

El Gato

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL

S. Bricker

LGHS opens COVID-19 testing clinic

by Angela Sheu and Jordan Chan
People Editor and Editorial Editor

LGHS began offering on-site COVID-19 testing on Oct. 19 through LGSUHS's new partnership with Inspire Diagnostics, a subsidiary of healthcare company Inspire Health Alliance. Available on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 PM and Thursday mornings from 8:30 to 10:30 AM outside the LGHS health office, the program offers PCR tests to students and staff, free of charge. Due to limited capacity, students and staff cannot participate on a drop-in basis, but may receive an invitation to get tested if they qualify to participate. Students must register to receive a test with Inspire Diagnostics, and the school does not recognize at-home rapid or PCR tests as proof of negative status.

Students and staff across a multitude of categories are eligible to take part in the program. They may receive slips if they self-report COVID symptoms, have close contact with a positive case, want to participate in random surveillance testing, plan to go on a school field trip, or are unvaccinated. Students and staff can also volunteer to get tested. While campus health administrators recommend that eligible students receive tests, the program is entirely voluntary, except in the case of clearance for a field trip or other out-of-school event.



TURNING THEIR NOSES UP: PCR tests swab the nostrils of LGHS students and staff.

LGHS Health Clerk **Gina Warne** noted that LGHS has a high proportion of vaccinated students and has had relatively few COVID-19 cases for a school of its size; however, she recommended that students and staff remain diligent. Participation in surveillance testing helps the school understand COVID-19 on-campus and identify infectious cases that are otherwise asymptomatic. Not coming to school while experiencing symptoms helps prevent the spread of all infectious viruses. Even if a student receives negative test results, they should remain at home until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours. Students with positive results should follow isolation guidelines.

The district's COVID team expressed enthusiasm about the new ability to test on-site. Prior to the partnership, assistant Principal **Alex Chapman** recognized that "a lot of parents [had] been frustrated with even trying to find a test in a timely fashion," so he is "happy that now we have the capacity to [offer tests]." Warne added, "there have been cases [in which students have] family members or homes with COVID, but they are able to stay on campus if they're asymptomatic and test negative, so this actually allows school to continue, since they're getting tested frequently."

The LGHS Health and Safety team continues to attend weekly meetings to discuss COVID safety within the school district and refine protocols as the County Public Health Department and Santa Clara County recommendations change. Community members can keep current on new information through email updates, the LGHS website, and ParentSquare. They would like to remind students to continue to fill out their Screener19 survey and to remain at home if they experience COVID symptoms. Students and staff can email questions and reports to the COVID team email: LGHSCOV19@lgsuhsd.org.



IT'S ON-SITE: A partnership with Inspire Health allows for testing on campus.

Drama department presents fall play

by Marissa Hein
Graphics Editor

Doors opening! Los Gatos High School's drama department served up a fresh performance of this year's fall play: *The Hope and Heartache Diner*, directed by Drama and English teacher Janna Rigby. After a two-year hiatus on live performances due to COVID-19 restrictions, the show officially welcomed audiences back to theatre at Los Gatos High School for the first time since the 2019 fall play, *Ax of Murder*. *The Hope and Heartache Diner* ran from Oct. 14-16, and anyone lucky enough to attend the event would agree that it was a show to remember.

The play centers around Felix Brown, played by senior **Michaela Katsoudas**, and the comings and goings at her family's restaurant, Duke's Diner. On her last day at the diner, Felix does what she calls the "full run" — working from opening to close, a tradition set by her grandfather. Throughout her long shift, she tells patrons stories about the diner with the assistance of family members both living and dead. The show consists of goofy characters, complicated family dynamics, great music, and, most importantly, incredible pie.

Speaking of incredible pie, audience members had the opportunity to purchase their own delicious pies at intermission. Los Gatos High School's very own Baking Club provided the fresh, homemade pies. Junior **Esme Jacques**, who is heavily involved in both the high school's Drama Department and the vice-president of the Baking Club, stated that she was delighted to "combine [her] two passions of baking and drama," calling the collaboration "super exciting!" Audience members were more than eager to get their hands on some freshly baked pie before returning to their seats for the second act, with the line to grab a slice stretching all the way down the main hallway.

The talented cast and crew responsible for the show were just as excited as the audience to be back in the Prentiss Brown Auditorium. Especially ecstatic to perform once again was junior **Keira Saban**, who gave a standout performance as Annabel — a feisty young woman who rejects fry cook Sam Brown, played by senior **Julius Anderson**. When asked what the opportunity to be back on stage meant to her, Saban gushed, "Being able to perform live again has been such an exciting



ACT YOUR HEART OUT: LGHS students star in *The Hope and Heartache Diner*.

experience and I missed it so much! It's also so rewarding having an audience in front of you because you can see that all of the hard work paid off, knowing that they are enjoying what you have spent so much time working towards!" Based on the audience's roaring laughter and thunderous applause, there is no doubt that audiences thoroughly enjoyed the production Saban and the rest of her cast and crew mates have been working on since auditions for the show occurred back in late August.

Although drama students are already gearing up for their next performance — *All Together Now*, a musical revue set to perform Nov. 12-13 — audiences will remember the stellar performance of *The Hope and Heartache Diner* long after the curtains closed.

In this Issue...

Local News

- Gov. Newsom signs bills outlawing spousal rape and stealthing
- LGSUHS Teachers rally together to express their district funding interests



E. Rexach

National

- Facebook announces new name, "Meta"
- FDA expands booster availability

World

- U.N. holds 26th climate conference in Glasgow



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Editorial

- LGHS students need to treat campus and janitorial staff with more respect

Opinion

- Schools should teach critical race theory
- Debase the ranking of oppression by considering intersectionality

Center

- Interview with Alicia, a member of the Yaqui tribe

Culture

- Adele releases new album, 30
- Phoebe Bridgers plays concert

Humor

- Duvall reflects on her first memory
- Water sort consumes Sullivan's daily life

People

- Freshman **Ainsley Northrop** shines both on stage and off
- Hannah Slover commits to UCSB after years dedicated to playing volleyball

Sports

- Warriors strong defense sets team up for success
- LGHS tennis teams' season comes to an end



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Governor Newsom signs Assembly Bills 453 and 1171

by Sonali Muthukrishnan

Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 7, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed two bills into law: one prohibiting stealthing — removing a condom during intercourse without a partner's verbal consent — and one outlawing spousal rape.

Democratic State Assembly member and the bills' author, Cristina Garcia, stated that stealthing "causes long-term physical and emotional



courtesy flickr

ABOUT TIME: The governor passed bills outlawing forms of sexual battery.

harms to its victims," and is one of the reasons why she prioritized passing this particular bill. She also cited an increase in reported stealthing by women and gay men as motivation for pushing for the bill.

The stealthing law amends the state's civil code, adding stealthing to California's civil definition of sexual battery. The measure allows victims to sue perpetrators for any damages, including punitive ones, which are additionally awarded by the court when the defendant's behavior seems particularly harmful, detrimental, or outrageous. "Civil litigation keeps decision-making in the hands of survivors, which can be particularly important in the wake of sexual violence, which is itself a denial of the victim's right to make decisions about their lives," explained Alexandra Brodsky, a civil rights lawyer and anti-stealthing activist.

Garcia first attempted to pass the bill in 2017 after a Yale University study run by Brodsky reported an increase in reports of stealthing. Back then, legislative analysts reported that it could be considered misdemeanor sexual battery, even though it is rarely prosecuted given how difficult it is to prove that the perpetrator acted purposefully. Lawmakers in New York and Wisconsin had previously proposed similar legislation. Assembly Bill 453's passage makes California the first state to make this specific type of sexual assault illegal. Garcia hopes that other states will soon follow suit.

The second bill that Newsom signed, Assembly Bill 1171, eliminates the spousal rape exception. "Rape is rape," Garcia said. "And a marriage license is not an excuse for committing one of society's most violent

and sadistic crimes." The law places California among 11 other states that differentiate spousal rape from other forms of sexual assault.

While there is no difference in the maximum penalties, perpetrators of spousal rape can be eligible for probation rather than prison. They must additionally register as sex offenders if both the act committed used violence or force and the court convicts them to state prison. San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin stated that the "bill will ensure that our laws protect all victims and survivors of sexual abuse and that rape committed against a spouse is treated just as seriously under the law as rape against any other victim and survivor." He shared his support for AB 1171, stating that it is "to bring about necessary protections for domestic violence victims and survivors who suffer sexual abuse and hold those who commit spousal rape accountable." (Sources: CNN, LA Times, NPR, NY Times)



courtesy Pixabay

ALL IN FAVOR: CA Governor Newsom and his colleagues sign ABs 453 and 1171.

Former Los Gatos mother faces 39 criminal charges

by Dana Hathaway and Michaela Thimot

Sports Editor and Culture Editor

Trigger Warning: This article contains mention of sexual assault and misconduct, drugs, and alcohol abuse.

On Oct. 12, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office released an official Statement of Facts for its People v. Shannon O'Connor case. The nine-page document revealed details regarding O'Connor's illegal activities in Los Gatos, which ultimately resulted in her previous arrest on October 8. The charges, 39 in total, include child endangerment, child molestation, and sexual assault.

The allegations stretch back to June 2020 when O'Connor (also known by her maiden surname, Bruga) started hosting parties where she supplied large amounts of alcohol to minors. According to reports, the heavy drinking caused many of the minors involved to pass out, covered in their own vomit. Instead of calling 911, Bruga reportedly instructed any sober minor at the party to look after the severely ill kids. Bruga reportedly instructed minors not to disclose the events' details to parents. When she suspected that a girl in attendance had spoken to her parents about the parties, Bruga allegedly threatened to spread rumors about her.

Over the weekend of Oct. 2, 2020, Bruga rented a house in Santa Cruz to celebrate her son's birthday. She then proceeded to contact all minors attending to determine what type of alcohol the kids would like. Surveillance obtained by police reveals minors passed out, vomiting from intoxication, and stumbling throughout the premises.



courtesy wikimedia commons

A SHADOW FALLS ON LG: Bruga targeted high schoolers at Los Gatos.

The report also details that on Halloween of 2020, Bruga called the Los Gatos Police Department to advise them that she would be throwing a small party. Bruga created a Snapchat group chat with the minors attending to inform them of the alcohol she would provide, when her husband would be out of the house, and not to disclose the event's details to their parents. The

party — attended by about 20 minors — ended with most of the minors heavily intoxicated and ill. One girl broke her pinky finger; another boy's father had to pick him up because of how drunk he was. During the parties, Bruga attempted to set up minors so that they could have sex, even going to the point of taking boys' phones, pretending to be them, and texting girls to come over.

In mid-February, Bruga reportedly brought minors on a trip to Lake Tahoe and provided them with copious amounts of alcohol. There was only one girl present on the trip, and she became so heavily intoxicated that she walked through a snow-filled parking lot at night in a bikini. Back inside, she consented to kissing another boy, but more sexual activity ensued which she claims she did not consent to.

Deputy District Attorney Rebekah Wise argued in court that the right to bail should be revoked from O'Connor, as she believed it was clear that "if the defendant were to be released to the public, there is likely going to be great bodily harm to the victims in this case and to members of the public." While O'Connor's lawyer Sam Polverino protested that the no-bail request was "inconsistent with due process and a denial of [the] client's rights," the judge ultimately granted Wise and her team the request. O'Connor's bail, which was set at \$900,000, was withdrawn. In addition, the court issued 15 no-contact orders for all minor victims involved in the case. Currently O'Connor's court hearing for charges is set for Dec. 17 when, if convicted, she will face up to 20 years 8 months in prison.

(Sources: SCC District Attorney's Office, Mercury News)

LG Spanish students celebrate SF opens neuroscience building

by Alex Evans

Opinion Editor

To celebrate "El Día de Los Muertos," a tradition originating in Mexico and translating to "The Day of the Dead," the LGHS Spanish Language Department held a grand celebration in the small gym on Mon., Nov. 1 and Tues., Nov. 2.

For the entirety of their class periods Spanish students were invited to participate in activities like coloring, dancing, picture taking, and eating through a variety of cultural stations. Spanish classes of all levels came together for the celebration, but students rotated through various stations with different activities with their classmates. At the end of the rotation, Los Gatos Spanish teacher Señor Calmels invited everyone to join him in the center of the gym to dance.

At the first station, students were offered pan de muerto and chocolate caliente, otherwise known as the "bread of the dead" and "hot chocolate." Here they could munch on these traditional El Día de Los Muertos delicacies and write notes to anyone in their lives who has passed on a collective poster. When junior and Spanish 3 student Keira Dodd commented on her favorite part of the celebration, she quickly responded: "Definitely the station with the bread, it was delicious."

Señora Mazzaferro led the next station, where she guided students through the making of a paper



INSIDE THE LINES: LGHS Spanish students color in pictures.



photos A. Evans

EASY PEASY: Zoe Hammer celebrated by making flowers.

"cempazuchitl," common Mexican marigold flowers. These flowers are a key symbol of El Día de los Muertos because they are said to represent the beauty of life in many ofrendas, Mexican altars, for loved ones who have passed. To make one of these paper recreations, students took four pieces of orange tissue paper, folded them into a fan, added a tie in the middle, separated all of the tissue "leaves," and then added a pipe cleaner as the stem.

At the second to last station, coloring sheets of calacas, or skulls, were placed out for students to fill in. Here many students came together and collaborated on drawings, producing many unique and colorful skulls.

Finally, Señor Cueto and Señora Johnson commanded the photo station, where students posted up with various props for a great picture opportunity. Some props included sombreros, glass sugar skulls, fans, flowers, and more.

After spending a year of education online, the Spanish Department took the opportunity to ignite camaraderie among peers, while learning about an essential part of Spanish culture. Following the dance to close out the celebration, students took the remaining class time to finish their drawings as a restful close to their exciting day. In comparison to previous celebrations of El Día de los Muertos, it was one for the books.

SF opens neuroscience building

by Sidney Bricker

News Editor

On Thursday, Oct. 23, the University of California San Francisco unveiled its latest project: a 535 million dollar, 282,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art neuroscience building on its Mission Bay campus. The Weill Neurosciences Building will be the country's largest integrated neurology and neuroscience center, serving as a home base for physicians, medical scientists, and researchers to work in tandem towards finding treatments for brain diseases that have previously proven incurable.



courtesy wikimedia commons

GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH: UCSF adds to Mission Bay.

The building will open up many possibilities for neuroscience at the school. According to the University of California San Francisco, "the facility, which was designed to foster connections among scientists and clinicians in neurology, neurosurgery and psychiatry, will serve as a global destination for researchers to develop innovative treatments for intractable brain diseases." It will also be the new center of UCSF's Weill Institute for Neurosciences and the home of the Weill Neurohub, a research collaboration supporting groundbreaking, cross-campus research that launched in 2019 with UC Berkeley and the University of Washington. Neurohub's work centers around accelerating

the development of therapies for neurological disorders such as stroke, epilepsy, and Alzheimer's disease. "It's anchored and focused on bringing together new technology, tools and expertise. As part of that, we are also opening our doors to everyone with good ideas," said Dr. Stephen Hauser, the director of the Weill Institute for Neurosciences. According to UCSF Health, the building boasts a number of cutting-edge accommodations for patients including "convenient access to doctor visits, imaging and lab tests, infusion services, a compounding pharmacy, a new diagnostic clinic, and an integrated team of doctors, nurses, neuropsychologists, physical therapists and social workers, all focused on neurological health."

The building would not be possible without its benefactors and namesakes. "I felt very strongly that we include psychiatry under neurological diseases and take the stigma off it," said Joan Weill, whose family foundation donated a sum of 185 million dollars towards UCSF's construction of the building in 2016. The family's donation is one of the most significant contributions to neuroscience research ever made in the US. Three years later, the foundation donated an additional 106 million dollars to aid in the launch of the Weill Neurohub.

(Sources: DPR Construction, SF Chronicle, UCSF Health, UCSF)



courtesy Pixabay

BRAINIACS: Students will perform brain surgery in Weill

Vandals cover LGHS in racist and homophobic graffiti

by Macy Dennon

Sports Editor

Three groups of unidentified individuals vandalized Los Gatos High School and Fisher Middle School on Oct. 3 and 31, respectively, sparking community members to call for a change in the town's culture.

On Sunday, Oct. 31, groups vandalized campus in multiple ways. The first spray painted homophobic and racist slurs across the campus, with some messages targeting specific teachers. In a school-wide email announcement, **Principal Kevin Buchanan** stated, "This is a sinister element on our campus that none of us should ignore, and it will take the courage of a few to step up and say 'enough is enough' and join us in the fight against intolerance and prejudice."

