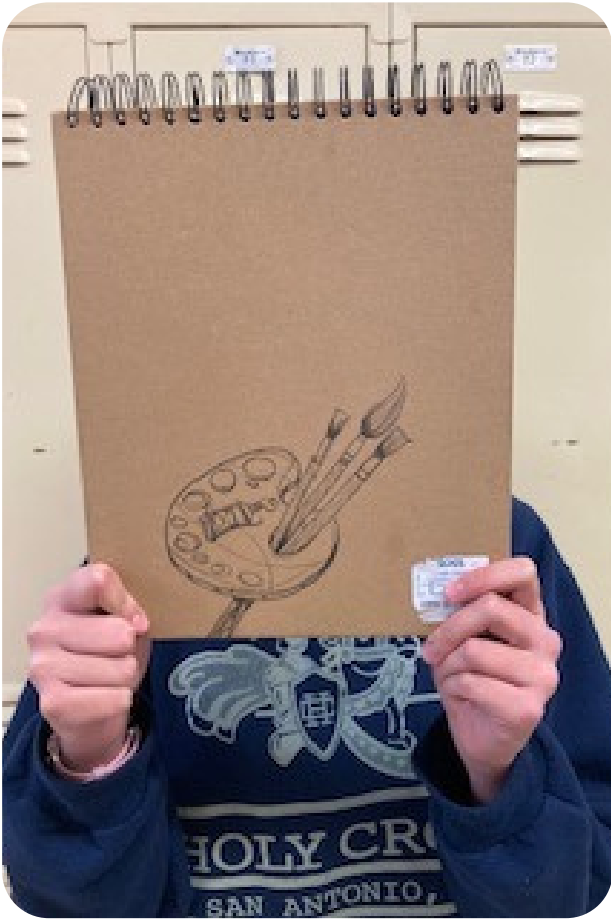


The

Gauntlet

For Teens By Teens





Letter From The Editor

Happy New Year! We are back with the newest and first ever edition of the Gauntlet in 2023. We look forward to bringing some interest into your future year with fantastic information, fun activities, and furious sports! We hope you enjoy, and we are glad that you are with us. We can't wait to see you next time.

-The editor

Michelle Crockford - Editor-in-Chief / Crafts/Saints

Kyan Flores - Head of Design / 2023 Reflection

Anthony Moreno - Assistant Editor / Music / Sports

Will Lebrun - Spiritual Corner

Gianna Granado - Around HC / Around SA

Images Courtesy of Google

Around

by Gianna Granado



HC Sports

High school

January 27th - Varsity Girls Soccer Senior Night against Atonement Academy here at 5 p.m.

January 27th - Varsity Girls Basketball against JP II Schertz here at 6 p.m.

January 27th - Varsity Boys Soccer Senior Night against Atonement Academy here at 7 p.m.

January 27th - Varsity Boys Basketball against JP II Schertz senior night here at 7:30 p.m.

January 31st - Varsity Girls Soccer against Geneva here at 5 p.m.

February 6th - JV Boys Basketball against Antonian there at 5 p.m.

Middle school

- January 25th - Girls basketball A-team against SJB there at 6:30 p.m.
- January 25th - Boys basketball A-team against SJB there at 7:30 p.m.
- January 30th - Girls basketball B-team against St. Gregory's there at 4:30 p.m.
- January 30th - Boys basketball B-team against St. Gregory's there at 5:30 p.m.
- January 30th - Girls basketball A-team against St. Gregory's there at 6:30 p.m.
- January 30th - Boys basketball A-team against St. Gregory's there at 7:30 p.m.

HC Events

- January 28- February 4th - Catholic Schools week
- February 3rd - progress reports
- February 10th - parent-teacher conferences



Around SA

- February 2 and 3rd @ 7 p.m. 'Beauty and the Beast' production at Reagan high school admissions \$12-\$20.
- February 9th thru 26th SA Stock show and Rodeo
- February 9th @ 7-8:30 p.m. Walk on the River: A Black History of the Alamo City free online screening

Saints

by Michelle Crockford

The Blessed Virgin Mary

- Feast day: January 1st
- Patron of all human beings.
- Mary was the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, the savior of the world. She is the greatest of all Christian saints. The Blessed Virgin Mary's role in salvation history was foreshadowed in the Old Testament and fulfilled through the New Testament.
- The Blessed Virgin Mary is an example of trust in following the Lord and his will for us. Holy Mary, pray for us to follow Christ like you followed Him.



