

Fanatical love

Being a sports fan is like being in a terrible relationship. You give and give to your team, whip out the lucky jersey.

Spend countless hours on the week-ends watching games with your team. You tell everybody how your team is the best team in the world and how lucky you are.

But no matter how many hours you put in, no matter how many times you've been there, no matter how many honey-barbecue wings you eat, your team ends up letting you down.

Until you find the one. The one team that can't make a mistake. Every move they make – perfect.

And as they hoist the championship trophy, you make a vow that this one team is the only one for you. But then next year begins.

New York Knicks fans – they are terrible at being in terrible relationships.

I discovered this not-so-surprising fact during my trip to New York for the Columbia Scholastic Press Association convention. I got the chance to visit Madison Square Garden (which actually is a square, but not a garden).

The Knicks faced the Timberwolves – the two worst teams in the league at the time. We got to the arena pretty early, and my friends and I filled an empty row at the top of the stadium. A very empty stadium.

I expected some busy New Yorkers would take some time out of their day to watch the game and support their team.

But as the million dollar jumbotron hanging over the court ticked down to zero, I could probably still yell to Derek Fisher, the Knick's coach, from the top of the stadium and catch his ear.

I understand that it's probably hard to get excited for the Knicks, especially a game without Melo, a Wednesday night and against the Timberwolves.

But what if Knicks fans are smarter than us? Instead of opting for the continual heartbreak, they continue to live their own lives. Maybe they spend their Wednesday nights with their family, not with Derek Fisher and Carmelo Anthony.

In reality, only one team can win the championship every year. Those aren't good odds. Maybe they think rooting for your team, being a real sports fan, is just this fruitless endeavor.

This spring break, when I visited Argentina, I attended a Riverplate game, a soccer club in Buenos Aires. The fans there were, simply, awesome.

They didn't have any replays on big screens, superstar players, or even ice in their coke drinks, but they were so happy. And loud. And singing.

But they weren't happy and singing when the match ended. When Riverplate tied a far inferior team that day, the fans were getting loud.

They are pretty famous for rioting when things don't go their way. You can't sell alcohol at the stadium, and away fans can't even get into the stadium.

It is a crazy system, and a crazier lifestyle.

I didn't get to witness a riot, unfortunately. But I did witness what it means to be a fan.

It's more than just showing up. It's loving, it's cheering, it's crying – it's being fanatical.

Every time the smallest play happened in favor of Riverplate, the stadium would erupt in cheers. People would stand the whole game and sing their team's songs.

They didn't need an announcer to start a defense chant, the fans there just kept singing their songs.

At the Knicks game, things got the loudest when the mega T-shirt cannon rolled out onto the floor and soared Knicks' shirts into the stands.

A lot of people might think it's stupid to love a sports team so much that you will riot over a loss, cry over a win, and riot again after a tie.

I choose stupid love.

SPORTS

GAME FACE

Staring down a THESA batter, senior Carrington Kyle prepares to pitch. The varsity baseball team lost 0-4 in the March 17 home game, but its winning counter season bodes well for the SPC tournament. **Page 23**

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

In the annual Bradley V. Herschel Invitational in Norma and Lamar Hunt Stadium, varsity track and field showed strength in a 201-86 win March 21. **Page 24**



CHARLIE O'BRIEN PHOTO



GRAHAM KIRSTEIN PHOTO

Upcoming SPORTING EVENTS IN THE WEEKS AHEAD

Today

- Crew competes in the first day of the Texas Rowing Championships at Lady Bird Lake in Austin.
- Greenhill hosts the SPC North Zone Track and Field Meet where the Lions will compete, starting at 4 p.m.
- Tennis visits Trinity Valley for a SPC counter match at 5 p.m.
- The rival Highland Park Scots host the lacrosse team tonight. Face-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Weekend

- Water polo competes in the North Region Championship tournament tomorrow at Lewisville ISD Westside Aquatics Center.
- The Texas Rowing Championships continue for the crew team in Austin at Lady Bird Lake.
- The SPC North Zone meet continues for the track and field team tomorrow at 9 a.m.

