

The Natir

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Incoming Ritamen Accidentally Take AP Level Test

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to Compete in
World's Strongest
Man Competition
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On December 2nd 2023, disaster struck St. Rita of Cascia High School. During the math section of the entrance exam, the incoming Ritamen were hit high and low with questions so bizzare they didn't even know where to write a hypothetical answer. It turns out the math entrance exam portion was swapped out with an AP Calculus test. On his way out of the test, a potential Ritaman, told us: "I didn't know what I was looking at. I looked around and saw the befuddled faces of the guys near me. We were told to focus on our tests, and I just wrote 42 as the answer to everything that resembled a question. I knew their academics were good, but none of the Entrance Exam study workshops covered this information." After the exams were over, this 8th grader decided to drop out of high school before it started, and "go learn about things that'll actually be used in the real world." Oddly enough the story doesn't end here.

During A period on Monday December 4th, the smartest of Ritamen were humbled. The math entrance exam meant for the incoming Ritamen was given out as an AP Calculus test. Zach Baxtrom, a student in the class, stated: "Dude, nobody knows what that was. It wasn't even on the study guide or anything. It seemed so easy, but I couldn't figure it out. Was this a trick so I would have to take the final." The shock the math department felt when seeing the scores was enough to power the school for another 119 years. It still isn't known how these tests were swapped; however; it is now known that the AP Calc students need to be taught how to take out the greatest common factor.

Inquiry Into Lost
Semester Exam
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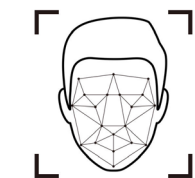
NASCAR Comes to St. Rita

Patrick Connolly '24

As of this fall, St. Rita has started a new car club, headed by our very own Kevin Fergus ('24). Since then, he has taken this program to new heights. It all started with simple car shows and drag racing in the parking lot. In fact, the races were so incredible that several racers were scouted by NASCAR to replace Cup Series winner Ryan Blaney.

St. Rita's team has already been reached out to by many sponsors. O'Reilly's Auto Parts have already offered a pit crew for free so long as we say their name at least 30 times per race. Mountain Dew has even offered to be our official sponsor. Mrs. Palmer was ecstatic to hear the news. While this is all good, it is still not the best part: we got into an official sporting league before Carmel or Rice did.

When asked how he felt about the news, Kevin Fergus replied, "I am really proud of my boys. I am still looking for guys to put in. Despite not having a license, I'm thinking about submitting Braden Miles. His name alone makes him a prime candidate." Whatever the case is, I am sure it is expected to turn out well. We asked Miles how he felt about this, and he said, "Whatever. If it brings scholarships, that'd be great."



St. Rita installs
face recognition
scanners outside
of bathrooms
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Mr Pazin Accused of Stealing the Original Declaration of Independence

Thomas Healy '25

The St. Rita community has been shocked by the allegations that have been made by former student teacher Mr. Laird who claimed that Mr. Pazin, the Social Science Department Chair, stole the original Declaration of Independence that was composed and signed by the Founding Fathers 247 years ago. Mr. Pazin has met a lot of criticism after these allegations and has stated: "I wish I could steal something like that, but I'm not that good. The Declaration of Independence, while it is something awesome, isn't at the top of the list for things that I'd steal. The Stanley Cup, on the other hand, would look excellent on my mantle."

While Mr. Pazin was being investigated, the investigators had to take a break because of the amount of historical information Mr. Pazin was telling them that was completely irrelevant to the investigation. When authorities searched Mr. Pazin's house, they didn't find

anything they were looking for, except for a marble statue of Abraham Lincoln in his living room, with a plaque reading, "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today." This is likely a reference to Mr. Pazin's constant work grading papers to keep him motivated. After a thorough investigation, these accusations were confirmed to be false.

Why would Mr. Laird put his reputation on the line to make a baseless accusation? It is believed within the St. Rita community that Mr. Laird wanted to have Mr. Pazin step down after all the heat from the accusations and take his job as the Social Science Department Chair. Although he failed, it was a valiant effort.