St. Basil the Great

- Feast day: January 2nd
- Patron of hospital administrators and reformers.
- Born 330CE, one of ten children, Basil's parents were both saints along with some of his siblings. He directed a monastery for five years as a monk in Pontus and founded several other monasteries. In 370 CE he was made the bishop of Caesarea until his death in 379CE. He was a man of great learning and charity and never hesitated to renounce evil.
- St. Basil the Great found ways to spread the good news of Christ at all times. We ask him to help us combat the evil in the world in everything we do. St. Basil, pray for us.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

- Feast day: January 4th
- Patron of widows, against death of parents, against death of children, and in-law problems,
- Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first native born American to be canonized as a saint. Elizabeth grew up in the upper class section of New York society during the American Revolution although her life was quiet and simple. She loved scripture and was deeply concerned about spiritual welfare, God's will, even though she was not herself Catholic. In 1805 she converted and started the first free Catholic school and in 1809, she took her vows to become a nun.
- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was always rooted in scripture and the well being of others. We ask her to assist us in charity, wit, good sense, and loyalty to God's will in our lives. St Elizabeth, pray for us.

St. Agnes

- Feast day: January 21st
- Patron of young girls, chastity, rape survivors, and the Children of Mary.
- Agnes was born in Rome 291 CE to a Christian family, which at that time was illegal. It is said that after she refused to marry the governor's son because of her pledge of purity to God, he accused her of being a Christian to his father. The governor promised her many gifts if she denounced God. When she would not comply, she was imprisoned and later killed as a martyr.
- St. Agnes shows us how to be strong against temptation and keep our promises to the Lord, even to death. St. Agnes, pray for us.

St. John Bosco

- Feast day: January 31st
- Patron of apprentices, editors, publishers, school children, magicians, and juvenile delinquents.
- St. John Bosco, also known as Don Bosco, was born in Becchi, Italy, in 1815, a time of war, drought, and famine. He loved the work of a magician but later became a priest. He spent his entire life taking homeless and poor children off the streets and teaching them as apprentices in different trades so that they could get a good job instead of earning pennies at a factory.
- St. John Bosco shows us that we don't need to make people believe like we do to be Catholic, we only need to care for those around us with the love of Christ. St. John Bosco, pray for us.



The Memorare

A prayer to Mary

Remember, O most Blessed Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee O Virgin of virgins our mother; to thee do we come; before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions but, in thy mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.

Entertainment

Sports



Return to The Dome

by: Anthony Moreno

After twenty-two long years since their final game at the Alamo dome, the San Antonio Spurs finally returned to their home for their 50th anniversary where they took on Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors.

Both teams had been experiencing difficulties leading up to this game at The Dome. Stephen Curry had suffered a left shoulder injury back in December 2022, when taking on the Indiana Pacers. Throughout Curry's absence, the Warriors had been playing decently well, entering the new year with a record of 20-21. Going into Friday night's game however, the Warriors were coming off a three-game losing streak after losses to the Phoenix Suns, Orlando Magic, and Detroit Pistons.

The Spurs had also lost one of their

valuable star players, Devin Vassell, to a knee injury. After that, they were a mixed bag of wins and losses and they ended 2022 with a record of 12 -24.

Entering the new year, not much changed for the Spurs, and heading into Friday's match-up, they were on a three-game losing streak. So, the big question was, could the Spurs snap out of their losing coma, or would the Warriors dominate the 5 time NBA champions in front of a record-setting 68,323 fans? Well, I've got all the stats and highlights of Friday night's game.

