



## Poll: Back full time

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN AND JACOB SPROCK  
EDITOR IN CHIEF, NEWS EDITOR

The *Prep News* sent the third survey of the 2020-21 school year this past Monday, Feb. 1, asking students and faculty members about their confidence in St. Louis U. High's safety programs after completing the fourth week of full capacity in person schooling.

The first survey from Sept. 5 analyzed the satisfaction with full distance learning and the hyflex model that was used entirely during the first semester. The second survey measured the school population's satisfaction with the Hyflex schedule and general safety of the school.

It is important to note that the results of each poll may not reflect the views of the school as a whole. Despite about a third of the school reporting, there is an inherent response bias that comes with emailing a poll because those with stronger opinions may be more inclined to respond to the email. The results of the poll are available at the bottom of the article, but they can only be used to reflect the views of the 355 respondents, not the entire school population.

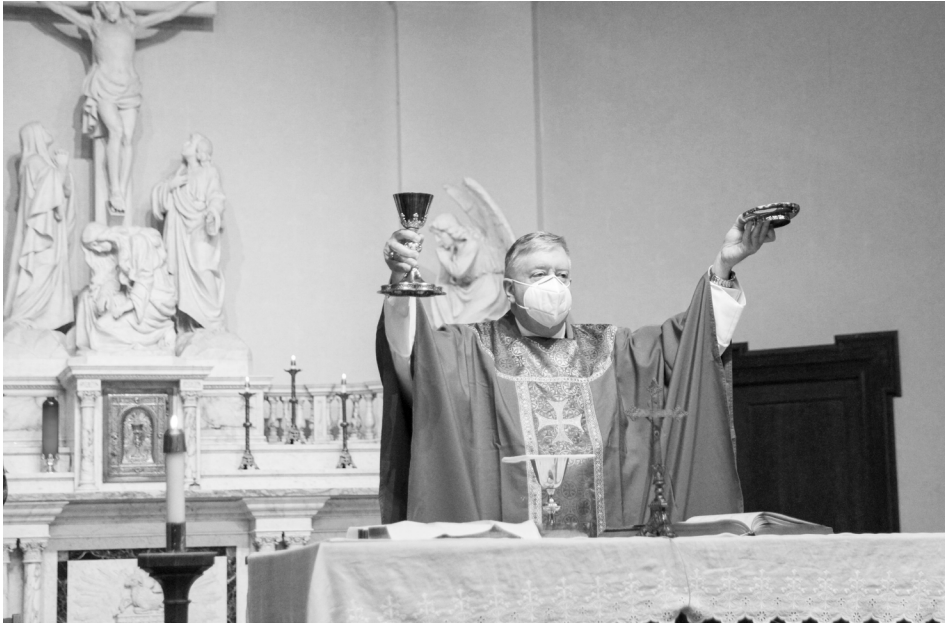
It is also worth noting that, after sending out followup questions to respondents from a variety of viewpoints, many did not reply. Most of the people who replied felt relatively unsafe in comparison to the last schedule.

The focal point of this poll, of course, is safety—current feelings of safety, safety in comparison to the previous schedule, how SLUH could be safer. Safety has always been the number one priority of the administration when taking into account schedule changes, and safety seems to be on people's minds a lot this semester. Many in the SLUH community feel the administration has done a good job of keeping its students safe and keeping case numbers down.

Many students cite the safety measure put in place as being a source for comfort.

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## Archbishop Rozanski says Mass for juniors, calls on them to be the good



Archbishop Rozanski during the Eucharistic prayer. photo | Matthew Leight

BY JACK FIGGE  
CORE STAFF

Filing into the chapel, adorned in formal attire, the junior class gathered together on Monday morning to celebrate Mass with and welcome the new Archbishop of St. Louis, Mitchell Rozanski, to the halls of St. Louis U. High.

Installed as the 10th Archbishop of the archdiocese of St. Louis last August, Rozanski had previously served in his hometown of Baltimore, Md. as a diocesan priest and auxiliary bishop in the diocese

for 30 years. He then served as the bishop of the diocese of Springfield Massachusetts for six years before being assigned as the Archbishop of St. Louis last June.

"I am a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and I am just so impressed by the similarities between the archdiocese of Baltimore and the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Both Archdioceses are very steeped in the Catholic tradition, both have been centers of Catholicism, Baltimore for the East Coast, St. Louis for the midwest," said Rozanski. "I have found great faith here in

St. Louis amongst the people and even amidst the COVID to get out to the parishes and highschools has been a great privilege."

Rozanski paid his first pastoral visit to the Backer Memorial Campus last October. He had lunch with principal Ian Gibbons, S.J., SLUH president Alan Carruthers, and other administrators and was given a tour of the campus. After his visit, Rozanski reached out to SLUH asking if they would be interested in hosting him for a Mass during Catholic Schools

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## Students react to GameStop stock drama

BY CARTER J. FORTMAN  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

One company was on the minds of retail investors throughout St. Louis U. High these past two weeks: GameStop.

The story begins with a Reddit community called WallStreetBets—a name known to many SLUH students. WallStreetBets is an online community of non-professional, retail investors who discuss investments, make predictions, and share screenshots of their profits or losses. Last week, they made headlines as their members led

what investment bank Goldman Sachs called the biggest short squeeze in American history. Whether it be in the trenches or from the sidelines, many investors at SLUH soon found themselves talking about the craze.

"WallStreetBets became popular back in quarantine when the markets were down a lot and a lot of people were betting on risky derivatives like options on the S&P 500 and Tesla in particular," said senior IBL leader Jack Rosenstengel. "I joined around then. I haven't been making the bets, but it's fun to scroll through to see the

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COVID NUMBERS\*

STUDENT CASES: 0

STUDENT QUARANTINES: 2

FACULTY CASES: 1

FACULTY QUARANTINE: 1

\*Numbers as of this Friday, February 5

## Black History Month assembly allows SLUH community to reflect on race

BY NATHAN RICH AND MICHAEL ROBINSON  
CORE STAFF AND REPORTER

After the incredibly turbulent events of 2020, the SLUH community gathered for their annual celebration of Black History Month this past Monday, with the hope of reflecting on the progress and setbacks that have happened since last summer.

This year, the event looked very different from prior years, which often featured large, all-school assemblies, discussion panels, and speakers. Last Monday, Black History Month event took on a much simpler form, as students reflected on two Voices of SLUH interviews with the members of their homeroom. As with all things this year, planning the event was a chal-

lenge, but the ACES Moderators felt lucky to have the work of seniors Albert Harrold and Carter Fortman, who recorded a discussion that was used during the Black History Month presentation.

"We thought that it would be a really awesome idea to utilize Albert and Carter's video because it was extremely impactful, even to me as a staff member," said ACES co-moderator Dan Shields. "We already know we had these amazing resources in our back pocket and we just wanted to tap into that and use some amazing students."

Fortman's and Harrold's two short videos were the cornerstone of this year's assembly. In them, the two friends discuss events like the death of George Floyd,

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## Getting vaccinated proves difficult for SLUH faculty

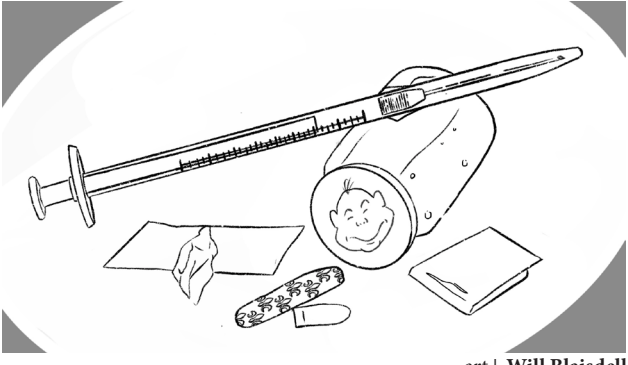
BY NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL AND JACK POLANSKY  
NEWS EDITOR, REPORTER

The quest for finding a vaccine for Covid-19 can best be described as an odyssey. It began in the spring with scientists and doctors grappling with the mystery of the virus while almost every major city in the United States began getting affected by it. In the summer months, scientists and doctors raced against the clock, trying to outpace the ever-increasing

death toll. In late November, hope shined through the darkness—an effective vaccine had been developed and distribution to frontline workers was quickly implemented. Now as Saint Louis U. High faculty and staff are finally beginning to get vaccinated almost a year after the pandemic hit the US, problems are arising with access to distribution.

"The vaccines are a very rapidly developing situation, and one that's in the course

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art | Will Blaisdell



# Men for Life retreat takes place of canceled D.C. March for Life

BY PETER JAMES AND  
JACKSON COOPER  
STAFF, REPORTER

While the 2021 March for Life in Washington, D.C. was cancelled due to risks associated with Covid-19, St. Louis U. High's Men for Life continued its dedication in a new way: a retreat.

The Men for Life retreat was free of cost and offered students a chance to grow in their faith, to gain insight on the biggest challenges facing life, and to experience comradery among their peers. The retreat's aim was to serve as a replacement for the March for Life, typically the biggest event on the Men for Life calendar.

"Each year, we have this rhythm and ritual as a school. We depart and take a deeper dive in these life issues and do some public witness in a pretty symbolic, sacred place," said moderator of the Men for Life Club David Callon. "We couldn't do any of those

things, so I felt like it's still important to withdraw, and take a dive. Our theme was 'what does it mean to be a man for life?,' and that's actually a very complicated question, especially if you consider that there are a lot of people that would say it means to just 'mind your own business' or 'your number one job as a man is to realize this is none of your business.'"

The Men for Life retreat began Friday evening after members participated in Campus Ministry's Food, Formation, and Fellowship event. To kick off the retreat, theology teacher Mike Lally spoke to the group, who then embarked on a discussion.

"We had to create something special, out of what's really familiar, so we made the best we could. We defamiliarized the familiar and created a space to ask some questions and do some learning that is similar to what happens when we leave St. Louis and open ourselves to new experiences,"

said Callon. "So, that openness I think was very alive on the retreat, and that generosity and curiosity and desire to wrestle with the complexities of the pro-life issues."

The retreat then transitioned to prayer and adoration with the option of confession.

"There was in particular a real powerful hunger for something extraordinary at adoration when people were praying really hard," said Callon. "People were not wasting any time getting in and out of confession—people really wanted something that hadn't been there in their lives, and you can see that this was a moment they could seize for that and there was a lot of grace flowing."

Friday night ended with pizza and recreation including ping pong, pool, cards, and board games before students made their way to bed in classrooms.

Saturday morning was when the Men for Life Club

attended the virtual Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life, which would typically be included on the agenda for the trip to Washington D.C. In their attendance, SLUH continued a tradition of more than a decade at the conference. The students actively listened during the virtual sessions in the Ignatian Conference Room. The Men for Life retreat then concluded with basketball in the Field House.

"It's hard to make right choices, it's hard to wrestle with all kinds of pressures to fit in—to find a community of people who are devoted to a way of being men and young men in really joyful, constructive, healthy, life-affirming ways is a very hard thing for some people to find. When people find it, they don't want to let go of it because everybody wants to be their best self," said Callon. "So, whenever we're together, that spirit is very alive whether it's the march in D.C. or in club



Theology teacher Mike Lally (left) with retreatants.

photo | Mr. David Callon

meetings. I felt that on the retreat for sure."

Callon would like to give a special thanks to the speakers who helped on the retreat.

"I'm just really grateful to Mr. Lally and (theology teacher) Mrs. (Lindsay) Kelleher for on fairly short notice giving some really powerful from the heart testimonies and talks that made a huge difference for us."

Although the retreat was considered successful, the Men for Life Club does not

currently have any plans for a similar event in the future. However, the door is not necessarily closed on the possibility of another retreat in the current school year.

"I don't think we're planning anything, but we might do something similar," said Men for Life President Daniel Hogan. "We might try to get another event going just to keep people involved, just because the spring is normally when attendance is down at meetings."

## Varsity Mock Trial takes two of three ballots in first competition



Senior Carter Fortman talking to combined groups before trial.

photo | Mr. Tim Weeks

BY ROARKE UNRAU AND  
DECLAN RICHARDS  
STAFF, REPORTER

Technology triumphed at the first meet of the Mock Trial season, held over zoom on Jan. 26 after months of preparation and uncertainties caused by Covid-19. Despite these difficulties and courts being shut down, the team compiled an impressive three-team roster and watched two of those teams win their respective trials.

Having so many students apply this year, the program, which normally features two teams, brought three separate squads to preliminaries. The Varsity team (SLUH Navy) competed as the prosecution against Visitation and won an impressive two of the three ballots. The JV-I team (SLUH White) competed as the prosecution against Lutheran South, losing all three ballots. The JV-II team (SLUH Blue) competed as the defense against Lindbergh, and, despite being the most inexperienced team, won two of their three ballots.

Each year, the Mock Trial team receives a different case to work on. Roles are divided between witnesses who take on the identity of one of six assigned

witnesses and attorneys who are responsible for questioning the witnesses and presenting the case. This year's case is themed off of the board game Clue and is a murder mystery where defendant Parker Crimson is accused of murdering billionaire Charles Grey in his mansion. Brought to testify for the prosecution in the trial were Detective Jaylen Curry (played by junior Andy Harris for the SLUH Navy team and senior Alex Unseth for SLUH White), Professor and a potential alternative suspect Landry Charreux (played by star senior witness Nathan Malawey for SLUH Navy and Tommy Riley for SLUH White), and butler and Grey confidant Arizona Waddlesworth (played by junior Eli Dernlan for SLUH Navy and sophomore Christopher St. John for SLUH White).

Senior captain Carter Fortman led SLUH Navy attorneys along with fellow senior Charlie Albus and juniors Peter James and Jack Rybak. SLUH White was led by juniors Patrick Mooney, Matthew Leight, Adam Fennewald and freshman Declan Richards. SLUH Blue (the defense team) was anchored by a witness cast of Grey nephew Jamie Oliver (played by

Alex Eckert), Crimson's private security guard Reece Warren (played by freshman Drew Winkler), and reporter Dakota Forest (played by freshman Ian Taylor). Freshman captain Grayson Stevenson presented the case alongside fellow freshmen co-counsel Patrick Busch, Andrew Reily, and Ben Robert.

Both students and Mock Trial moderator Anne Marie Lodholz thoroughly enjoyed this year's case.

"It's fun, it's a great case, there's a lot of detail, as you can imagine from a murder mystery based off Clue. It's a fun case, it's entertaining, there's good character development. It's the classic who did it. It is a good entertainment piece, which is what I think everyone needs this year," said Lodholz.

The two teams made up of mostly underclassmen performed admirably. Even though the meeting was over Zoom, the students performed very well, with almost no technological troubles.

"The guys handled Zoom really well, they handled it exceptionally well. There's a lot of lawyers right now who are trying to figure out how the heck do you Zoom, in order to get depositions and run cases.

And these guys handled it really well, that was the least of their challenges," said Lodholz. "But for the underclassmen, you can never really prepare anybody for their first trial, it's kind of like when you get behind the wheel, you just have to drive, or when you get on a bike. So to hold their own is impressive."