Wearing hoodies and masks to obscure their identities, the second group caused significant damage to the school when they egged most of the buildings on campus while filming the endeavor. The third group smashed a student-grown prize-winning pumpkin that administration had displayed at the High School Court entrance of the school for several weeks. The custodial team spent much of the following day painting over the graffiti, scraping the dried

egg off classroom windows and sides of the buildings, and cleaning pumpkin pieces off walls and floors.

Principal Buchanan urges students to speak up about the incidents, suggesting that to prevent any other vandalism at our school, the student body must hold those who are responsible accountable. The Office of the Superintendent posted a message about the incident last Tuesday, Nov 2, that reads:



NOT A TEAM PLAYER: Hateful messages covered LGHS.

"This incident appears to be the latest in a string of similar incidents in the Los Gatos and surrounding community over the last few weeks involving hate-filled racist, homophobic, misogynistic, and anti-semitic graffiti that targeted private businesses, the Jewish Community Center, Fisher Middle School, and even the home of an LGHS staff member." The message goes on to say that the district's schools will not tolerate any vandalism and that it is "more important that we continue our efforts to better educate our young people to try to prevent the development of the hateful beliefs that underlie this kind of behavior."

Los Gatos High is not the only school in town to experience vandalism. Fisher Middle School was tagged with hateful red and black spray paint graffiti on Oct. 4. In response, the custodial team at Fisher worked overnight to cover the spray paint before school started the next day, ensuring that no students had the opportunity to see the damage. Principal Lonhart remarked, "the graffiti and damage were all over the school." When asked about the staff reactions, she said, "due to the quick thinking of our assistant principal Claire Vickers and registrar Kelly Burns, no students had to see the offensive damage."



BUCKET DIPPING: Custodians came early to clean up the graffiti.

The Los Gatos Police Department is working with the school's administrative team to address the incident.

El Gato formally condemns the acts of vandalism against both campuses. If you have information about either of these incidents, please submit a message at wetip.com/submit-a-tip/ or email kbuchanan@lgsuhsd.org.

UP hosts Tutorial in Wellness

by Kate Gruetter

Culture Editor

On Oct. 21, LGHS peer-to-peer group Unconditionally Positive (UP) held its first Tutorial in Wellness. Hosted one Thursday a month during Tutorial in room L5, the Wellness Center, UP designs various exercises to help students de-stress and find mindfulness. In the future, UP plans to host craft sessions, zumba, and therapeutic puppies.

The group's search for a solution to the constant stress and pressure much of the student body faces inspired these activities. To avoid taking up too



COMFY AND COZY: Students relax during the Wellness Tutorial.

much of students' valuable Tutorial time, the sessions will occur only once a month and act as a reliable source of stress relief. Open to students, teachers, and staffers, Tutorial in Wellness is inclusive, responsibility-free, and aims at positivity on campus. During events, the Wellness Center also remains open and available to non-participating students looking for a safe and comfortable space.

Sophomores **Kate Gruetter**, **Kennedy Bahr**, and junior **Maily Isaacs**, with help from group advisor **Marianna Cozzella**, organized Tutorial in Wellnesses, and they are open to suggestions about future events. Bahr reiterated the goals of the club and these tutorials, stating, "Tutorials in Wellness are a great place for students to forget about all the stresses of life." The UPster continued, noting that it's important for students to "take some time out of their day for themselves."

The first Tutorial in Wellness, hosted on Oct. 21 was highly successful, with LGHS teacher **Matthew**

Holm leading students in a three-stage meditation practice. The exercise began with a simple silent and calming meditation, and slowly transitioned into more complex meditative strategies. The second activity included picturing and describing the details of a circle larger than yourself. The third, which seemed to be the most popular among participants, involved focusing on a singular raisin, including its grooves, taste, and smell. The session lasted for less than 30 minutes, and students reported that it helped to calm them.

The most recent Tutorial was on Nov. 4 and featured an origami project. UP provided paper, instructions, and everything else needed to create fun and creative Thanksgiving-inspired origami. Those who attended made a variety of paper figures, including hearts, foxes, cranes, and even rabbits. Not only were students calmed, but they were also given the opportunity to make cute origami to put around the Wellness Center or take home. The activity allowed students across grade levels to connect, with both freshmen and seniors participating.

The final Tutorial in Wellness of this semester is set for Dec. 2 and will provide attendees with the opportunity to create holiday cards for loved ones. UP will distribute paper and art supplies in the Wellness Center; all students need to bring are themselves. This Tutorial is a great opportunity to catch up on holiday gratitude and uproot anxiety about upcoming finals. Peer-to-peer plans to continue Tutorials in Wellness throughout the second semester.



GETTING CRAFTY: The students held activities like origami.

Teachers rally together

by Sophie Sullivan and Bridie Beamish

Editor-in-Chief and Media Production Editor

Teachers across the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District (LGSUHS) rallied together on Oct. 26 to express their interests in the district's funding. The rally, which occurred before school from 7:55 AM to 8:15 AM, showcased unity with 90 participating teachers — 50 at Los Gatos, and 40 at Saratoga High School.

Last year, the board decided to steadily increase reserves — money set aside in case of fiscal emergencies — over coming years. However, the District Teachers' Association (DTA) expressed their call for reform of the district's funding, declaring that the Trustees should direct less money into the reserves and more towards aiding current staff and students.

Bargaining team member **Kim Burlinson** stated in an interview that "[the Teacher's Union] wants [the district] to kind of say, let's spend that [reserve funding] on making sure that our kids who are here right now have the best that we can offer them in terms of teachers, that we remain competitive, and that we can also recruit and retain these teachers so that they don't move to better-paying districts."

Currently, LGSUHS ranks 10th among nearby school districts in base pay, and 10th for new teacher salaries in the county. DTA members note this as their main discrepancy — low pay forces qualified teachers to move, as they cannot stay, given the cost of living in Santa Clara County. Consequently, fewer high-quality teachers accept positions at Los Gatos and Saratoga. Burlinson further clarified that "it's not an us versus them kind of thing. We're trying to align our interests and come out with what we think is the best for teachers, but sometimes that looks a little different."

Teachers also aired concerns over a lack of recent pay raises. Burlinson commented that the district ranks fourth in terms of overall salary — a different package than base pay — something that "the district is definitely aware of." The standing salary schedule, available on the district's website,



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: Teachers lined the front lawn.

displays teachers' pay based on class, or level of education, and years worked in the district. As part of negotiations, she participates in interest-based bargaining, wherein she works out "how to best serve the interests of [the teachers and the district]."

Burlinson also noted that members of DTA formed the rally not only to express their interests, but also to strengthen the staff's unity after the deleterious effects of COVID, stating, "It was more about being together and having that show of solidarity, because anytime that you're united in a cause you have more power... so part of it was, you know, being out there being visible being together, smiling...but at the same time saying like we have a concern. And...it would be lovely to have some community support."

DTA Vice President **Jennifer Young** added to Burlinson's comments via email, emphasizing the teachers' intentions as a "rally, not a protest."

"We are trying to positively rally to show solidarity for all of our teachers," she stated. "We are asking the district and the board to spend today's dollars on today's students rather than put so much of our money in reserves."

Participating staff members on both campuses held their second morning rally last Wed., Nov. 10.

(Source: LGSUHS)

Staff members help apprehend suspect of hate crime

by Esha Bagora

Humor Editor

On Oct. 5, a racially-motivated crime took place outside of Los Gatos Meats. A 62-year-old White man, Richard Hanford, punched an Asian woman twice in the face after making racist comments to



QUICK THINKING: A teacher detained the suspect until police arrived.

her. Two of Los Gatos High's staff members, **Heath Clark** and **Ken Perrotti**, arrived at the aftermath of the scene. Initially headed downtown for lunch, the two teachers witnessed Hanford shouting at an Asian woman who was struggling to control a dog.

At first, it appeared that the intense argument between the two was the result of the man being angry with the dog. Clark stated that Hanford ran away from the scene when authorities arrived; Perrotti followed Hanford in his car. After consulting with bystanders recording the incident, Clark found that Hanford had punched the woman in her face twice after making racist and anti-Asian comments to her. While Clark tried to settle the victim, Perrotti tracked Hanford around Los Gatos Meats to a nearby stop sign, where Hanford attempted to change clothes to escape the situation. Clark caught up with Hanford after calling the police and waited with him until police arrived. Law enforcement then took Hanford to county jail; according to the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department (LGMSPD), Hanford was later released on bail. He now awaits an upcoming court date as he faces both Battery and Hate Crime charges. If convicted, Hanford can face jail time.



CLOSE TO HOME: The incident occurred outside Los Gatos Meats.

Clark said, "It was just super sad to see this poor woman keep on saying 'I'm American too,' 'I'm American too.' It was really messed up." When asked about LGMSPD's thoughts on the incident, as well as the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes in the past year, Police Captain Clinton Tada said, "There is no place or excuse for hate-motivated conduct, and our Police

Department is committed to fully investigate these incidents and hold individuals who commit hate crimes accountable for their intolerable actions."

Clark commented on the actions of others at the scene, "Often, I tell my classes and I'm very candid with them...people should interrupt in whatever way they can. And so if pulling out a camera is the best that you can do, it's the best that you can do." Video footage, voice recordings, and photographs are essential in documenting and bringing justice to the victims of these hate crimes.

False COVID-19 theories and widespread anti-Asian rhetoric over the past year have led to a swell in anti-Asian sentiments globally. In the last year, nationwide cases involving the physical assault on Asian Americans have increased by 11.1 percent, and the total number of Asian American hate crimes has increased by 73 percent, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Hanford is scheduled to appear before the court on November 16, according to the Santa Clara County district attorney. If you witnessed or have video footage of this event, please contact the LGMSPD at losgatosca.gov/602.

(Sources: LGMSPD, NBC Bay Area, ASIS International)

- Facebook rebrands itself as Meta
- Failed lethal injections raise concerns

Facebook CEO announces brand new name: Meta

by Nathan Chen

Graphics Editor

On Oct. 28, CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced Facebook's new umbrella brand name, Meta, during Connect 21, Facebook's VR conference. Meta's official website states that it "brings together our apps and technologies under one new company brand." The statement goes on to say, "Meta's focus will be to bring the metaverse to life and help people connect, find communities, and grow businesses." This new brand includes the existing companies of Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, Whatsapp, and Oculus. Meta intends to be first in line to explore and dominate the metaverse as Facebook's dominance among the social media companies has fallen.

Facebook, launched in 2004, had a relatively monopolistic position as a social media platform, acquiring its competitors — most notably Instagram. As Facebook has aged, it has become a place for partisan viewpoints, misinformation, and the brunt of jokes targeting old people. Its reputation has also declined significantly due to the debate over user privacy, the negative press from the congressional testimony, and the recent leak of hundreds of internal documents questioning Facebook's purported marketing efforts.

In an interview with The Verge's Alex Heath, Zuckerberg reassured viewers that the name change is not due to the troubling allegations the company faces. However, Zuckerberg admitted that having a clean reputation will help Meta achieve its goals, saying, "I think it's helpful for people to have a relationship with a company that is different from the relationship with any specific one of the products, that can kind of supersede all of that."

Zuckerberg has already put lots of effort into developing the virtual world. Acquiring Oculus for 2.3 billion dollars in 2014, Facebook now has 10,000 employees in its Reality Labs division working on projects and plans to spend 10 billion dollars on metaverse investments, including hiring 10,000 more employees. In October 2021 alone, Facebook acquired two companies, one focused on AI and the other concentrated on VR.

Meta has big plans for its new product, Horizon, the software that will hold the platform. Heath describes it as "Minecraft meets Roblox with an application for work collaboration as well." Zuckerberg believes that the metaverse is the future of the internet and that the NFT market (ownership of original digital files) will play a large role in the virtual space.

Meta will have new hardware too, something Facebook is limited by. Project Cambria, planned for release next year, is a new virtual reality

headset that specializes in mixed reality, displaying information over a camera feed of the outside world. Stepping into the augmented reality world, Meta announced a pair of AR glasses codenamed Project Nazare, which will look like a normal pair of glasses but display information personally. Although Meta did not release any specific details, leaks have already spread across the internet.

Facebook's renaming demonstrates a pivot in the company's approach. Only time will tell whether Meta and Zuckerberg's efforts are worthwhile.

(Sources: Meta, New York Times, TechCrunch, VentureBeat, The Verge)



THE METAVERSE: Zuckerberg has big plans for his newly minted company.

Baldwin kills a crewmember

by Emmy Morley

Media Production Editor

On the set of a western film outside Santa Fe, New Mexico, Alec Baldwin accidentally shot and killed rising cinematography star, Halyna Hutchins.

Hutchins, a Ukrainian filmmaker and graduate of the American Film Institute conservatory, was establishing herself in the film industry as a talented cinematographer. Hutchins had joined the crew of "Rust," an upcoming western starring Alec Baldwin.

On Oct. 21, an assistant director handed Baldwin what he thought was a "cold gun" for filming — meaning a gun loaded with blanks — and prepared for the camera shot. Baldwin subsequently fired a single round, hitting "Rust" director, Joel Souza, in the shoulder and Hutchins in the chest. The chief electrician caught Hutchins as the set medic came to aid the injured crew. Souza and Hutchins were rushed to the hospital, where Souza later recovered. Hutchins was mortally wounded by the round.

The incident, closely following recent International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees crew strikes requesting better working conditions, called into question the safety precautions taken on the set of "Rust."

Crew members reported feeling unsafe during filming and preparation, stating that it seemed like production was more concerned about keeping costs down than the safety of the people on set. Employees recalled rushed shots, a disregard for firearm safety, and saving money and time as the top priority. A utility technician, Jonas Huerta, stated, the assistant director "often rushes to shoot. I've had more than a few occasions where I have been close to the weapons being fired with no regards to my hearing. Sometimes he rushes so quickly that props [department] hasn't even had the chance to bring earplugs and he rolls and the actors fire anyway."

The production's guns and other weapons were overseen by head armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed. At the age of 24, "Rust" was only Gutierrez-Reed's second production as head armorer. Gutierrez-Reed's lawyers are now suggesting Halyna's death was "sabotage" in Gutierrez-Reed's defense.

Lane Lupter, the production's camera first assistant, remarked on the producer's attitude toward safety and money, saying "It always felt like the budget was more important than crew members... Everything was about the schedule and the budget."



ACCIDENTAL DISASTER: Baldwin shoots a cinematographer.

"Rust" is widely considered to be a low budget film with about seven million dollars, spearheaded by Alec Baldwin who is both starring in and producing the project.

Hutchins is remembered as energetic and passionate about her work. Cinematographer and friend of Hutchins, Andriy Semenyuk, said about his late companion, "I think the big deal about her in general, beyond being extremely talented — which is a given — is just her generous and really open personality."

(Sources: New York Times, New York Post, Associated Press, Los Angeles Times)

Biden proposes a new bill

by Matthew Fehr

National/World Editor

President Biden's ambitious Build Back Better framework, which aims to make investments in the social safety net and less traditional forms of infrastructure, is facing large hurdles in Congress. Although the bill has passed the House, it remains in bureaucratic limbo as Biden attempts to balance the demands of Senate holdouts Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema with progressives. For the bill to pass, it must be identical in both chambers of Congress.

Originally boasting a hefty price tag of 3.5 trillion dollars, it has been whittled down to 1.75 trillion dollars — exactly half of the original proposal. The price cuts have been made to satisfy Manchin and Sinema, who have both expressed concerns about adding to the budget deficit. The proposal would use a 15 percent minimum tax on corporate profits that large corporations report to shareholders, a 1 percent surcharge on corporate stock buybacks, new taxes on the ultra-wealthy, and stronger IRS enforcement to generate revenue. The White House estimates that the proposed bill would raise almost two trillion dollars.

The most recent proposal includes 555 billion dollars to fight climate change, 400 billion dollars for child care and universal preschool, the addition of hearing to Medicare coverage, an expansion of Medicaid, an extension of the child tax credit through 2022, and 150 billion dollars for new affordable housing and financial assistance. Democrats have also attempted to include an additional 100 billion to address immigration, but the Senate parliamentarian has struck down that provision.

Earlier versions of the bill included two free years of community college, provisions for lowering prescription drug prices, and Medicare

coverage for dental and vision, but those items have since been removed. Paid family and medical leave — which had also been cut during negotiations — has recently been restored by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, despite opposition from Manchin.