Next week

- Baseball plays Oakridge at home on Ruff Field in the final home counter game of the regular season April 20.
- Lacrosse plays at 6 p.m. against Allen for the Senior Night and Alumni Weekend game April 23.
- Baseball plays its season final at 4:30 p.m. at ESD April 23.
- Junior varsity water polo plays in the first day of the North Region Junior Varsity Championship on April 24. The location is to be determined.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICK HIBBS

WINDING UP Eyeing the goal, sophomore Rohil Rai takes a shot in the varsity water polo team's game against Colleyville High School March 28 during the Lions' 25-2 win.

INJURY report VARSITY RUNNER ABEER KARIM, LACROSSE PLAYER MATTHEW MEADOWS



ARNO GOETZ PHOTO

Abeer Karim torn hamstring

"I'm doing everything I can to be healthy by SPC at the end of the month. Hopefully I'll be able to compete and help bring home a championship."

Matthew Meadows torn ACL

"This is what I hope for the team: that they can make the best of this season through all the difficulties and continue to improve and win a championship."



CHARLIE O'BRIEN PHOTO



MASON SMITH PHOTO

GO BIG OR GO HOME

Bob Bowlsby, commissioner of the Big 12 conference, visited the Upper School as a guest speaker of the sports club, Around the Roar. **Page 21**

Tip-off STUDENTS' ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Spring season junior varsity teams started off their seasons in early March with challenging games against non-conference teams.

As of April 3, junior varsity baseball has a record of 0-3 for the start of the season.

"Our first part of the season is really our toughest part of our schedule playing teams like THESA and TCA," outfielder **Ben Budner** said. "We got off to a rough start, but we are going to keep improving as the season goes on."

...

The junior varsity lacrosse team has started with big wins over Jesuit College Preparatory and St. John's.

They have an overall record of 2-3 and have big games coming up against Greenhill, Southlake, and Highland Park.

"We've had some really close, one-goal games that we have dropped, but we've had others that we really fought out like the Jesuit game," starting attackmen **Harper Sahm** said. "If we play like that all season, we will prevail in the closer games."

Sahm attributes their success to how well the team cooperated.

"The team bonded extremely well after the first couple of weeks of training," Sahm said. "The boundary between the freshmen and sophomores seemed non-existent once the season progressed."

...

Middle School spring sports have started, but the snow has shortened their seasons.

The seventh grade baseball team is 1-0 and the eighth grade team is 2-2.

The middle school blue lacrosse team is 0-2 and the gold team is 1-1. The middle school tennis team is undefeated so far standing at a 6-0 record.

"I have really enjoyed this lacrosse season even though it's been shortened due to the snow," seventh grader **Randall Fojtasek** said. "I hope we can finish off this second half of the season strongly."

...

Warren Smith '13 received the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (ACWPC) All-Academic Award.

The honor, while recognizing his outstanding achievements in water polo and academics, follows the association's ideals of creating well-rounded individuals.

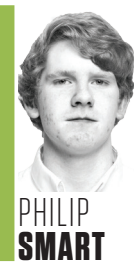
"It's an honor to receive the All-Academic Award," Smith said.

"I cannot express the amount of gratitude I feel towards St. Mark's for helping me reach this goal. Without that community, it would have been much more difficult to get to where I am now."

— Tip-off stories reported by Rish Basu, James Hancock and Crawford McCrary

The toughest mom ever

I couldn't come up with an answer. It was a simple question, and all the other guys around me quickly responded. Who's the toughest person you know? One says: My brother. He plays football. Another: Probably my grandpa, he's a World War II Vet. I walk beside them, trudging up a hill while I'm at camp, and I know my answer. But I can't say it. It's embarrassing. So I deflect the question with my typical, smart-ass sass. Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson. He can take anybody. I think I'm hilarious. Don't worry, I still think I am. They laugh, more fuel for my huge ego; ego that hides who I really thinks the toughest person in my life. My mom. Let me give my Dad some cred before I hurt his feelings too much. He's a tough guy too. He was in the army, he fixes sinks and trash cans and shelves when they break, he's got a lot of chest hair, a real man's man. But Dad, this one's for Mom. Maybe you'll get your own column one day.