"It has been pretty stressful with everyone online for the most part. It has been kind of hard to organize everyone and group them together. But we all put in the effort and the devotion and we did pretty well in our trial," said Stevenson.

The end of the first meeting of the year brought with it a win in two out of the three ballots, but a negative nine point differential for the SLUH team, since one out of the three ballots had a very low score. Overall, the result was good for the first meeting of the year.

"A weakness we have is we don't always have a really finessed theme, which is like a catchphrase that gets people, it's sort of like the one-liner. And again it's because we don't have a totally scripted trial. So finding that balance, where you can have a catchphrase that doesn't feel cheesy and awkward, but yet still gets the jurors attention," said Lodholz. "Our guys are really logical, they have a very good understanding of the law, and with some practice they are very good at objections, and understanding the federal rules of evidence. They're very good at thinking on their feet, we don't script a lot, we come up with an agenda of what we want to get out of each witness."

"Right afterwards, I thought we had lost all three ballots for Varsity and all three trials in general so winning two trials was a great surprise for me," said Fortman. "But for the first meeting of the year it was a good result, especially considering the lack of preparation we had in comparison with other years."

## Hack Club takes second in first competition

BY NICK CAMPBELL AND  
RYAN PINEDA  
STAFF, REPORTER

While many seniors worked on their projects over the recent Grande Project work week, senior Daniel Blittschau and other members of the St. Louis U. High Hack Club were busy typing away and solving puzzles in the Capture the Flag Coding Competition.

The SLUH Hack Club competed in its first competition this school year in the Missouri Cybersecurity Challenge. The competition was in a capture the flag format in which a team is given several problems that add up to points for the team if that problem is solved. Problems included tasks such as finding a system vulnerability or decoding a message. Each problem the hack club handled took anywhere from a couple of minutes to up to an hour.

"There are definitely puzzles that are pretty easy and there are ones that are pretty difficult," said Blittschau.

This was the first competition that the Hack Club has been able to participate in this year due to Covid, but it was not without its abnormalities. The

competition was held virtually, so each participant completed the competition from their home.

"We really haven't been able to do real hackathons this year," said Blittschau. "So is it kind of nice just to be able at least have something like this to work out with the team."

The competition was a preliminary round taking place from Jan. 19-22. During the competition the Hack Club competed against 23 other high schools in the area. Competing their hardest, the Hack Club managed to walk away with second place.

"Second is pretty good. I'm happy with that," said Blittschau.

A second place finish means that the Hack Club qualified for the final competition in February. Even though the Hack Club had not been able to compete in other competitions, that did not stop them from showing out at the competition. Going into the competition the Hack Club was confident.

"I've done multiple capture flag events in the past," said Blittschau, "so I kind of had a pretty good rough idea of what to expect."

**Interested in writing?  
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News is for you.**

Any writers, artists, and/or photographers who are interested in participating in the *Prep News* are encouraged to email  
[prepnews@sluh.org](mailto:prepnews@sluh.org)



PN “Extra Base Hits” Puzzle

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crossword | Paul Baudendistel

- ACROSS

1. Game of Thrones or The Hunger Games, e.g.

5. Cloths folded into triangles

10. Violent type of 42-Across

14. \*The Byrds, 1965

15. Not covalent
16. Something black and white at the top of the food chain

17. Working away

18. \*The Archies, 1969

19. Not far

20. \*Genesis, 1987

22. \*Frank Sinatra, 1980

24. Mickey Mantle’s was 1.135
- in 1961, thanks to many extra base hits

25. The Way, in eastern religion

26. \*Engelbert Humperdinck, 1968 (and Michael Buble, 2005)

30. \*The Mamas and the Pa-
- pas, 1966

35. What people look like from the Arch

36. Org. that hosts a Big 42-Across each March

40. The difference between a dude and a dud, phonetically

41. Dwindling frozen yogurt
- chain

42. \*The Beach Boys, 1964 (and Fall Out Boy, 2006)

44. Where to find a lyric without a song

45. Mathematician Turing and actor Alda

47. Unleavened bread

48. Ernest Rutherford first split one in 1917

49. Darth being Luke’s father rather than his father’s murderer, e.g.

51. Make less dense, as a gas

53. Loan letters

55. Cash cabinet

56. \*Extra base hits ... and a hint for the theme entries

60. \*Extra base hits ... and a hint for the theme entries

65. Latvia’s capital

66. \*The Kingsmen, 1963

68. Actress Minnelli, original performer of 22-Across

69. Desktop image

70. Prefix between octo- and deca-

71. Make, as a wage

72. \*Andrea True Connection, 1976

73. What words do in the theme entries

74. Pull forward ... or someone who pulls you back
- Idol, 1987)

11. Something black and white at the bottom of the food chain

12. Hamlet : Simba :: Claudius : \_\_\_\_\_

13. Alert concerning the herald angels

21. The Way (or His father), in western religion

23. Fabric that comes sheep?

26. Country with a unique first letter

27. 12-Down, to Simba

28. Requirement for an extra base hit

29. Group with a hit like the other theme entries in 2000

31. Stock without face value, or a birdie

32. Currency featuring William McKinley, in short

33. Words before reason or Aquarius

34. \*Ohio Express, 1968

37. Baseball hat

38. Luke’s father, as a child

39. Division of Hamlet

43. Width of 3-Down

46. Dirt, or get dirty

50. “First” Christmas singer?

52. Reactions like 48-Across make this total decrease

54. East Coast highway

55. What is bid upon leaving, and a translation of the title referenced in 29-Down

56. Decorate, like a Christmas tree

57. Puerto \_\_\_\_\_

58. Composer Stravinsky or puckster Larionov

59. Window section

61. Lost a body fluid

62. \*The Castaways, 1965

63. OT book that used to be combined with Nehemiah

64. How the people in the themed clues made their mark

67. School for Michael Jordan and James K. Polk

The Love Song  
of J. Alfred “Seamus” Sprock

Editor’s Note: This is a love poem for our much beloved News Editor Jacob Sprock. As we near Valentine’s day, the Prep News will be accepting love poems to publish in our Valentine’s Day issue.

To my dearest News Editor, J. Alfred “Seamus” Sprock:

They say that the finest love shines through art.  
Oh, how those satires warm my heart.  
I look up to you ... because you are tall.  
You’d dunk on LeBron if they gave you the ball.

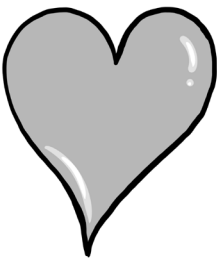
You do not eat meat, quite a feat!  
You are the best News Editor, you can’t be beat.  
Your articles are always long,  
And you like to sing songs.

With Chomsky in your hands, you are always headstrong.

I would just like to say  
As Valentine’s Day is not far away,  
You are a light so bright,  
On this very long Prep News night.

Sincerely,

Noah Apprill-Sokol  
Carter J. Fortman  
Sam Tarter  
Luke Altier  
Nathan Rich  
Jack Figge



SATIRE  
Admin distributing breath mints

BY JACOB SPROCK  
NEWS EDITOR

SLUH’s administration announced on Tuesday that they will be launching what they’re calling the Breath Bacteria Begone campaign following numerous complaints from students and faculty about the bad breath of many Jr. Bills.

“It’s kind of hard to focus on my work when I can smell the lack of toothpaste on the guy sitting next to me,” said an anonymous freshman, paying no heed to his English teacher as he initiated an attack in Clash of Clans. “I guess that’s the only real downside of sitting so close together. Maybe if we didn’t have these dumb masks the smell would disperse better.”

The administration was quick to quell fears of mounting bad breathery in the halls of the U-High, issuing the official Billiken Mint that will be distributed to each student starting today.

“I’m glad we nipped this very important issue in the bud,” said a group of SLUH administrators simultaneously while they removed



art | Nathan Rich

their masks to insert mints into their mouths and then sniff their own breath. “We will continue to advocate for the SLUH community on important issues like this.”

“I’m just happy we got this under control before it became something worse,” said senior Carter Fortman.

“Now I can happily sit three feet away from my peers without worrying about a thing.”

At press time, the admin told reporters that they are now redirecting their full attention to absolving the issue of body odor that has arisen in the classrooms.

# Overwhelming satisfaction with elimination of Faber Days, inclusion of Academic Lab

(continued from page 1)

“I generally feel somewhat safe when I am at school because everyone is in masks, (even though) there is not much social distancing anymore. The general attitude amongst students I know is that the protocols are safe,” said freshman Daniel Steingrubby.

However, despite the vast majority of respondents expressing that they felt safe under the current procedures, about 43.1 percent expressed that they felt less safe than under the Hyflex schedule.

“While I do not feel ‘unsafe,’ I feel like my family and I are at greater risk—one that I’m happy to take on in service of this community and its Mission,” said English teacher David Callon.

It’s this idea of comparative safety that has many students concerned despite the low number of cases. Simply put, it can be less comfortable for some to be sitting so close to their classmates after being told to keep six feet for the past year.

“I feel unsafe because I feel like the 3 feet minimum isn’t being met in many cases. In some classrooms, it feels like the desks aren’t even 3 feet apart,” said senior Patrick Gannon.

In direct contrast to the source of safety for some, many who are concerned point to the safety protocols and the increasing lack of attention that students seem to be giving them.

“I think that most people are doing pretty well with all the protocols. However, I think people are just getting less concerned with following all of the rules all the time,” said Gannon. “I see a lot of people with their masks below their noses. I would also say that social distancing is almost nonexistent at times, especially at dismissal, when everyone is funneling past the library to exit. You’re actually squished among other people.”

“For me, one of the reasons why I feel somewhat unsafe about being in person is not only the shrinking of distance from 6 feet to 3 feet but also the new strains that are more contagious being around with our limited distance,” said freshman Declan Richards. “I also feel like the students at SLUH aren’t taking the virus seriously enough. They are clumping together, talking without their masks on, standing up without masks on and not following the one-way signs.”

For Callon, someone who reported feeling safe with the current schedule and relatively less safe in comparison to the Hyflex schedule, this lack of attention is concerning.

“I’m particularly saddened and frustrated at the number of times students have shrugged or rolled their eyes dismissively when reminded of our protocols. This attitude is deeply un-Christian,” said Callon.

But the new year brought more than just double the number of people in classes. Along with the new schedule came the elimination of the Faber Day, the inclusion of an Academic Lab, and the altering of the class schedule.

The vast majority of people enjoyed seeing the Faber Day go,

with 79 percent reporting that they felt “Very Satisfied” with its elimination. For many, the day was tedious and more stressful than a normal school day.

“They always kind of felt like a waste of time. Not much was done in any classes, and the days always just felt overly long,” said Gannon.

Despite the efforts of teachers, Faber Days stuck out for many students as the worst day of the week.

“Teachers either had to sacrifice class time due to the inefficiency of online learning and communication, or assign asynchronous work which might as well be homework,” said junior Lucas Navarro.

“Teachers tried to make them fun, but the shift from having three classes one day and seven the next made it longer. I’m glad that Faber days are gone,” said sophomore Christopher St. John.

And in the Faber Day’s stead, many welcome the new Academic Lab, reminiscent of the Activity Period of years past. A total of 87.3 percent of respondents feels the new 30-minute free period is at least somewhat useful in their day-to-day lives at SLUH.

In general, students felt that it has proven to be useful for meeting with teachers, working on group projects, and getting small assignments done, despite the small amount of time given relative to the length of classes and the difficulties that some reported arise with two periods, one for upperclassmen and another for underclassmen.

“It is nice in that I get a little bit of time for a few small activities like quick meetings with teachers or doing a quick assignment. The short length of the period keeps me from doing significant work however,” said Navarro.

For Gannon, the period is too short to get anything meaningful done and ends up just increasing the risk of exposure.

“I do not like Academic Lab,” said Gannon. “I know that it is good to have breaks between classes, but at the same time, I feel like SLUH should be trying to minimize the amount of time that everyone is on campus. I think that removing Academic Lab and just ending/starting 30 minutes earlier/later would be much better. I would say to at least change it so that juniors and seniors have it so that they could leave during that period.”

The new schedule, following the ABAB model, also reported a high numbers of satisfaction among the SLUH community, with 92.6 percent reporting they’re at least somewhat more satisfied with the current schedule than the AABB schedule of the first semester.

According to some students, one of the biggest upsides to the new schedule is the fluid and evenly-distributed homework schedule and increased time given to complete some homework assignments.

“I think the ABAB is a better system than last semester because it gives us some consistency. While I wish I had every class every day, the ABAB system still challenges me,” said fresh-

man Tim Browdy. “The ABAB system also makes homework planning a lot easier.”

“It allows students to have more time to complete homework, as well as allowing teachers to assign more meaningful assignments,” said Gannon. “It requires you to do work during the week to make sure that the ideas are still fresh.”

To science teacher Paul Baudendistel, it makes school feel a little bit more normal.

“ABAB offers much more rhythm to our learning. There are plenty of courses for which meeting every day would be even better, including AP Physics 1, but we’re not there yet,” said Baudendistel. “Like so many other facets of our lives, we’re on the road to recovery.”

Even though the schedule tends to make learning better, some students doubt its efficiency at preventing the spread of Covid.

“The ABAB schedule is worse for safety as a positive test would force students in classes on both days to quarantine,” said freshman Matthew Musial. “However, I would consider it better for learning and memory due to not having 5-6 days between classes like it was in the fall.”

But putting aside all disagreements, everyone agreed that being back fully in-person makes life at SLUH just a little bit happier.

“It’s definitely beneficial to have our community learning how to be, well, a community again—I just wish we had a way to include everyone,” said Callon. “So much seems to get lost over Zoom, and the added presence of so many in person students make it more challenging truly to tailor learning to students at home in an engaging and interesting way.”

“When I see a room full of students getting into Romeo and Juliet, I am reminded of the joy of teaching. Human beings are social by nature, and while Zoom helps us build a community we otherwise would not be able to create, there is no substitution for the in person experience,” said English teacher Michael Mohr, S.J. “When we are physically present together, our senses enrich the experience and help us deepen our understanding of one another. I think something similar happens when we learn in person, too.”

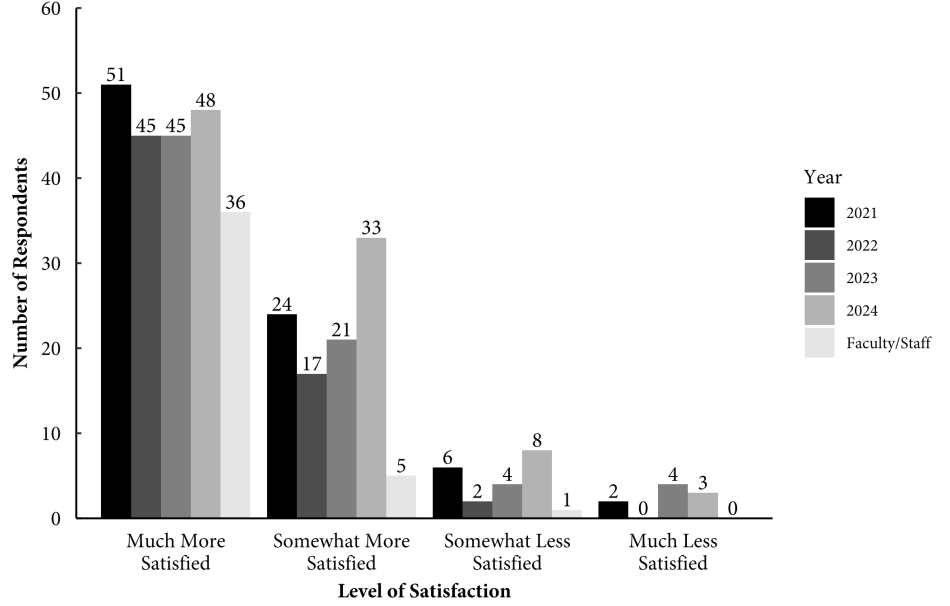
For many, the new schedule offers a more engaged classroom experience and a chance to engage with other students on a day-to-day basis, something many people have been missing for a while.