To insulate the bill from a Republican filibuster, Democrats are using a process called "budget reconciliation," which requires only 50 votes instead of a 60-vote supermajority. With the Senate evenly divided between the two parties and a Democrat in the White House, Vice President Harris would cast the tie-breaking vote to ensure the bill lands on Biden's desk. Centrists like Manchin and Sinema have opposed this process, however, stressing the need for bipartisan cooperation — a stance which has drawn the ire of progressives and many in the Democratic establishment.

The bipartisan infrastructure bill, which progressives in the House had previously vowed to block until the reconciliation bill was voted on, was passed on Nov. 5 after an agreement was reached with moderate Democrats. That bill includes 550 billion in new federal investments to address more traditional infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and the energy grid.



NEW PROPOSAL: President Biden attempts to pass a bill.

News in Brief: Global warming and immigrant payment

Payments for immigrants: To compensate immigrant families separated at the border by former president Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy in 2018, several groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), have initiated negotiations with the Biden Administration to financially assist the families. During Trump's presidency, "An estimated 3,000 children were taken from their parents by the U.S. government in May and June 2018." For families that filed lawsuits against the Trump Administration, these payments — which total to around 450,000 dollars per person — would act as legal settle-

ments for the affected parties. Open pushback from Republican Senators, such as former California Sen. Steve Gains, impeded petitioners by introducing an amendment to the defense authorization bill that would stop immigrant families from receiving financial assistance. (Source: Washington Post)

- Sarah Gouldrup, People Editor

China's coal crisis: China's daily coal production has reached an annual high following a series of major power outages across the country caused by low coal stockpiles. The energy crisis began as a result of increasingly strict emissions mandates by the government, an expanding post-pandemic demand for electricity, newer and more stringent safety standards, and import restrictions on Australian coal. The country's coal output has surpassed 11.67 million tons a day in recent weeks, with a government target of 12 million tons likely to be met soon. The increase in production comes despite the ongoing 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

(Sources: Bloomberg, CNBC)

- Matthew Fehr, National/World Editor

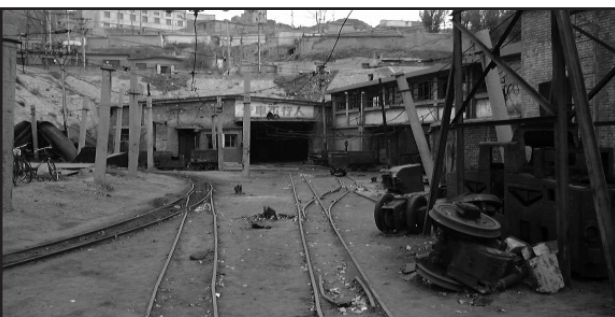
Greenland's melting ice caps: The second largest ice sheet in the world is melting at an alarming rate. Greenland is responsible for a full centimeter in water-level rise over the past decade, a number predicted to snowball into a foot by the end of the century. In a new study, researchers from the

University of Leeds Centre for Polar observation and Modelling in Northern England revealed that the rate of the ice melting has increased 21 percent in the last 40 years. An estimated 356 billion tons of ice are released into the ocean each year. This mass of water could easily be quite detrimental, as it can lead to flooding in many coasts. Unfortunately, Greenland's weather has also been erratic, with the summit experiencing rainfall, rather than snowfall, for the first time in nearly 70 years this summer. (Source: USA Today)

- Elena Rexach, Public Relations Manager



POLAR PROBLEM: Two explorers travel the vast wasteland of melting ice cap.



COAL CRISIS: China's coal mines pose a significant energy crisis worldwide.

Botched lethal injections raise concerns about practice

by Esha Bagora
Humor Editor

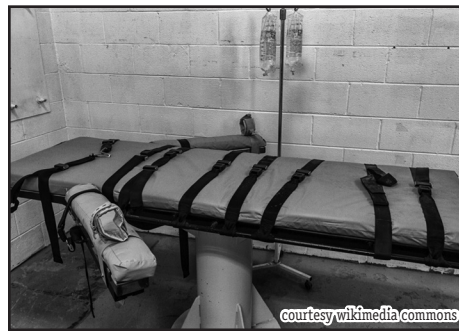
Lethal injection is thought to be the most painless method of execution for those sentenced to death; despite this, Oklahoma has botched three lethal injections, the latest occurring on Oct. 28.

In an execution by lethal injection, paramedics administer three drugs to the inmate. Midazolam, the first injection, acts as a sedative relaxing the inmate's muscles and rendering them unconscious. The second injection — vecuronium bromide, which is commonly used as an anesthetic — paralyzes the inmate. The final drug, potassium chloride, then stops the heart.

Clayton Lockett was the first to suffer from an improper execution in 2014. After a paramedic failed to insert an IV into his arms three times, another doctor failed to insert an IV into his jugular vein and his subclavian veins. Lockett's femoral vein held the IV, after over a dozen pokes. The paramedic noticed that saline would only flow through the IV when she propped up the tube, but taped the IV regardless. Two IVs are needed for lethal injection executions, but due

to the time wasted in trying to stick the previous IV in, the paramedic and doctor decided to proceed with only one.

Midazolam and vecuronium bromide were injected with no problems. But when the third drug, potassium chloride, was administered, Lockett began to writhe in pain and tried to speak while lifting his head off of the table. A swelling full of clear liquid and blood formed next to the IV and he went into cardiac arrest. His autopsy showed



INJECTION TABLE: Inmates are strapped down for execution.

that the vein into which the IV was placed had collapsed, causing the drug mixture to be injected into his tissue instead of his bloodstream.

Clayton Warner, the second botched lethal injection recipient, was originally scheduled for death the same day as Lockett; the errors made in Lockett's execution postponed his sentence to Jan. 15, 2015. Warner's IV administration went smoothly, but there was a chemical error. Medics injected potassium acetate, mislabeled as potassium chloride, a swap state law forbids despite potassium chloride and potassium acetate being medically interchangeable.

Richard Glossip was first scheduled to die on the same day as Warner by lethal injection, but was postponed after the altercations to Sept. 30, 2015. However, two hours before his death, the execution team found the same mistake made in Warner's execution: mislabeled vials and the wrong chemical. The court cancelled his execution indefinitely, and the mishap led to a suspension of death by lethal injection in Oklahoma and multiple federal investigations into Oklahoma's methods of lethal injection. Glossip is 58 years old and still alive today.

The third and most recent lethal injection mishap was on Oct. 28. John Marion Grant's refusal to choose his method of death led the state of Oklahoma to choose for him. They chose to reinstate their three-drug cocktail after the Supreme Court lifted Oklahoma's lethal injection ban. After Midazolam, Grant began to convulse, vomit on the gurney, and then pass out. After being injected with the following two drugs, Grant was pronounced dead. (Sources: The Atlantic, Wikipedia, NPR, NY Times, Tulsa World)



CRUEL AND UNUSUAL: Grant died two hours after injection.

FDA approves booster shots for those age 65 or older

by Angela Sheu
People Editor

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended its previous emergency use authorization for approved COVID-19 vaccines on Oct. 20 to expand the administration of booster doses.

Individuals aged 65 years or older who received the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine can now receive a booster shot six months or more after completing their initial vaccine doses. Other recipients aged 18 to 64 identified as high-risk, including those with underlying medical conditions or frequent exposure to

COVID-19, are also eligible for booster doses. The FDA further recommended adults who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which has displayed lower long-term efficacy compared to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, two or more months ago also get booster shots.

Eligible individuals can choose any of the three authorized vaccines — Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson — to receive as a booster dose. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) recommendations allow for heterologous or "mix and match" dosing for booster shots, meaning they do not have to match the initial vaccination. Individuals can also receive these vaccines at the same time as other vaccines, such as shingles or flu shots.

COVID-19 booster shots have the same formulation as current COVID-19 vaccines, except for the Moderna COVID-19 booster shot, which is half the dosage of its initial vaccine. Acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock stated, "science has shown that vaccination continues to be the safest and most effective way to prevent COVID-19, including the most serious consequences of the disease, such as hospitalization and death." The CDC's vaccine effectiveness studies displayed a 90 percent reduction of infection or severe illness due to COVID-19 in both clinical trials and real-world settings. All FDA-authorized vaccines protect against Delta and other COVID-19 vaccines; however, the CDC states that vaccination is less effective at preventing infection and milder illness over time. Clinical trials show that all booster shots increase the immune response against COVID-19.

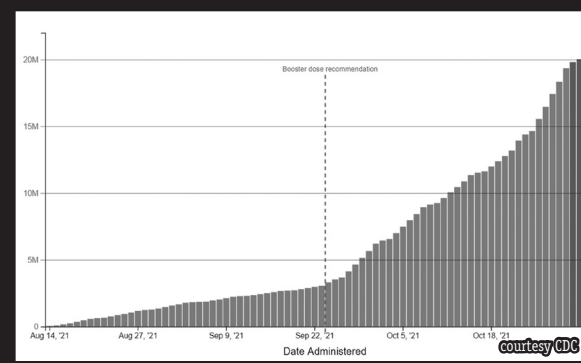
U.S. regulators first authorized COVID-19 booster shots on Aug. 13 for immunocompromised individuals. On Oct. 14, the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) unanimously

voted to expand authorization of booster shots in response to positive data and information regarding the vaccines. As of November 2021, more than 20 million Americans have received a booster dose.

The Center for Disease Control stressed that the availability of booster shots "should not distract from the critical work of ensuring that unvaccinated people take the first step and get an initial COVID-19 vaccine." 21.7 percent of Americans 12 years of age or older have not received at least one COVID-19 vaccination, according to the CDC. (Sources: CDC, FDA, Reuters)



EXPANDING ACCESS: Booster vaccines are now approved for individuals 65+.



UPWARD TREND: Booster shot administration is on the rise in the U.S.

Great Resignation signals rising employee dissatisfaction

by Ella Marruffo
National/World Editor

The pandemic has significantly changed the way people do their jobs. Remote work is on the rise as more and more people decide going into the office every day is just not worth it. In fact, more people now than ever before have decided that their current job is not worth the time, effort, or sacrifice. This idea, coined the "Great Resignation" by Texas A&M professor Anthony Klotz, encapsulates the recent notion of exhaustion and discontent in the American work environment.

According to CNBC, a record 4.3 million people left their jobs this past August. Tiffany Chen, interviewed by BuzzFeed News, was one of those people who felt like they could reach bigger and better things through a new job. Ever since she was young she has dreamed of being a clothing designer; she studied fashion design as an undergraduate in New York to pursue her passion and spent time carefully planning out her path to fame. However, after over 10 years in the industry, Chen claimed her work became unsustainable and ethically questionable. She became disillusioned and dissatisfied with the way the company operated in terms of environmental friendliness, so she quit



SCHOOLING EMPLOYERS: Teachers protest for better wages.

this past May. Millions of other Americans feel this way, and employers are experiencing the effects of this change in mindset.

All kinds of people from different walks of life are experimenting with the Great Resignation, but one especially affected profession is teaching. One 29-year-old teacher, Lanee Higgins, felt over-

whelmed with the juggling act of balancing quarantine, her classroom, and her rambunctious toddler on a daily basis. However, The Washington Post reports that "[Higgins'] never-ending cycle of stress arose long before the pandemic." She faced several hardships over the span of her career, including having to report a middle-schooler to child protective services and watching as police officers physically restrained a student. As quarantine persisted and Higgins' work life collided with her home life, she admitted that she "was suicidal." This decline of her mental health was also a large factor in Higgins' decision to resign from her job in May of 2021.

Despite the amount of talk surrounding the Great Resignation, the CEOs of Microsoft and LinkedIn claim that we are not in the middle of the Great Resignation, but rather the "Great Reshuffle." Microsoft's CEO, Satya Nadella said, "People are talking about when, where, and how they work, but also why they work. They really want to recontract ... the real meaning of work and [ask] themselves the question of which company they want to work for and what job function or profession they want to pursue." Nadella argues that people are not just quitting their jobs left and right, but following their passions and searching for jobs that

they are better suited for. Similarly, LinkedIn's CEO Ryan Roslansky recognized an "unprecedented talent reshuffle happening globally." Regardless of the true cause, the frustrations and feelings of wasted potential among millions of people is felt even without a label like the Great Resignation or Reshuffle. (Sources: Washington Post, BuzzFeed News, CNBC, NPR, Inc.)



WORKERS NEEDED: Quitting employees leave job vacancies.

News in Brief: Astroworld tragedy and Queen hospitalized

Deadly tragedy occurs during Astroworld: Eight people died at Travis Scott's annual Astroworld Music Festival in Houston on Nov. 5. A crowd of over 50,000 attendees, including hundreds more who broke down fences to gain entrance earlier in the day, rushed Scott's Friday evening performance and quickly overwhelmed law enforcement and medics. Additional concertgoers suffered cardiac arrests; personnel eventually evacuated dozens to local hospitals. Video footage shows attendees pleading with facilitators to stop the show, but participants allege Scott and the camera crew

ignored requests and incited continuous surges. A number of victims have already filed lawsuits against Scott and Astroworld organizers. (Sources: Reuters, Twitter)

- by Sophie Sullivan, Editor-in-Chief

Increase in needle spiking: After a recent increase in reports of spiking by needle, many English nightclubs and universities are upping their security measures. Reports of drink spiking have been making headlines in the UK for years, but recently, a growing number of young women and some young men are reportedly being targeted

by needle spiking. Nottinghamshire resident Lizzie Wilson reported to the New York Times that one night at a club, she "felt a sharp pinch in her back... 10 minutes later, she was struggling to stand." After receiving a "concerning number of new reports in the last few months," the National Police Chiefs Council said authorities are on alert. (Sources: NBC, BBC, Independent, NY Times)

- by Lucy Holland, Editor-in-Chief

Queen Elizabeth Hospitalized: Queen Elizabeth II stayed overnight at King Edward VII's Hospital on Oct. 20 for, according to royal officials, "practi-

cal reasons." Officials also confirmed she did not contract COVID-19, and that her stay was no cause for "alarm." The Queen has not stayed overnight in the hospital since 2013 when she was admitted for experiencing symptoms of gastroenteritis. Following her recent hospital discharge, Buckingham Palace released a statement on Oct. 21, announcing, "the Queen attended hospital on Wednesday afternoon for some preliminary investigations, returning to Windsor Castle at lunchtime today, and remains in good spirits." (Sources: BBC, The Washington Post)

- by Marissa Hein, Graphics Editor

- Climate summit takes place in the U.K.
- COVID-19 back on the rise as winter nears

Coronavirus cases surge around Europe and America

by Macy Dennon
Sports Editor

Recent coronavirus reports show a significant surge in the last month in several countries across the globe, including Russia, the United Kingdom, and Australia. In Russia, COVID-19 cases and deaths are at an all-time high, and the government is upping and extending COVID restrictions to match.

Russian President Vladimir Putin mandated a nationwide paid non-working period from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, which he has now expanded to however long the government deems necessary. Some citizens are using this paid leave to take a vacation, which does not help with the spread of the virus. The stay-at-home order remains in effect for adults, and some businesses still require their employees to work from home. Only essential shops, like pharmacies and supermarkets, are allowed to stay open. Particular entertainment

opportunities, like theatres and museums, are not available to those who are not fully vaccinated or have had a positive COVID test in the last six months. This recent surge in COVID cases is partly due to the fact that 65 percent of Russians are not vaccinated.

Coronavirus infection rates in England reached a record high of 1 in 50 people since late of June. Despite the high number of cases, the government says they are not planning another lockdown. The country does have a Plan B in case of a significant outbreak that is worse than the current rise in numbers. This Plan B includes introducing of vaccine passports (digital vaccination documents that prove vaccination records), making face-covering compulsory in some settings, encouraging people to work from home, and communicating the need for caution. The triggering of this Plan B will likely only be informed by an increase in hospitalizations and rapid changes in case numbers.



HEADS UP: A worker checks a patients temperature in a hospital.

Until Oct. 22, Australia's Melbourne was under the "World's longest COVID-19 lockdown," as CNN called it. Though they still have restrictions in place, the long-awaited release

from the stay-at-home order in March 2020, 262 days ago, is finally here. Masks will still be mandatory inside and outside, but places like pubs and hair salons are open again to the public. At the beginning of August, Sydney went on lockdown due to the Delta variant. In Victoria, the 6.7 million citizens can leave their homes, but need to show proof of vaccination to enter public venues, while students are back for in-person school around the nation. In Australia, 79.1 percent of the 16 and up population is fully vaccinated.