Head Basketball Coach Ross Burt Hoping to Perform Miracles on the Court

Sam Tire '24



Following the exit of head basketball coach, Roshawn Russell, and the mass exodus of varsity players at the end of last school year, St. Rita faculty, students, and families alike were worried about the team's future. Athletic Director, AJ Avery '12 was quoted at the time saying, "St. Rita's basketball team has a proud history. In the last several years, the team has

come so close to the championship round, and with quite a bit of talent on the court, we were hoping to go all the way next year." Obviously, those dreams were shattered by Russell and the 22/23 team's diaspora. Subsequently, the remaining team members' hopes were dead and buried.

The Athletic Department began looking for someone who could resurrect the team. Three grueling days of interviews took place in the spring, but only one applicant, a humble man from just outside of Nazareth, Texas, stood out: Coach Ross Burt.

Coach Burt has roughly 30 years of experience on the court as both an athlete and coach. He is an alumnus of Trinity University where he played guard for the 2002-'03 through 2005-'06 seasons. In addition, Burt served as an assistant coach at his alma mater from 2008-2019.

In 2020 Burt decided to expand his basketball ministry to

the southside of Chicago where he is now a member of Old St. Mary's parish.

"We are thrilled to welcome Ross Burt as Head Basketball Coach," Deacon John shared. "At St. Rita, we are interested in getting back to basics by building a program, not just a season; Burt is prepared to be the cornerstone." Burt is starting the team from scratch this year, with only a few loyal members remaining. We at the NATIR had a chance to sit down with a veteran member of the varsity team, James Kingsbury. James told us: "I was really bummed to see so many of the members of the team scatter following Coach Russell's departure, but I have faith that Coach Burt can perform miracles on the court." And Coach gained quite a few followers as dozens of student athletes from all of our local schools showed up to tryouts hoping to be chosen. In the end, 12 students made the varsity team.

When asked about his new position, Burt stated, "I am excited to join the St. Rita family and for the season. The team and I have been doing some light reading and came across a verse that will serve as our new team motto: 'They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents [on the] court.'"

The team has had a slow start to the season. They are currently 0-4 in conference play, 1-7 overall, but Burt is not discouraged: "I have told the team to not let their hearts be troubled." Burt is hoping that within the next 3 seasons, he and the Hooping Mustangs will win the hearts of the multitude and bring home a state championship.

Dihydrogen Monoxide Found in School Water Fountains

Kevin MacNamara '27

Breaking news! There have been dangerous amounts of Dihydrogen Monoxide inside the water supply. Due to this issue, it is advised to avoid drinking the school water at all costs. This is such a problem because dihydrogen monoxide has many dangers. One of the dangerous aspects of this substance is it being highly corrosive as it can make iron and steel brittle and unusable. Another danger of Dihydrogen monoxide is that it can cause suffocation. In addition to this dihydrogen monoxide contributes to the greenhouse effect. Finally Dihydrogen monoxide is a major component in the phenomenon known as acid rain. Some ways to help yourself avoid this substance is to bring safe water from home. If you can't bring water from home you should buy bottled water or water alternatives such as premade tea in the vending machines, the McCarthy Center, or the cafeteria. If you take such measures, you should have no worry about dihydrogen monoxide.

The Anti-Scholarship

Patrick Connolly '24

Since the dawn of St. Rita, we have given out scholarships to students exhibiting great performance or need, but what happens when these so-called scholars goof around in their classes and refuse to adhere to the laws of the student handbook, who may damage our school's image? Well now it's time for the scholarship committee (Mrs. Boldt) to fight back.

Starting in the 2024-2025 school year, St. Rita will begin the "anti-scholarship program." This program would add money onto the tuition of students who cause significant trouble. When asked about this controversial decision, Mrs. Boldt, Financial aid and Scholarship Coordinator replied, "I'm an English teacher, which means I see the worst of it. Trust

me." She then paused, as if suffering from a flashback: "Some of these students need to pay extra to be here."

To qualify, a student must meet several criteria. One way is to have an average gpa of 0.25 or lower, which is so impossible that you would have to try to reach. Another way is to have 10 or more JUGS or 20 or more regular detentions. The final way is to have more than 15 absences, with health, family, or education reasons being exceptions. These are not meant to punish those who skip up occasionally, rather it is meant to encourage students to do better.