“I think there is a critical mass of students in a classroom to maximize engagement and therefore learning. For AP Physics 1, that number is around 20,” said Baudendistel. “We’re still a bit under that now, but the increase in energy during classes this semester is palpable.”

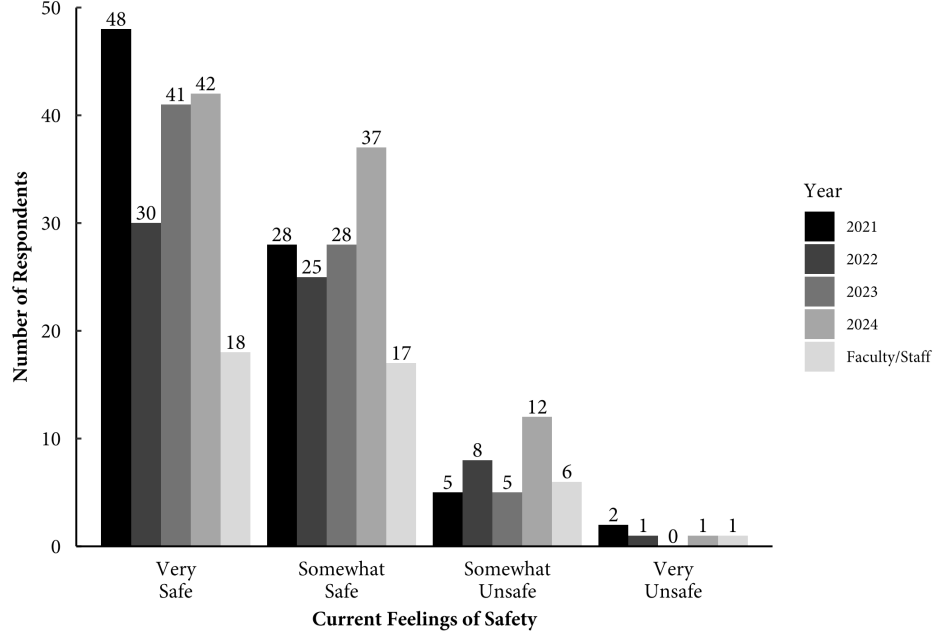
“People are definitely happier, which I attribute to people being able to see all their friends and I think just having more of a community on campus is a part of that increased happiness,” said Gannon.

For the time being, most of

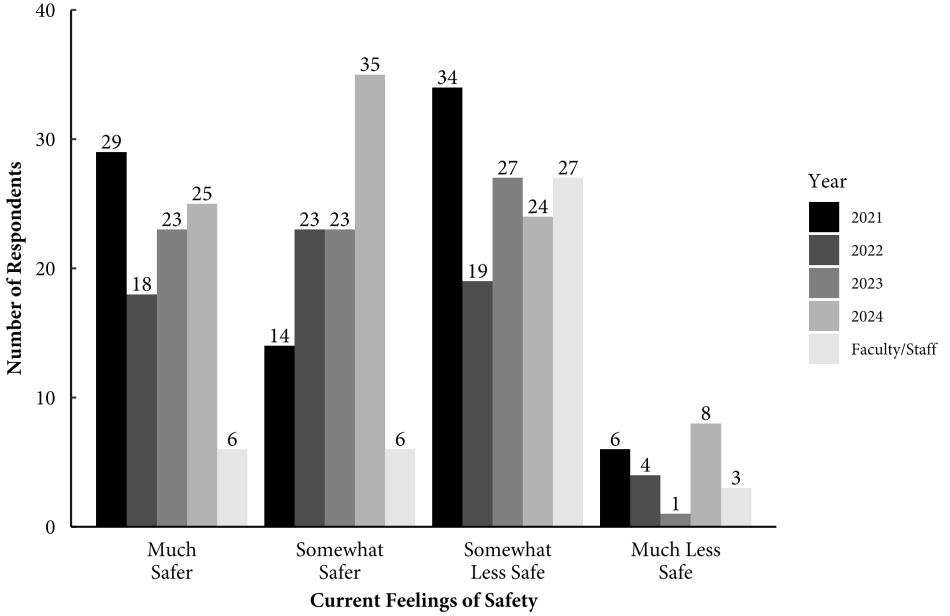
Feelings Towards Alternating Class Schedule (ABABA) Compared to the Previous Schedule (AABB)



Feelings of Safety Regarding SLUH's Current Schedule



Feelings of Safety Regarding SLUH's Current Schedule in Comparison to Last Semester's HYFLEX Schedule



the SLUH community is hopeful for the future and hopes that SLUH can maintain its low number of cases, possibly even adding more punishments for those who don’t follow regulation rules.

“Continue our three feet distancing. Ensure mask wearing by punishing those who aren’t wearing their masks or wearing it incorrectly,” said Browdy. “Create an environment that reminds us we need to take certain precautions but also make SLUH a welcoming place to be at.”

“I hope that our students continue to take seriously the truth that we are still in a global pandemic,” said Mohr. “We need everyone to keep wearing the masks and mind their distances. We have to remain committed to one another, for our community’s health is a good to which we all have a responsibility.”

Callon hopes that we as a Catholic institution look back on how much we’ve overcome and be thankful for the SLUH community, a sentiment that is especially pertinent with the approach of the Lenten season.

“I’m a big fan of the power of mindful reflection,” said Callon. “We should have weekly Covid-19 ‘Examens’ to pray for the sick and those who have died in our community and to reflect on our own habits. Because so few young persons in our community have been seriously ill and because many of us do not interact regularly with those most affected by this virus, it’s easy to dismiss safety protocols as “overblown” or intrusive.”

As the SLUH community pushes forward, all we can do is stay safe and remember to consider the safety of others in our actions.

The official numbers for the poll are as follows:

- Concerning current safety at school: very unsafe - 5; somewhat unsafe - 36; somewhat safe - 135; very safe - 179

- Concerning safety with SLUH’s fully in-person schedule compared to the Hyflex schedule: very unsafe - 22; somewhat unsafe - 131; somewhat safe - 101; very safe - 101

- Concerning satisfaction with the elimination of Faber Days: very unsatisfied - 9; somewhat unsatisfied - 16; somewhat satisfied - 50; very satisfied - 280

- Concerning usefulness of the Academic Lab: very useless - 17; somewhat useless - 28; somewhat useful - 119; very useful - 191

- Concerning satisfaction with ABAB schedule: very unsatisfied - 9; somewhat unsatisfied - 21; somewhat satisfied - 100; very satisfied - 225

graphs | courtesy of Kate Hannick



CONVERSATION

# African American seniors discuss Pixar’s *Soul*, representation

BY SAM TARTER  
FEATURES EDITOR

*On Christmas Day, Disney released the new Pixar movie Soul on their acclaimed streaming service Disney+ at no additional cost. Breaking barriers even before it was shown to the public, Soul features the first Black lead in a Pixar movie, and the first African-American lead in a Disney movie since 2009. In addition to receiving lots of praise, the movie has also been criticized for some of its choices. In light of the positive and negative responses to the movie, Features Editor Sam Tarter sat down with seniors Albert Harrold, Zak Stevenson, and Ocean Okohson-Reb—all of whom are African-American musicians who personally relate to Soul’s main character Joe Gardner—to discuss what it was like to be represented in the new Pixar feature, for better or worse.*

**Sam Tarter (ST):** Almost everything about this movie was monumental or groundbreaking: it was released on Disney+ at no additional cost, the first Disney+ original Pixar films, and one of the only movies that Disney didn’t delay due to the pandemic and actually let audiences see in 2020. But beyond that, it was also monumental for being the first African-American lead in a Disney or Pixar movie in 11 years since *The Princess and the Frog* in 2009. This one, however, was not a Black princess but a Black man in the lead. So what was it like to get that representation after all these years, not just with the characters being Black, but the lead being a Black man?

**Albert Harrold (AH):** I think it was really nice to see a more relatable story. He felt more like an everyday person, he didn’t really feel like this person who relies a lot on fate, more down to earth. That was really great.

**Ocean Okohson-Reb (OO):** It is long overdue. Yes, very long overdue. But I am glad that they took the time to do it now and to do it as well as they did. Representation is something that these companies really struggle with, so I’m glad that they made the decision early on and in the process of putting it together to involve people of color behind the scenes. I feel like that’s a really important thing when you’re trying to tell a story about a person of color.

**Zak Stevenson (ZS):** It is definitely long overdue. I feel like there are a lot of sub-roles that Black people play or they just take part in those minor things, but like if I was a seven or eight year old boy, seeing that on the screen, especially being played by Jamie Foxx, I would be like, ‘you know what, there is no limits to what I can do ... no limit to the life that has been set for me. I can do what I want in the best form that I can,’ and I think that was really good. For me, I’m glad that it’s not even a story about

race, it’s a family story. It’s a really good story just for anybody to watch. And I’m glad that Pixar has made that step because the majority of America is white, and whatever you can sell the majority of us is going to sell. A lot of people get uncomfortable seeing someone of color in the leading role, so I’m glad that they said, ‘you know what, we’re going to do what we think is right, and it doesn’t really matter about what sells or what people like or don’t like, we’re doing this because it shows a lot of representation.’

**ST:** What was it like to be represented, not just as a Black man, but as a Black musician through the character of Joe Gardner?

**AH:** That was actually pretty awesome. I have family in the industry, so I know people who know a lot of actors in the movie. So that was all amazing. The music was amazing ... I thoroughly enjoyed it. The thought they put into it was great, with a very nice message. And I think the part where they kind of talked about finding that thing that just like, brings you into a whole different reality and motivates you, and that state of mind where you find that drive ... it’s powerful. (For me) that’s as an actor, as a singer, as a songwriter, as a musician. Just being in that place or state of mind is just a wonderful feeling. And it’s kind of a feeling that you can’t really put to words, but this film really did a great job of putting it into words and putting it into something that you could recognize.

**OO:** I felt represented in a way that I’d never felt before in a movie. Especially through personal culture as a jazz musician. It was great to see somebody like me on screen. Having that same experience, when you’re ‘in the zone,’ that’s kind of like musician’s high. Whenever you’re doing something, anything that you love, really, and when you feel that lightness, that freedom ... that was just a great thing to see portrayed in the movie.

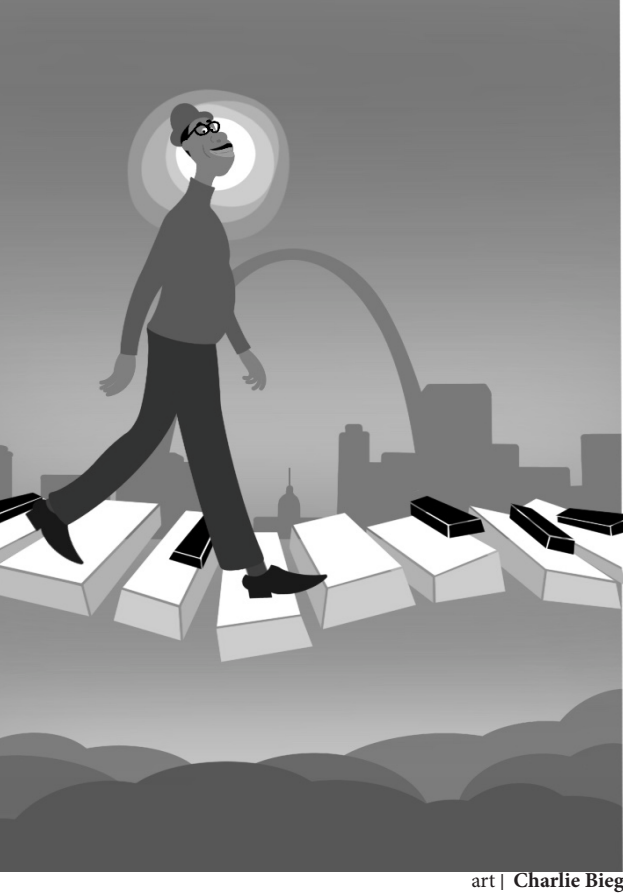
**ZS:** I’m a Black pianist myself, and jazz really speaks to me. I think they did a really good job, especially towards the end, when (Joe) was kind of going through the motions of the story, and then he kind of got hit with the fact that, like, ‘oh, maybe piano is not my spark. Maybe my piano playing is not really what I’m here to do. Maybe it’s just something that I’m good at.’ That kind of hit home for me because I was always thinking about how music is everything to me. I thought that it’s going to be that one thing in my life that I’m going to do, so the movie made me think, like, ‘Yo, maybe that’s something that I’m in love with, but it may not be my purpose.’ I think that was really, really good and it was especially personal. My passion is not usually my

purpose, but my purpose can also be my passion.

**ST:** While the film score wasn’t, the actual Jazz and Soul music that was made for and featured in the movie was written, composed, performed—essentially 100 percent made by Black artists and musicians. Did you think that the music, and the way it was showcased and implemented into the story of the movie, was one of the better parts of Soul?

**OO:** I’d have to say, yes, they really did still stay true to the essence of jazz, especially with the main character’s improvisation.

**ZS:** I do believe that just the composition, the execution and everything like that, that was really, really, really spot on. I don’t think they



art | Charlie Bieg

could have done a better job. I think it was smart that they got someone who isn’t just in the entertainment industry, but they got Jamie Foxx who is actually a musician.

**AH:** I loved the improvisations. I loved all the soloing. It was all just very soulful playing overall—no pun intended. But it was kind of more of that basic jazz that we are used to and that was kind of different because historically, when white people took over, they kind of took the soul out of it. So yeah, I think that it really brought back memories of that and just evoked some real emotions.

**ST:** While the movie is getting quite a bit of praise by critics and it’s winning many awards, it has also gained some backlash and been the subject of some forms of controversy. The movie was written by three men: Kemp Powers, Mike Jones, and Pete Docter, the last of which is a Pixar alum. Not only was Docter the only white man to pen the script, he was also the one in the director’s chair. Do you think this was a good idea on Pixar’s part? Or should they have given the opportunity for Black directors—

especially less experienced or lesser known ones—to tell the first Pixar story with a Blacklead?