The worldwide coronavirus cases graph is starting to undulate in the waves of cases. Currently, the majority of the world, Europe especially, is on an upward spike in COVID-19 cases. Although, countries still have hope for the future because as cases go up, so does the vaccination percentage. (Sources: ABC News, BBC News, Health.gov, CNN)

UK tries to end tobacco use

by Senji Torrey
Public Relations Manager

In late October, the English National Health Service (NHS) proposed prescribing electronic cigarettes to cigarette smokers in an effort to decrease tobacco use. If passed by Parliament, England would become the first nation to classify prescription electronic cigarettes as a licensed medical product.

An electronic cigarette, or e-cig, can take many forms, including vape pens, pod-based devices, and many other electronics that do not incorporate tobacco into the product. Rather, the vapor that is inhaled contains nicotine, a substance that the NHS describes as "relatively harmless" when compared to "the thousands of other chemicals in tobacco smoke, many of which are toxic."

The most recent data on cigarette use in England shows that one in every five individuals between the ages of 25 and 34 smoke tobacco. A number of smokers already have the desire to quit, even without knowledge about e-cigarettes. In the same study, around 60 percent of the surveyed smokers stated that they intend to quit; out of this group, about 20 percent plan to quit within three months of the survey date.

Perhaps more importantly, e-cigs have already shown to have decreased the amount of tobacco use in the country. Of the three million vapor smokers, one million are reported to be in a transitional phase — smoking both nicotine and tobacco — while more than 1.5 million have terminated their tobacco use entirely through their use of nicotine-based devices. Even more impressive is the 1.3 million English residents who have stopped using both e-cigs and regular cigarettes altogether.

Due to the progress English folk have made without the benefit of medical institutions, the NHS' endeavor to make e-cigs — an already hot commodity throughout the country — a prescription product would streamline the process of ending tobacco addiction.

E-cigarette manufacturers are now able to go to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, where their products will undergo the same vetting and regulations as any other medical prescriptions. The UK's most popular vapor smoke brands are Vuse, Juul, and Blu.

Vuse, previously named Vype, already has pods that act as a midway between tobacco and nicotine with their "Blended Tobacco" flavor. Somewhat ironically, while research shows that Vuse's vape pens are quite effective at easing people off of tobacco, according to a survey of users of the product, the "Blended Tobacco" flavor leaves a bit to be desired.

One substantial perk of Vuse's products is the price; their cheapest model, the Alto, sells for 0.99 dollars. This low pricing means that prescription e-cigs will be affordable for anyone who needs it. According to a June 2021 study conducted by Action on Smoking and Health, 8.1 percent of England's lowest three classes use vapor smoking devices, while only 6.3 percent of England's highest three classes use them. There consequently will be a strong push for affordability if prescription e-cigs are approved by Parliament for medicinal purposes.

(Sources: CNN, NHS, ASH, UKHSA)



PRESCRIBED USAGE: Civilian inhales an electric cigarette.

Afghans distribute vaccine

by Angela Sheu
People Editor

The World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) declared a four-day polio inoculation campaign by the Taliban-run public health ministry in Afghanistan. The nationwide program, which began Nov. 7, aimed to distribute the polio vaccine to 10 million children under five years old throughout the country of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has struggled with polio vaccination since the vaccine's creation. Before taking control of Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban prohibited door-to-door campaigns in regions under their control (by vaccination teams organized by the United Nations) leading to no campaigns with nationwide reach in more than three years. In addition to the ban, vaccinators also faced inaccessible terrain, suspicion of outside interference, and ongoing violence, leading to 3.3 million unvaccinated children since 2018. Afghanistan and the neighboring Pakistan are the only countries in the world where polio is still endemic.

Poliovirus is very contagious, spreading through contact between people. It is primarily transmitted through sewers but also an infected person's sneezes and coughs. Without treatment, polio can cause meningitis and paralysis, leading to disability and death. Dr. Qalandar Ebad, the Taliban's acting public health minister told the Associated Press, "Without any doubt polio is a disease that without treatment will either kill our children or cause them with permanent disability, so in this case the only way is to implement the vaccination."

UNICEF recorded only one reported case of wild poliovirus in Afghanistan in 2021, signalling "an extraordinary opportunity to eradicate polio." The campaign prevents "any significant resurgence of polio within the country" and limits "the risk of cross-border and international transmission."

During the campaign, health workers administered the polio vaccine, which is given orally and in multiple doses, as well as a supplementary dose of vitamin A. A representative stated that Taliban leadership "expressed their commitment for the inclusion of female frontline workers and for providing security and assuring the safety of all health workers across the country." Officials expected tens of thousands of women to work in the vaccination effort to manage, supervise, and perform the delivery of vaccines.

A representative of the WHO stated the combined efforts of Taliban leadership, UNICEF, and the WHO demonstrates "a joint commitment to maintain the health system and restart essential immunizations to avert further outbreaks of preventable diseases." All parties have agreed to a second campaign in December, in synchronization with a campaign in Pakistan, as well as future measles and COVID-19 campaigns. Officials have scheduled half a dozen other vaccination programs beginning next year. (Sources: AP, UNICEF, NY Times, CDC)



GET VAXXED: A young child gets vaccinated in Afghanistan.

United Nations 26th climate conference held in Glasgow

by Isla Patrick
News Editor

The UK hosted the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, from Oct. 31 to Nov. 12. World leaders, government representatives, negotiators, and citizens arrived in the city to attend 12 days of discussion on how to slow the impact of climate change and form a global plan to meet net-zero emissions by the middle of this century.

This year's COP was unlike any before it. To achieve their goals, Glasgow looked back to 2015, where the Paris Agreement emerged from France's COP21. At this conference, every country present agreed to limit the increase in global temperatures to two degrees celsius, although most made a goal of reducing climate change to only 1.5 degrees. Under the terms of the agreement, leaders revealed their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) — their projected emission reductions. World leaders determined that they would revisit their NDCs every five years, meaning COP26 is the first conference where countries will present new estimations for their emissions. According to the summit's organizers, "as momentous as Paris was, countries must go much further... COP26 needs to be decisive."

On the conference's Finance Day, where attendees discussed the funding needed to reduce emissions, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero revealed that the 130 trillion dollar contributions of 450 global business firms would allow countries to meet the terms set in the Paris Agreement. Mark Carney, the UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance, stated, "up until today there was not enough money in the world to fund the transition. The 130 trillion dollars is more than is needed for the net-zero transition globally."



LISTEN UP: Boris Johnson speaks to the countries attending.

Glasgow encouraged countries to halt their emissions by gradually phasing out coal usage, ending deforestation, switching to electric vehicles, and investing in renewable forms of energy. However, reducing emissions can only succeed in slowing down climate change, not permanently reversing it. To combat inevitable damage due to warming temperatures, the COP26 aimed to hold developed countries responsible by requiring them to contribute 100 billion dollars in climate finance per year. Leaders intend to put this funding towards the restoration and protection of existing ecosystems.

To further increase incentives, Britain released a statement describing their national economic growth in relation to steadily decreasing emission levels, claiming, "between 1990 and 2019... our economy grew by 78 percent and our emissions decreased by 44 percent." Additionally, the conference's host country boasts its status as the largest producer of wind energy in the world and the first major economy to ensure net-zero emissions by 2050. In preparation for COP, Britain promised to end government support of overseas fossil fuel industries contribute 11.6 billion pounds yearly to developing nations' climate efforts, remove petrol and diesel cars from the roads by 2030.

The US, the world's second-largest emitter, ensured a 50 percent cut in emissions by 2030, but did not pledge any new policies to aid in the transition to net-zero. To meet the terms of the Paris Agreement, Congress must pass new legislation to set the country on the path to sufficient emission reductions.

(Sources: Climate Action Tracker, NY Times, UKCOP26, UN.org)



CHANGE NEEDED: Fernández speaks on climate change.

EDITORIAL

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- Students must take better care of the LGHS campus

LGHS students should manage the campus respectfully

by Alia Arafah and Brynn Gibson
Opinion Editor and News Editor

Following the return to school after over a year of online classes, students and staff alike have begun to notice an increase in students mistreating the LGHS campus and disrespecting the work of LGHS's custodial staff. While most do their part to keep both the inside and outside of the campus clean, those who fall short in their responsibility to clean up after themselves cause an unnecessarily large amount of work for the maintenance staff and create an uncomfortable environment for their peers. LGHS students need to clean up after themselves, treat facilities with respect, and understand how their actions negatively affect others.

Most littering and vandalism happens on the front lawn and in school bathrooms. **Kenny Heimer**, a former LGHS student and current custodian, disclosed some of the more outrageous trash he cleans up on a weekly basis: "When I come here on Monday, I find beer cans, beer bottles, broken glass, cigarette butts all over the place, condoms on the ground... [and,] masks all over the place." In addition, Heimer details how he "can tell when kids just got up and walked away" from their trash or empty food containers after lunch. **Khya Hafeez**, a current LGHS senior, echoes this state-

ment, describing how "around campus...you see so much litter on the side of the streets and all over the lawn."

Most recently, on Halloween night, juveniles graffitied the school with hateful, homophobic, and racist messages; some of the graffiti even directly targeted LGHS teachers. Another party smashed a giant student-grown pumpkin, while a third group threw eggs at nearly every building on campus. These shocking actions disgusted the community, and those responsible must hold themselves accountable.

The custodial staff has observed increased rates of campus vandalism since the return to school. "It's worse this year, definitely," Heimer expressed. He has never seen such frequent occurrences of vandalism and littering. Some of this disrespectful behavior comes from a simple lack of acknowledgement for the LGHS staff, and highlights a greater disconnect between students and the community. Principal **Kevin Buchanan** voiced his concern over the Halloween vandalism, stating, "It's attack-

ing your own community, so, what's going on that makes them angry towards the administration, the system? I don't really know where it's coming from. That's the problem; that makes it hard to deal with."

On the other hand, students might litter or vandalize school property simply because they do not consider who has to clean up after them. For example, a student may not maliciously forget to throw away their salad container, but they do leave it there thinking someone will just grab it for them.

We must acknowledge and understand that custodians and groundskeepers are people with feelings who are simply trying to do their job. They deserve respect. Taking care of our school ties directly into honoring the humanity and hard work of our custodial staff. Assistant Principal **Kristina Grasty** stated how she thinks "it's really almost a moral and ethical issue that we're facing with young people coming back to school post-COVID and having a disregard for other human beings, whether they're adults or fellow students." Members of the maintenance staff come to work every day and spend hours cleaning up trash that students easily could have thrown away themselves, or scrubbing Sharpie off of bathroom walls that should not be there to begin with.

We are all stewards of this school, and we need to start pulling our own weight.

In the wave of graffiti that covered the school on Halloween, the attacks directed at teachers and LGHS in general were not only offensive and hateful, but also counterintuitive. Whatever grievance you may have with a member of staff or administration, spray-painting your feelings on a school wall is not the way to go about it. No matter how much you dislike them, they are not the ones who

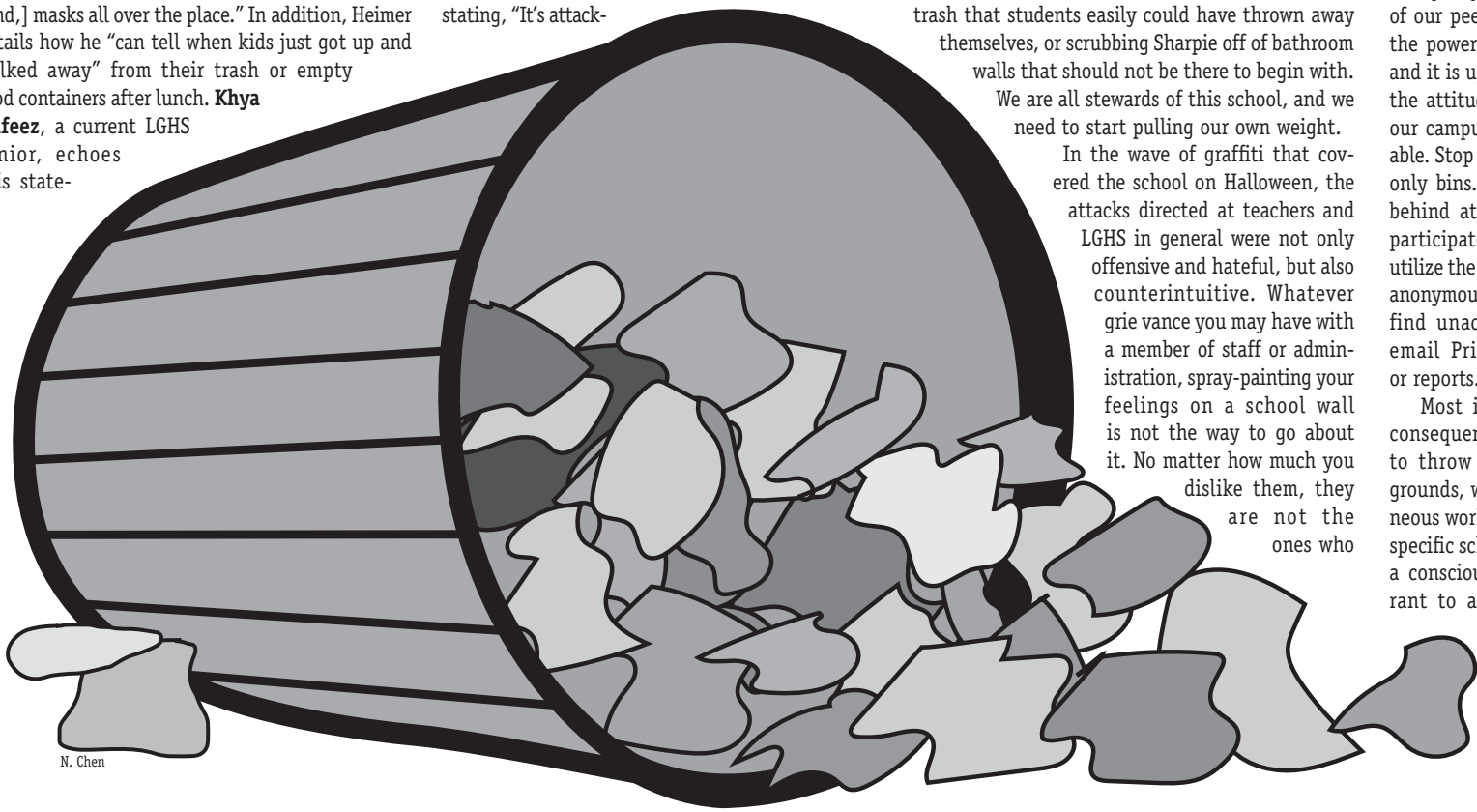
will clean it up. If you have an issue with the school, taking it out on our maintenance staff is unnecessary, cruel, and takes away from your larger point. Offensive and hateful speech is never okay, but it is senseless to include the extremely hardworking maintenance staff in the collateral damage of your poor decision.

Overall, the students who commit vandalism and mistreat the school do not understand how their actions affect others. For example, Hafeez touched on the vandalism leading to a temporary closure of the all-gender restroom: "I do have friends who are gender non-conforming, or they are transgender, and I know that for them, these bathrooms are great because you're not shunned or out of place." When the bathrooms are closed due to defacement, "you're really limiting how safe certain people feel going to the bathroom...even outside of gender, some people get really nervous going to the bathroom in public."

While it's important to understand that those who are mistreating our school do not represent a majority, we are all responsible for the actions of our peers. As the LGHS student body, we wield the power to influence the culture at our school, and it is up to us to enact change. In order to alter the attitudes and behavior of the few who abuse our campus, we need to hold each other accountable. Stop your peers from throwing trash in paper-only bins. Call out your friends for leaving litter behind at lunch. Report those whom you know participated in acts of vandalism. Students can utilize the WeTip line, found on the LGHS website, to anonymously report incidents of campus abuse they find unacceptable; alternatively, students can email Principal Buchanan with any concerns or reports.

Most importantly, we need to consider the consequences of our actions. When we neglect to throw our trash away, or vandalize school grounds, we burden the custodial staff with extraneous work and deny security to those who rely on specific school facilities. Regulating our behavior is a conscious decision, and it is selfish and ignorant to assume your actions affect only you.

We learned empathy in elementary school. We aren't children anymore; this is high school. We shouldn't have problems considering how our actions affect others, and we are perfectly capable of cleaning up after ourselves now.



