, then make yourself at home. Widows follows the story of a spider plague that infests a nursing home, making prey of all who enter. As the maze progresses, you try to avoid spiders at every corner, with some hiding in the dark nooks, ready to catch you off guard.



Zoo

An experiment gone wrong leaves many animals mutated into twisted nightmares, roaming the abandoned zoo. With the alarms going off, tools everywhere, and grisly anomalies, your only objective is to escape from this chaotic environment before it's the animals' mealtime and they decide you look like chow.

Eight Fingers Nine: The Boogeyman

Based on the 16th-century English legend, Eight Fingers Nine takes place in a colonial town where the Boogeyman is terrorizing the local children. The attraction is mostly dark, creating an eerie atmosphere that makes you feel like you're being watched from the shadows. Bad news: you are.

Unearthed

Indiana Jones just got a hundred times darker. Unearthed is an excavation site that accidentally awakens powerful forces of ancient evil. It quickly turns into a rescue mission for the archaeologists, but it might be too late.

Photo courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Berries + Scarries: A Spooky Good Time contd.

- Galilea Placencia, Class of 2030

Origins: The Curse of Calico

Into a good scare and paranormal activity? Origins has all that and more! The town is swarming with the supernatural as Sarah Marshall is put on trial for suspicion of witchcraft. Guests must flee the courtroom and town to avoid Sarah Marshall's curse.

Cinema Slasher

Horror movies are already terrifying, but imagine being in one, only no one is actually acting. In Knott's popular maze, guests jump from movie to movie, trying to escape the grip of the cruel Slasher, before you're his next victim.

Inked

Cartoons are meant to be fun and cheerful, right? In Knott's brand new hit maze, Inked, park-goers enter Morbid Studios, where an animator's characters come to life (and not with good intentions). Hell-bent on keeping everyone who enters from leaving, guests try to escape the grasp of Morbid Studios' twisted world. But if you're caught, it will be fatal.



The Chilling Chambers

The Chilling Chambers was the very first maze that was designed specifically for Knott's Scary Farm. The Chilling Chambers is a mix of everything. It goes from a circus to a haunted doll house. It's still scary, but really enjoyable. Hey, the classics are classics for a reason.

Scare Zones

Throughout the park, there are five themed scare zones, where actors roam with their only objective being to terrify you. Fog fills the air, making it harder to see where they are coming from, so you have to be on high alert at all times. In Ghost Town, humanoid monsters and the infamous sliders lunge at you from the dark along the streets. On the Boardwalk, there is the CarnEVIL, filled with clowns, "rat people," and "dog people." In Charleston Circle, there's The Gore-ing '20s (a clever quip on the Roaring Twenties), where a big jazz party and ghouls have the best time foxtrotting, while also scaring you to death. Near Silver Bullet is Forsaken Lake, where gothic water creatures wander about; they follow you in the shadows as you make your way to Fiesta Village. Finally at Camp Snoopy, we have The Gauntlet, a really dark fairy tale domain with frightening jesters, kings and queens, wizards, and peasants.

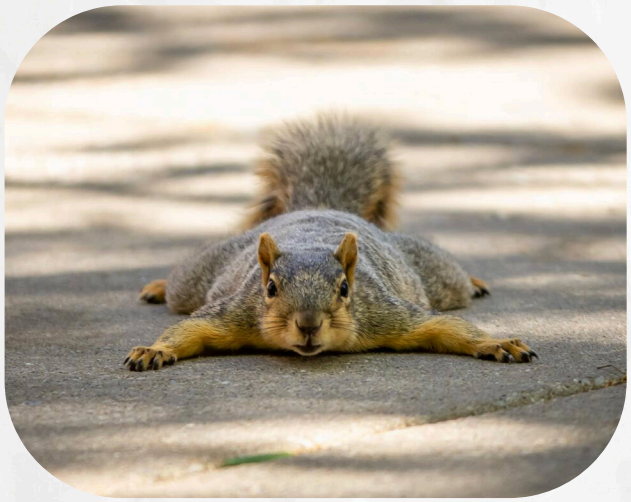
What People Are Saying

"My experience at Knott's Scary Farm is that it was fun, but scary and thrilling," Freshman Swordsman Jolene Carrillo said. " My favorite maze was the Cinema Slasher because it felt like I was in a movie scene and the scare actors were the best compared to other mazes." St. Paul students are a common sight at Knott's, and with the Halloween festivities running through October 31st, you still have plenty of time for some scarries and berries! Perhaps consider sharing your location with some family and friends on the off chance that you don't make it back in one piece...those sliders did look a bit hungry.

Photo courtesy of Galilea Placencia, Class of 2030

Splooting Squirrels

- Virgil Garcia, Class of 2028



Have you noticed the intense heat recently, even though it's already October? Like many others, I have found myself fatigued due to the sultriness. Well, we're not the only ones trying to beat the heat and avoid drowsiness. None other than squirrels have been found to be flopping all over Southern California. This act has caused the entire squirrel community to gain massive amounts of popularity for the perceived plopping around.

When I first noticed this bizarre phenomenon, quick research pointed to this planking as a cooling method for squirrels; while it is a bit hard to believe, it is true. This act of squirrels laying splayed out, also known as splooting, helps squirrels reduce their body temperatures since they do not have the ability to sweat like humans. According to Dan Blumstein, an ecology professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, “Many mammals have less fur on their bellies compared to the rest of their body, so on hot days the animals will lie flat on their stomach against cooler surfaces, such as rocks or cooler ground, to shed some heat and keep cool”.

During the Fall months, squirrels typically begin initial preparations for winter, but with the sweltering heat, squirrels have decided to just take a break on the pavement and literally chill out. So if these squirrels are going to make their winter deadline they better lock in and secure some nuts! No more procrastination and lethargy.