**OO:** For how well the movie turned out, I can’t really be mad about who was chosen to be the director. Yeah, I see the problem, but the real problem could lie in the future if they continue to give these leading directing roles to white people for stories about people of color. Hopefully Disney and Pixar continue to make movies that include or feature people of color, but they do need to strongly consider giving a Black man or woman the leading roles and creativity of a Black movie. I understand, though, for it being the first time and it being this big thing, if they give it to a sure-fire director because they don’t want to mess it up ... absolutely, but there’s something there

that I hope does not become a pattern.

**AH:** This is an industry that is notoriously hard for Black people to succeed. It’s really hard for Black women and Black men to succeed as both directors and talent. So this could’ve been a big opportunity for a Black director to step in, and that opportunity to me feels like it was taken from a Black director that could have done an amazing job on this.

**ZS:** You know *The Princess and the Frog* was also directed by two white men, but the quality of it was still amazing. So yeah, I think I think (Pete Docter) did a really good job. I feel like the backlash is a bit much for me, just because it wasn’t like he said anything racist or anything like that. He’s definitely a very culturally well-rounded individual. But yeah, I think the fact that this is the second time Disney has done this ... I don’t think they or many people realize that there are more than enough people outside of Tyler Perry that can direct something for Black people (laughs). Because, you know, you can be the most well-rounded individual in the world, but you

just don’t have the Black experience. You don’t have that. That thing that just runs in our blood. And I don’t know what it is, but it’s just what we have. And not to say that he didn’t do a good job, but it could have been a lot more authentic if it came from the direction of a Black mind.

**ST:** You mentioned white directors on *The Princess and the Frog* and now this being the second instance of this for a Disney movie, but this isn’t the only time something has happened again for a Disney movie with a Black lead. In *The Princess and the Frog* we have the main character, Princess Tiana, transformed into a frog for a majority of the movie. In *Soul*, not only is Joe portrayed as a blue soul for most of the movie, but he even gets transformed into a cat and a white voice actor (Tina Fey) is voicing a Black character for a large portion of the movie. Of course we aren’t saying Disney or Pixar are racist or anything, but do you think this was the right choice? Or was the execution off? What would you have done differently?

**OO:** This is another one of those pattern things that keeps happening. I understand the concept of the movie was, you know, souls, and I guess that is some sort of justification for the kind of actions that they took in portraying Joe. I understand that some people did take a lot of issue with him being blue when he became a soul and especially because he spent so much of the movie looking like that. But I think that you can also come to the conclusion that being Black is not just your skin. Being Black is you as your shared heritage, your culture, and even when Joe was a soul ... me being a person of color, I could still see the Black in him. I could still see that heritage, that culture, that connection that we have because of our pasts. So just that’s just how I see it. I’d rather not see Pixar do this again. I’d rather them not keep continuing this trope of conforming to or appealing to white people or audiences in general by kind of changing the Black character and making them more accessible. But I can understand and I can still connect with Joe even over that hurdle.

**ZS:** It’s funny... we discussed this in African American History. So if I go up to Ocean and tell him that he’s Black, that’s the color of his skin, it tells me nothing about who he is. We’ve come to a point in America where being Black is not just who you are, it’s what you are. It doesn’t give me anything. It doesn’t tell me that Ocean is also very big on racial and social justice. It doesn’t tell me that Albert is a musician. It doesn’t tell me anything about you. It just tells me that the color of your skin is classified as Black and that being African American is just a thing. There’s no cultural or character traits, you get nothing from knowing that. The

African-American culture that we’ve had to cultivate in America ... I feel like you could see that even though he was a blue soul, and I think that’s a good thing. You have that in Jamie Foxx because he just has that in him. I get that the whole purpose of the movie was to be a soul. I think there could have been just a little bit more time of him as a human, as a Black man, as Joe. The only time that he was back in his body is when he got brought back to life towards the end. Yeah, last time his body was used by him was when he fell in that manhole. And then Tina Fey was in his body, and only at the end, at the very end of the movie was he back in his body. I think that that is something that can be turned the wrong way, and I think personally, I think they could have done a better job with how they executed that. But it’s really not about me walking around with brown on my skin. It’s more about who and what makes me up instead of what covers my bones and my muscles and everything like that. So I feel like I’m a bit 50/50 on that, but like I said, I see what I see where they were going, but I think the execution could have been a little bit better.

**AH:** I like what everybody said, and I think that Zak made a good point, but I’d like to kind of diverge from that. Our skin color and waking up every day and kind of coming to terms with who we are and loving ourselves because of who we are ... loving ourselves because of our brown skin and our tightly coiled hair and our large noses ... loving those aspects is a big part of who we are, especially in America. I think that when a movie and a movie company fails to ever portray us as who we are drawn out through a full movie that kind of gives the impression that there’s something wrong with who we are. Yes, Tiana was a Black girl, but only for like 17 minutes. And we even have it with *Brother Bear* and *The Emperor’s New Groove*. Every time a person of color is portrayed in a Disney movie, they have to be transformed to something for it to be good enough for the audience or to be whatever is enough to be in a movie.

**ST:** Looking back on this movie today, and of course as people look back on it in the years to come, what do you think will be the biggest takeaway for audiences and Disney/Pixar in terms of representation and correcting the mistakes made by Soul?

**OO:** I think that Disney/Pixar have stepped in the right direction ... and they have to keep taking those steps and learn from the mistakes of this movie, and hopefully the next African-American feature, or just a feature of any person of color or any other marginalized group, will be better and more authentic and genuine than what’s come before.



COMMENTARY

Being problematic is a necessity; how can you help keep the fight for dignity and respect alive at SLUH?

BY LUKE ALTIER  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Tuesday, June 2, 2020, Instagram users worldwide posted pictures of nothing but a black screen on their page to show support for the Black Lives Matter movement, a push for racial justice in America. Millions took part in this, and I am ashamed to admit that I did not. Since early July, my inaction in that piece of history has bothered me a lot.

As I am sure many SLUH students do, I consider myself an open-minded person and a supporter of the necessary change to close the gap between black lives and white lives. All I had to do was post a black screen on my Instagram. Why didn't I do it? I was scared of being problematic and scared of the skepticism or criticism I would face from friends or followers. Does it make me a racist? No, but it does allude to a major problem in the support for the Black Lives Matter movement: people can say they support something but are afraid to be problematic when it is necessary.

Last summer, the world entered a state of shock when a video of Minnesota police officer Derek Chauvin held his knee on civilian George Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes, causing Floyd's death. The officer was called because Floyd was reported for having used a counterfeit bill at a convenience store. Did Floyd deserve to die? No. According to the U.S. Treasury Department, the most someone can be punished for having counterfeit money is 20 years in prison, \$15,000 in fines, or both. Given that Floyd was not a smuggler of counterfeit cash, his punishment, if convicted, would have been much less than the maximums set by the government.

In the aftermath of a very heated and political summer, progress was made, and the world seemed to calm down in its united support for the Black Lives Matter movement. The decrease in nationwide support of the movement from last June, where the movement's publicity and influence was at its peak statistically, was down 12 percent as of last September (from 67 percent to 55 percent).

The Black Lives Matter movement is mainly a fight against police brutality and racial injustice in our country, with the goal of "building the kind of society where black people can live with dignity and respect," but at its core the movement is trying to find the answer and the solution to a major problem in our country: Why is it that black lives in America are being treated like they matter less? If you think this is untrue, then you have not looked at the numbers. African Americans are twice as likely as white Americans to be killed by a police officer. Still not convinced? A publication by the Statista Research Department yesterday said that fatal police shootings among Black Americans was much higher than any other ethnicity, standing at 34 fatal shootings per million of the population as of January 2021.

The "Graduate at Graduation" reflection process for SLUH students (and other Jesuit high school students) is to become open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice. If we are to become the Graduate SLUH is hoping for us to grow to be, we must keep the Black Lives Matter movement and its message of the goal for a society where African Americans can live with respect and equality alive, although its national publicity and coverage peaked in June of last summer and that SLUH students might have let the push for racial justice take a backseat to current national issues.

"In my freshman year, people would ask me, 'how did you even get into SLUH?'" I've had kids ask me, "Who wanted you to be here?" Even on the football field, I've had kids ask, "What is a person like you doing at SLUH?" or "Who allowed you to be here?" said senior Zak Stevenson. "But, I didn't allow that to tear me away. I told my mother after the first couple of weeks that I needed to transfer because I had never run into the problem that sitting in class had me fighting for my right to be considered a human, or a black man at the very least. Nobody wanted to be my partner because they thought I was dumb and stupid. Just because I had

been admitted didn't mean that they thought I was their equal."

In his freshman year, someone like Zak spent less of his time focusing on the academic transition because he had to deal with the implicit biases that ran and still run through the minds of so many students at SLUH. The implicit bias that plagues our school is common and subtle, and it is because we are afraid to be problematic in public that it continues to live in SLUH's halls.

As a freshman, I cannot honestly say that I would have been asking those ignorant questions to a student like Zak, but I know for a fact that I would not have called someone out for it either. Being problematic is a scary thing, especially when you're trying to fit in. You can face judgment, possible ostracization, and looks from others that make you feel like you did something wrong. It is much easier to watch discriminatory events happen instead of standing up for what's right, then gossip about the events

full-nelson on the south side," said Stevenson. "I have to keep some SLUH gear on me at all times because I do not want people thinking that I don't belong here. In my freshman homeroom, my first 10 minutes of SLUH, the other kids would always touch my hair and try to make me mad. It felt like they were throwing a ball at a monkey and seeing how it would react. It was only for 10 minutes, but it felt like an eternity just being there."

After I had concluded my interviews with both Zak Stevenson and Ocean Okohson-Reb, I realized that their freshman year(s) at SLUH were eye-opening experiences for them, and not in a good way. However, I thought to myself that maybe by the time we were all seniors, the implicit bias they suffered from would have disappeared. Knowing someone for four years should remove bias and things of that nature because you get to know who that person really is. But sadly, that is not the case.



art | Nathan Rich

behind closed doors, which doesn't solve anything.

The Black Lives Matter lifestyle is fighting to remove a burden that has been placed on the backs of African Americans everywhere. This burden is the idea that a person's skin color will affect how they have to live because it affects the way others treat them. In the African-American case, the relationship between skin color and lifestyle isn't positive in terms of day-to-day living.

"Most people get in the car and go to school; I have to make sure I have the key visible at all times, so someone does not think I'm breaking into a car. I was driving on the wrong side of town and got put into a

"Even now, there are still people who doubt my intelligence or my academic ability because of the color of my skin. We were going around discussing ACT scores, and I told them mine. I got a 33," said Okohson-Reb. "The first thing I heard was 'did you cheat?' That really took me aback because that was a direct strike at my person. So, things like that go to show that there is a large amount of ignorance in this community, and that takes away from the brotherhood aspect of SLUH."

As SLUH students, we are called to deny those stereotypes and biases by understanding and combating injustice, especially on behalf

of our African American peers, who desperately need support from everyone in the fight for total equality and dignity, and changing the community's bias and attitude starts with calling out what is wrong when it happens, not when you've found someone to gossip about it with.

Another aspect of the Graduate at Graduation program is the aspect of religion. In theology class, SLUH students learn about the "intrinsic dignity" of the human person, which is reasoned to be so because everyone is created in God's image. The Catholic Catechism states, "Social justice can be obtained only in respecting the transcendent dignity of man."

If you want to explain why black lives matter, you can look to God. God created every human being, regardless of the amount of melanin or pheomelanin their body naturally produces. If you disrespect or discriminate against anyone, you are doing so to God's creation.

The fourth aspect of the Grad at Grad is the concept of being "loving." A facet of this is that one has "begun to come to grips with personal prejudices and stereotypes; communicates more easily with others, especially with peers of other races, religions, nationalities and socio-economic backgrounds."

"There is a sort of duality to being black in America. A lot of times, it feels like the two don't mix," said Okohson-Reb. "I want to like what I like, do what I do, talk how I talk, but the way that society is structured will put you down for anything that is quote-unquote black because it is often viewed as un-American. If you speak a certain way, they'll see you as less intelligent; if you dress a certain way, they'll see you as poor or broke; if you listen to a certain type of music, they consider you as hood."

"Even from a young age, my mother told me you have to prove your worth and go above and beyond," said Stevenson. "You have to be mentally equipped for that thing that tells you you are doing this to live; you are doing this for your future, you are doing this for future generations."

It is our role as the SLUH students, sons of God, and

most of all men for others to support, empathize, and advocate for other human beings regardless of their skin, gender, and sexuality because, at the end of the day, we all come from the same Creator, and want a world where all live with dignity and respect.

To keep the Black Lives Matter Lifestyle alive and thriving at SLUH, it starts with changing our view on the movement for racial equality and dignity.

"There are a lot of political debates about BLM being a democratic thing or about overthrowing the white government. I feel like in America in general, we do that a lot. We politicize everything. If you don't believe in BLM, you're a Conservative, or if you do, you're a Democrat. At the end of the day, human lives are being treated as if we're a piece of kitchenware, or being a tool to help aid someone else and not have any significance in the world," said Stevenson. "I feel like when we remove the politics from the situation and recognize the humanity of it, we'll get better. We are alive and on this earth, and we matter. We are not saying we matter more than anyone else, we are the same as the rest of the population. But, we are being treated like we don't matter."

There are three things I want you to take away from this article. The first is the Black Lives Matter Lifestyle is not based on politics but on the intrinsic human value that is postulated by our mere existence as those who seek God's salvation and, at the very least, a fair and just society. Secondly, the fact of the matter is black Americans and white Americans do not share the same privilege, no matter how many reasons you might give that state otherwise. Lastly, being problematic and calling out implicit bias and injustice right when it happens is the only way we will casualize defending the dignity of our black classmates and black Americans across the globe and is the only way we will truly be able to become the graduate and the person that SLUH hopes we are when we graduate. This is me, Luke Altier, trying to set an example for those who wish to be problematic and advocate for others. I hope you will join me.

Grande Spotlight: Murati and Gannon create podcast on immigration

NOAH APPRILL-SOKOL  
NEWS EDITOR

Some students wrote letters to public officials or filmed persuasive videos for their Grande Projects. Others students drew sketches or created art pieces to teach their truths in a more abstract way. For seniors Erald Murati and Patrick Gannon, they created a podcast, recording a conversation they had about the issue of immigration.

"I wanted to present in a new way and use a medium that is not too familiar to me,"

said Murati. "I also think since I am doing it with a partner it was a good way to hear both sides. I think with this podcast you can hear our friendship dynamic in the podcast and hear each of our opinions."

The two choose the issue of immigration because of their personal connection to the issue. Murati is a second generation immigrant, his parents heralding from the southern European country of Albania. Gannon is a native of Guatemala and was adopted at a young age.

Murati believes that both

of their immigration backgrounds have been a strength in the process of creating this podcast.

"I think we have a level of empathy that I think others do not have because we understand the issue on a personal level," said Murati. "I think that this is our strength. We want immigrant voices to be heard and respected, and this passion comes from something that is very personal to us."

Taking two angles on the issue of immigration, the two split up their focus and research in order to maximize the

scope of their project. Murati, with his European routes, took up the immigration of Islamic people. Gannon focused on immigration from the United States' southern border.