N. Chen



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16 On-site COVID Testing 2:00 to 4:00 PM	17	18 On-site COVID Testing 8:30 to 10:30 AM	19 Varsity Football v. TBA	20 Girls Varsity Basketball v. Independence
21	22	23 On-site COVID Testing 2:00 to 4:00 PM	24 Thanksgiving Break: No School	25 Thanksgiving Break: No School	26 Thanksgiving Break: No School	27 Varsity Cross Country State Finals Woodward
28 Hanukkah Begins	29	30 On-site COVID Testing 2:00 to 4:00 PM	1 Blood Drive	2 COVID Testing College Info Night 5:00 PM	3 Varsity Football v. TBA	4
5	6 Kindness Week Hanukkah Ends	7 On-site COVID Testing 2:00 to 4:00 PM	8	9 On-site COVID Testing 8:30 to 10:30 AM	10 El Gato December Issue Blood Drive	11
12	13 Final P7	14 Finals P3 and P6	15 Finals P1 and P5	16 Finals P2 and P4	17 Certificated Work Day	18

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

SEND ALL THOUGHTS, COMMENTS, & QUESTIONS TO:  lghselgatochiefs@gmail.com

N. Chen

EL GATO

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- Teams should teach about concussion care
- Arafeh explains issues with van life trend

OPINION

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Educators should begin teaching Critical Race Theory

by Sonali Muthukrishnan
Editor-in-Chief



Many politicians — particularly those who are members of the Republican Party — have advocated against teaching Critical Race Theory (CRT) in schools. They claim that it will make White kids hate themselves and their race, but their argument shows their lack of knowledge regarding CRT. It is essential for educators to teach Americans about CRT

because it is a crucial part of understanding systemic racism.

The theory, coined by philosopher Charles Mills, states a Racial Contract exists along with a social one that rules society. The intention of teaching CRT is for people to understand that racism is systemic and its legacy permeates all parts of American society because we built this country on a Racial Contract that upholds White supremacy. This system automatically puts White people in a privileged position, giving them significantly fewer obstacles to overcome. Whether or not those White people support this Racial Contract — which White people created through agreements made by them to uphold White supremacy — they benefit from it. I want to make it abundantly clear that “White supremacy” in this context refers specifically to the higher position

of White people in the racial hierarchy. An example of this theory lies in modern policing. The agreements among disproportionately White police officers to uphold White supremacy lead to differential treatment by law enforcement based on race. As reported by the NAACP, Black people are five times more likely to be pulled over than a White person.

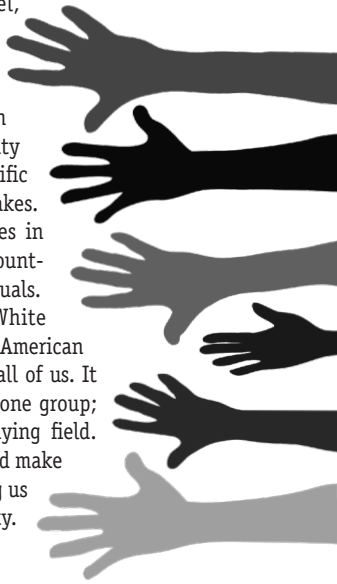
By teaching CRT, educators and political scientists are not trying to make White people hate themselves; instead, they are trying to educate all Americans on the history and legacy of White supremacy in our country. We all must understand our role in perpetuating it in order to dismantle it in the future. Educating Americans on CRT will allow us to change and eventually get rid of the Racial Contract.

The disenfranchisement of BIPOC will not stop until Americans understand how the past affects our current world. The only way for us to stop repeating our history is for us to understand it fully, so that we can dismantle it. CRT might make White people feel bad. However, this shame helps hold us accountable in the future. We should acknowledge the shame that we feel for our history of disenfranchisement instead of repressing it and ignoring it. Just because a part of our history is terrible does not mean that we should ignore it. CRT allows us to understand the systemic issues that significantly and disproportionately hurt BIPOC. In order to

change the racial hierarchy, White Americans must acknowledge that it benefits them; without this understanding, we can make no progress.

While there is shame to feel, there are reasonable solutions to fix the issues that White supremacy has caused. One step to Americans understanding each other and pledging to have equity is not to idolize or protect a specific privileged group from their mistakes. White people have made mistakes in history; we must hold them accountable for society to see us all as equals.

CRT is not a Black versus White issue. Educating ourselves about American history makes society better for all of us. It does not make society worse for one group; it simply puts us on a level playing field. Educating Americans on CRT would make our country more robust, allowing us to function as an equitable society. (Source: NAACP)



People must stop saying “Is anything ok anymore?”

by Emily Duvall
Humor Editor



Recently, I have heard people saying the phrase “is anything okay anymore?” in an annoyed tone after someone calls them out for saying something unacceptable. These remarks include connotations of racism, homophobia, transphobia, cultural appropriation, hate speech, and more. When conversing about things that can be sensitive and disrespectful, that are no longer tolerated because it shouldn’t have been okay in the first place, it is not okay to respond with “is anything okay anymore?”

Often, during a conversation, someone shares why something is problematic, and they call out the other person for using a disrespectful term or disagreeing with their thoughts on a controversial topic. This usually prompts their conversation partner to respond with “is anything okay anymore,” or something to that effect. With the use of that phrase, I hear frustration from those being called out for something



they are used to saying. People tend to react defensively because they feel like they are being attacked — but they are not. Rather, the person calling them out is looking out for them.

Being aware of disrespectful terms helps us all, because we can discuss our ideas respectfully and in a civilized manner. Calling someone out is part of the effort being made to make change that will benefit everyone. Instead of trying to educate yourself on why that word is offensive, this phrase devalues the actual problem and shifts attention to lesser issues. Various forms of this phrase carry the same problematic connotation. It fails to recognize why words, acts of racism, homophobia, transphobia, cultural

appropriation, hate speech, and more, are not okay and should not be tolerated. Each day as a society we are growing and learning to better ourselves and to become more inclusive with as little disrespect as possible.

Additionally, this phrase is not a sufficient response or rebuttal, simply because there are an unlimited number of things that are still okay. Just because we are setting boundaries, does not mean that “nothing is okay.” The phrase reflects poorly on the person using it because it projects the idea that they don’t actually care about making a change.

Saying “is anything okay anymore?” does not take into account the damage that your words have on another person. By having a conversation with someone about something that is not acceptable, a healthy environment is created that permits growth; if you dismiss the issue by saying “is anything okay anymore,” that growth cannot be achieved.

Instead of responding with this phrase, maybe take a step back to decipher why you thought this remark was acceptable to make. It is more beneficial to educate yourself on why things are not okay, rather than try to silence the issues that are important. It’s not that everything is suddenly flipping on its head; rather, we are bettering ourselves as time passes to prevent acts of racism, homophobia, transphobia, cultural appropriation, hate speech, and more. Regardless of how much you know about these discriminatory issues, try to listen and not dismiss other perspectives by using the phrase “is anything okay anymore.”

Teach about head injuries

by Dana Hathaway
Sports Editor



Approximately three months ago, I flew off an inner tube and hit the frigid Lake Washington waters with enough force to rattle my teeth. A trickle of dread ran through me as I felt the aftermath of the blow. My

vision was blurry, audio was oddly emphasized, and a much too familiar cloudy feeling, accompanied by piercing pain, filled my head. This was my fourth official concussion. Months later, I still feel the effects and recognize how easily other kids can end up in the same spot.

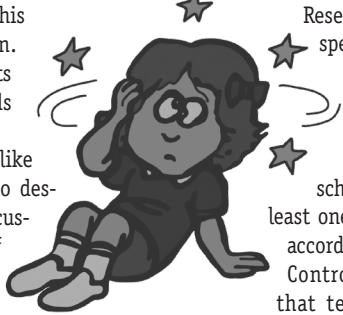
Concussions cannot be treated like a torn ACL or broken arm. With no designated timeline for healing, concussions often cause a multitude of symptoms affecting nearly every aspect of the injured person’s life. Keeping this in mind, students — especially student athletes — and teachers need to have proper concussion education.

While LGHS has some concussion education currently, these lessons must happen sooner in student’s lives. Many club sports teams and middle schools do not have proper instruction in place. Some coaches (from my personal experience playing competitive soccer) dodge evident signs of concussion to allow a student athlete to continue playing, placing the responsibility to pull themselves out of a game or practice directly on the athletes’ shoulders. However, middle school and club teams often provide no concussion education to players — a decision that could have devastating effects on these young athletes. Blows to a brain that is still developing can

impact learning, balance, memory, and cognitive function for years.

As well as educating young athletes, frequent education should be present for high school contact sport athletes. Yearly mandatory concussion education in the form of a simple presentation takes only one day of practice, but it will ensure that athletes on school and club contact sports teams have the knowledge needed to pull themselves out of an activity if necessary.

In addition, teachers at all grade levels need to be cognizant of the detrimental effects of these brain injuries. The Center for Brain Injury



Research and Training reports that specific training for working with students with brain injuries is provided to only six percent of teachers nationwide. Comparatively, 15 percent of high school athletes have suffered at least one concussion (but often more) according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, meaning that teachers will almost certainly

have students every year who come to class with a concussion. Schoolwork is difficult to manage with even a mild concussion, yet teachers are often thoroughly unprepared, considering their lack of training. This can lead to students falling behind or not having access to the tools needed to learn.

Concussions are complex injuries that are often looked at as “just a hit in the head.” In reality, dealing with a concussion is painful, confusing, and frustrating; for many, life suddenly assumes a new normal. Education for both student athletes and teachers on concussions needs to be common and frequent to prevent and accommodate for the nature of the injury.

(Sources: Education Week, Center for Disease Control, Center for Brain Injury Research and Training)

Learn better hamster care

by Elena Rexach
Public Relations Manager



I remember being in second grade when I first saw one of those bright plastic hamster cages, the ones with tubes that spiral upwards and all around, attractive colors, and exciting platforms. I marvelled at the hamster as it travelled through its environment, how free it seemed. Fast forward to the seventh grade — I wanted a pet really badly. As I started to research hamsters, I came to realize that the marvelous structure I had seen before was essentially the pits of hell for the hamster inhabiting it. Small animals, but specifically hamsters, are often seen as nothing more than children’s pets, and marketed as such, thus creating a pool of owners ignorant to the abuses they are committing.

Walk into any pet store and you’ll find those same bright plastic cages. Except now, they are shaped like rockets and castles, adorned with LED lights. Let me make this clear, a hamster cage should not be your nightlight. A place for an animal to live should not be your toy. These cages are meant to provide entertainment to the child watching them, not the being inhabiting them. They are favoring entertainment value over practical necessities. In fact, plastic tubes are actually dangerous for hamsters, as the animals can easily get stuck. Additionally, hamsters despise heights.

The most glaring issue, however, is the miniscule size of these toys. Owner-run forums like Hamster Hideout recommend spaces upwards of

600 square inches, whereas these rainbow jails are often less than half of the recommended size. If you don’t have the space to house a pet properly, you should not own the pet.

Beyond the actual cage, the majority of owners ignore essentially every other facet of hamster care. For instance, there’s nothing funny about your hamsters eating each other — they’re solitary animals, and you made the mistake of putting them in the same cage. Your hamster is not quirky because it climbs the walls of its cage — it is bored. There are countless other points of misinformation regarding everything from diet to bedding



graphics M. Hein

type, so if you’re interested in hamsters at all, I strongly recommend researching on your own. These issues extend to other rodents or “exotic” pets, including fish, rabbits, snakes, bearded dragons and birds.

The fact is that neither hamsters, nor any animal, are meant for children. There is no such thing as a “perfect pet” for your child, because a child does not have

the experience and maturity to grasp the responsibility and magnitude involved in owning a pet. A living thing should not be used as an experiment to teach life skills to a grubby eight year old. Of course, I want to clarify that it is absolutely okay for children to be around pets and have some responsibility for a pet, but they should not be the sole owner of one.

A good owner is one who changes when they see a problem; a bad owner chooses to be ignorant. No matter the circumstances, if you choose to adopt a small pet, you need to pay it the same respect you would a dog, cat, or even a child, because that is a living animal and it depends on you.

Kaufman argues division of confidence and arrogance

by Georgia Kaufman
Media Production Editor *am awesome.*



I am awesome. Like really awesome. I love myself a lot. Truly.

It's inspiring to witness people beginning to understand their self worth through affirmations of self-love, as the philosophy of loving yourself has become extremely prevalent in today's society. However, this influx of personal pride

has quickly become an overflow of narcissism, egocentricity, and vanity. There is a fine line between the concepts of arrogance and confidence. While confidence is the act of being assured in one's self worth and abilities, arrogance is the act of exaggerating one's self worth by deprecating the importance of others. The aforementioned line between these two ideas has quickly become non-existent among teenagers.

Take, for instance, the idea of "main character energy." This concept — established through social media, namely TikTok — romanticizes superiority complexes. With this ideology, one must

prove to either themselves or others that they are interesting enough to be one-of-a-kind; God-forbid any aspect of them is similar to that of another person. This idea, now dubbed amongst Generation Z as "main character energy," has disregarded its original intent.

There is a difference between loving yourself in public and loving yourself in private. It seems that the central facet of public self-love has evolved into a measurement of superiority and inferiority. If loving yourself encourages you to make others feel "less than human," that has evolved from self-love to the development of a superiority complex. No longer are we loving ourselves for the good of our own well



being; rather, we are loving ourselves because it has become a social media trend. The genuinity behind self-love is becoming less and less, for many people do not truly love themselves, they only claim to do so for the aesthetic of "romanticizing their lives."

I believe that private self-love is what truly loving yourself is all about. This doesn't necessarily mean you only love yourself in private, but it does mean you don't gloat and boast about yourself and how awesome you are as a normal topic of conversation.

Self-love should not be a competition, for it cannot be measured. Self-love does not mean that you are the only person who matters, for the world does not revolve around you. And self-love certainly does not mean your importance as a human is any greater or less than any other person, for each of the 7.7 billion people on this planet matter just as much as you do. Re-draw the line between confidence and arrogance.

Van life projects privilege

by Alia Arafah
Opinion Editor



The increased integration of Tik Tok and social media into our daily lives also connects to a rise in content creators spreading their ways of life and unique perspectives. A popular genre of content creators are van-life or RV life couples and families. While they encourage others to follow their lead and participate in the van-life movement, these creators fail to recognize the privilege they have, both economically and racially.

Van-life couples usually live in a big van that includes a bed, toilet, cupboards, and amenities that essentially make up a very tiny apartment. Van lifers live relatively normally, with access to both necessary appliances and often a few luxuries. They travel across the country, find different places to park overnight, and document their journeys on social media.

As for the van-families, their routine is the same. The families usually stay in motorhomes and have a few homeschooled children who travel with their parents.

It takes an unfathomable amount of privilege to choose to live in discomfort. It is not easy to not have a permanent home and to constantly be traveling. Not having access to a shower all the time, having to worry about where to park that night, and living one day at a time is not exactly lavish. Other than the specific individuals who choose to pursue van life, most people who live in those conditions do not do so voluntarily. Whether it is due to poverty or unemployment, many people are forced to live in their cars or on the street. Van lifers make a conscious decision to live this way, unintentionally demonstrating their immense privilege, and rarely recognizing it. Van life can be great for those who choose it, but they should be aware that it is not an accessible choice for everyone.

People who live in their cars or in RV parks are usually looked down upon, but van lifers are envied. It is, in principle, the same lifestyle, yet

motorhomes are often seen as dirty and trashy, but van lifers who are popular on social media receive the opposite treatment. This is hypocritical and disrespectful to people who are simply trying to put a shelter over their family's heads.

The majority of van lifers are White: if they were any other race, their lifestyle would be nearly impossible, or at least very difficult. The families who live in vans and motorhomes have to find places to park overnight, often empty parking lots or a random stop on the side of the road. Imagine if a person of color was parked overnight with no permit in a random parking lot: a passerby would call the police on them or locals would view them as "suspicious characters," which puts them into a dangerous position due to the police brutality POC face. For many people of color, choosing van life is either impossible or not worth the risk.

POC are disproportionately affected by poverty, and that can force them to resort to living in their cars. If they happen to have children, these houseless individuals can lose custody and their children bear the weight of the hardships as well. In child custody cases, judges look down upon families living in vehicles because it is seen as an insufficient environment for childhood development. Child custody cases tend to disproportionately affect Black children, with nearly half living with only one custodial parent; for white children, only 22.7 percent live with only one parent. When it's done for aesthetic purposes or for social media likes, vanlife is romanticized; when it's done out of necessity, van life is denigrated.