But until then, let's talk about Mom. As manager of our dog spa, Wüf, she's a mother to about ten pitbulls, a number of labradors, some great danes and a five-pound Yorkshire Terrier named Jupiter (just to name a few). That's a lot of legs to look after. It's a tough, high-stress job, even if it sounds like a kinda funny one. But my mom's tough, she keeps working. When she's not a mom or a dog spa manager, my mom's a daughter – a daughter to Carrie Weaver. I call her Suzy. Suzy lived in a huge house by herself in the little town of Conway, Arkansas, and her house had ornate mirrors and armoires filling every corner. Countless info-mercial "just-in-case" items were strewn across every room. Mighty Putty sat in packages that never got the chance to turn from green to white. One Christmas, I sat around the tree with all of my cousins from Arkansas. Suzy told us to open our presents, all of which were huge boxes wrapped in white wrapping paper with a red ribbon of a cherry on top. I tore through the box filled with Christmas spirit to find an acoustic guitar. It's wood gave off a shimmer – I knew it was a nice guitar. My mom said, "Suzy, how did you afford all these?" Eventually, Suzy's bank account was running dry, and no one knew what to do. It was just as she was starting to change. Suzy's eyes grew larger and sunk into the back of her skull with a constant "deer-in-the-headlights" look. Suzy began to fall. She couldn't control her balance. And it wasn't her fault. They installed a seat in her shower, but it didn't help. Suzy couldn't speak. Her vocal cords started to deteriorate, and she would use a white board to talk. No one wanted to take care of her. Worry about her. Love her. Except my mom. My mom offered up a place right next to our house in Texas, a huge move for a diseased grandmother so used to her little town in Arkansas. She wanted to take care of her. Worry about her. Love her. Mom's are always willing to love, and for us high school guys, it's hard for us to love them back. Our ego gets in the way of us telling our mom we love them every day, even though it should be the easiest thing to say. And, at Suzy's funeral, my mom was the only one who spoke. She gave a speech even Emmet Gilles would be jealous of. But most of all, she deals with me. She doesn't play football. She's not a veteran. She's a mother. And that's the toughest job in the world.

EDITORIAL
ONLINE COURSES

HOW TO IMPROVE THE ONLINE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

After two years in the field, it's no secret that the Global Online Academy (GOA) hasn't had a stellar run. In fact, only five students of the 365 in the Upper School have taken online classes since they were offered at the start of last year. Now, GOA is being discontinued for the future school years. But the administration isn't done. After a hiatus from the online learning environment next year, they hope to revisit the possibility of online class academies, which we commend as a course of action that, with the right approach, will benefit the student body in the future. As the number of high school students enrolled in online courses around the globe continues to climb, it was disheartening to see so few students sign up for GOA classes, but we acknowledge the inhibitions that steered many away. However, it is clear that the online environment is a new and growing trend, and we believe that a greater exposure to such a setting will expand the comfort with different learning styles that students here have and teach us more about our own learning preferences. While we understand the authority of the administration in deciding the future of online learning at St. Mark's, we would like to offer some possible considerations, from the perspective of students, that may improve the turnout and quality of online experiences in the future:

- **Providing more credit.** While it is a big leap to take, we believe that allowing an approved online course to replace the graduation requirement of a core class would lead to greater student participation in online academies. Alternatively, we feel an additional graduation requirement mandating at least one term of an online course would also push students to test their compatibility in the online environment while preventing them from avoiding such classes because they don't count or blowing them off because they don't matter.
- **Increasing awareness of the program.** Several of the students to have taken GOA courses in the past two years felt that the program was not "sold enough" to the student body, and we echo their sentiments. We are aware that the administration has recognized this and is aiming to correct this should they return the school to the online atmosphere, which we are glad is the case. If online class options make a reappearance, we encourage the administration to integrate possible online courses into the new class selection system on Whipple Hill, and to give – or have past GOA students give – focused presentations in assemblies about the opportunities and benefits of online courses.
- **Encouraging faculty involvement.** While we recognize the reluctance of faculty members to adopt the GOA system (us students fared no better), we believe that a greater number of teachers involved in teaching online courses would lead to a greater interest in them by the students. The number of instructors teaching online classes nation-wide has climbed even more quickly than the number of students involved, and we urge the administration to "sell" the online atmosphere to faculty as well as students. As much sway as the administration holds over the future process of online integration, we recognize that students must work to improve to system as well. We ask students to consider the involvement and willingness demanded of them for such a process to succeed. In fact, we have compiled several tips

to assist students in considering online classes, should they return:

- **Consider your interests.** The GOA students we have spoken to chose to take online courses out of a personal interest in the source material, and we believe this makes for a great opportunity. Online academies offer hundreds of diverse, focused classes, from "Small Engine Repair," to "Financial Literacy," to "History of Jazz," to "Meteorology," to "Game Theory." Students should consider stepping away from another AP and doing something they're considering as a possible career, or just something they'll enjoy.
- **Don't work alone.** For some, a personal experience would be ideal. But for many, especially in an unknown atmosphere such as online learning, we believe students may benefit from looking for friends who would be willing to try an online course with them. As much as online academies are a new experience of personal growth, having someone to speak with face-to-face about a weekly online assignment couldn't hurt.
- **Ask questions.** Each previous GOA student we've talked to has been willing and eager to share his experience. If online courses return in the coming years, we urge students to approach experienced peers – sophomore Ivan Day, juniors Matthew Lawson and Bill Dannenmaier, and seniors Momin Siddiqui and Vignesh Babu – or the administration with questions about the process. At the end of the day, online courses may not be making a reappearance for quite a while. However, we hope that the leadership of the school considers the great benefits that could be garnered from a return of such possibilities, and we hope that students and faculty alike take our recommendations into account should that moment come.

SHORT
&
TWEET

A peek at Marksmen's tweets

@angel_reyes44

Sitting in a rug store listening to "Poker Face" by Lady Gaga blaring over the speakers. Solid Sunday afternoon.
– Junior Angel Reyes

@AshtonHash

Habs are killing me right now #MTLvstBL
– Junior Ashton Hashemipour

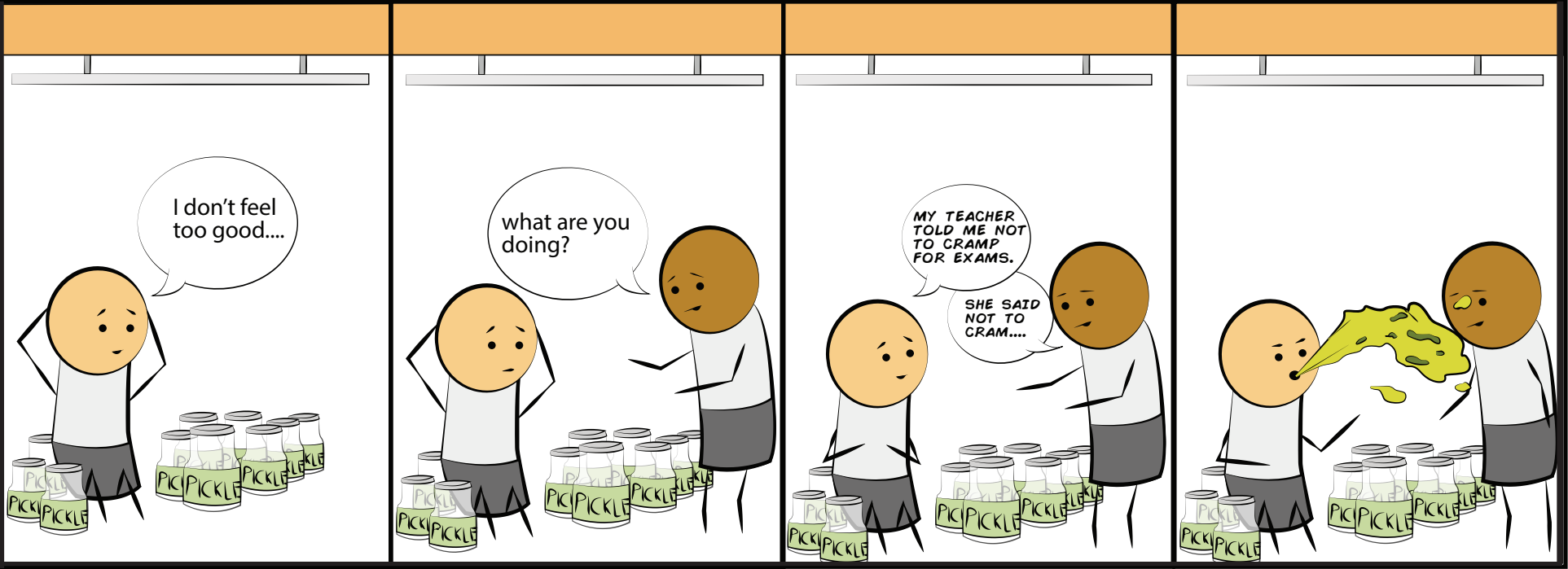
@joshbando17

The Rockets have to chill, man. And Harden has to shave. Shaving is a must
– Sophomore Josh Bandopadhay

@broom_kent

Feel so bad for Pacquiao.. Lost the fight and on top of that only got \$120 mil off of it #pocketchange
– Junior Kent Broom

HYDRATING FOR EXAMS | CARTOON GRAHAM KIRSTEIN



BUZZ

Reviewing the best of the best — and the worst of the worst.

