

The Salesian Spectator

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Hello, Students and Faculty, from the new staff at *The Salesian Spectator*, the student-run newspaper of Salesian High School! Run by Philip Ahearn, Jason Akujuobi, Joshua Farrell, Matthew Bruno, Nicolas Savoca, and Bryan Vasquez, the newspaper seeks to enlighten the minds of all Salesian students. We are always looking for new members, as all students and their contributions are welcome! If you'd like to submit an article for *The Salesian Spectator*, send an e-mail with your work to salesianspectator@salesianhigh.org. Make sure you

include your full name and year of graduation, so you can receive credit for your work. Thank you for reading and keep writing!

-- Philip Ahearn '18, Jason Akujuobi '18, Joshua Farrell '18, Matthew Bruno '18, Nicolas Savoca '18, Bryan Vasquez '18

Editors

Philip Ahearn '18, Jason Akujuobi '18,
Joshua Farrell '18, Matthew Bruno '18,
Nicolas Savoca '18, Bryan Vasquez '18

Writers

Philip Ahearn '18, Joshua Farrell '18,
Matthew Bruno '18, Anthony Madia '18,
Carlos Bernal '18

Editor in Chief

Mr. John Small

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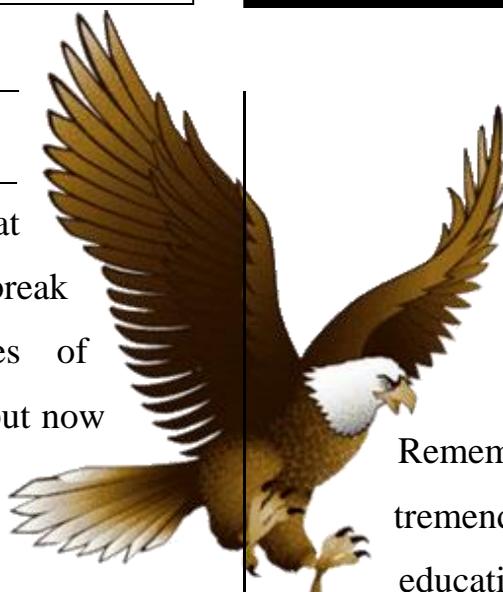
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President's Address

Anthony Madia '18

I am overjoyed to be back at Salesian! We enjoyed a long break of celebrating the festivities of Christmas and the New Year, but now it is time to get back to work. The second quarter is ending, and midterms are right around the corner... so it is vital that we all get on top of our work. Most of you may think I am crazy for wanting to be back at school, but how can you not love coming to your welcoming, second home filled with a wonderful faculty?

Be grateful for how much the staff cares for each one of you. You may not like the tests or assignments they give; but I can assure you, they want you to be the best person you



are capable of being. So, with that said, let's give them the respect that they have earned.

Remember that you have a tremendous opportunity to get an education that not everyone gets to have; take advantage. Always have an attitude of gratitude for the small things we can take for granted.

2018

Staff of *The Spectator*

Greetings Eagles, and Happy New Year! From the staff of *The Salesian Spectator*, we hope you and your families enjoyed a fantastic holiday season with a merry Christmas and a happy new year! This year holds much in store for Salesian High School. The Oratory Series will continue

with participation in the *March for Life* on January 19th! We will prepare to display our school for future members of the Class of 2023 on January 20th, at our Open House! Sadly however, us Salesian students will soon embark on the ever-dreaded week of Mid-Term Exams, followed by the ever-exciting Don Bosco Spirit Week!



Returning to a positive tone; in just a few short months, the Class of 2018 will bid their anything but final goodbye to Salesian High School. Despite the growingly excited countdown to May 17th (granted that is still the final day of classes), there is no doubt that Salesian High will truly be missed by the Class of 2018. Hopefully, we'll be a class that the school and its community will miss as well.

Personally, we here at *The Spectator* are holding high hopes for 2018, and we invite all of you to do the same! 2017 is over, a new year is here. Pardon the clichés, but use this year as an opportunity to try 2017 again, only this time; make the decisions you should have made in the year prior. Maybe begin to write for the newspaper! Maybe join a new club! Thankfully for our amazing school, the possibilities are endless! Again, Happy New Year, and Go Eagles!