While van and RV life is a great option for some people, those who choose to travel the country in their vehicles — especially content creators on social media — should be more aware of the privilege they have, and look for ways to make van life more inclusive. As for social media, content creators whose accounts are based around van life should bring awareness to the poverty people face and be more conscious about the privilege they hold. (Source: Legaljobs)



Use grammar against bias

by Sophie Sullivan
Editor-in-Chief



Oftentimes, it seems as if the effort to remove implicit biases from our language and actions is unending. As we continue to learn and support others with reparative justice, we must also

analyze the grammar we use in criminal reports to prevent further victimizing highlighted individuals.

Today, we understand that implicit biases surface in grammatical voice and syntax more often than they do in outright language. Making a conscious effort to use active voice is one linguistic choice that writers can choose to demand systemic accountability; in doing so, we stress the active nature of a crime's impacts on surrounding communities. We must use this tone in news articles and official police reports.

Take the first sentence of this subheader in The New York Times' Oct. 16 article about Ahmaud Arbery's death and the McMichael and Bryan trial: "Mr. Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, was chased by armed white residents of a South Georgia neighborhood." Throughout the article, the writer continues to describe Arbery's murder primarily in the passive voice: "He was shot dead"; "he was killed."

The author may not have had discriminatory intentions in reviewing Arbery's death in this tense. In doing so, however, they implicitly neutralize the murder — Arbery's death becomes an event that occurred passively, rather than Travis McMichael, George McMichael, and William Bryan actively murdering him last February. The Times wrote a subheader with similar passivity in a 2015 article about Black teenager

Michael Brown's murder by a White Ferguson, MO, police officer: "Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager, was shot and killed." Though the two subheaders create symbolic emphases on Arbery and Brown's lives by opening the articles with their name, their passivity makes the

murders standalone and emancipates the murderers from blame.

There are select situations in which it's simply not possible to use active voice while describing a crime or event, such as ongoing investigations or preliminary reports based on limited information. Still, though, documents must maintain an active voice to build a clear timeline of the involved parties' actions. As Jeffrey Barg of The Philadelphia Inquirer observed, the Minneapolis Police Department noted that "[George Floyd] was ordered to step from his car," and that he "appeared to be suffering medical distress" in their May 26, 2020 police report following Floyd's murder. It does not specifically indicate that Minneapolis police ordered him, fails to give evidence about the violence that officers instigated shortly after, and does not attribute Floyd's "medical distress" to Derek Chauvin's kneeling on his neck for over nine minutes. Floyd's suffering is an isolated event, protecting the complicit officers.

To understand the effect passive voice has on accountability, we can rewrite these sample sentences into active voice: "Armed White residents of a South Georgia neighborhood chased Mr. Arbery, a 25-year-old Black man, down streets"; "A White officer shot and killed Michael Brown, an unarmed Black teenager"; and "After officers kneeled on Floyd's neck for nine minutes, he suffered a medical emergency." Here, there's a broader scope of the event that more directly attributes Arbery's and Brown's deaths to their killers. Upon reading just one of these sentences, you know the crime, killer, and victim;

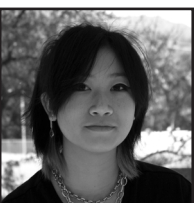
rather than taking reports at face value and risk an incomplete understanding of a murder, readers understand the scope of its impact with context. Though a seemingly minute detail in reporting crimes, using passive voice

has exponential effects on how people interpret murders and a system's implication in violence. To demand accountability, we must write actively. (Sources: Minneapolis Police Department, NY Times, Philadelphia Inquirer)



Intersectionality works against a hierarchy of oppression

by Jordan Chan
Editorial Editor



As a woman of color, I am acutely aware of how different pieces of my identity have influenced my character. It is the heartbreak I felt at heightened AAPI hatred last year, my eleven-year-old brain's confusion at the villification of the word feminist, and the

dismissal of women with objections to their treatment that gradually shaped me into who I am today. However, too often, well-intending activists try to separate these influences from one another in an effort to make the effects of each part of my identity easier to understand.

Society has a tendency to organize injustices into a "hierarchy of oppression." Certain demographic groups share their experiences based on their appearance, orientation, and status; thus, people try to disentangle parts of an individual's identity to assign them values

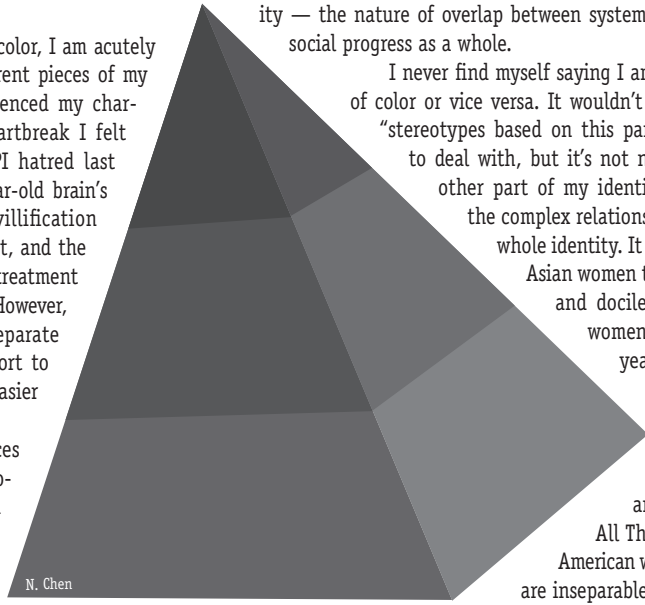
of abuse. However, this behavior is counterproductive to intersectionality — the nature of overlap between systems of discrimination — and social progress as a whole.

I never find myself saying I am a woman before a person of color or vice versa. It wouldn't be quite right to say that "stereotypes based on this part of my identity are hard to deal with, but it's not nearly as bad as being this other part of my identity." That mindset ignores the complex relationship between each part of a whole identity. It ignores the fetishization of Asian women that paints us as submissive and docile. It ignores the six Asian women who died in Georgia last year whom the mass shooter described as a "temptation to eliminate." In the words of Ailsa Chang, award-winning journalist and co-host of NPR podcast All Things Considered, "for Asian American women, misogyny and racism are inseparable."

That's why it's so frustrating for me when so-called activists rank others in a hierarchy of oppression. They might say, "we need to focus on issues that affect this group first, and after we resolve these issues, we can focus on the issues that affect another group." Of course, it is important to look at social issues critically — different forms of oppression vary in magnitude and recognizing this is important — but this hierarchical mindset is counterproductive. Not only does it serve to emphasize differences between a community of people trying to unite against injustice, but it also creates a sort of oppression "competition." Competition only gives more power to the side of the oppressor.

Furthermore, this framework of thinking is most relevant to cisgender, heterosexual, White males. The only way to be so far detached from these issues is not to have any of them pertain to you.

I implore you to consider intersectionality before you rank how much one group is suffering over another. Remember: LGBTQ+ issues ARE POC's issues, because many POC are part of the LGBTQ+ community. Pride would not be what it is today if Black transgender women hadn't fought for it to be this way. The fetishization of Asian women stems from the intersection of race and gender. So instead of dividing groups based on traits like these, we should unite against injustice as a whole so that we can make positive strides forward. (Source: NPR)



UNDERSTANDING IN

Get to know local Indigenous Activist, Alicia

Attend any movement, demonstration, or justice efforts in or around Los Gatos, and you're likely to see or hear from Alicia — who asked not to disclose her last name for privacy reasons — a member of the Los Gatos Anti-Racism Coalition (LGARC), an Indigenous rights activist, and an artist of all trades.

Alicia is Yaqui, and originally from Redondo Beach, CA. Her tribe's history begins in Sonora, Mexico, but over time a number of conflicts forced much of the native population to "get up and go;" Alicia's family then moved to the Hawthorne, CA, area. The Yaqui Reservation encompasses part of southern Arizona. She related the difficulty in learning her family's history with her journey in learning the Yaqui language — a connection she hoped to maintain to her heritage. Alicia "heard bits of [the Yaqui language] throughout [her] life," but never had access to the resources necessary to learn it.

"It's not like other languages where you can get a book or you can take a course...it's a very particular language," she clarified. Having recently gained access to a 12-person Zoom class teaching Yaqui, Alicia summarized the language-learning process in one word: amazing.

Though her tribe is not local to the Bay Area, Alicia noted that she's become "more knowledgeable about different issues within the Indigenous community here...I try to offer support there." She described the process as "continuous" in nature, asking herself, "Where can I help?" in each problem she encounters.

As one of the LGARC's founding members — though she describes herself as a "quiet member" now — Alicia became frustrated with the town's general "lack of participation." She continued, explaining that she "felt like people in the community were happy and glad that I was willing to say the things that they quietly thought...but when it came to being the front person, that people who opposed [us] could see, I didn't feel supported." She stressed the precariousness of her position as a minority in front of a movement, expressing frequent fear over her safety: "To be honest, if anything happened to me at this point, I don't think anybody would really be surprised."

Alicia added she wished more bystanders would "recognize that this is something that really needs attention and is rapidly getting worse, and that [they] need to get in front of it." To non-Indigenous members of the community, she emphasized that "because [Indigenous hate] doesn't involve them or because it doesn't hurt them, it wasn't as urgent;" thus, they could become involved "at their convenience, where people of color who live in this town inconveniently receive racism every day."

Alicia further described nine separate experiences with discrimination and racism in Los Gatos, which she noted added to the physical isolation of being one of the only Indigenous people living in the area. "After walking around and receiving some racist behavior [soon after I moved to Los Gatos], I decided to look up the demographics of the town, and [Indigenous] was a tiny, tiny sliver of the town," she divulged. "It was 0.07 percent. And I was like, is that me? Am I the only one?" Though she noted her isolation, Alicia emphasized that students and community members retain the ability to foster change: the first move, she says, is to "learn whose land you're on." Then, she asks people to "reach out to tribal members that are still attempting to have sacred land respected."

"Give effort," Alicia urged. "Go do something for the planet, for your fellow man. Help."

Alicia highlighted several Indigenous Instagram accounts for community members to engage with: @last.real.indians, @sogreatelandtrust, @savetheshellmounds, @intertribalfriendshiphouse, and her own account, @cinemastereo.

- Sophie Sullivan, Editor-in-Chief



Around 150 years ago, the United States government passed the Dawes Act, which regulated land rights on tribal territories. This was later reformed in 1934 and became the Wheeler-Howard Act, which allocated funding towards education on Native American reservations. However, the United States has failed to uphold the terms of this act and, as of 2021, the school systems on Native reservations display some of the lowest graduation and proficiency rates in the country. The disproportionate education between Indigenous communities and other U.S. communities is big. "Twenty-eight percent of [non-Indigenous] Americans complete college, [while] only 13 percent of Natives hold a college degree." Native schools lack skilled and qualified teachers due to an absence of funding, basic technology to support online learning, and a solid curriculum that accurately teaches Native language and culture. This poor quality of education creates disadvantages for young Indigenous students who need education to better their lives.

(Sources: The Red Road, Transcript of Dawes Act, Britannica)

- Sarah Gouldrup, People Editor

Land acknowledgements are a good place to educate yourself on the historical and modern treatment of Indigenous Nations and people. Land acknowledgements are formal statements of territorial admission. They are often given at the beginning of a public event taking place on land originally inhabited by or belonging to Indigenous people. There are various organizations such as Native Governance Center that provide guidelines for the necessary language, research, and self-reflection that goes into a land acknowledgement. Using present tense is essential to affirm our mindfulness of our participation in the ongoing process of colonialism.

- Jenna Roselli, Public Relations Manager

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

Specific issues Impact Native Communities

Many families in the United States cannot afford to put food on the table, but Native American communities are among the worst victims of this shortage. Indigenous peoples face food prices that are above the national average on reservation lands, while living on incomes lower than those outside of their communities. First Nations, an organization committed to helping improve the lives of Indigenous peoples, released a study pulling data from 53 Indigenous community stores from 12 different states. It reflected that Native American peoples face major food deserts. In 48 states, Native Americans pay 7.51 dollars more for the same basket of food when compared to other consumers nationally. Not only is the food expensive, most of it is also not up to par with food quality standards. The lack of fresh and good quality food forces many Indigenous people to drive far distances, and those who do not have access to a car have to eat what exists in reservation stores. These prices cause high rates of food insecurity among the Native American community.

(Sources: Navajo Times, VOA News)

- **Sonali Muthukrishnan**, *Editor-in-Chief*

How you can help

In the Bay Area, the Ohlone people suffered the abuses of the Mission system, Mexican rancheros, and American gold rushers, resiliently surviving centuries of violent oppression and still managing to pass on their traditions and culture. Today, the Ohlone Tribe has no land base and is not federally recognized. Land prices in the Bay Area are among the highest in the world, but native inhabitants have no claim to these profits. The #LandBack movement aims to return control of ancestral territories to its rightful keepers, to transfer power over land restitution, and to support Indigenous sovereignty. You can help by advocating for the Land Back movement to local and state government officials, and participating in the Shuumi Land Tax, a voluntary annual tax collected by the Ohlone to support the work of the Sogorea Te' Land Trust. Paying the Shuumi land tax helps to acknowledge the history of the United States, respect and aid the rightful inhabitants, and work towards healing and reconciliation.

(Sources: Haverford College, Sogorea Te' Land Trust)

- **Brynn Gibson**, *News Editor*

Learn yourself

The education U.S. students receive about Native American lands makes it seem like the issue is a thing of the past. However, it is imperative to recognize that every piece of land in this country once belonged to a Native American tribe, including the land on which you are currently living and the land on which LGHS is built. People tend to forget this, and, in order to combat that, the organization Native Land Digital pinpoints the locations of Native American tribes based on users' addresses. Users of the platform, which is both an app and a website, can search their address to figure out exactly which tribe used to live on the land. For example, a majority of Los Gatos is situated on land belonging to the Tamien Nation. The platform also connects users with the nations that correspond to their towns. Native Land Digital brings awareness to tribes who used to inhabit the area and puts into perspective how much Native American land was taken from them. The QR code to the left to a website with resources and information regarding the Tamien nation.

(Source: Native Land Digital)



SCAN ME

With the abundance of misinformation that film and television spread about native tribes, the town of Los Gatos must do its part to help rebuild an accurate understanding of the culture, history, and traditions of tribal nations. All tribes have a unique culture and history, and the reduction of native culture has stripped them of their individuality. The first step that we as a community can take is to educate not only ourselves, but others around us about the reality of how native tribes live today. Many kids' movies usually display common misconceptions that endorse harmful stereotypes. Pocahontas, Peter Pan, The Ridiculous Six, and Dancing With Wolves are not accurate depictions of native life. Take to the web, reach out to tribal citizens, or volunteer on a reservation to see first hand the differences between native tribes today and their portrayal in film. Change is only made by taking action and recognizing the appropriation developed by the entertainment industry that is happening in our community. Open Edition Journals' article "The Hollywood Indian Stereotype: The Cinematic Othering and Assimilation of Native Americans at the Turn of the 20th Century" by Martin Berny dives into the misrepresentation of Native Americans in media and its role in spreading misinformation.

- **Maya Gomez**, *Sports Editor*

- Adele debuts fourth studio album
- Hit TV show Survivor returns

CULTURE

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Transphobic show causes Netflix employees to participate in a walkout

by Sonali Muthukrishnan
Editor-in-Chief

In front of the LA Netflix building on Wed., Oct. 20, many company employees and other supporters participated in a walkout in response to the Dave Chappelle stand-up comedy special *The Closer*. In addition to the physical walkout, a number of employees working remotely logged off of their computers at noon on Wednesday. A small group of counter protestors objected to the walkout, with signs reading "Jokes are funny," and "Netflix, don't cancel free speech." Despite this confrontation, the protest remained mostly peaceful. Critics of *The Closer* state that it promotes anti-trans and trans-exclusionary radical feminist (TERF) sentiments.

In response to the criticism, Chappelle stated "everyone I know from that community has been nothing but loving and supportive. So I don't know what this nonsense is about." He refuses to bend "to anyone's demands." In the special, the comedian remarks that "gender is a fact" and that LGBTQ+ people are "too sensitive," which initiated the push back from the transgender community and their allies.

Amid the controversy, Netflix's Co-Chief Executive Ted Sarandos insisted that the "content on screen doesn't directly translate to

real-world harm," and defended Chappelle's right to "artistic freedom," in a leaked staff memo. In the memo, he asserted that Netflix censors content "designed to incite hate or violence, and we don't believe 'The Closer' crosses that line." However, in an Oct. 21 interview, Sandros walked back his prior statements, adding that "I should've made sure to recognize that a group of our employees was hurting very badly from the decision made...I respect them deeply, and I love the contribution they have at Netflix."