THIS ISSUE HALLOWEEN MOVIES
QUESO REVIEWS
HEADLINERS

TOP



Halloween movies

It's that haunting time of year again, when little kids (and maybe some adults) take to the streets to stuff themselves with candy. But if you're not inclined to trick-or-treat, here are some solid movie options for one of the spookiest nights of the year.

Ghostbusters
Everyone has seen *Ghostbusters*. It's one of those childhood classics for millennials, and it's got a cast full of stars and the best kind of low quality special effects. Everything needed to stand the test of time.

First of all, what an insane premise. Five dudes fight phantoms for a living? But every time I watch it, I get new laughs out of Bill Murray's dry and subtle humor and Dan Aykroyd's ridiculous personality. I usually shrug it off as a movie I don't need to see again, but this Halloween, consider revisiting this classic.

Shaun of the Dead
This movie is so good you're going to see it twice. And also because you won't get half of the jokes the first time. In its own realm of movies, this Rom-Zom-Com (romance, zombie, comedy) movie checks all the boxes: a love story for the ladies, blood and thrills galore for the gents, and all kinds of jokes for just about everyone.

It's a very British flick, the type that makes you think even if you could understand every word the said. If you're looking for a quirky, crazy, scary movie for this Halloween weekend, *Shaun of the Dead* will scare the whole room — and have them laughing.

Young Frankenstein
A tried and true classic, Mel Brooks's *Young Frankenstein* is one of those films a kid will watch and just never forget. This 1970's film the horror genre of the 1930's, with every scene shot in black and white.

Every scene is jam-packed with wholesome comedy, and Gene Wilder's character, Dr. Frederick Frankenstein, the unfortunate grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein, keeps things interesting every step of the way.

The humor is family friendly — excluding a few borderline raunchy jokes typical of movies of the era — and is a great end to a night of trick or treating, even if you're old enough to be handing out candy yourself.

Beetlejuice
It's Michael Keaton, need one say any more? Alas, the film hinges beautifully on a perfectly frenetic performance from the Bat(Bird?) man himself as Keaton bounces around the screen as a ghost drawn up by Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis's recently deceased couple to

assist in the haunting of a house. One of Tim Burton's earliest (and best), *Beetlejuice* manages to balance an intense feeling of fun stemming from the craziness of the entire film and an actual sense of horror as practical prosthetics are put to great use as arms, heads, and other various body parts are removed from bodies. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the glory of Michael Keaton in full body make up twisting his head in circles.

Hocus Pocus
Though clearly dated and more than a little bit cheesy, *Hocus Pocus* still manages to ignite a sense of childlike wonder into the viewer as three witches fight against a young girl and her friends.

No, it's not a masterpiece and it's far from being an amazing piece of cinema (Read: NOT *Citizen Kane*), but it is an overwhelmingly fun little movie that can draw out a feeling of nostalgia from even the dourest of people. The effects may be bad, and the acting haphazard, but *Hocus Pocus* still manages to be a fun romp for all parties, especially those looking to stay away from scarier fares.

REVIEWS WILL CLARK, PHILIP SMART, AVERY POWELL, PARKER MCWATTERS PHOTOS CREATIVE COMMONS

Headliners

Concerts

Zac Brown Band
November 6 at 7 p.m.
GEXA Energy Pavillion

Chance the Rapper
November 13 at 8 p.m.
South Side Ballroom

Mac Miller
November 25 at 7:30 p.m.
The Bomb Factory

Albums

Bob Dylan
The Cutting Edge 1965-1966:
The Bootleg Series Vol. 12
November 6

Ellie Goulding
Delirium
November 6

Tim McGraw
Damn Country Music
November 6

Logic
The Incredible True Story
November 13

Movies

James Bond: Spectre
November 6

The 33
November 6

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2
November 20

Creed
November 27

Quick dip of QUESO

It's a Tex-Mex tradition, and every respectable taco shop and Mexican eatery has its own spin on it. Some may say it's just cheese dip, but it's so so much more. We've assembled a team of culinary experts to find out which quesos around town stand up to the test.