How to Survive Midterms

Philip Ahearn '18

In my aspiration to offer help to the newest members of our school community, there are some important things to keep in mind as we

approach midterms (gulp...). It feels surreal that midterms are almost upon us, and I'm not using the typically positive connotation of the word "surreal" in this case. I know how much everyone at Salesian just LOVES that third week of January, where we are ~~tortured with~~ administered midterm exams! As a Senior, I could not be more excited for these exams; but I assure you it has *absolutely* nothing to do with the fact that it signals the last semester for Seniors (I may have lied).

Despite my hidden emotions, there are important traits that I have learned in my tenure as a Salesian student, and I wish to share them with underclassmen and even my fellow Seniors. The only time I will ever endorse the phone



policy here at Salesian, is during the week of exams. From the bottom of my heart, I cannot stress the importance of leaving your phone in your locker during exams. I assure you, a nightmare scenario can always occur where your phone may sound during the exam. Speaking from speculation, it cannot be fun to have your exam grade invalidated... at all. Do the right thing for yourself, and don't risk it; leave your phones in your lockers, along with anything else you do not need for your current exam.

Secondly, and probably of vital importance, is to be courteous of your fellow Salesian students. If you are not currently in an exam and have no more exams scheduled for the

remainder of the day, please leave. I know we say Salesian is a home, but you're going to have to respect students that are still sitting for exams and go. Speaking from experience, it is noticeably more difficult to take an exam with the commotion of students shouting, etc. in the hallways. Please, from one of the many who values the silence during exams to focus, be mindful of your fellow students. Again, if you are done with your exams for the day, please leave the building. We have a slew of restaurants around our campus, choose one and "treat yourself" for finishing your exams!



Another important thing to remember during exams, to bring your own supplies. Don't forsake your exam grade by forgetting pencils and/or a calculator, if applicable. Don't offer your friends money so that they can save you and, ultimately, forsake their exams in doing so. When I say pencils, I do not mean mechanical pencils. It's time to take a journey back in time, and bust out the old yellow-wooden pencils! I know... gross right? And, since we are working with such outdated materials, you'll have to have them sharpened! Again, you need to sharpen these kinds of pencils; there is no button to press that dispenses a lead point! At the risk of

further blowing your minds, I'll stop describing these ancient tools here.



Lastly, and probably the most important point, is to study. I know, who wants to hear that? Believe me, it goes a longer way than you'd imagine. If your teachers give you study guides, or topics to review, or anything at all, I strongly recommend that you use these to your advantage! If a teacher says that you'll see material that has already been done in class, I highly suggest you review topics in a timely manner. If your teachers are hosting reviews, make the time to attend them! Or, be proactive and visit them on your own time! I know, crazy right? Giving up your own time to get help with your studies? My gosh that's ludicrous! In the end you're really only helping yourself and, despite the popular thought, it doesn't ruin your social life! Just... be the student your teachers expect you to be!

Help Wanted: AM Salesian

Joshua Farrell '18

AM Salesian is looking for new members! We are responsible for broadcasting the morning prayers and announcements to every homeroom. Right now, mainly the senior class operates A.M. Salesian. Since this is the last year for us seniors, that means we need the help of underclassmen! You

guys will be the ones running A.M. Salesian next year! You do not have to be in any specific grade, all are welcome to join!



Don't worry if you don't have experience with cameras, computers, or AV equipment; joining members will be taught on the job! Allow me to express now, being a member of A.M. Salesian does entail a lot of work; we have a job to do every morning, (and we know it doesn't always go flawlessly). If you are interested, you can contact Father Bill. You can also stop by the A.M. Salesian Studio on the fourth floor and speak to us directly! We hope to see you there!

Is the X-Box One X Worth It?

John DeJesus '18

Microsoft recently released the new "Xbox One X" as the fastest gaming console. It is said to be "the most powerful gaming console ever sold." Being sold at the cost of \$499.99 (excluding tax), is this console worth buying?



With this past Christmas season, we'll see if it's worth the price. The design is much slimmer than older consoles, however it is

much heavier. That is because of everything added to make it a much better gamer experience. It adds 4K Ultra HD, taking your gaming experience to another level. It adds spectacular details to games, making them more realistic. It further sets itself apart from the HDR-capable Xbox One S and PS4 by improving the frame rate. With its performance, it is able to produce games at a much higher resolution than the recent consoles. It is also made with a new cooling system, so it doesn't crash or overheat. You don't even need to worry about the "red rings of death", like with the 360; the system also uses less energy.