As the game began, it was clear that Golden State was unaffected by the record-breaking crowd, as they went on a 13-0 run during the six minute mark of the

the first quarter. Stephen Curry already added seven points to his resume with eight minutes in the first as the Warriors led 17-4. The Spurs tried fighting back and put up a 9-0 run of their own, but as the first quarter came to a close, the Spurs were trailing 33-28. As we entered the second quarter, the Warriors would continue pouring it on with the points, ending the half leading 74-60. Donte DiVincenzo of the Warriors led all scorers with 12 points, 4 rebounds, and 4 assists.

As the second half began, the Spurs tried to stop the bleeding, but Golden State had other plans, as they shot 58.7 percent from the field and 47.2 percent from 3-point range. They were on the verge of a blowout as they led by 20 points. Following a steal and slam from Keldon Johnson, the Spurs attempted another run but unfortunately, it never happened.

When the third quarter came to a close, the Warriors were dismantling the Spurs, 114 - 89. As the final quarter began, a comeback seemed

impossible for the Spurs following the Warriors, who continued to add pressure to the Spurs thanks to Warriors guard Jordan Poole going on a tear scoring 18 points and averaging five assists within 24 minutes. As the clock ticked down to zero, the Warriors ended their night with a 144-113 blowout win.



“Obviously, I hate to lose, but with the turnout, how can you be mad?” Spurs forward Keldon Johnson stated after the game. **“The Spurs fanbase surpassed anything we could imagine. That made tonight special.”**

Stats

Jordan Poole scored 25 points, made 6 assists, one turnover, and one steal. The returning Stephen Curry only scored 15 points, making only two three pointers out of his seven attempts. Donte DiVincenzo scored 22 points, had 2 steals, and 2 assists.

As for the Spurs, Tre Jones, scored 21 points, had 5 assists, and 2 turnovers. Keldon Johnson scored 17 points, had 1 assist, and 1 turnover. Romeo Langford scored 11 points and had 2 assists.

Music



And Justice For All - Album Review by: Anthony Moreno

I've been wanting to review this album ever since October of last year. The album that featured Metallica's first music video and Jason Newstead's debut. I'm talking about Metallica's 1988 album *And Justice For All!*

Metallica suffered a tragedy on September 27th 1986, when bassist Cliff Burton tragically lost his life in a bus accident in Sweden at the age of twenty-four.

Following Cliff Burton's funeral, the band found a replacement bassist in Jason Newstead. After a lengthy tour, the band returned to the studio, and eventually *And Justice For All* was released in the fall of 1988.

As compared to their last three albums, *And Justice For All* is diverse in terms of lyricism and sound. There are fewer verse-chorus structures, a more aggressive intensity, and faster tempos. "Blackened" deals with corruption. The title track

And Justice For All, delves into legal and political injustice. "Dyers Eve" is a lyrical rant from lead vocalist, James Hetfield, to his parents. "Harvester Of Sorrow" is about the pain and suffering that comes with losing a loved one. "Live is to Die" is the band's tribute to Cliff Burton.

In Metallica's catalog, one of the most infamous songs is "One." The song is about wanting an end to suffering and is based off the novel *Johnny Got His Gun* by Dalton Trumbo.

I did say *Master of Puppets* was Metallica's best work back in October, but *And In Justice For All* is my all-time favorite album from Metallica. This is one of those albums I can listen to on repeat for hours. I said I'd recommend checking out *Master of Puppets* for any new Metallica fan, but take your pick! Both albums are great! *And Justice For All* is a legendary album! It definitely deserves a 10/10!





One on One - Nick Erya

by: Anthony Moreno

Hey, what's going on you guys? Welcome back to One On One! I'm your host Anthony Moreno, and today I'm interviewing a good friend of mine from France, the one and only one-man band himself Mr. Nick Erya.

How did you start out as a musician?