If you're ever feeling too hot or maybe your air conditioning is not pumping out cool enough air, go on outside and find a squirrel to sploot with.

DISCLAIMER!: DO NOT SPLOOT WITH SQUIRRELS, YOU ARE NOT DR. DOLITTLE

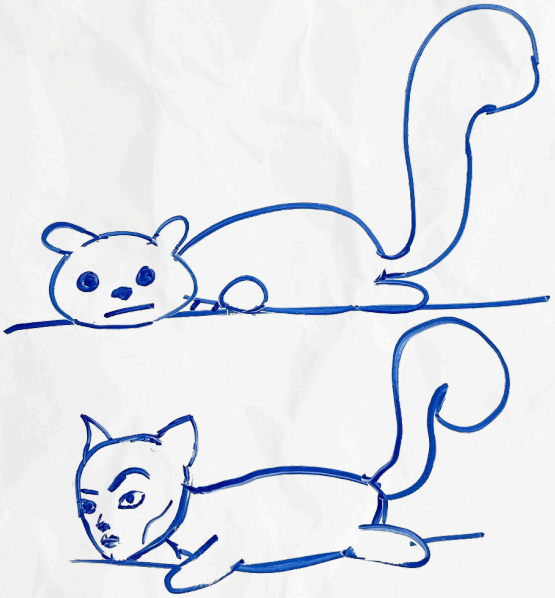
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Seriously though, it's not a good idea; do NOT do it



Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

Student Sketches For Issue III:



"Gigachad Squirrel"
- Zoey Sifuentes,
Class of 2029



"Ms. Gonzalez's Cat"
- Bao Chau Pham,
Class of 2030



"Happy Halloween"
- Anabella Bravo,
Class of 2029



"Angry Birds"
- Bao Tran Pham,
Class of 2030

The Confection Cipher

Clue:
Caesar walked three steps backwards to fool you
Return from whence you came to reveal the loo...t

QR ZLWFKHV' EUHZ, QR KDXQWHG KDOO,

WZR NHHSHUV JXDUG WKH VZHHWHVW KDXO.

ZKHUH ODWH VOLSV ODQG DQG SKRQHV PDB ULQJ,

D VSRRNB VHFUHW ZDLWV ZLWKLQ.

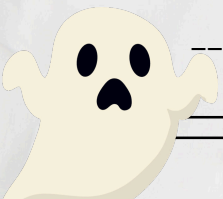
ILQG PV. UXEOB DQG PV. FDVWHOODQRV WKHUH,

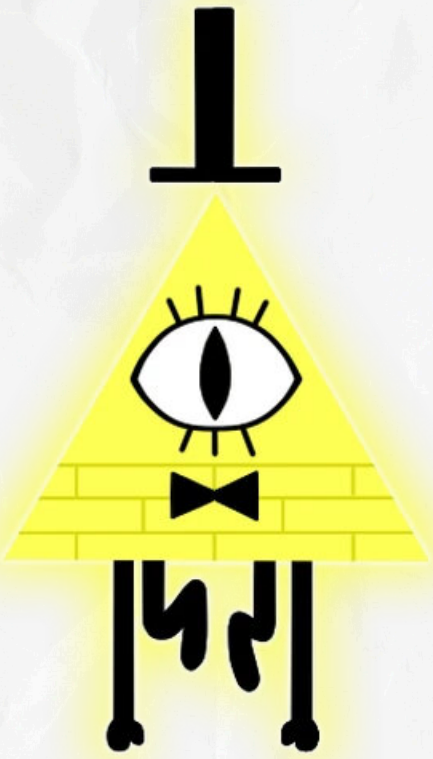
DQG FODLP WKH WUHDWV WKHB KDYH WR VSDUH!

ILQG PV. UXEOB DQG PV. FDVWHOODQRV LQ WKH IURQW RIILFH WR FODLP BRXU KDOORZHHQ FDQGB.

RQOB FRPSOHWHG, SULQWHG FRSLHV RI WKLV ULGGOH ZLOO EH DFFHSWHG.

QR SDSHU, QR FDQGB. WKH VZRUG KDV VSRNHQ!







Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

ISSUE NO. III **The Staff Page** 10/23/2026

Thank You to Our Staff!

Student Staff Writers:

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Virgil Garcia, Class of 2028

Angel Hernandez, Class of 2028

Josephine Mancinas, Class of 2029

Ariana Murillo, Class of 2030

Galilea Placencia, Class of 2030

Nicholas Razo, Class of 2029

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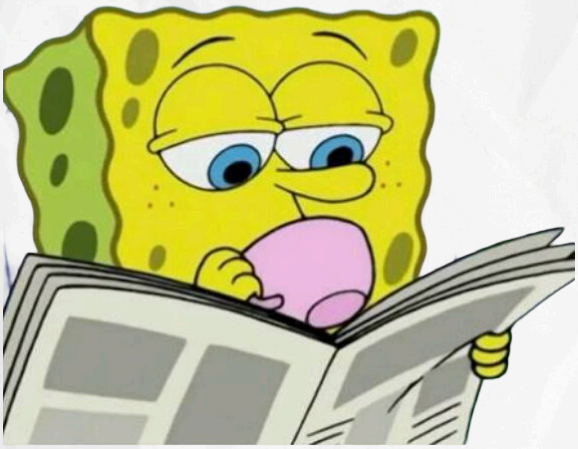
Jude Tellez, Class of 2030

Faculty Advisors:

Ms. Kiara Gonzalez

Mr. Joseph Nichols





Interested in Joining the Double-Edged Sword?

Email jnichols@stpaulhs.org or kgonzalez@stpaulhs.org for more information.

We meet Fridays during lunch in room 106 to plan articles and plot our uprising!

Photos courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org