"These two areas are very personal to us and were the areas that we wanted to talk about," said Murati. Patrick is from Latin America, and he thought the story of the migrants from there were important to tell. And for me, with my Islamic ancestry, I thought it was important to tell their story."

The two interviewed a va-

riety of people, including those who have experienced the issue of immigration firsthand. Murati and Gannon interviewed junior Ismael Karim, who is Islamic, and a Latina woman named Leticia. These people gave Murati and Gannon keen insights and allowed them to have better more complex understanding of the issue.

Murati thought that the interview with Karim was very powerful and highlighted some of the imperfections of the SLUH community and environment.

"I was really shocked to

hear some of the stories of Islamophobia that Ish has had to face," said Murati. "I really saw his bravery and perseverance when he was telling this story."

Murati and Gannon are happy with the project that they created and hope that it will help change hearts and minds in the student body.

"At SLUH, there are a lot of people that do not care and are indifferent," said Murati. "My hope is that our podcast will inspire others to learn more about this issue, to get more involved and take action."



PERSPECTIVE

Catholic Schools Week a good time to recognize faith-filled faculty

BY JACK FIGGE  
CORE STAFF

What makes SLUH, SLUH? For some it’s the academic excellence, for some it may be the inclusive atmosphere they feel, while for others it may be the brotherhood they experience. For me though, it is the Catholic faith. This week is Catholic Schools Week, and I have spent time reflecting on my experience at SLUH and how it has helped me grow in my Catholic faith. I came to realize that it has been through the faculty that I have encountered and conversed with at SLUH that has had the greatest impact on my faith and has truly taught me what it means to be a Catholic man in today’s broken world. There are many encounters and conversations that I have had with various faculty, each leaving a unique imprint on my soul. Here are some of those stories.

Mr. Richard Wehner

All of my theology teachers at SLUH have been wonderful, each and every one of them has taught me the beauty of Catholic teaching and the Catholic faith and how to live out my Catholic faith. But it was Mr. Wehner, my sophomore theology teacher who perhaps had the greatest impact on my spiritual growth. I remember sitting in his class during the second week of school and we were talking about the importance of going to Mass. Mr. Wehner told us that he goes to Mass daily and told us that he goes “not because I am a good person but because I am a \*\*\*\*\* person.” At that moment I realized just how important going to Mass was. I realized that if I ever want to be whole, to be healed from my human ailments, the only way is by attending Mass.

Mr. Steve Missey

Over the past two years of working on the *Prep News* on Thursday nights I have witnessed the model of faith that moderator Mr. Steve Missey is for the guys that work on *Prep News*. Every Thursday night before dinner Mr. Missey leads the group in prayer, opening it up for each of us to state any intentions that we have. He models for us to always prioritize prayer, and to pray from the heart and the importance of praying as a community. Another instance of Mr. Missey providing me spiritual guidance happened about a month ago. I had recently found out that a grade school friend of mine was having some major issues at home and Mr. Missey also knew the kid. I explained to Mr. Missey about how I was struggling with finding a way to approach this friend and he gave me comforting advice when I most needed it, he told me that “all you can do in those situations is pray and

be Christ to him.” Through his wise words and the example he sets every Thursday night, I have better come to understand the importance of prayer in my own life, that when things are out of my control, to and trust that God will take care of our problems.

Mrs. Jennifer Carroll

No matter what is happening in our tumultuous world, no matter how chaotic my schedule seems, no matter how stressed I may be about grades and school, there is one constant within my school day that I can count on, and that is beginning my English class with a prayer. Every single class period, my teacher Mrs. Jennifer Carroll starts class by asking us to close our devices, set aside all distractions and leads us in a prayer. She does not simply lead us in an Our Father or Hail Mary but leads us in a prayer from the heart. By leading us in prayer at the start of class, she has taught me one important lesson, that often the most powerful prayers are those that come from what you want to say.

Dr. David Callon

A week after the 2020 presidential election I was writing an article covering a Men for Life speaker so I asked if English teacher and moderator of the Men for Life club Dr. David Callon would be willing to provide me an interview. At this time I was struggling with how to understand and comprehend the election as a Catholic. After I asked my final question, Dr. Callon asked a question of his own: how do you feel about the election? I explained to him my confusion and how I was struggling to understand how I should respond. That ignited one of the best conversations I have ever had. Dr. Callon patiently listened to my thoughts and then explained his thought process and how he was responding to the tumultuous election season. Dr. Callon provided me with an insightful answer into how he was responding as a Catholic and how he had used his Catholic morals to guide his conscience during the voting process. That 40-minute conversation with Dr. Callon changed my perspective on voting and on life in general. It taught me that I am called not to be a Democrat or a Republican but to be a Catholic. To be a Catholic in every aspect of my life not just on Sundays at Mass, at youth group or in theology class.

Mr. Stephen Deves

One of the first clubs I joined during my freshman year of SLUH was pastoral team. Led by Mr. Deves, I did not realize the incredible impact the freshman pastoral team would have on my life. During those first months at SLUH, Mr. Deves made me feel so welcomed at the pas-

toral team, like I belonged to a community. Mr. Deves provided me with a spiritual community where I have met some of my best friends who every day help me to grow into a better friend, a better son, and most importantly, a better Catholic.

Fr. Joseph Hill S.J.

While there have been many faculty that have touched my life at SLUH, Fr. Hill is the one who has had the most influential impact on my formation at SLUH. Countless times I have randomly popped into his office to ask if he could answer a theological question for me, or more commonly if he could hear my confession. The best spiritual advice I have heard at SLUH has come from sitting in his office. Whether that be a simple message of never losing hope in our struggle with overcoming a particular sin, to a more personalized message, I have found great comfort from the advice that Fr. Hill provides me with.

But what I have been inspired the most by Fr. Hill is his passion, his zeal, his desire to foster and nourish the spiritual growth of the students of SLUH. For example, just last week Fr. Hill, a couple of my friends, and I sat down to discuss ideas for Lent this year. During the meeting, Fr. Hill showed his passion for nourishing the faith life of his students by energetically sharing amazing ideas and helping us students build off of our own ideas, thinking of the best way that we can serve the spiritual needs of the students of St. Louis U. High. Through my many encounters and conversations with Fr. Hill, he has taught me so many important lessons, but maybe the most important one is the importance of ministering to my fellow students and how to do that in the most effective way.

Over the past three years at SLUH my own faith life has been impacted by the example set forth by many of the faculty members I have encountered. These teachers have made such a significant impact on my life, an impact that they may never fully see and for that I am so very grateful. It is these faculty members that make SLU High the great place it is. The faculty that are dedicated to their Catholic faith, the faculty dedicated to spreading their love, their passion for the Catholic Church to students in whatever way possible, the faculty that want to instruct their students on how to be strong Catholic men in today’s ever secular world, they are the ones that make SLUH, SLUH. These faculty understand their true mission, not to simply teach them Algebra, AP English, or theology, but to form men for others, the next generation of strong Catholic men who will go out and evangelize to the world.

BY SAM TARTER  
FEATURES EDITOR

Last week, time ran out for the Grande Project. Come the end of this week, certain seniors’ week-long extensions will (hopefully) have given them enough time to put the finishing touches on their papers, podcasts, or videos and allowed them to submit their final project to Canvas. Due to the somewhat rushed schedule of Grande Week, where the seniors got a week off classes to work on their projects, and the shocking realization that our projects were due only a week after, the complaints of my classmates about how much they despised the project came to a head. It seemed that my class had been upset over the project since its initial reveal, and this was the straw that broke the camel’s back of poor scheduling and changes from what came before.

But despite the rise in complaints and dismissal of work right before the due date, I still ended the Grande Project happy that I got to create something worthwhile and tangible.

As someone who thoroughly enjoyed the project and the opportunity to branch out on my areas of interest and research, I don’t find many of the complaints of my peers relevant. Sure, being the class that was the first ever to experience a bold new and different project was going to come with some setbacks and problems (that was inevitable). Still, I believe that many of the complaints and shortcomings that came with the project stemmed from sheer disgust for the lack of something so revered and proclaimed at SLUH: the Senior Project. With that, instead of staying open to something new and the chance of doing some great and spiritual work, my peers bandwagoned

COMMENTARY

Senior grateful for Grande Project, compares it to *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*

onto a common hatred for the Grande Project. I heard people say that the project’s directors should have “made us have more time for school and college apps instead of this busy work”; that they “should’ve had us work together towards something instead of splitting us up even more.” Or the complaint I heard most often: “I would’ve taken nothing over what we got.”

That is where I seem to branch off from the pack, as I am so glad that we got something instead of nothing.

For me, the Grande Project was a time of necessary research along with dedicated and thoughtful time into a topic I’ve always been passionate about and interested in, that being racial injustice. Thanks to the prompts and requirements of the project, I got to interview a dear friend of mine on what her upbringing was like and get to know her on a spiritual level, and to sit down and talk with a former politician as a normal human being and man of color, not as a respected public figure or political party member. And I got to partner with and grow closer to my dear friend Drew Walters as we put both of our talents to use and saw each other’s greatest potential, which is what I will most remember from my time working on Grande.

The Grande Project reminds me most of a little known film called *Star Wars - Episode VIII: The Last Jedi*. I will not delve deep into the many controversies and opinions on this movie, but let’s just say that the divide on who loved or hated this movie was an even 50/50 split; it quite literally ripped the Star Wars fandom in two by subverting expectations, trying something new, and being a bold, brazen addition to the Star Wars lore.

I know that I am in the

minority of people who enjoy this film and who enjoy the Grande Project, but I am also not oblivious to their many flaws. Similar to how Star Wars’ killing off of main characters who have been beloved by fans for decades subverted expectations, the Grande Project subverted seniors’ expectations by being completely different from Senior Project and somewhat disregarding the past. A sideplot about a casino planet and animal rights in a sci-fi epic may feel as out of place, unnecessary, and as big of a waste of time as a few of the presentations in Grande Week. And the director killing off who was supposed to be the main villain of the trilogy at the end was as big of a shock to me as when I realized the Project deadline was in less than a week.

I could make a list of the many problems and errors that came with this project (\*cough\* TIMING! \*cough\*), but I’m sure our Grande Project leaders have heard all of them enough times already. I do want to say to my peers and fellow advocates: do not look back on the Grande Project with envy, disgust, or remorse, but instead remember it as an example of you persevering through uncertainties in a year full of them. Do not think of yourself as the guinea pigs or test subjects of a new and experimental replacement for the Senior Project, but instead as the trailblazers of a new and hopefully better new chapter of the Senior Project story at SLUH.

I applaud my classmates for doing what St. Ignatius teaches and “going forth and setting the world on fire,” and paving the way for the graduating classes of the future. I thank Mr. Gilmore and Mrs. Anzalone for making this a possibility and for all the faculty advisors who made this a reality.

PN 85 Editorial Policy

The Volume 85 *Prep News* opinion section serves the purpose of being the vehicle of the personal opinions of students, faculty, or others. All topics discussed in the section will be related to St. Louis University High School.

Nothing published either as an editorial or as a letter to an editor should be considered the opinion of the school, the administration, or anyone other than its author or authors.

A *Prep News* editorial is the opinion of all seven editors on a particular topic.

A commentary or column is an opinion of one member of the *Prep News* staff, not of the *Prep News* itself.

A perspective or notebook, like a commentary, is the opinion of one person, often a *Prep News* staff

member.

Unlike a commentary, such a piece is often intended primarily to convey a personal experience rather than to provide a viewpoint on an issue. Unlike a letter, such pieces are usually developed at the request of, and sometimes under the guidance of, the *Prep News* editors.

Every member of the SLUH community is welcomed and encouraged to submit a letter to the editors. Every letter received by the editors will be read and given consideration. All letters must be signed, but the author’s name may be withheld from publication by request and at the discretion of the editors.

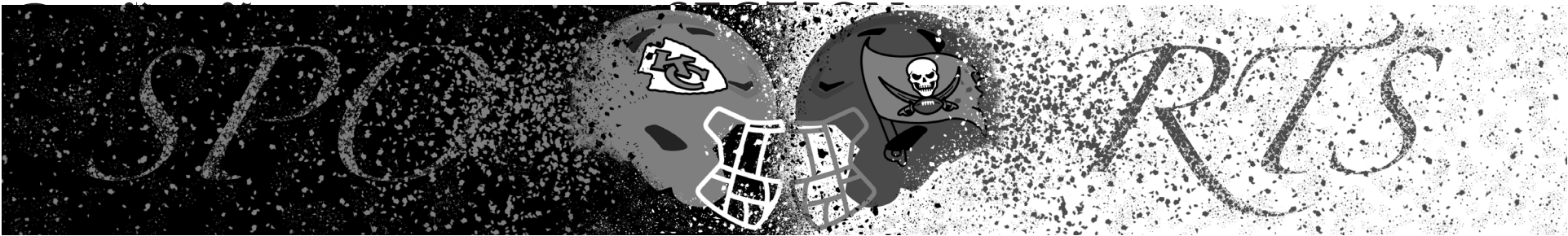
The *Prep News* editors reserve the right to edit any submissions for publication in order to meet grammatical

standards, but they will not skew the author’s original intent. Also, the editors reserve the right to withhold from publication any submission if it is deemed vulgar, tasteless, or otherwise inappropriate. Authors should be available for the editors to contact them before publication to address matters of concern.

All authors wishing to have letters published must submit them by 4:00 p.m. the Wednesday before the letter is to be published.

Letters should be emailed to prepnews@sluh.org, and, if possible, a signed copy should be given to a *Prep News* editor or moderator or mailed to the *Prep News* courtesy of St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland, St. Louis, MO 63110.





# Hockey wins 2 out of 3 in Challenge Cup round robin; advances to face Marquette Friday

BY LOUIS CORNETT  
CORE STAFF

The Road to the Cup has begun. This past weekend, the St. Louis U. High hockey team faced off against Chaminade, Rockwood Summit, and CBC. SLUH won two of its three games, safely securing a spot in the next round of the playoffs.

“It’s the playoffs and every game matters,” said junior Max Sextro. “We didn’t want Monday against CBC to be a win or go home game so we really needed to win against Chaminade and Summit. We were just trying to pull our games together and get a win.”

Having tied Chaminade 3-3 earlier this year, the Jr. Bills looked to take the win when it counted the most. However just 43 seconds into the game, a penalty by sophomore Barret Grawe gave Chaminade a man advantage on the power play. The Jr. Bills strong defensive play held off the Red Devils attack and successfully killed the powerplay.

With only 1:21 left in the first period, Chaminade started the scoring, taking advantage of a 3-on-1 with time winding down in the first period.

But SLUH countered. Senior captain Matt Warnecke scored with 6.6 seconds left after a toe drag created space for him to get a high shot over the right shoulder of Chanminade’s goaltender.

“We went down 1-0 late in the first and I went out there

with 15 seconds left in the period and we forced a turnover. Then, I put a good shot towards the net,” said Warnecke. “It was big to get even before the period was over and after that we started to get going.”

The second period was a battle of defense with neither team able to break the tie until sophomore Henry Serafin scored with 40.5 seconds left for a 2-1 lead; junior Ben Winklemann had the assist.