Rafa's

During a time when restaurants think it's acceptable to just melt some Velveeta cheese and call it queso, Rafa's escapes this saddening trend, using a delicious variety of flavors in their famous house queso. Instead of sticking to the norm, they add beef and spicy pico to their queso, which gives every queso lover the spice and flavor they crave.

Torchy's Tacos

People have described it as one of the most addictive substances on the planet. Laced with Diablo sauce and guacamole, Torchy's queso is a stew of cheese and goodies that truly is "damn good."

The only thing holding me back is the fact that not all batches are created equal. Occasionally they'll overdose on the Diablo sauce, or they won't have enough guac, but even with these imperfections, the queso ranks among the all-time greats.

Mi Cocina

Accentuated by the vibrant flavors of chili powder and chili flakes, Mi Cocina's queso, while admittedly uncreative, is a good, yet simple option. Blending together four Mexican cheeses in a medley of flavor, the queso offers some heat, but a spice connoisseur like myself prefers a bit more kick.

One redeeming quality would be the giant circular chip, which ties the whole dish together nicely.



Taco Joint

Simply put, as Taco Joint's "simply awesome" slogan would attest to, the queso is simply good. It's nothing that will blow your mind, if you want something with a little more kick you'll have to order the Disaster dip, but it is solid. With freshly made chips and a queso that is equally fresh, chips and queso here is sure to suffice.

Mr. Mesero

At first I was skeptical. White queso? This is heresy. Artichoke and spinach in the queso? No thanks.

But when I tasted the creamy dip, I changed my mind. It's simple and elegant. The consistency is thicker than typical queso but then again why am I even comparing this to typical queso? If you're looking for a change-of-pace for your favorite cheesy treat, Mr. Mesero's signature queso dish is a solid option.

REVIEWS WILL CLARK, PHILIP SMART, CARSON CROCKER, SAM SUSSMAN PHOTO CORBIN WALP



Brotherly love: From Mexico all the way to Canada

I haven't seen my brother in 157 days. Not because David's gone to college. Nothing bad's happened. No terrible car crash or illness. Well, my dad might consider it somewhat of a mental illness.

He's a bit of a hippie.

The days before David leaves for

PHILIP SMART



his journey, he stays at home for a week or so. Bradley, his trailmate, stays, too. Bradley has Jesus-like hair, but he's tired of the comparisons. Jesus didn't have the black-inked snake tattoo that slides over his right shoulder and down his back.

My brother wears a headband to pull his brown locks back, and he's got a pair of flip flops he made out of rubber and a couple of strings.

I wish I had my own pair.

The journey starts in Mexico. The destination: Canada. Walking the whole way.

His creature comforts are a little bit more creature than mine are.

I wake up, make myself a mound of pancakes. He wakes up, maybe takes some granola from his (smaller) mound of grains.

I pull out my phone, check-in on my friends. He pulls out his trail map, checks in on his progress.

I watch TV. He watches the night sky.

When I was little, David was big. He graduated college right as I started high school, and he showed me movies like *Semi-Pro* and *Pineapple Express* while I was in Middle School.

Now I'm 5'10". He's around 5'7".

When he leaves, he leaves his car, too. A blue C300 Mercedes-Benz. A little better than my little-brother dented Volvo.

And just like any good brother would, I've been keeping his car warm. I love to throw it in sport mode and race and shred on the highway.

But over the summer, the calendar hit June 6. Obviously an important date to lots of people, but it's important to my family, and to me, for a different reason.

It's the hippie's birthday.

It's weird not seeing him that day, or knowing exactly where he is, but I have to do something for him.

So, on a white college ruled piece of paper, I write him for the first time that summer.

I'm not sure how to start. I finally settle on "Walk much?"

I squeeze on that one page what I've been doing since he left.

Tell him I started doing yoga like he had before he left. Tell him I've seen *Waking Life*, the movie he wanted me to see for so long. Tell him I've been driving his car a little bit (even though our parents didn't really want me to).

