

- Leroy spends time at the piano bench
- Bahr shines on the stage

PEOPLE

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Sabouri educates about POC discrimination

by Maya Gomez

People Editor

LGHS sophomore **Nika Sabouri** spends much of her time learning about and educating others in her community on the discrimination and brutality that minorities face daily. To that end, she helped organize two of the Los Gatos Black Lives Matter protests last summer. Along with this focus on advocacy and education, Sabouri's life revolves around many interests, including earth and space science, robotics, and engineering.

At only 16 years old, Sabouri has already found her passion in life, and aspires to work as an aerospace engineer. "In elementary school, I started becoming really interested in earth and space science," Sabouri revealed, "and then eventually, that's where I got my interest for my career."

Lamentably, in COVID times, Sabouri has been unable to spend much time with her friends. "I constantly have to deny myself of things that normally I would be able to do, like see my friends or have gatherings." Despite being an introverted individual, Sabouri "really does miss people just being comfortable hanging out around each other." Nevertheless, she enjoys the increased amount of sleep and relaxation that has come from quarantine.

When last year's summer vacation came, Sabouri dedicated herself to learning and teaching others in the community during the uproar of BLM and police brutality protests all over the US, and organized

some in Los Gatos. "There was one [protest] on June 3, and then there was the one that I organized with **Donya [Behroozi]**. I organized two and attended three." The protests revolved around the Black Lives Matter movement, the George Floyd murder, and "in the context of Los Gatos, it was a show of unity locally. It was also to somewhat criticize our town, and some of the establishments within it — the police department, the school, et cetera." Sabouri added that "[she] think[s] a lot of students at LG also felt impassioned and neglected. So then, seeing this movement and a call out against racism, it seemed to inspire a lot of people."

When discussing the organization of these protests, she recalled, "Initially, I called up some of my friends. We were planning on making a few signs and walking around Los Gatos Boulevard. Then, I saw this opportunity with social media, and I took it." Sabouri quickly called upon fellow student **Amelie Kim** to make a graphic for their flyer. "Once we had the graphic, we had the day, the time, and the place."

Soon enough, the flyer spread around social media, featured on students' Snapchat and Instagram stories in a matter of hours. "I'm not very active on Snapchat," Sabouri explained, "but my friend sent me a video of him going through his Snap[chat], scrolling through people's stories. Nearly every single person had it on their story."

Sabouri suggested that, especially as COVID-19 is still raging, one of the most important things to do is educate yourself. "I would say that it's important to listen to your friends and family who have

experienced this discrimination. For people of color in the United States, it's kind of a silent battle for a lot of them, so when you get an opportunity to listen to them, take it. The most important thing is willingness. Be willing to listen and to learn."



courtesy N. Sabouri

Dillehay slides into February

by Georgia Kaufman

Humor Editor

LGHS sophomore **Andrew Dillehay** is known by the public for his consistent hard work in school, expertise in sports, and his flourishing social life. This high schooler spends his free time playing baseball, hanging out with family, and working out. Dillehay not only pushes himself in every activity, he exceeds the expectations of his peers every time he does so.



Drew is a native Los Gatan, having attended Blossom Hill Elementary, Fisher Middle School, and now LGHS. Therefore, Dillehay has grown up with his fellow students of Los Gatos, getting the chance to see his friends grow throughout the years. He says that he, "think[s] it's really cool because [he's] had the same friend group since middle school. It's been cool to see everyone go their own ways and grow sports wise; [his] group plays a lot of different sports, so it has been cool to see them develop in many different ways."

With COVID-19 restrictions, it has been tough for student athletes to participate in their sports. Dillehay, however, has been exceedingly successful with baseball. Although he can't "get out on the field because everything is closed, [he's] been able

to stay in shape by working out on [his] own." As a catcher for CCB Elite, Dillehay has been given opportunities to travel safely out of state to Texas and North Carolina to compete. He mentioned that, "It has been especially tough for school sports, though. Having the toughest restrictions in basically the whole country makes it extremely difficult to do anything other than practice per [Santa Clara County] guidelines."

As a stellar athlete and friend to all, one would not be surprised to hear that Drew is also an impeccable student. On the topic of online learning, Drew revealed, "It's been both bad and good. Weird, though, because I can't make a very strict schedule for myself besides class, but it has made my time management skills a lot better."

Dillehay does believe that the restrictions of COVID-19 have made his family bonds much stronger, specifically with his older sister completing her college courses online. "My sister was home for basically an entire year from college, so it felt like it used to feel with our whole family back at the house."