Although down 2-1, Chaminade was not going away. With 12:31 remaining in the game, the Red Devils had possession in SLUH’s defensive zone. A Chaminade defenseman ripped a shot from the blue line that clanked off the post and richotected away from goal.

Shortly after that scare, the Jr. Bills stepped on the pedal in the offensive zone and added two quick goals to seal their win against Chaminade.

With 11:53 remaining, Warnecke netted his second goal of the night with a shot from the right faceoff circle that found its way just inside the left post to make it 3-1.

“I went out in the third after Serafin scored to put us up 2-1 in the second and knew if we got another one it was going to be over,” said Warnecke.

A Chaminade tripping penalty just seconds after the third goal gave the Jr. Bills the man advantage, and they wasted no time scoring. A goal by senior Brock Massie, assisted by Winkelman and Warnecke,



Senior Jake Buttice (right) being congratulated by sophomore Luke Gund after Chaminade game.

photo | courtesy of @sluh.hockey

secured the 4-1 win.

“(The win) was a huge boost of confidence and it had a ton of energy,” said Sextro. “It really boosted us into Saturday.”

SLUH faced Rockwood Summit on Saturday at 8:00 p.m. at Affton Ice Rink.

In the first period, Rockwood Summit found the net once, giving the Jr. Bills a deficit to make up over the next two periods. With a win Saturday night, the Jr. Bills would give themselves an almost automatic berth into the next round of the playoffs.

“We knew we needed to win again at Summit,” said

Sextro. “It was a tough start and we got down early but we knew we were a lot more skilled than them, we were just playing down to their level. We knew a win was just a win.”

After a scoreless second period, SLUH stepped on the gas in the third. Winklemann’s goal with 10:50 remaining tied the game at one. But the Jr. Bills were looking for more than a tie against the 10th seed in the playoffs. And the captain, Warnecke, answered the call once again. With less than 2 minutes left, Warnecke beat the goalie blocker side to give the Jr. Bills a 2-1 lead and secure them a

spot in the next round of the playoffs.

“We were all happy,” said Sextro. “We knew we were going to move on which was huge for us after last year. A lot of the guys remember being eliminated in the round robin.”

After two consecutive wins, the Jr. Bills faced CBC on Monday night, their final game of the round robin. A 1-0 loss to the Cadets, who outshot SLUH 28-11, gave the Jr. Bills their first loss of the round robin, but they still advanced in the playoffs. The No. 5 seed, SLUH, will face the No. 4 seed, Marquette, who they have played twice

earlier in the year, losing both of those contests by a combined three goals.

“We need to focus on shutting down their two offensive players who have scored almost all their goals especially against us,” said Sextro. “We have lost to them twice but we all know in the locker room we can beat them. We all believe.”

The Jr. Bills will face the Mustangs on Friday at 8:25 p.m. and Monday at 7:20 p.m. The winner will advance to play either De Smet or Rockwood Summit. Attendance is limited to two family members per player.

# Wrestlers wrap up regular season, prepare for Districts

BY LEO WAGNER  
REPORTER

With the regular season officially finished as of last Friday’s MCC Tournament, the Saint Louis U. High wrestling team is now shifting its sole focus towards making final preparations for the postseason, which begins with the district tournament on Feb. 13.

“The MCC Tournament

lets us wrestle a couple guys that we’re going to see in our district. More importantly, it gives us a feel for the competition and what other teams in the St. Louis area have been doing this year. Sometimes we get stuck going to tournaments or duals an hour away, which is good, but doesn’t give us a great look at the competition we’ll see at districts and sections. The MCC Tournament allows us to see

what level of wrestling is going on in our area,” said coach Espen Conley.

The last competition of the year for SLUH wrestling was the MCC Tournament. Hosted by CBC, the tournament featured CBC, Chaminade, DeSmet, SLUH, and Vianney. The team had to rush from school Friday afternoon to arrive at Bommarito Campus for the 4:00 weigh-ins and 5:00 start time.

SLUH faced their toughest opponent, CBC, first. One of the best teams in Missouri, CBC’s roster of state placers and champions would provide SLUH wrestlers with the chance to experience state tournament-like competition seven weeks before the tournament itself.

With only four matches in their first dual, SLUH posted a slow start, going 0-4. They did receive four byes due to empty slots in CBC’s roster, but ultimately fell 51-24.

Next, the Jr. Bills wrestled Vianney, a district opponent. Connor Whalen and Will Coover both won their matches by decision as SLUH also picked up a handful of byes. Although the final score,

24-24, was tied, SLUH won the dual via a tiebreaker based on who gave up more forfeits. SLUH only surrendered one, while Vianney had three.

With their third dual of the night, SLUH wrestled their Jesuit brother, De Smet. Cam Perry and Bobby Conroy each recorded wins, with Perry winning by decision and Conroy winning by fall. Despite these strong individual performances, DeSmet trumped SLUH, winning 39-27.

SLUH faced Chaminade for their final dual of the night. Whalen, Coover, Caleb Schellenberg, Alex Nance, and Logan Neumann all tallied wins by fall. Propelled by these pins, SLUH beat Chaminade 54-24, an impressive end to the tournament and their regular season.

“I’d like to, and expect to, see us beat DeSmet next year. I think the level of wrestling in our room matches, or even tops, the level of wrestling in their room. For Chaminade and Vianney, we took care of business. The only thing I can say about that is that I want to see us put up even more points next year,” said Conley.

In addition to their final regular season competition, the SLUH wrestlers had their final regular season Covid test on Monday. Receiving all negative results on Wednesday afternoon, the wrestlers were cleared to participate in full contact drills for the week’s four remaining practices. With just one full week left before the District Tournament, every extra repetition that the wrestlers can practice will be to their advantage on the 13th.

Last year, the team managed to send three wrestlers from the District Tournament to the State Tournament—then-seniors Augie Lodholz and Kevin Flack and then-junior Bobby Conroy, who went on to place fourth in the 180-pound weight class.

This year, with six seniors and several promising underclassmen, the team is hoping to make a similar run in the altered postseason. Last year, at the District Tournament, the top four wrestlers in a 16-man bracket would progress to the State Tournament, where the top six would earn medals. This year, the postseason has a slight twist.

The typically 16-man bracket will be broken down into two eight-man brackets, each taking place at a different location. The top four wrestlers from each bracket will then meet at the Sectional Tournament, two weeks later, on Feb. 27. From here, the top three will proceed to the State Tournament, slated for March 13, which will be a 12-man bracket instead of the traditional 16-man format.

Regardless of this year’s postseason format, the wrestlers are determined that their work, beginning last November, will pay off. With more practices and matches than most other teams were able to schedule, the Jr. Bills are looking forward to putting on a show on the 13th.

“Obviously I expect everyone we are bringing to districts to go to sectionals. Our district is cut in half now, so I think everybody has a really good chance to make it through. We just gotta wrestle our best and do the things we’ve been working on the whole season. I expect to see some good results,” said Conley.



Wrestling parents at Senior Night.

photo | @SLUHathletics



# Racquetball defeats Parkway West to continue domination

BY JARED THORNBERRY  
REPORTER

The St. Louis U. High racquetball team won its eighth straight match on Wednesday, beating the current second place team, Parkway West and affirming the Jr. Bills’ status as the most dominant team in the division.

“Every time we go up against Parkway West, we know we are playing good racquetball players,” said head coach Stephen Deves. “Even though this is not the best team they’ve had in recent years, they still know how to push us to our limits.”

After a long warmup, the first games were underway in the number one division. Senior Danny Juergens played a tough match against Alex Lancia but could not catch a break and ended up losing his series in two games 15-5, 15-8. In the second division, Adam Lancia defeated senior Oliver Allen 15-6, 15-8. Both of the Lancia brothers played their best games and slow starts for the SLUH players led to two losses.

“I was definitely off my game,” said Allen. “I was just off balance and wasn’t locating my shots. I’ll just have to keep drilling and working on ceiling balls and shots down the stretch.”

After these two losses, junior Max Telken started a rally of wins winning his



Senior Danny Juergens. photo | courtesy of Mr. Steven Deves

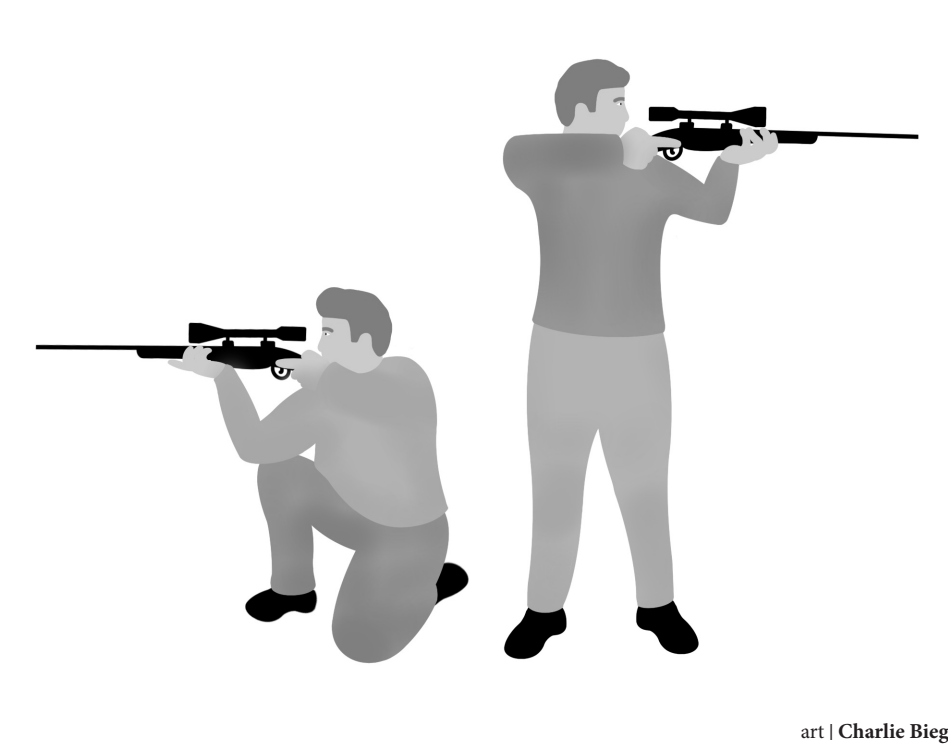
match 15-5, 15-12. Telken played a very smart game and continued to show his improvements as the game progressed. Junior Jared Thornberry won his match against Sam Kallaos after a slow start to both games. After going down 4-2 in both games he went on to win 15-4, 15-5. After drilling all of his shots, junior Danny Phillips won his match confidently with a 15-2, 15-9 victory. The final game in the singles section of the match, senior Nick Peterson finished his match before anyone could watch. He took an easy and well-earned win 15-1, 15-4. Finally, after a very slow start and a bunch of slip ups on shots, the doubles team of Ben Harmon and Will Shorey found their groove near the

end of the first game. They then went on to hit every shot. Shorey had excellent ceiling balls and kept the ball in play while Harmon dominated with his down the line passes.

“I like playing a team like Parkway West, a team that has perennial success,” said Deves. “I like playing a team that forces us to be in tune with what kind of racquetball players we want to be.”

As the SLUH racquetball teams sit in the number one spot of the division, their confidence continues to grow as they only have a few matches left in the season. The team continues to improve every Sunday night at practice and are hoping to improve on the slip ups in these matches.

# Rifle team places second at State Championship, falls to Ozark



art | Charlie Bieg

BY JACK RYBAK  
CORE STAFF

The St. Louis U. High rifle team spent its weekend at the Missouri Military Academy shooting for the MO CMP 3PAR State Championship. The Jr. Bills are on the road to returning to their high scores after a dip this past week.

The Jr. Bills finished second in the state championship, losing by a mere 20 points to Ozark High School, whom the Jr. Bills will shoot against later in the season.

The top team for the Jr. Bills was comprised of

sophomore Michael Lumetta (573), senior Nick Storer (571), junior Lauer Stix (571), and senior team captain Ryan Janson (568). The total combined score of the team was 2283.

“After our match a two weeks ago, everyone wanted to step it up for the next one and go twice as hard and carry that mentality for our next matches,” said Grant Grabowski.

While the scores put up by the team were a tremendous improvement from the previous week, it was not enough to put them ahead of Ozark High School’s score

of 2303. The first place team at the MO CMP 3PAR State Championship has the option to go to regionals, while SLUH did not finish first there is still another option for regional.

This weekend, the Jr. Bills will be facing off against Montgomery Bell Academy at SLUH. Both teams will shoot a standard match and the top two teams will shoot a 40 shot standing competition.

“Everyone is really hyped,” said Grabowski. “We are over our hump and everyone is excited to step it up and do better than last time.”

# SLUH drops close game vs. Cardinal Ritter, mounts double-digit second half comeback to stun Miller Career Academy

BY CARTER SPENCE  
WEB EDITOR

The St. Louis U. High basketball team used what was initially scheduled to be a week-break to schedule games vs. Cardinal Ritter and Miller Career Academy. SLUH split the games, falling at Cardinal Ritter on Jan. 28 by seven points and defeating Miller Career Academy on Feb. 1, a game that was postponed in December due to COVID-19 testing. The Jr. Bills moved to 6-5 after the two games.

Cardinal Ritter (11-3) entered the game vs. SLUH on a dominant six game win streak, beating its opponents by an average of 23.5 points per game in that span. Three Cardinal Ritter players—Mario Fleming, Illyaas Harris, and Robert Lewis—scored in double figures and lifted the team to a 63-56 victory.

SLUH’s defense—which held Cardinal Ritter to its third fewest points on the season—and another stellar performance from junior Nick Kramer kept the game competitive to the wire. Cardinal Ritter shot just 32.1 percent from the floor, including just 21.7 percent from beyond the arc. Fleming, who entered the game averaging 21.4 points

per game, was held to a dismal 4-for-27, connecting on just two of his 14 three-point attempts.

Despite locking down Fleming, SLUH allowed Cardinal Ritter forward Lewis to go off for 20 points, his third most of the season, on an efficient 9 for 13 from the floor. Harris pitched in 15 points, his career high.

On the offensive end for SLUH, junior phenom Kramer continued his tear. He led the way with 29 points, besting his career-high of 28, and accounted for over half of SLUH’s total points for the second consecutive game.

After the loss to Cardinal Ritter, SLUH began a four-game homestand with a 48-47 win against Miller Career Academy (6-2). The Jr. Bills dug themselves out of an early hole to take the narrow victory, trailing by as many as 12 in the first half.

Aaron Walker Jr. scored the games’ first points with a layup on the first play, but then SLUH was swarmed by Miller Career’s aggressive full-court press. Miller Career picked junior Jaden McClain’s pocket and converted with an easy layup, and then forced another turnover on Kramer, who dribbled the ball off his

foot in the corner of the court. Miller Career capitalized on SLUH’s array of turnovers and bleak 1 for 7 start on field goal attempts, jumping out to a 9-2 lead and taking a 15-9 lead into the second quarter.

SLUH’s offensive woes continued in the second quarter, scoring just six points and falling behind 27-15 at the half. Miller Career’s potent defense forced Kramer to a poor first-half performance; he had just four points at the half.