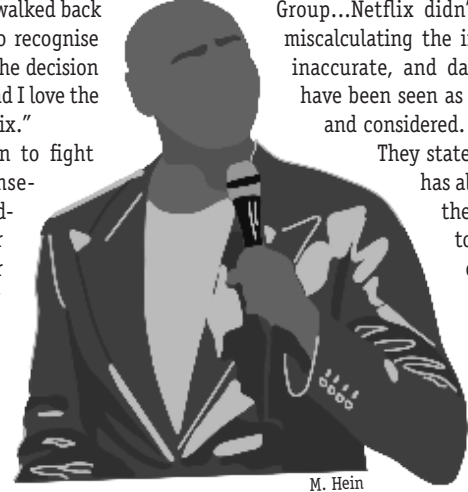
NETFLIX

N. Chen

Employees who took action to fight against the special faced consequences. Three employees, including senior software engineer Terra Field, were suspended for crashing a virtual executives meeting, uninvited. On her Twitter feed, Field spoke out about the comedy special stating, "Promoting TERF ideology (which is what we did by giving it a platform yesterday) directly harms trans people... This is not an argument with two sides. It is an argument with trans people who want to be alive and people who don't want us to be."

Additionally, Netflix fired transgender program manager B. Pagels-Minor on Oct. 14, three hours after the walkout they helped organize was announced. The reason given for this action was that they were the source of leaked information, but they firmly deny the allegation.

In an opinion article published by the Washington Post, Bagels stated, "The release of Chappelle's special, 'The Closer,' happened without consulting the Trans* Employee Resource Group...Netflix didn't ask for guidance, deeply miscalculating the impact of this inflammatory, inaccurate, and dangerous content...We could have been seen as partners, our opinion valued and considered. Instead, Netflix ignored us."



M. Hein

They stated that the movement's "goal has always been to create parity in the content available at Netflix to better reflect the spectrum of users."

A Los Angeles student who participated in the walkout stated, "If Netflix wants to be an apolitical platform, then they should be that...But they're saying things like 'Black lives matter' and

'We don't stand for transphobia.' If you say things like that, then you have to be vetting all of your content to reflect your values." (Sources: NY Times, BBC, Washington Post, Forbes, NPR, ABC)

IS TODAY A BONES DAY?

by Kate Gruetter and Lucy Sells
Culture Editor and Media Production Editor

Noodle, a 13-year-old pug, has taken the internet by storm. Broadcasting every day on TikTok, Noodle's owner, Jonathan Granzino, gently picks up Noodle from his bed. If the pug is able to stand, it is a "bones" day. If the pug adorably falls back onto the bed, it is a "no bones" day. This seemingly unimportant event has become popular on the social media platform TikTok, where hashtags like #nobones are trending. The pug even made a celebrity appearance on the Today Show, announcing a bones day live.

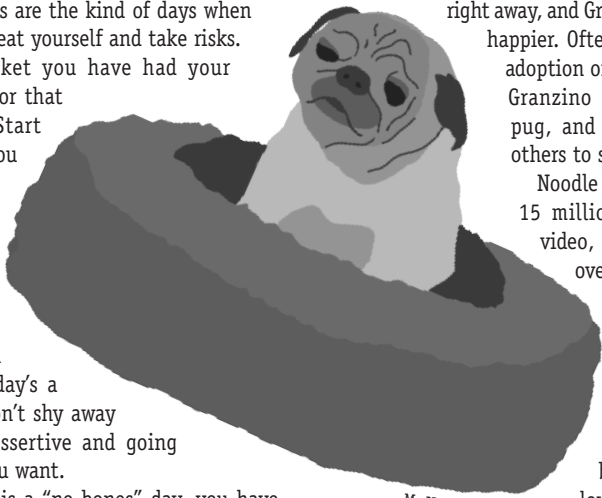
Bones days are the kind of days when you should treat yourself and take risks. Buy that jacket you have had your eye on! Ask for that promotion! Start that project you have been procrastinating! Noodle is ready to take on the world, and you should be too! If today's a bones day, don't shy away from being assertive and going after what you want.

Now, if it is a "no bones" day, you have Noodle's permission to take it easy. Stay away from jeans or stiff pants. Keep those sweats on and use that face mask you have been hiding away! No bones days are days for relaxation and rejuvenation. They aren't necessarily bad days, but they're days dedicated to self care. Noodle still gets stuff done on no bones days, but he takes his time, and you should too. If today's

a no bones day, give yourself a break and take time for self reflection. Granzino says no bones days are, "days where you just need to be very kind to yourself, sensitive of others, wear your sweatpants, take a bubble bath, and self-care." Life can be hectic and although bones days are essential, getting a break to rejuvenate is equally as important.

Granzino advocates for adopting pets as well; he adopted Noodle when the pug was seven years old. Granzino was doing standup comedy about meeting Doug The Pug, when a woman approached him saying she had an available pug to adopt. Thankfully, the pair connected right away, and Granzino couldn't be happier. Often speaking about adoption on his TikTok page, Granzino clearly loves his pug, and wants to inspire others to save dogs.

Noodle has acquired over 15 million views on one video, 42.2 million likes overall, and 4.1 million followers on TikTok. He has merchandise including shirts, stickers, sweatshirts, beanies, mugs, pillows, masks, cards, phone cases, and more. Celebrities such as Dan Povenmire, the creator of *Phineas and Ferb*, have spoken about Noodle, and Granzino's TikTok account. The adorable pug has swept the nation, spreading love and positivity for people of all ages. Noodle is one constant that connects people during stressful times. (Sources: NPR, Today Show, Boston.com)



M. Hein

Adele releases a new hit album

by Nathan Chen
Graphics Editor

After a six-year hiatus, singer and songwriter Adele is back with her fourth studio album, *30*. With the single "Easy On Me" already out and the album release date set for Nov. 19, she is ready to dominate music charts globally.

Her album rollout began with mysterious projections of the number 30, written in simple gold font and accompanied with a blue watery background, popping up all over the globe. Famous buildings like the Louvre, the Coliseum, the Eiffel Tower, the Brandenburg Gate, and even the Embarcadero building in San Francisco, featured these projections.

On Oct. 13, Adele announced her album on multiple platforms with a post captioned "30 — November 19." The album cover, released in the post, is a side profile of her face with the same blue watery background, a deviation from her past album covers that featured darker, black-and-white covers. In the post, she wrote, "I've learned a lot of blistering home truths about myself along the way." She continued, stating that "I feel like I've finally found my feeling again... And so, I'm ready to finally put this album out."

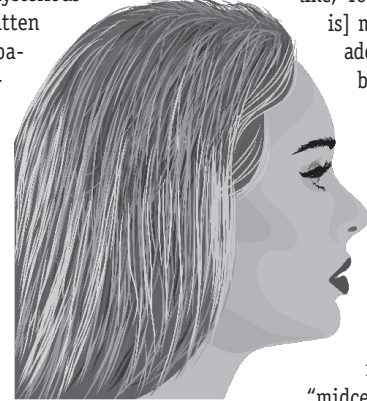
Adele held an Instagram Live where she answered many questions her followers had about her and the album. She seemed to have trouble figuring out how Instagram Live works, and I don't blame her. Alicia Keys stepped in to help, and Adele gladly accepted, responding with "Yes Alicia, I do need some help." Adele dismissed a collaboration with Peppa Pig, but in an interview with Capital FM she said she retracts her statement. Responding to a question asking what

30 will be based on, Adele responded with "Divorce, babe. Divorce," referring to her tumultuous separation from her ex-husband Simon Konecki in 2019.

Adele revealed more about the divorce and the album in her cover story interview with *Vogue*. She told interviewer Abby Aguirre, "I realized that I was the problem, cause all the other albums are like, You did this! You did that!...[30 is] more me divorcing myself." She adds, "I always say that 21 doesn't belong to me anymore. Everyone else took it into their hearts so much. I'm not letting go of this one. This is my album. I want to share myself with everyone, but I don't think I'll ever let this one go." Adele played the album for Aguirre, who described it as "mapping a progression," with influences from 70's groove, gospel, and "midcentury romance." Adele is the first person to appear on the cover of both *Vogue* and *Vogue UK* in the same month.

Adele announced "Easy On Me" on Oct. 12, later releasing it at midnight BST on Oct. 15. The piano-heavy ballad deviates from the stereotypical pop hits from neighboring chart songs, but Adele's popularity remains unmatched. Due to the uncommon release time, the track debuted on the *Billboard* Hot 100 at #68 but quickly climbed the charts to reach #1 the following week. "Easy On Me" broke several records, including most played on U.S. radio during the song's first week, Spotify's most streamed in a day, and Amazon Music's most Alexa song requests in a song's first day.

Adele's return has already proven to be nothing short of showstopping, and the release of a highly-respected, long-awaited, and heart-wrenching album is sure to impress fans and music critics alike.



N. Chen

Chan reviews anime adaptation of Blue Period

by Jordan Chan
Editorial Editor

Netflix recently picked up Tsubasa Yamaguchi's manga series *Blue Period* for an anime adaptation, releasing the first episode on Oct. 9. With captivating artwork, LGBTQ+ representation, and a passionate fanbase — on account of the ongoing 11-volume manga series, serialized in the seinen magazine *Monthly Afternoon* — the show is sure to be a hit.

Blue Period is a coming-of-age story that follows a high schooler named Yatora Yaguchi, who seems to have it all: good grades, popularity, and a bright future; despite his family's poor financial position. However, Yatora struggles with feelings of monotony and a lack of depth in his life until he discovers his passion: art.

On the surface, the plot may seem rather shallow. It's a tired sentiment; everything in your life clicks one day once you discover your passion, the one thing you were always meant to do. However, Yamaguchi's *Blue Period* doesn't follow this repetitive tale. (Note: the paragraphs below will contain minor spoilers for both the anime and the manga).

When I read *Blue Period*, prior to its release on Netflix, I immediately resonated with the main character. His apathy towards conventionally "perfect" parts of his life and frustration at his peers' empty

praise reminded me of the familiar feeling of, to put it simply, performance. Too often, it feels as though we carefully construct a self-image for others rather than for ourselves. Through art, the main character reshapes his narrative, enduring hardships such as his mother's initial lack of support for a seemingly fruitless endeavor to enter art school and the discouraging feelings of doubt that come with painstakingly hard work. The main character's struggle is an age-old story told in a new and unique way.

At first glance, the art styles of the show are also particularly striking. The contrast between traditional European art and Japanese manga style catches viewers' attention, almost acting as a parallel to some of the messages the series attempts to convey. For example, in the same way that many tend to value traditional art more than Japanese manga, we tend to put more value in academia rather than creativity.

This double standard does not go unmentioned; in fact, it ties into the show's discussion of hard work, talent, and their relationship to one

another. Through Yatora's gradual realization that the hard work he puts into academia is not so different from the hard work artists put into improvement, he reminds viewers not to mistake artists' efforts for pure talent. Although some artists' so-called talents are undeniable, it's important to recognize the connotations the word

BLUE PERIOD

N. Chen

carries. It implies that an individual has possessed a skill from birth, and in an artistic context, chalking up an artist's work to talent erases the hours they spent diligently learning skills and practicing their craft. This exploration of the dichotomy between hard work and talent is unexpected but refreshing, and it's one of the reasons Yamaguchi's work is so important.

If you want to catch up on *Blue Period*'s anime adaptation, you can watch the first five episodes on Netflix. New episodes come out every Saturday, but if you're interested in reading ahead in the manga, you can purchase it from select bookstores or order it online.

EVANS RECALLS PHOEBE BRIDGERS CONCERT

by Alex Evans
Opinion Editor

After beginning her reunion tour in early September, popular alternative artist Phoebe Bridgers performed on Oct. 16 at The Greek Theatre in Berkeley. As an attendee of this show, I can say confidently that nobody puts on a show like the one and only Phoebe Bridgers and her band. Other than being in the presence of Bridgers herself, the venue, audience, and opening act made the show that much more special.

As a self-proclaimed Bridgers stan, otherwise known as a Pharb, I really only had to see her in person to be content, but this girl puts on a serious production. The intermission between songs when she chatted with the audience was just as special as hearing the actual music. Bridgers discussed trivial things like her life growing up, but she also shared her deep-rooted distaste for Texas Governor Greg Abbot — a fan-made sign insulting Abbott prompted this commentary.

Bridgers also interacted with her audience when they threw things on stage. During the performance of the song "Punisher" she wore a light-up cowboy hat with a skeleton drawing and during

her cover of "That Funny Feeling," she wore a light-up skeleton-head headband. Honestly, I know this is just bragging, but she knelt down about ten feet away from me during "Punisher" and looked into the audience while singing the line "it feels like I've known you, but we've never met." What I am getting at is that we are practically best friends now.

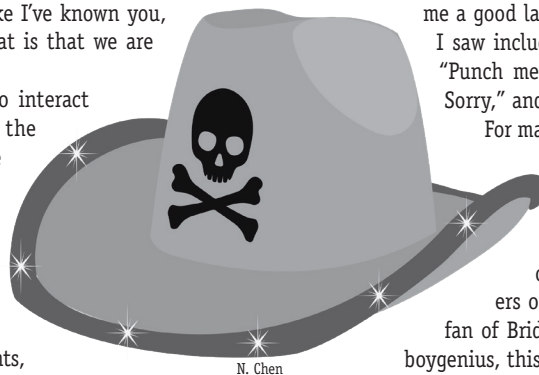
A key reason why Bridgers was able to interact with the audience so much was due to the venue. Before attending the show at The Greek Theatre, my mom explained to me that "there's not a bad seat in the house" and I now wholeheartedly stand behind this statement. Not only is the ambience of the theatre amazing, but so are the visuals of the stage. Bridgers had light up mic stands, a smoke machine, and flood lights, which wonderfully fell on herself and her band for the duration of the show.

"The audience" I reference multiple times throughout this concert brief was so on brand with Bridger's demographic it was nearly comi-

cal. Everyone you passed was sporting either Doc Martens, skeleton attire, tights, all black, Bridger's merch, or dyed hair. On top of the things Bridgers said herself, the fans with signs gave me a good laugh throughout the night. Just a few I saw included: "Write my college letter of rec," "Punch me in the face," "Marry me," "Mommy? Sorry," and more.

For many of her shows, Bridgers had Muna as her opening act, but Berkeley was especially lucky to have Bridgers' former band mate Julien Baker as the opener. Baker performed a few of her old songs, then brought Bridgers on stage to cover "One Man Guy." As a fan of Bridgers and Baker's collaborative album, *boygenius*, this guest appearance had me fan-girling.

Overall the performance was unmatched, I do not think I will ever again achieve the sense of euphoria that I did when I heard "Scott Street" live. That being said, if you get the chance, learn some songs and hunt down a ticket to a Phoebe Bridgers concert.



N. Chen

DENNON CELEBRATES A NEW SEASON OF SURVIVOR

by Macy Dennon
Sports Editor

For all of the Survivor fans out there, you're in luck! Survivor is back after its first break in 20 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For those who don't know, Survivor is a reality television show unlike any other. On the show, producers place people on an island to outwit, outlast, and outplay the other competitors. The contestants split into tribes and compete in challenges to win items such as food and survival gear. There are also immunity challenges in the game, which means that the losing tribe of these challenges goes to Tribal Council, where they are given the opportunity to vote off a player. The winning tribe is immune until the next immunity challenge. The last person standing at the end of the 39 days is the winner and takes home the cash prize. The show has been running for 21 years and is one of the longest-running reality television shows to date.

Season 41 is devoted to going back to the basics, so the producers say. When introducing the season, Survivor host Jeff Probst, said, "drop the four and keep the one because this season is the most difficult and most dangerous season we've ever done." The new season consists of 18 players stranded on an island in Fiji for only 26 days. As a result of the pandemic, this season is relatively short, as they had to do a 14-day quarantine per Fiji government's COVID rules.