I finish the letter with "From Philip." I can't end it with "Miss you" or "Love you." That's too embarrassing for a brother to tell another brother. Even though it's true.

And I mail the letter the next day.

A couple weeks later, I find a letter addressed to me. I'm more excited to open that letter than I am to open any text I've ever gotten.

I can hold it in my hand. I can smell it. I can throw it away, but I don't. I read it. Excited.

He says his trail-name is Stayin' Alive. That's good to hear I guess.

He says he'll send me some shoes like the ones he made. I can't wait to try them on.

He says he's "proud to call me his brother." That's big.

It's no secret. He was the first to drive, to play a varsity sport, to go to college. And soon I'll do the same. His journey's taken him from one border to the other, and who knows where my journey will take me.

No matter what paths I take, I'm proud to call him my brother, too.

And I keep his letter folded in my billfold.

THE MATRIX

Our musings of happenings around campus condensed into single boxes

FUNNY

IMPRESSIVE

Testing out of PE Who can sit and reach 50 centimeters?	Convocation Packing into the Great Hall for opening convocation and combining it with a cookout hopefully marks the beginning of a new tradition.	Pep rally Getting hyped over complex cheerleading routines and blindfolded sharks chasing snorkelers will never get old. The jokes about fencing never having fans, however, will.
New website features A means of submitting written assignments and an important link page highlight the website's convenient new tools.	School pictures Snapping pics left and right, Communications Coordinator David Carden has done an excellent job capturing the campus vibe.	Senior shirts The Hawaiian senior shirts make any teacher look ready to retire to Honolulu and any senior look ready to throw a casual luau.
New chaplain Father Arbogast had some serious shoes to fill, but he's done an excellent job of stepping up to the challenge with engaging chapel services.	Acceptable use policy assembly Thanks to Chief Technology Officer Paul DiVicenzo for condensing the traditionally dreaded affair into a five-minute presentation.	Super fanmen We are entering a new era of assembly presentations, chants and dubious statistical analysis.

SHORT & TWEET

A peek at Marksmen's tweets

@angel_reyes44

August is just another word for the start of fantasy football season.
— Senior **Angel Reyes**

@joshbando17

#growingupwithmyname
Teacher on the first day of school: "Josh...uh.... I apologize in advance for butchering this ... uh... Bandopattycake?"
— Junior **Josh Bandopadhyay**

@currywithepot

Why did they call cookies, cookies and bacon, bacon if you bake cookies and cook bacon.
— Junior **Dhruv Prasad**

@ashtonhash

You can catch a lot of flies with honey, but you can catch a lot more honeys being fly.
— Senior **Ashton Hashemipour**

@sammysanchez19

Upper School is nothing like *High School Musical* led me to believe it was.
—Sophomore **Sammy Sanchez**

@CorbinWalp1997

any1 down for hulu & cool later?
—Senior **Corbin Walp**

EDITORIAL

School facilities should be open during summer

Throughout the summer, many students find themselves drawn back to the campus for various reasons after waiting months to escape it.

However, this summer, students were turned away from the campus for reasons that we believe were unreasonable. For example, a group of students wishing to play basketball in Spencer Gym were turned away out of fear that they would draw non-St. Mark's students, leading to a potential brawl.

To have a completely objective, non-flexible policy, while effective, is unnecessary and, in some cases, unreasonable.

The student body is able to visit the school during the summer for approved meetings with a club or group as long as the faculty sponsor notifies security guards beforehand. Perhaps adapting this system to arrange permitted activities on campus would be beneficial; whether these activities would require faculty supervision should be a case-by-case decision.

As responsible students, we believe the student body has earned the trust of the administration, and, by extension, the security team

We appreciate the dedication to lockdown security in light of the wave of campus tragedies across the nation; however, we believe that the school should exist as a space for students to interact and enjoy themselves, whether they do so during the school year or in the summer.

While it is understandable that students cannot use the weight room and pool during the summer, the gym is a much less dangerous location. If students are able to use the outdoor basketball court, they should be allowed to use the indoor courts also.

While the school access is adequate during the summer, there is room for improvement in that the gyms should be available too. To allow students to use equally endangering outdoor facilities but not the air-conditioned gyms in the dead of the summer is contradictory.

We believe that gyms should be open during the summer and other holidays for students, just like the other facilities we can currently enjoy during our vacation time.