I started learning music theory and playing the flute when I was 6 or 7. My parents tried to make me do sports, but I didn't like it. Music was all right though, so I just kept going. I got into Rock as a teenager and bought my first guitar. I

started to learn by myself, but to be honest, I've never really enjoyed playing guitar. Even now, it's definitely not my favorite. So, I started to sing as well, very bad in the beginning but I did like it a lot more. While I was living in Japan, I used to go to karaoke alone to practice. I did that for years, alongside making music, always. I've written countless unreleased songs that were just too bad to be shown to the world, but I loved it. I also played in a few bands, but I wanted to be my own boss and express myself freely, which is why I chose to walk my own way.

Who are your musical influences?

My main influences come from the 2000s nu metal wave with bands such as Linkin Park, Papa Roach, or Hollywood Undead, but I'm also fond of modern metalcore/alternative metal like Bring Me The Horizon, Falling In Reverse, and so on. Now, outside of rock, I've always listened to electronic music from uplifting trance to more extreme genres like hardstyle, that's why you'll find a fair amount of synths in my songs. I'm a big fan of video game music, so I do listen to a lot of original soundtracks as well.

I know you've done two songs with ONLAP. What was it like working alongside them? Was there anything unique or special about those experiences?

The ONLAP guys are great to work with, very professional, fast, and responsive. The dream collab! I actually went to Flo's house in Paris to write "Fading" and I really felt like a "real" musician



going to the studio and recording. It was very different from working at my home desk. Plus, as you know, I make my music alone, so it was nice to share the activity with someone. You can expect more collabs with them very soon.

Is there any song in particular that you've written that holds a special place in your heart?

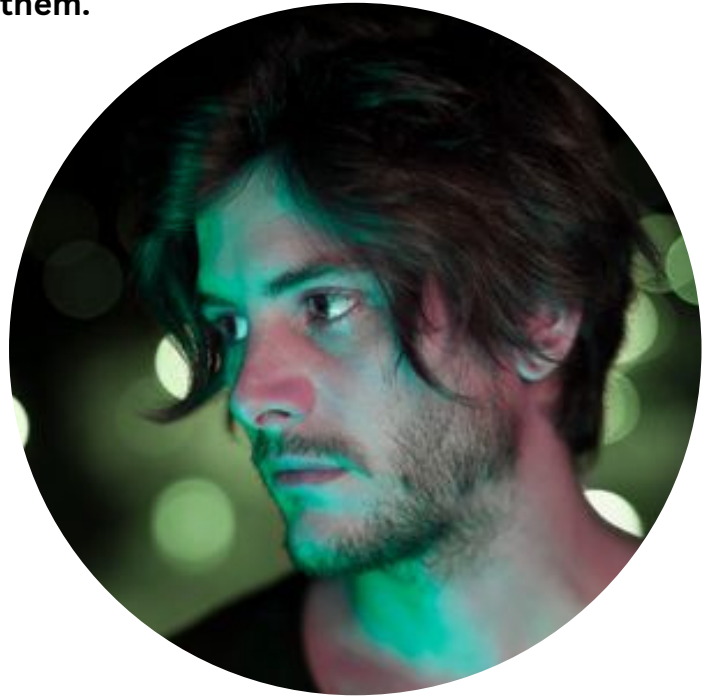
Well, the new song that's coming out on January 27, "Love Again," is probably the most meaningful to me as I wrote it for the person who I share my life with and changed me for the better, but you'll see for yourself next week. Aside from that, "Wavebird" is probably the one that defines me the most. It's kind of my anthem.

What is one message you would give to your fans? How do you want them to feel when they listen to your music?

My message is: do your thing. If you feel good doing something, whatever it is, just do it and try to take it to the next level. It might take one year, three years, or ten years to reach your goal, but it doesn't matter. What counts is the path leading to it and all the experiences you'll have along the way. My music is meant to empower you and make you feel different kinds of emotions, depending on the song you're listening to. In any case, just know that you're not alone, whatever you're facing, and that we're all just trying to

find out place in this world. So just do your best every day and be kind to others.

Nick's new song "Love Again" will be released this Friday on Spotify..