As a kind, genuine, human being, Drew is truly a blessing to this world and undoubtedly someone worth befriending. Everyone should hope to find themselves surrounded by people like Drew Dillehay.



photos courtesy D. Dillehay

NEWMAN EXPLORES THE ARTS

by Alaina Fox

Editor-in-Chief

Dabbling in creative pursuits, exploring countless games, and working towards his ambitions, senior **Jack Newman** is a great conversationalist and, if you can look beyond his obnoxious height, a fascinating person to spend time with.



Newman has enjoyed art for "as long as [he] can remember." Since his dad was a photographer and "his entire side of the family is artistically inclined," he grew up exposed to artistic exploration. Reflecting on this interest, he expressed feeling "like it was just bound to happen." He recounted an anecdote from when he was about five years old and wandered into the office, where his dad "was drawing out an outline of a shot and just let [him mess] around on his drawing tablet." As he's delved into various media, Newman has developed talents in multiple art forms, though some have appealed to him more than others. While he's a skilled photographer and was on his school's yearbook team, it's not among his favorite forms. Instead, he prefers drawing. "Most of the time, I use digital or canvas," he explained. He often creates stylized characters, "basing them off of one central thing, then expanding on that to make a character." For example, he recently drew one "as a sort of personification of pride." His creativity also extends to other areas, such as writing SCPs — standing for "Secure, Contain, Protect," fictional containment reports — or being in Dungeons and Dragons campaigns. Whether it's meticulously planned or extemporaneous, the

products of his passions are always entertaining for those around him.

When he's not being artsy, you can often find Newman gaming. Though his vitriol against League of Legends is unparalleled, he has almost 300 games that he does appreciate. He has logged roughly 600 hours of playing time on Grand Theft Auto, but he also enjoys small, indie games that tend to be made by "teams of fewer than 10 people." Rattling off a list of examples, he detailed how he stumbled upon many of his favorite games: "One of the publishers I follow has a nice habit of supporting indie devs, so a lot of the [games] I play are through them," though he acknowledged that he also "sometimes just get[s] lucky" finding them.

As for future plans, Newman intends to major in forensic psychology and aims to eventually join the FBI. "ACAB all day," he said, "but I still want to help people." Elaborating on his motivation, Newman explained that his dad was murdered eleven years ago. He reflected: "By the time I was actually able to come to terms with what happened — because it's hard for a six year old to understand murder — the only thing I wanted to do was ask him why. It got me thinking about the minds of people that do that kind of [thing], and I just wanted to keep digging." Between his wits and his determination, there's no doubt he'll find success on his path.

If you've heard his quips in class, you know that being with Newman is always an adventure. If you haven't, though, try to chat with him before he graduates in a few months — he might call you short, but it'll probably be worth it.



photos courtesy J. Newman

LEROY ARRANGES MUSIC DURING QUARANTINE

by Senji Torrey

Media Production Editor

With the coronavirus pandemic still in full swing, many people have opted to decrease their workload and put up their feet for a bit. However, for junior **Ben Leroy**, a decrease in productivity isn't an option. Whether he is arranging another piece of music for the piano, studying for his many AP classes, or exploring his passions, Leroy makes sure to keep his wheels continually spinning.

Though many high schoolers play instruments, not many can additionally claim they can arrange the music that they play. However, for Leroy — who has been playing the piano for over seven years — arranging music simply comes naturally with the playing. In response to what music he enjoys most, Leroy said that he enjoys anime music the most.

"After a trip about a year and a half ago that would end up distancing myself from my piano for a long period of time, I took up arranging and writing sheet music for these [anime] songs. I've been doing it ever since and trying to improve in as many ways as I can."

Leroy has been posting these anime arrangements onto his YouTube channel so that everyone can enjoy his music. Over the past two years, he has created over 80 videos which churn out thousands of views for each post.



courtesy B. Leroy

Leroy is inspired by the anime music YouTube community as a whole. He later said that "The anime piano community has a lot of really talented people that ultimately helped shape [him] and [his] arranging style."

One artist in particular whom Leroy looks up to is Animenz. "He is one of the biggest anime piano YouTubers who uses his classical background to play more contemporary anime pieces." In honor of his 11th year on the platform, Leroy and a few others teamed up to create a medley, which can also be viewed on YouTube.

Though YouTube has been relatively unscathed by the coronavirus, many other musical experiences have been deeply affected by the pandemic. Leroy noted that "I would have liked to expand more on my musical opportunities this past year but COVID, unfortunately, got in the way."

Apart from the piano, Leroy also finds time to take numerous AP classes, including AP English Language Composition and AP Physics. These courses, which demand an exorbitant amount of time, seem to come easy for Leroy, who still acquires enough hours to participate in AP Music Theory, Japanese Honors, and even marching band.

Whether he is playing popular tunes on the piano, arranging his own music for special concerts, or studying for one of his demanding AP classes, junior Ben Leroy is in perpetual motion towards undeniable success.