Comparing it to the Xbox One S, the consoles aren't so different. They both support 4k and HDR games, movies, etc. The designs for both are stunning and make great gaming consoles. The difference is in the graphics as the "S" has 1.4 teraflops, while the "X" has 6 teraflops. To truly see the graphics of the "X", you need a television that supports 4K and games that are "Xbox One X Enhanced". On certain games, you will see almost equal graphic, while there are some that you'll see a major difference. A major issue is the lack of games available for the "X"; a problem for consumers. As the "X" is slightly better, you have to look at what is best overall.



If you are a casual gamer, I would recommend the “S”. The console is almost like the “X,” and is much cheaper not to mention. If you do your research, they’re available online, on sale, and come in different versions, whether it be bundles or even consoles containing up to 2TB storage. If you want the best experience, I would go for the “X”. The main issue is you must buy a 4K television (if you don’t own one already). The games will be limited if you want to play with the best experience. The best time to buy the “X” is a couple of months after release, as the price will drop, and it will have much more options. In the long run, it isn’t a console that’s worth buying for graphics. If you want to play for fun, buy the “S”, as the system isn’t that much different.

A Promise Kept

Philip Ahearn ‘18

A tumultuous first year for President Donald J. Trump finally bore some success for not only Trump, but the Republican Party as a whole. Since Trump has taken office, American citizens have witnessed media onslaught aimed against the President. It is very understandable, with the seemingly sophomoric rhetoric and immature use of his Twitter account. However, one thing can now be granted to Donald Trump as a victory, at least in the eyes of a Republican. The last Tax Reform bill was passed by the 99th United States Congress in 1986, under President Ronald Reagan: “Reaganomics.”

The 32-year gap between then and a new tax reform bill was closed on December 22nd,

2017. On this date, Donald Trump signed into law the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017; concurrently earning himself a major victory over the Democratic delegation in Congress. The bill saw continued success in the various votes taken by Congress; passing with a vote of 227-203 in the House of Representatives, then with a vote of 51-48 in the Senate (Senator John McCain was absent for the vote). In the House’s final vote, it passed 224-201, and was sent to the desk of the President. There have been various misconceptions regarding this tax reform bill thanks to the ever-biased American media. Here are the basics of this vital piece of legislation.



The income tax, which is organized by brackets based on income, has been decreased by at least one whole percent across every bracket. This means that most Americans, an estimated 80%, will receive a tax cut and more money in their paychecks. Perhaps the most controversial addition to the bill is the sharp reduction of the corporate tax rate, falling from 35% to 21%. The ideology behind this addition is that with corporations paying less taxes and consequently earning more profit, the expansion of business will create jobs and ultimately further lower the unemployment

rate. Although this is pure conjecture, the Republicans are holding high hopes for this bill to succeed in practice.

TAX REFORM

Trump and the Republican delegation used the bill as a means of repealing a mandate regarding Obamacare. The legislation that Trump has signed into law eliminated the penalty for failing to have health insurance; first established by the Affordable Care Act under President Obama. It goes without needing to be said that this bill, now law, is facing opposition from the Democratic Party. Meanwhile, the Republicans hope to take this momentum into the new year.

This is in efforts to give themselves some leverage as the nation approaches the November 2018 Midterm Elections. With the predicted wave of Democratic elections to Congress, the Republicans need all the momentum and leverage they can acquire. This bill is a good start, and it can only be helpful for President Trump to continue to fulfill his campaign promises, and hopefully gain support.

Georgia Chokes... Again

Philip Ahearn '18

The nation watched, half in horror and half in enjoyment as the Crimson Tide of the University of Alabama faced the Bulldogs of the University of Georgia in the 2018

College Football Playoff National Championship. The Crimson Tide defeated the Clemson Tigers, (who took the title in 2017), in the 2018 Sugar Bowl with a score of 24-6, to qualify for the championship game. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs of Georgia defeated the Oklahoma Sooners in the 2018 Rose Bowl by a score of 54-48 in double overtime to qualify. The game drew the attention of many, as Nick Saban (Head Coach of the Crimson Tide) sought after his 5th national championship in 9 years. However, Georgia would prove to be much more daunting of a task than originally thought.