“We’ve been struggling to take care of the ball, especially in the beginning of the games,” head coach Erwin Claggett said. “My main message to the team (at the half) was to stay locked in and be smart with the ball.”

The Jr. Bills flipped the script in the beginning of the second half, using a quick 7-0 run to trim the lead to just five. But Miller Career responded with another stretch of strong defense and solid transition offense to push the lead back to double digits. After McClain connected on a triple, Miller Career guard Vemetrius Jackson was whistled for an offensive foul and was tagged with a technical foul after voicing his dissatisfaction with the call,

giving SLUH a pair of free throws and the possession. SLUH scored four points off the encounter, closing Miller Career’s lead to 34-30 at the end of the third quarter.

“We made better decisions and took care of the ball,” Claggett said of the team’s third quarter performance.

Kramer, who struggled in the first three quarters, carried the Jr. Bills to a dominant fourth quarter performance and the win. Kramer had nine of SLUH’s 18 fourth-quarter points, and his bucket mid-way through the quarter gave SLUH its second lead of the game and first since leading 2-0. SLUH pushed the lead to eight with over a minute to go, and Miller Career did not have enough time for a chance to win or send the game to overtime, trimming the lead to one with a last-second three-pointer.

The thick of MCC play awaits the Jr. Bills, who are 1-2 in conference play thus far. SLUH faced Chaminade (12-1, 4-0 MCC) last night and will face CBC (10-2, 3-1) tomorrow night and De Smet (10-5, 1-3) on Feb. 10. All games will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be live streamed on SLUH Sports Network.

## Underclassman Briefs

### B Basketball(6-6)

#### 1/21 - Fort Zumwalt-South

SLUH	9	11	10	10	40
Fort Zumwalt	21	7	12	11	51

Stats:  
Ken Kaid (9 pts, 7 reb)

#### 1/22 - Eureka

SLUH	10	9	11	7	37
Eureka	7	10	14	20	51

Stats:  
Oliver Floresca (10 pts, 5 reb)

#### 1/28 - Cardinal Ritter

SLUH	2	11	4	15	32
Cardinal Ritter	12	6	10	16	44

Stats:  
Oliver Floresca (6 pts, 8 reb)

#### 1/29 - MICDS

SLUH	7	10	18	10	45
MICDS	7	10	9	0	26

Stats:  
Charlie Isom-McCall (16 pts, 4 asst),  
Ryan Kellog (6 pts, 9 reb)

#### 1/1 - Miller Career Academy

SLUH	10	6	13	7	38
MCA	12	10	5	5	34

Stats:  
Charlie Isom-McCall (16 pts, 3 asst)  
Oliver Floresca (8 pts, 8 reb)

#### 1/3 - Chaminade

SLUH	10	8	7	5	30
Chaminade	11	6	19	7	43

Stats:  
Charlie Isom-McCall (13 pts, 3 reb)

compiled by Coach Adam Cruz

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## Junior class's reverence praised by Archbishop Rozanski during visit

(continued from page 1)  
week. The administration quickly leaped at this opportunity and invited him to come and say a Mass at SLUH.

"We are very grateful that he reached out to us and that we could set this Mass up," said Gibbons. "This is something that he did with all the schools (setting up a Mass) but we were one of the first schools he contacted which is really great."

Having the Archbishop preside at an all school Mass was the intent of the SLUH administration, however due to Covid-19 safety guidelines, plans had to be changed and they settled on having the Archbishop celebrate Mass for the junior class.

"With the challenges of having everyone back and also having to focus on being able to move people around the building and get fed for lunch, we felt that it wouldn't be possible to do an all school liturgy," said Gibbons. "We wanted to focus on the juniors because other groups have been able to have key moments and the juniors have lost a lot so we wanted this to be a real leadership moment for them."

During Academic Lab on Monday, the whole junior class gathered together in the chapel to celebrate Mass with the new Catholic leader of St. Louis. This was the first time the whole junior class had gathered together since last March.

"I think it was special in and of itself to have the whole class together for the first time in a while and for that to be a Mass in which the Archbishop presided over was even more

special," said junior AJ Thompson. "It's cool to have the head of our archdiocese at our school, especially in our chapel celebrating Mass."

The Mass was led by the Junior Pastoral Team; members of the team held different roles such as lecturing, being music ministers and serving. The whole Mass was orchestrated and planned by Hill, who wanted to ensure a reverent Mass.

"I thought the Mass went very well," said Hill. "The students really seemed engaged and the liturgy flowed very smoothly."

"Before the Mass when we were getting vested, he impressed me with how normal he was, he seemed to be just a down-to-earth and genuine guy," said junior JP Torack, a server at Mass.

Rozanski's homily was focused on the theme that even when there doesn't seem to be much good in the world, we are called to be the good and share that goodness with others. Rozanski was impressed by the reverence displayed by the junior class and the attentive-

ness they showed.

"I was so pleased today to celebrate with you and to see the reverence, the participation that everybody showed at Mass, the beauty of the music, and the real respect that I felt for the Lord and for the Blessed sacrament here at Mass," said Rozanski. "I feel that the students here really show that they understand what our faith is about because of the reverence that they have given at Mass."

During his visit, Rozanski was impressed by the faith he saw within the SLUH community and the vibrant community that he witnessed.

"In your four years at SLUH you are given great opportunities, especially the opportunity to discern where the Lord is calling you in life, so always pray for that openness of heart to the Lord's will, to the Lord's call to you and that whatever vocation the Lord is calling you to, that you may respond with a generous heart, with all of the knowledge and formation you have gained at SLUH," said Rozanski. "SLUH really is such a great school."



The Archbishop preaching during Mass.

photo | Matthew Leight

## SLUH partners with CareSTL to help get eligible faculty vaccinated

(continued from page 1)  
of the pandemic are a great sign of hope," said Principal Ian Gibbons S.J. "It's a lot of craziness and chaos, too. So, the activity of these vaccines is exciting, but the challenge is production, distribution and actually getting these into clinics and into people's arms, that's proving to be a great challenge."

For the state of Missouri, distribution of the two part vaccine has been staggered based on need in order to quickly and effectively help those who are most at risk of contracting and dying from the virus. The distribution process began in mid to late December, and Missouri started distributing to those in its first category, phase 1A, which includes healthcare workers, paramedics, and long term facility residents and staff. As of Jan. 18, the state of Missouri has started to shift to phase 1B of its distribution plan. This includes those who are 65 years or older and those with underlying health conditions that make them more at risk for severe illness. Some of SLUH's faculty and staff, who are on campus teaching, fall into this category.

"I think about our faculty, especially the ones over 65 and their great commitments to SLUH, reopening the school, and the ways that this helps us in that mission," said Gibbons. "I think about some of our challenges in society and slowly being able to overcome some of those and help us as a community to move forward it's a testimony to being a strong community to being in good communications with

each other and being in this together."

However, distribution has not been an easy task, and for those that meet the requirements it is very difficult to find a place to get vaccinated. While hospitals have vaccines, many of those are still being supplied to healthcare workers, leaving those in phase 1B to find other organizations to get their vaccines. According to the New York Times, Missouri is one of the slowest states in the distribution process, with only 5.8 percent having the first part of the vaccine and 1.7 percent fully vaccinated.

"I do recognize the logistical complexity of this. There's a ton of challenges, and I have to hope that the people in charge are doing the best they can," said Carruthers. "However, (these vaccines) are not just for my faculty. It's more for the greater community as a whole. More time equals more suffering and potentially more illness and in some cases more death."

Luckily for SLUH faculty and staff, SLUH's administration has been helping eligible faculty and staff find organizations that will get them vaccinated. Most recently, SLUH has partnered with CareSTL Health for vaccine distribution. The organization, which has been instrumental in the testing of SLUH's sport athletes, was able to vaccinate about 20 SLUH faculty and staff last Saturday and schedule them for follow-up appointments for part two of the vaccine. The partnership has been very fruitful and a great resource in a time where it is very difficult to obtain a vaccine. SLUH ad-

ministration hopes that in the future they would be able to invite CareSTL on campus to vaccinate people.

"I was given direct contact with a woman, but she has just been so wonderful," said Director of Human Resources Beth Voegtli. Their phone probably has to be ringing off the hook, and for her to offer to take names and make sure those individuals were scheduled for a vaccine within a week turnaround is amazing."

For Jazz II instructor Doc Koester, the SLUH administration, particularly Voegtli, has been a much needed resource in the process for getting vaccinated.

"I tried reaching out to the City Health Department, but they are just so slow," said Koester. "I am just so grateful for Mrs. Voegtli and the administration for helping me get on the way. I do not think that I would be able to get vaccinated so quickly if it weren't for them."

While the vaccine has been a bright spot this year, both those that have started the vaccination process and for the SLUH administration who helped orchestrate distribution to faculty and staff, the feeling is not pure optimism but cautious hope.

"I am not overly jubilant. It is in some ways a light at the end of the tunnel. I feel optimistic and it is uplifting news, but I am also trying to be realistic," said Carruthers. "We just need to all keep our feet on the ground and try to not get too overly emotionalized by any of this—keep plugging away, just as the old British saying goes, 'steady on.'"

## Black History Month provides learning opportunities, opens up discussions for SLUH community

(continued from page 1)  
the racial profiling of Harrold's cousin, and the politics of race in general. The event's planners recognized that the videos would be great because many students hadn't seen them, and they fit well with the theme of being an ally.

"Carter and Albert really showed that students coming from different areas or different backgrounds and perspectives can really come together as best friends and I think that's something that really resonated with our students and with our country right now," said Shields.

Director of Equity and Inclusion Frank Kovarik agreed, noting the video's authenticity.

"The goal was to make it a little more personal, a little more relatable for students, to let them see two seniors talking about their friendships, their lives, and what's happening out in the world," said Kovarik. "I think the situation with Albert's cousin made it a lot more real and even more personal."

Harrold's depiction of his cousin's racial profiling incident impacted more than just Kovarik. For students and

teachers alike, it was striking to see how racism had come full circle for the Harrold family.

"Watching Albert talk about his feelings of frustration with what happened with George Floyd and saying 'that could be my cousins' and then obviously it was his cousin that struck me as profoundly sad," said moderator of the Anti-Racist Coalition Kate Toussaint. "All of the civil unrest and protests—and were in the same spot."

"I thought the moment where Albert talked about how these issues are affecting his family in such a personal way. It's one thing to see it on social media and stuff, it's another thing to see it affecting someone that goes to my private school, where it seems like no problems ever happen," said junior Luke Pierson.

After the videos, students discussed their responses with a small group of classmates and teachers. In this way, the assembly this year seemed much more intimate, allowing—forcing, even—students to fully process last year's events.

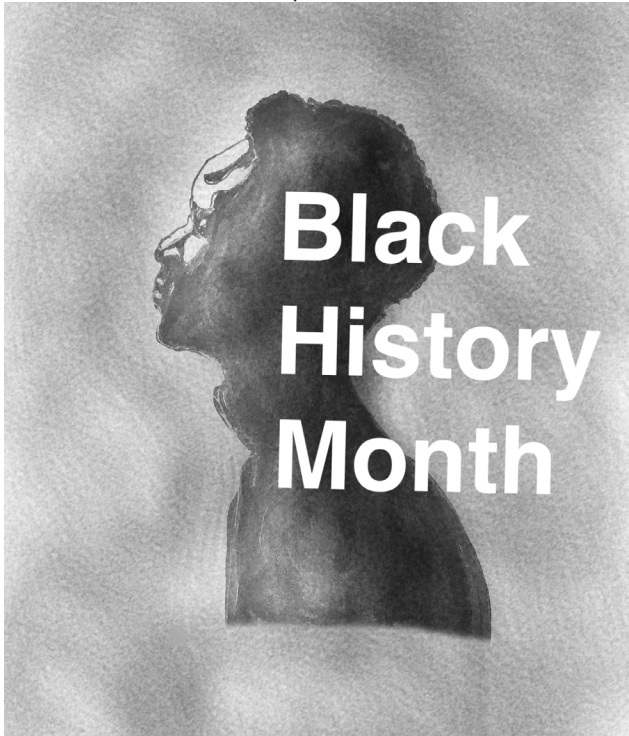
"2020 was a year full

of lemons, when we get a chance to really reflect on that, looking at all the different contributors that African Americans have made to the country allows us to make some of those lemons into lemonade," said Shields. "(Black History Month is) a time for us to really reflect on our broader history as a country but then again to reflect on our modern history

and what we can really do to make those changes and be Men for Others."

Toussaint especially appreciated the long, difficult look at race in America that Monday's assembly required.

"In June it was a real watershed moment, (George Floyd) event really struck (people). Because of Covid, you couldn't really look away but now that we're in Febru-



art | Alex Dieters

ary I'm starting to look away and forget. As a white person, I have that privilege to forget. For my own self it's important to remind myself that I have to keep working and keep learning."

"I thank the students for being really open to that assembly," reflected Shields. "I just want to applaud the student body for being open to having that conversation especially in the state of affairs that we're living in."

Despite the new format this year, which was met with some criticism from students, ACES members saw the event as a fruitful and important step forward.

"As a school we need to normalize these discussions. It shouldn't take a school assembly to talk about change, openly having these conversations is important," said senior Camilo Hernandez.

After the discussion, students ended the assembly with a prayer, but Kovarik was quick to point out that their jobs don't end there.

"I think Albert and Carter did a good job of reminding us that valuing Black lives and working for justice and empathy and fairness is not a po-

litical issue, and it shouldn't be something we're arguing about at SLU High," said Kovarik. "We should all get behind the struggle for the human dignity of African Americans and ground that in our Christian faith."

As for the rest of Black History month, Kovarik and Shields agreed that education is key.

"I think it starts with educating yourself, as a white person—and for all people," said Kovarik. "I think watching the rest of the Voices at SLUH videos would be a great start. Start reading a book that catches your interest or listen to a podcast. Keep learning and being open to new ideas. Be open to everyday interactions with people who are different from you."

"I would challenge yourself with learning something about a person of color throughout the year because you might find a figure that you really resonate with and has paved the way for you to go into the career that you want to study," said Shields. "Students around the board can tap into their personal interests and be more of an ally."



AMDG

# GameStop stock buzzes SLUH

art | Charlie Bieg



(continued from page 1)  
massive wins and losses people have.”

According to Investopedia, short selling is an investment strategy that predicts a decline in a security price. This is done by borrowing shares of a particular stock, selling the stocks (remember, one does not technically own the stock at this time), and then buying the stock in the future at the predicted lower price to return to the lender. A short squeeze occurs when a stock that is being heavily shorted jumps in price, often forcing the shorting investors to buy the stocks to return to the lender to offset future costs. The investors who jump on the bandwagon of a company that is being shorted (like GameStop) can then make a lot of money as the stock rises in prices.

GameStop, which at the time was being heavily shorted by hedge funds and other financial entities, began 2021 with a price of \$17.25 per share. After remaining relatively stable, on Jan. 12, the share price began to rise. By Jan. 26, shares were worth \$147.98. Investors were not done with the squeeze, though. By Jan. 27, shares had surpassed \$200. They would reach their high of \$483 on Jan. 28 and remain around \$300 per share until Feb. 2 when their price began a tumble that has continued this week.