Little DIY Party Popper

Need:

- 1 toilet paper roll
- 1 balloon
- design paper or colored paper
- Colored tissue paper
- Confetti/glitter/pompoms
- Hot Glue



- 1) Cut the end off of the deflated balloon and hot glue it onto the toilet paper roll.
- 2) Tie the end of the balloon in a knot.
- 3) Fill the toilet paper roll with confetti, glitter, or pompoms.
- 4) Glue the colored tissue paper over the entry of the toilet paper roll.
- 5) Hot glue the patterned paper over the toilet paper roll to add a design.

OPTIONAL: add stickers, glitter glue, and other designs to add effect!

Pinecones! - Flickery Edition

Need:

- 1 Pinecone
- 1 black sheet of paper
- Two small pieces of wire
- 2 googly eyes
- Green or yellow paint and brush
- Hot glue
- Scissors



- 1) Paint the tip of the pinecone green or yellow and let it dry. This will be the tail.
- 2) Hot glue the eyes and antennae onto the opposite end of the pinecone.
- 3) Cut the paper into ovals and hot glue them to the "back" of the pinecone.

Tip: Shiny paint adds more of a "glow" to your bug. Also, shape antennae to form twirls and other shapes to add interest and character.



Make This Your Jordan Year

by: Kyan Flores

As cliché as it is, a new year is a new start, a reset button for everyone, that is, if you want it to be. Just like everything we do, there has to be a want and a need within yourself to change. Obviously, none of us are going to be perfect at the end of this year, or the next year, or maybe even at the end of the next decade, but 2023 can be where we start.

Recognize the Cracks in your Armor

Our shortcomings and our negative tendencies are easy to ignore. It's easy to deny where we fall short, plain and simple. The first step to fixing the cracks in your armor is recognizing them. Take notice of your patterns. Take notice of the cycles you fall into. Be aware that you do have cracks in your armor. None of our chest plates are spotless. They're dirty, cracked, some may even be ruined. Take notice, be aware, and shine that chest piece.

Don't Speak, Think

Something we all need to do more as human beings is use what makes us different from wild animals, our brains. We need to stop opening our mouths and spilling out the trash that's inside. In a tense situation, or when you're mad or frustrated, opening your mouth can be the worst thing you could do. Instead, *think*. Observe what's around you. Assess the situation. Ask yourself if what you want to say is what needs to be said. Instead, *feel*. If you're in a tense situation with another, try to understand what they're feeling. Likewise, make sure you understand what you're feeling.

If you can read this article, then you're obviously not a toddler, which means you should no longer be acting simply by your impulses. If you want to limit your, *sorry-that-just-slipped-out* moments, or your *if-I-could-only-go-back* moments, then stop being impulsive.



Stop Giving Up So Easily

In game five of the 1997 NBA finals, Michel Jordan led the Chicago Bulls to a win, giving the Bulls a three to two lead in the series, scoring 38 points, all while he was experiencing flu-like symptoms. Jordan was able to cut through defense, make acrobatic layups, and stay as consistent as he was known to be in the mid-range. If you've ever played basketball before, you know that's impressive. Jordan could've easily sat that game out, but unyielding desire, and burning intensity got him on the court.



The reason I bring up Micheal Jordan's "flu game" is because I believe we can all tap into that mindset Jordan must have tapped into. Whether it's a sport, or school, or even relationships, that mindset can be used. We need to stop saying "I can't," "It's too hard," "It's too much," and especially, "I don't want to." If something seems hard or difficult, don't crumble. Your foundation should be stronger than that.

Micheal Jordan isn't some god. Maybe in the world of basketball he is, but outside of that, he's just a man. I'm not asking you to dunk next time you get the flu, but I argue we all could. If Micheal Jordan could do it, I'm certain any of us could. We just have to have the want and the determination.

I'm no better than whoever it is that's reading this. The only reason I'm able to share these ideas with you is because I am trying to get better in those areas. I need to recognize the cracks in my rusted armor. I need to act

less impulsively, and I need to become more determined and motivated. Like I said before, I'll probably be working on myself for years. We're all machines that'll never stop needing tune ups. So, check under your hood, change out the rusted parts for some new ones, and rewire yourself.



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