The coin toss was won by Alabama, who deferred to the second half. The first half of the game was dominated by the Bulldogs, with each Alabama drive ending before a touchdown could become a thought. It's also worth noting that kicker Andy Pappanastos of Alabama was clearly off his game. A scoreless first quarter would be made up for in the second quarter. Georgia kicker Rodrigo Blankenship would put the "Dawgs" on the board with a 41-yard field goal. A second field goal would end a punt return drive for the Bulldogs, putting them further ahead of Alabama. Georgia would earn their first touchdown at the end of the second quarter, making the score 13-0 Georgia. The 'Bama bandwagons either

turned off the game or support Georgia, in anticipation of a defeat.



Alabama would begin the second half receiving, and score their first touchdown on a 6-yard pass from freshman underdog Tua Tagovailoa. Georgia immediately responded with a beautiful 80-yard touchdown, putting Georgia up 20-7. A Georgia drive would be cut short with an interception by Alabama, and Pappanastos would redeem himself with a 43-yard field goal to bring Alabama to 10. The fourth quarter was more in favor of Alabama, with Tagovailoa leading the Tide to tie the game at 20 with under four minutes remaining. Pappanastos failed to deliver again, bringing the game into overtime.



The game took a turn in Georgia's favor with a 51-yard field goal. Alabama would respond with a 41-yard touchdown pass from freshman Tagovailoa to DeVonta Smith, sealing the victory for Alabama. The game was truly a miracle for Alabama fans everywhere, and the celebration will live forever on social media. Personally, I think Tuscaloosa might have come undone. Nick Saban indeed collected his 5th national

championship victory in 9 years. Tua Tagovailoa was named the offensive player of the game, along with fellow Crimson Da'Ron Payne named the defensive player of the game. First the Super Bowl, and now the College National Championship. No offense but, it seems like Georgia has a thing for blowing leads. Both teams however, I hold in high esteem for their sheer passion and commitment to the game!

What's New, New York?

Matthew Bruno '18

With both the Knicks and Rangers in the heart of their seasons, and the Jets and Giants preparing to watch the NFL playoffs from home, it would appear that baseball would have no meaning during this time. WRONG! The Yankees have made the biggest acquisition this offseason and Mr. Met has just re-signed a former ally. Not only that but the MLB is approximately only one month away from pitchers and catchers.



Yankee fans can look forward to seeing #27, Giancarlo Stanton take the field this spring in pinstripes. In a trade that involved Starlin Castro and two low-level prospects, the Yankees brought in another monster among men. The reigning NL MVP Stanton, stands at 6'6, and weighs 242 lbs. This monster now joins the outfield with the reigning AL Rookie of the Year, Aaron Judge. These men are quite similar; both hit over 50 home

runs last year, and were the two finalists in the Home Run Derby. Furthermore, they both play the outfield and have highlighted their glove on the field. One thing is for sure though, they both hit BOMBS.

The Yankees have a great chance to make it to the World Series this year, after coming only one game shy of the chance to compete last year. Free agency is still upon us and moves can still be made, however. The Yankees have made key signings such as C.C. Sabathia, Tommy Kahnle and Aaron Hicks but, names like Yu Darvish, Gerrit Cole and Manny Machado remain on the radar. The Yankees feel they need one more piece to create the perfect World Series team. Any one of those names would do.

Now let's take a trip to the borough of Queens, where the New York Metropolitan have quietly made a big move. They just signed former Met Jay Bruce to a 3-year, 39-million-dollar contract. He is no Giancarlo Stanton, but Bruce did produce with the Indians during his time there. Needless to say, the Mets were plagued by injuries last season and they are hopeful for the return of "Thor", (Noah Syndergaard), and Steven Matz. Matz only played 13 games last year and had an ugly 2-7 record with a 6.08 ERA. Syndergaard only saw action in 7 games last season but his offseason workouts have been paying off. He only seems to be more determined to throw fastballs at 100+ mph and some have even claimed that he is "in the best shape of his life."