2023 Entrance Exams Lost

Max Morario '25

Students spend years preparing for a singular test that will determine the most important part of their life. They will spend hours racking their brains with possible scenarios and solutions. Their mental health will depend upon the score they get back for the next months, even years of their lives. Just imagine spending all that time and working as hard you possibly can for something to be gone as quickly as it was gained.

Currently, the St. Rita community is grappling with the sudden disappearance of eighth-grade entrance exam scores. The incident has left students, parents, and teachers in a state of uncertainty and panic.

The faculty at St. Rita is working very hard to find the cause of this extraordinary loss. In addition to creating obstacles for

students hoping to secure their place at St. Rita High School, the lack of exam results will make future test takers less confident.

Understandably upset, parents have looked for clarification and assurance from any members of the St. Rita community. Families are dealing with a great deal of concern about whether the lost scores will be found and how this occurrence may affect their child's academic future.

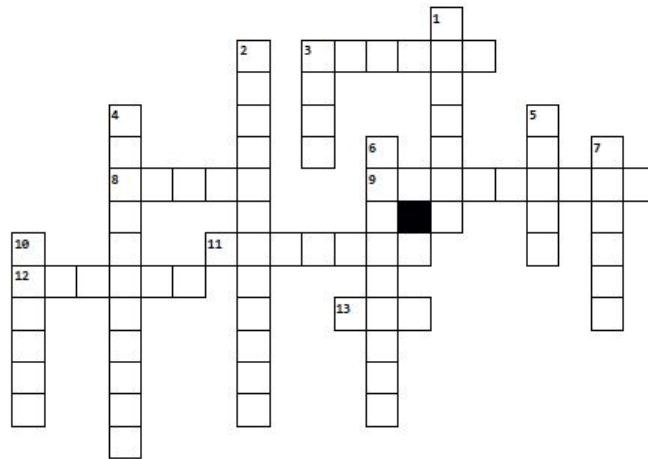
With this incident bringing back flashes of the 2023 AP Exam scores, questions have arisen as to whether the exams should be held online or in-person. These incidents have brought a level of uncertainty to parents, teachers, and students that hasn't been paralleled. What will this mean for the class of 2028?

Fundraiser Money Scandal!!!

Joseph Baxtrom '26

This year we have seen a dramatic spike in fundraisers, such as the peanut drive, Finley Foundation, Little sisters, and many more. A lot of students have been wondering why we're having so many fundraisers. Rumor has it, Mr. Bowers and Ms. Hackett used the giving tree money to go back to Italy. It has also been observed that Mr. Blaszak has been showing up to work in some spiffy new outfits. A formal investigation has begun. Will Mr. Blaszak be removed from his position. St. Rita alumnus, Nick Stawczyk is prepared to step into his position in the event an arrest is made.

Mustang Madness



Across

- 3. Natir team's arch-nemesis
- 8. Voted World's chilliest teacher 20 years in a row.
- 9. AKA Mr. Giggles per Mr. Conrath
- 11. This history teacher cannot throw.
- 12. Period of the day reserved to drive teachers crazy
- 13. The name of a reliable writing resource if you want a zero (acronym).

Down

- 1. Talks to his students like they are dogs.
- 2. Mr. Partacz's favorite student (two words)
- 3. We are one _____ one _____ in Christ.
- 4. Mrs. Palmer wants a _____ for Christmas.
- 5. _____ tackled OJ Simpson.
- 6. Mr. Dolan is a _____ elf (two words)
- 7. Mr. Bowers' students' least favorite football team.
- 10. Teacher sponsored by Diet Coke.

Buy Your Mustang Grand Raffle Tickets Today!

Support St. Rita High School by participating in our Mustang Grand Raffle. It is one of the most impactful fundraisers in our efforts to narrow the gap between tuition and the actual cost of educating our students.

Buy yours today — \$20 per single ticket OR \$100 for six tickets.

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\$150 per ad. Funding supports the Anti-Scholarship Fund