Perhaps the most intriguing GameStop success story came from senior Thomas Matyiko. After watching a convincing YouTube video and reading of a potential short squeeze, Matyiko decided to go all in. He purchased a call option (essentially the right to purchase a stock at a later date for an agreed-upon price) after watching the stock jump from \$25 to \$30. When it was all said

and done, Matyiko had made a great profit.

“I got pretty lucky, and I earned 23 times my initial investment,” said Matyiko.

Many smaller retail investors like Matyiko experienced issues relating to the GameStop stocks from their app, Robinhood, which announced last week that it had restricted GameStop trading, sending the stock price down. Because of Robinhood issues, Matyiko lost some of the money he had gained; however, he still came out with a large profit. Despite this, he admits he got lucky and will probably move on from Robinhood after his success.

“I’m all out, I’m definitely gonna quit Robinhood,” said Matyiko. “I don’t even know if I’ll continue doing this type of investing because obviously, this is like a once in a lifetime, really lucky thing. I’ll probably just be doing like a Roth IRA and normal low-risk things from now on.”

He also wants people to be careful when dealing with crazes like this GameStop fad.

“I would just say don’t try to do what these people are saying,” said Matyiko. “They’re not smart, and I just got really lucky.”

The GameStop situation revealed a new shift in students’ interests towards investing. According to Ignatius Business Leaders moderator Kevin Foy, multiple factors have led to this. These include the Stock Simulator Game that the club has been sponsoring for years. More importantly, he said, it was driven by Robinhood coming on to the market with \$0 investment commissions, forcing competitors to do the same. Soon, almost every broker offered free trades.

“It is fair to say that in the

last two years the interest base of IBL has shifted heavily toward investing and away from other things that IBL used to be interested in,” said Foy. “You can’t trade tiny transactions with a fixed transaction cost and not just get hammered. When that transaction cost goes away, regular investors without a lot of money are able to actually trade real money. That hit SLU High a couple of years ago, and I think it only takes a handful of guys to be talking about real money to fire up a bunch of other dudes.”

He believes that combining the lessons many IBL members have learned in the club and the accessibility to the no commission investing platforms have created a perfect storm for SLUH guys to get involved in the market. IBL hosted a meeting last Thursday to discuss the volatility and what went into making the short squeeze.

“We sought to explain what happened and what the implications were. We talked about everything from the fundamentals, like what is short selling, what is short squeeze, what the margin calls are,” said Rosenstengel. “We defined basic terms for people so that anyone could come and learn about what happened, and then we talked about the actual situation so what hedge funds were doing and what the people on Wall Street bets were doing.”

Derivatives—otherwise referred to as positions that speculate on the derivation of an underlying asset class (they are essentially a contract between two parties speculating about future prices)—gives the students the short term gratification they look for.

“The average high school kid does not particularly want to wait 15 years for an appreciable change to his account. So whether it’s options or short sales or anything like that, the younger you are, the more sexy and cool technical investing is,” said Foy, referring to the investment process of analyzing past trends to determine short term profit. “If you’re a longtime IBL member or you already understand the basics of technical investing, you understand the basics of the derivatives market. You probably are paying attention to the social media world of investing, like WallStreetBets,

so SLU High was just primed to be interested in this and know more than the average bear.”

Foy suggested it is helpful to see derivatives as an insurance of sorts for the financial market. While insurance can be a good thing, it can also be bad.

“Insurance can also be bad when it creates, in the insurance world, what is called a moral hazard. (For example), I take out a life insurance policy that is so valuable that now I have an incentive to kill someone,” said Foy. “You’re not allowed to do that in the life insurance world, but you are allowed to do it in the stock market. The question is, will regulators come in and regulate the way some of these derivative markets allow for this to happen?”

Overall, however, Foy is convinced this event will be similar to trends like Bitcoin that ran through SLUH a few years ago.

“I think this is just a blip on the radar,” said Foy of his analysis of the situation in the grand scheme of the market. “If you look at what’s happening in the market as a whole, not much is really happening. You just got crazy volatility in this tiny little thing ... the buzz was Bitcoin, and the buzz is GameStop now.”

“This is more of an internet meme than anything else right now,” said Carson Cornett. “As most big internet fads do, it’s probably going to die out, and all the kids who tried to get in on this probably will lose a lot of money. Not just on GameStop, but if they continue to try to invest or operate with these derivatives that they don’t really know what they’re doing.”

While most students weren’t directly implicated in the GameStop short squeeze, the news and fascination with the event have drawn a lot of dialogue from the students at SLUH.

“This event has drawn a lot more students to the stock market. I think during free periods, you see a lot more people looking at stocks,” said Rosenstengel. “Even if they aren’t trading, they’re looking, which I think is really going to create a much bigger culture where at SLUH, it’s normal for friends to talk about different stocks and investing, which I think is really cool and pretty unique to SLUH.”

# Confucius Classroom celebrates 10 years over Zoom

BY ROARKE UNRAU  
STAFF

Confucius was a Chinese philosopher who died over two thousand years ago, but even today, his philosophies and rules of life are being kept alive in those who study his works. Over the weekend, SLUH’s Confucius Classroom celebrated its 10th anniversary on Zoom with the Chinese community and students from local schools.

The Confucius classroom located in SLUH’s library is a place for students to go and study Confucius’ teachings. It is funded by the Confucius Institute, a Chinese organization, and there are multiple events set up throughout the year in this space meant to celebrate Chinese culture.

“The Confucius Institute is a Chinese government organization, and they started it ten years ago,” said Chinese teacher Yude Huang. “We were the first one in Missouri to have a Confucius classroom, and since it’s a funded program, we usually use those funds to organize events throughout the year.”

Started ten years ago by Dr. Ching-Ling Tai, the Coordinator of the Confucius classroom, the Confucius classroom has grown every year. Other schools, such as MICDS, have even added the Confucius classroom to their curriculum.

“About 15 years ago I was involved with the advisory board to start a Confucius institute at Webster, and because of the close relationship, I was able to start a Confucius classroom at SLUH,” said Tai.

With Chinese New Year coming up on Friday, Feb. 12, the Confucius classroom held

an event on Saturday, Jan. 30, to celebrate Chinese culture and Confucius himself. All over Zoom, there were nine student speakers, and over 90 total participants from local schools, such as St. Joe and Cor Jesu, and people from the Chinese community as well.

“Since the Chinese New Year is coming up in one or two weeks, usually we have a big celebration, but this year we cannot really meet in person. Usually we have a big party, and around 200 people participate and enjoy the meals together in one of the biggest Chinese restaurants in St. Louis, but this year we couldn’t do so,” said Huang. “Also this is the tenth year of the SLUH Confucius classroom, so the event went really well thanks to the students’ contributions and efforts to do a lot of rehearsal. We stayed in and enjoyed watching a film, a drama. After the introduction we watched one hour of a video about Confucius. It was about how he became an influential person in Chinese history.”

For Huang, this event was a great way to celebrate the unique tradition of the Confucian classroom and show off this tradition to others in the St. Louis area.

“SLUH has such a unique program where not only the American students can join, but also the Chinese people can join too. It’s kind of like a bridge across schools. We want to make it like a bridge so we can get some connections among the schools, and also the Chinese community. So it is a very important bridge to connect every aspect of the community,” said Huang.



Students participating on the Zoom call.

photo | courtesy of Mr. Yude Huang

# Covid can’t stop District Band Auditions, 14 students earn recognition

BY LUKE DUFFY AND  
ELLIOT MOORE  
STAFF, REPORTER

In January, band students auditioned for the District Concert Band and District Jazz Band. Despite the setbacks of this unique school year, a surprising number of SLUH students were selected to one of the bands.

The Concert Band and Jazz Band, along with the orchestra which held auditions last fall, make up the District Honor Band. Each consists of the best musicians from high schools around St. Louis.

For District Concert Band, sophomore Isaiah Hinkebein was chosen for flute, senior Brendan Carr for 2nd chair percussion, senior Michael

Krausz for trombone, senior Noah Apprill-Sokol for trombone, sophomore Joey Hanks for trombone, and sophomore Ryan Jackson for trumpet.

For District Jazz Band, sophomore Connor Higano was chosen for second alternate alto saxophone, junior Nathan Rich for third alternate tenor saxophone, senior Camilo Hernandez for trumpet 4, senior Michael Krausz for trombone 2, senior George Hudson for second alternate trombone 2, sophomore Joe Pottinger for bass trombone, senior Carter Fortman for first alternate drum set, and sophomore JT Emke for second alternate drum set.

In normal years, the band would meet for a few rehearsals and have a performance.

“It’s a really powerful experi-

ence for the kids because they get to play with these amazing musicians, I mean the best of the best in the district,” said band director Jeff Pottinger.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the auditions were audio recordings that were sent in as opposed to in-person auditions. Additionally, the possibility of the District Band performing this year is unlikely.

“I’m the Vice President for our district’s Concert Band this year,” said Pottinger, “and in the back of my mind I keep thinking maybe we’ll throw something together at the end of the school year or summer, an opportunity for them to play together.”

Without a performance, District Band became less of a group to participate in and more

of an award for the students who were selected. However, there were still some benefits to trying out.

“I think it looks really good to colleges,” said Pottinger. “It says that you’re a well-rounded student and not only you’re well-rounded but you’re really talented and you’re hard-working.”

In addition, being selected for District Band opens up the opportunity to audition for State Band.

“Several of these kids ... that made it this year may have made it the past,” said Pottinger. “Their real goal isn’t to make the District Band again, their real goal is to qualify for the State Band audition, which will happen here in the next month.”

Regardless of the reason,

many band students felt empowered to audition even in such a challenging year. Senior Alex Unseth was selected for District Orchestra to be first chair cello, the highest placement for that instrument.

“Getting accepted was a rewarding relief,” said Unseth. “It showed that good practice really does pay off, even if I wasn’t able to play in it because of Covid.”



Students practice for districts.

photo | courtesy of SLUH Twitter



Around The Hallways

Virtual Kino Border Initiative

Campus Ministry is hosting a virtual immersion program this year in place of the annual trip to the Kino Border Initiative. The trip brings students to the US-Mexico border to learn about immigration first hand. While Covid-19 makes the trip too much of a risk, Campus Ministry is working with the KBI to make a virtual experience that will be as informative as the trip. Students who chose to attend will be able to learn more about immigration, listen to real stories, and see how the KBI is trying to help immigrants. Students who are interested should interview Mr. Stephen Deves.

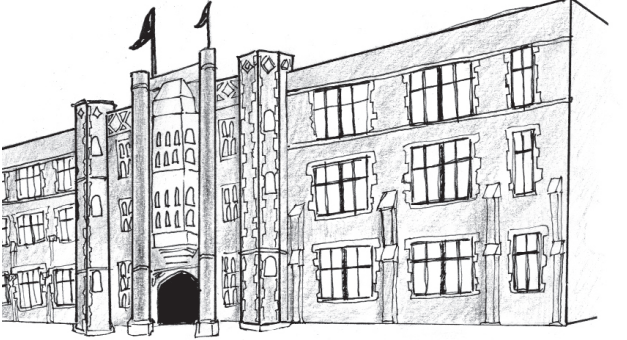
Sophomore Programming Day

On Friday, Feb. 5, the sophomore class will gather

for a day of fun and formation while the other classes enjoy a day off. The technical purpose of the day is for the sophomores to register for junior classes, but class leaders and faculty have integrated fun activities and discussion to help bring the class together in a divided year. In addition, current virtual students were invited to come in for the programming day, and assured that all safety protocols will be followed. Each of the other classes will have similar programming days in the future, beginning with the Seniors on Friday, Feb. 12.

Virtual Trivia Night

The Mothers Club Trivia Night is moving online this year, with a virtual event on Saturday, March 6 at 6:00 p.m. It is open for families to participate in groups of up to 5 families. Registration will cost \$25 per family, and fami-



lies will Zoom from their respective houses. The theme of the night will be board games and will include six rounds of trivia. In addition to trivia, the event will feature other games, raffles, a small auction, pre-ordered food, a table-decorating contest, and prizes. Families can register from the SLUH website.

Senior Night

On Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 7:00 p.m., Senior parents met for an informative meeting about

graduation. While a final plan has yet to be announced, the meeting leaders said that a final decision for graduation will be released in late February. The school plans to cautiously proceed with planning graduation like in a normal year, but with a few adaptations for Covid.

-compiled by Luke Duffy

Calendar

Thursday, February 4

A Day

AL Snack - Biscotti Sticks  
LUNCH Papa Johns  
8:30am Senior Moms Cookie Sales  
3:15pm Freshman Service  
3:30pm JV1-1 Racquetball vs Kirkwood (A)  
3:30pm JV2-2 Racquetball vs Vianney  
3:30pm Varsity II Racquetball vs De Smet  
5:00pm C-Team White Basketball vs Hancock Place  
7:55pm JV Blue Ice Hockey vs CBC White

Friday, February 5

No Classes

1:30pm Senior Moms Cookie Sales  
No Classes-Fr, Jr, Sr  
Sophomore Class Mass  
Sophomore Course Registration Chapel  
Sophomore Programming Day  
7:50am SLUH Community First Friday Mass  
2:45pm MAGIS Parents Prayer Group  
4:30pm @ CBC/C-Team White Basketball  
4:30pm B-Team Basketball vs CBC  
6:30pm @ CBC/C-Team Blue Basketball  
6:30pm Varsity Basketball vs CBC

Saturday, February 6

10:00am C-Team White Basketball vs Chaminade  
12:00pm C-Team Blue Basketball vs Chaminade  
2:30pm JV3 Racquetball Singles

Sunday, February 7

CISL Speech Meet

Monday, February 8

B Day

AL Mac & Cheese Bites  
LUNCH Taco Bar  
1:55pm Admissions Ambassador Postcard Campaign  
3:15pm Freshman Service  
3:30pm JV2-1 Racquetball vs Vianney  
4:00pm JV1-2 Racquetball vs Chaminade  
4:00pm Varsity II Racquetball vs Chaminade

Tuesday, February 9

A Day

AL Mozzarella Cheese Sticks  
LUNCH Spicy Chicken

Wednesday, February 10

B Day

Freshman Scheduling Meeting 21-22 (8th Period) Commons  
AL Turnovers  
LUNCH Chinese  
1:55pm Admissions Ambassadors Postcard Campaign  
4:00pm JV1-1 Racquetball vs Lafayette  
4:30pm B-Team Basketball vs De Smet  
6:00pm Class of 2025 Welcome  
6:30pm Varsity Basketball vs De Smet

Thursday, February 11

A Day

JV2-1 Racquetball vs Kirkwood (A)  
AL Bosco Sticks  
LUNCH Pizza  
3:15pm Freshman Service  
3:30pm JV2-2 Racquetball vs Kirkwood (B)  
3:30pm Varsity I Racquetball vs De Smet

calendar | Roarke Unrau

SLUHSERS



SLUHSers | Nathan Rich

Cookie Sale!

Senior moms are selling cookies, brownies, and other delicious treats during Academic Lab and Lunch!

Credits:

“What company are you investing in?”

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