The Mets have had a rough time after their 2015 World Series loss to the Royals. However, health is going to play a major factor for them. If they can stay healthy, and their hitters get run support for their pitching staff, they may be a contender for the Wild Card.

This offseason has seen various moves in players but also in the coaching staff. Both the Yankees and the Mets have new managers this year. Former Yankee Aaron Boone, known for his 2003 home run that sent the Yankees to the World Series, is now the replacement for Joe Girardi. Mickey Callaway, former pitching coach of the Cleveland Indians, is now at the helm for the Mets. With this being said, a new era is starting in New York baseball.

Yankee fans have every right to be hopeful and excited for this upcoming season. Mets fans have nothing to lose at this point. Judge, Sanchez, Severino and Stanton will try to lead the Yankees to a 28th World Series title while the Mets hope for healthy return from their stars. We are only a month away from pitchers and catchers and New York fans are eager to see their teams take the field again.

For the Love of my Country

Anonymous

O' say can you see

What the dawn's early light has cast

An image of hate and oppression

To the foreign man

A dream has been deferred
My children can no longer see
The light of lady liberty
That casts over the sea

Don't misinterpret this
For I love my country
But I appear to be stuck in a nightmare,
Rather than an American Dream

People of the Land

Anonymous

The land of these people
Seen from atop of the steeple
Has been there's for years
And suffered through a trail of tears

Yearning for its possession
Taking without discretion
Without representation
What has happened to this nation?

For the Sioux own these lands.
It is not in our hands.
Who knows if there is oil?
I know it is there soil

A land of the free
Should be given to thee
For so many years
These people have walked the Trail of Tears

The Man Behind the Desk

Anonymous

Some call him Big Brother
Others say sir,
I have no voice,
For I am chained to the floor

He spews out rhetoric
Words never heard before,
Nobody understands him,

For no one listens

I'd rather be deaf,

For my ears are bleeding,

This blood falls to my hands

And I write with it.

The Stallion

Anonymous

Strong and eager to run

Restrained by reins

Nothing can be done

Blood begins to boil in his veins

His jockey tires him till the sun turns red

He thirsts for open pastures

He cannot speak the language that is said

For it appears he will encounter more
raptures

Freedom is a cost one must spend

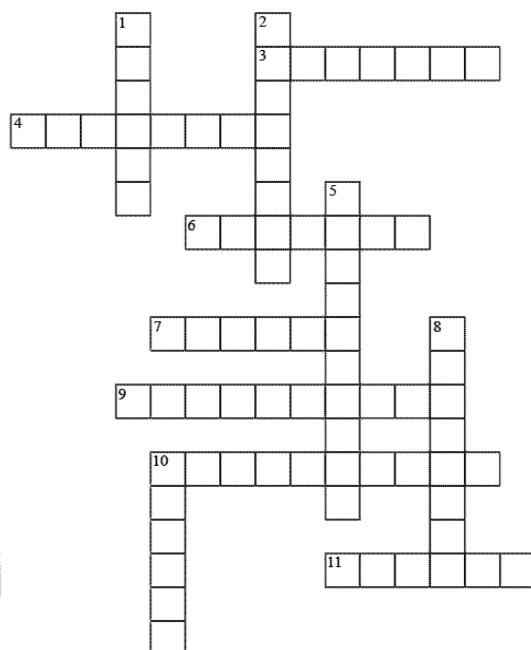
To overcome, a tyrant or king

A life may or may not end

But until then he sits on his angel's wing.

Happy New Year!

New Year Crossword



Across	Down
3. A "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day	1. Polar Bear _____, a New Year's activity that requires you to enter into water, mainly for charity
4. Twelve 'o clock at night, the highest point of New Year's celebrations	2. The famous song, "Auld Lang Syne, commonly sung to bring in the new year originated in _____"
6. The month that follows December 31st is _____	5. He is the personification of time
7. A ceremonial procession including people marching with bands	8. Small pieces of coloured paper or streamers
9. A promise to do something in the new year	10. The Iranian new year holiday is called this
10. A horn or rattle used to make noise at a party	
11. People born on New Year's Day are commonly called New Year _____	

Winter Word Scramble!

Rseiouotln _____

Juaarny _____

Cnutodwon _____

Chirmatss _____

Hlyioads _____

Birzlazd _____

Dceebmr _____