To make the season more challenging, the producers decided to give the contestants no starting rice in contrast to the regular season

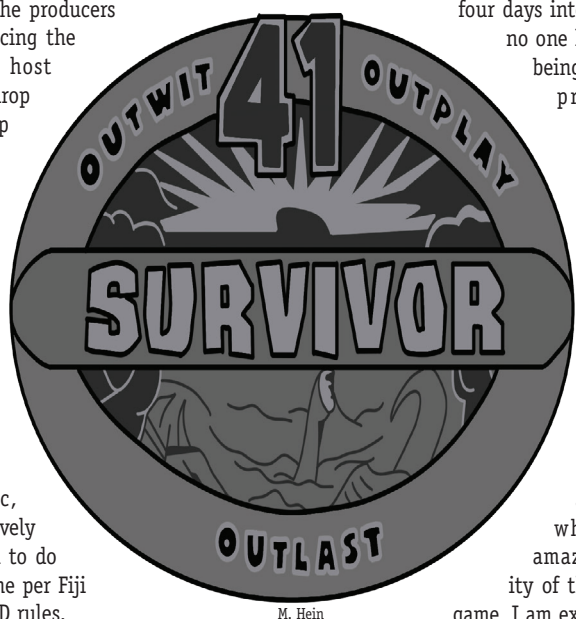
where contestants start with a medium-sized bag of rice to ration among their tribemates for the 39 days. Also, if a tribe loses the immunity challenge, they lose their flint, which can only given back once they win, along with going to Tribal Council to vote somebody off.

This year the producers also introduced the "Shot in the Dark Die." These dice allow a player to have a one in six shot at immunity at tribal council. Other advantages still lie within the game, making the "proclaimed basic" new season not so simplistic.

It is an unusual season for superfans like myself. The season shows a bit of the behind-the-scenes of Survivor, which many fans are opposed to because, as one superfan says, "it ruins the magic of the show." While I think it is interesting to see how they film certain aspects of the show, I don't particularly appreciate how it reminds the watcher that the contestants are not entirely alone on the island. Even though they said they were going to give them no food to eat, the show presents no struggle

when it comes to food. The cast is three to four days into the season, and yet no one has complained about being hungry, nor have the producers added a reward challenge for food, leading viewers to believe that the producers are giving the contestants food behind the scenes.

There is a mix of excitement and nervousness for the new season, as long-time fans wish for fewer twists and complications, while new fans are amazed at the complexity of the deceptively simple game. I am excited to see all of the blindsides and unique advantage gameplay with the new cast, as fans have not seen a new season since May 2020.



M. Hein

Coldplay releases new album

by Senji Torrey
Public Relations Manager

After a two year absence, Coldplay has finally released their latest album, "Music of the Spheres," and it is sure to give listeners a rush. The band has largely departed from their usual vibe for a more astronomical journey, taking the listener through a motivating, moving, and meaningful journey of issues large and small.

The album begins on a wordless, spacey note (literally) with a song titled with a space emoji. This prepares the audience for what lies ahead: an ambient journey of contemporary beauty. The coolest part is the seamless transition into the record's first true song, "Higher Power."

Lead singer Chris Martin's smooth voice guides the listener through a roller coaster of uncontaminated joy and elation. He utilizes the age-old musical tradition of addressing a nameless subject to ensure that every listener can feel as though they, themselves, are the focus.

Coldplay deals out positivity with lines such as "you're sparklin' like the universe," "I'm so happy that I'm alive/at the same time as you," and of course "You've got a higher power." Though these lines may not be the most original, I'll be honest, they work. I feel empowered.

One track, "Let Somebody Go," even features "girl boss" Selena Gomez. This track begins with a keyboard solo that gives it a homegrown vibe; it also adds a sense of relatability and closeness to the music that a patented studio-engineered song does not provide.

The band kicks off the track in a somber tone, lamenting about a love that wasn't meant to be. Martin sings "We had a kind of love/I thought that it would never end/Now

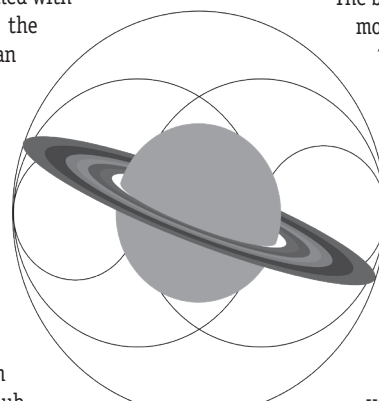
turn off all the stars 'cause this I know/That it hurts like so/To let somebody go." Gomez jumps in for the second verse, speaking the truth with lines such as "They said love is only equal to the pain." For any Coldplay fans craving the traditional Coldplay noise, "Let Somebody Go" might just be your jam.

Slow and sad not your speed? Try out "People of the Pride." This punk rock song boasts loud and proud guitars and other instrumentals. It's a uniquely political tune that unashamedly displays Coldplay's support of the LGBTQ+ community.

The band speaks in metaphors for most of the song with lines like "There's a man who swears he's God/Unbelievers will be shot." They eventually transition into their overarching message, however, during the climax of the piece, belting out "We'll all be free to fall in love/With who we want." Martin later confirms the meaning of the song, saying "Thank you for picking up on the fact

People of the Pride is a big angry gay metal anthem!" "Music of the Spheres" ends triumphantly with "Coloratura." In this 10 minute song, Coldplay occupies the role of philosopher, connecting the intricate melodies, trills, and runs with space exploration to contemporary life. Martin eloquently lays out lyrics about NASA and famous astronomers such as Galileo, indicating the culmination of an album named for space and the universe. Before closing, the band simplifies the, perhaps overly complex, lyrics by simply stating that "Poets prophesy up in the blue/Together, that's how we'll make it through."

Whether you are looking for classic Coldplay sounds, a powerful political statement, or just want to feed your desire for the smooth voices of the Bangtan Boys (Oh, now I have your attention?!), "Music of the Spheres" has something for virtually everyone in the universe. (Sources: Genius, Allmusic)



N. Chen

EL GATO RECOMMENDS: DUNE, YOU SEASON THREE, AND MORE

Dune, a science fiction film based on the bestselling novel by Frank Herbert, came out simultaneously on HBO MAX and theaters in America on Oct. 22. The two-and-a-half hour long movie follows Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) as his powerful family (Rebecca Ferguson and Oscar Isaac) moves to the desert planet of Arrakis, inhabited by the Indigenous Fremen people. The intriguing and quick-moving plot includes family, betrayal, dangerous political alliances, and survival as Paul and his parents fight to stay alive on the treacherous planet. The movie is a must see for film fanatics and science fiction geeks alike, and the masterful cinematography and scoring bring the film to life.

-Kate Gruetter, Culture Editor

Conan Gray released his latest up-beat, electro-pop single, entitled "Telepath" on Friday, Oct. 29. "Telepath" tells the story of a situation where people break up and he is the one who moves on quickly, while the other person comes running back. Gray sings "It's so you / You're just so

predictable," singing about how he's a "telepath," with synth-like sounds accompanying the upbeat feel of the song. After teasing the track on TikTok, Gray conceded to the storm of pleas from fans to release the full-length song. Rumor has it that Gray is planning to release an album, but in the meantime, be sure to give "Telepath" a listen.

-Emily Duvall, Humor Editor

EMELINE released the single this is how i learn to say no on Aug. 19. The track, a pop song with a powerful message, reflects on EMELINE's experience with setting boundaries and moving on from people who refuse to grow. The fierce beat and strong lyrics inject a strong sense of self-confidence into any listener. The rising singer-songwriter specializes in fiery lyrics showcased in a multitude of her songs. My personal favorites include the aforementioned track, preaching self-worth and

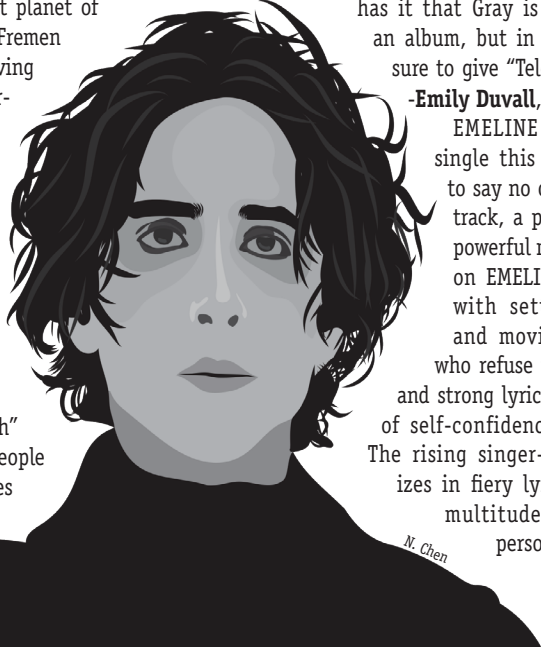
letting go of toxic relationships, and Hush, a feminist power ballad she released in 2017. This is how i learn to say no is the perfect anthem to scream out the car window. With a clear vision for her music and its message, EMELINE is worth keeping an eye on.

-Sonali Muthukrishnan, Editor-in-Chief

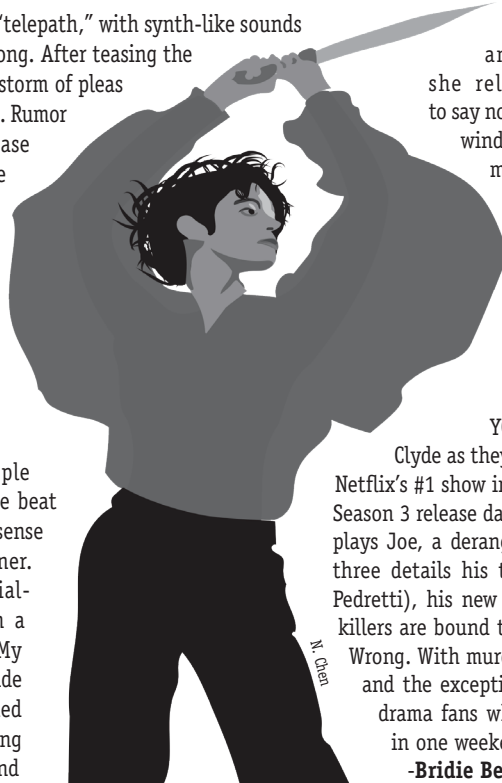
Although Netflix has produced some questionable and disturbing television series, YOU is not one of them. Ok, maybe I lied, but I guarantee it's only a little questionable and disturbing. Released on Oct. 15, almost three years after its first season, the third season of YOU follows Netflix's very own Bonnie and Clyde as they navigate modern suburbia. The series was Netflix's #1 show in the US for over two weeks after its initial Season 3 release date. The show stars actor Penn Badgley, who plays Joe, a deranged stalker obsessed with women. Season three details his tumultuous marriage with Love (Victoria Pedretti), his new impulsive and jealous wife. Two unstable killers are bound to make a perfect suburban couple, right?

Wrong. With murder, marriage counseling, suspense, drama, and the exceptional Penn Badgley, YOU is suitable for all drama fans who thrive on bingeing 10 episodes straight in one weekend.

-Bridie Beamish, Media Production Editor



N. Chen



N. Chen

- Gibson tricks her mother
- Hein encounters too many deer

HUMOR

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Gibson tricks her mother into purchasing her glasses

by Brynn Gibson
News Editor

There is a brief window in a child's life when they are still cute enough to get what they want, and just old enough to realize it. Most of my peers might've taken advantage of this by begging for a dog, a Barbie camper, or even a Club Penguin membership. However, I thought bigger and better. When I was nine, I gaslighted my mom into thinking I needed glasses.

For context, I was a ginger, bucktoothed, hyperactive, demon child. When I wanted attention, I would just run laps around my house until I either ran into a wall or my mom told me to stop. I had plenty of outlets. But like most children, I was an attention-seeking brat. I needed to pull a stunt that would catapult me to main character status. Somehow, I thought getting glasses was the best and only way to go.

I don't mean to highlight flaws in our medical system, but it was surprisingly easy to successfully fake a vision impairment. Considering my class A performance, it doesn't surprise me I was the lead in the fifth-grade play. If I could fool my own mother and an optometrist that I was near-sighted, then I could convince a roomful of parents and the director that I was Peter Pan.

It was a simple two-step process. First, I had to dramatically fail at reading a sign in the grocery store in front of my mother. Then, I had to show up at the eye doctor and pretend I saw Z when it was D.



B. Gibson

The plan went smoothly. A little too smoothly. I walked out of there with a -0.5 prescription in one eye. Disappointing numbers, but a prescription nonetheless.

Two weeks later my super stylish glasses arrived. They were hot pink, rectangular, and had rhinestones on the side. If you think that sounds sexy, it gets better. They were combo glasses-sunglasses. Two-in-one! When I walked outside, I didn't have to move a muscle and my corneas were shielded from harmful UV rays. Pretty convenient if you ask me.

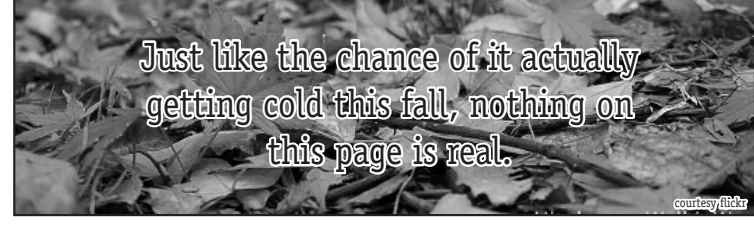
I wore those things EVERYWHERE. I wore them to school, soccer practice, even my grandma's funeral. Yet wearing glasses was not as glamorous as I had imagined. It was actually extremely inconvenient. So, with a not-so-heavy heart, I retired the Juicy Couture brand glasses-shades combo after a solid two-month run, much to the annoyance of my mother.

Here is where the story gets interesting. I never really paid attention in class, so I had never noticed before. But after having a super clear vision for a couple

months in comparison to my natural sight, I realized that I couldn't see anything on the board. Karma struck me back. I actually did have a vision impairment. That -0.5 prescription? Oh, that was real. They read right through my plan.

Learning I had bad vision did not inspire me to resurrect the spectacles. It actually just ignited the expected response a kid has to glasses: rejection and denial. Being the main character is not as fun as it seems. I didn't actually want to be Mr. Struggle, I just wanted to pretend I was so people would pity me.

My vision has gotten increasingly worse as I've gotten older. I, unfortunately, can't ignore it anymore. Since my transition lens days, my prescription has increased to -1.5. I wear correctional night contacts to avoid the outward signs, but underneath, as hard as it is to admit, I am the main character. Despite all I've been through, I will never forget my roots of lying and manipulation.



Just like the chance of it actually getting cold this fall, nothing on this page is real.

courtesy/flickr

Bagora stresses over beverages

by Esha Bagora
Humor Editor

When it comes to life, I am a very relaxed person. I don't care too much about having to miss events, prioritizing some things over others, or not getting to hang out with my friends every single day after school. You could say that I am fear-of-missing-out (FOMO)-proof. Except for one minor anomaly: ordering drinks. Whether at Starbucks, ShareTea, Posh, Tea Fermata, or literally any place that has an extensive beverage menu (except for Philz Coffee — not a huge fan), my mind spirals into deep, dark levels of FOMO. What if I pick the wrong drink and miss out on something that may've been the best drink of my life?

If I get a caramel iced coffee, what if I never get to try the mocha? I really like the Thai tea boba with mini pearls, but what if I never come back to Sharetea again and never get to have the strawberry oolong tea with normal pearls? I never worry like this anywhere else.

When I was old enough to start ordering my own meals and beverages, I did think it was a little weird at how panicked I'd get. But, I brushed it off as being excited to try new things, and finally having access to the world of caffeine...until I cried in a Starbucks. I was eight or nine years old, and it was December. Starbucks had their special seasonal drinks, and there was a pink and a blue cotton candy frappuccino on the menu. Looking back, I'm sure they tasted exactly the same, and the only difference between the two was the food coloring. But young me started balling my eyes out since I was only allowed to get one drink (but

honestly, who would give two sugar-filled drinks to a child?). Startling the barista, my poor dad who just wanted a mocha Frappuccino, and the long line of tired people just looking for an energy boost, I cried and cried until my dad bought both drinks and I was on a sugar high until the next afternoon.

Last week, I didn't bring lunch from home and had to buy lunch from the cafeteria. The drinks fridge was filled with nothing but water. Seems like an easy grab-and-go decision, right? Except there are four different brands of water, each with multiple different flavors. First of all, WHY?? Who decided to put the drinks at the front of the lunchline? Shouldn't it be last, so that you can pair it with your meal, like a steakhouse? Second of all, variety is good, excellent even, but why for water? I understand stocking different kinds of soda (I hate soda, so no dilemma there) or at least having alternative kinds of drinks, like water, juices etc. (that would have been a MAJOR crisis, but at least it's explainable — I could have told people that

I didn't know what I was in the mood for). But four different brands of WATER? I must have stared into that fridge for a solid five minutes before I realized there was a huge gap between me and the people in front of me. This was the most embarrassing thing I had experienced to date (it wasn't but definitely felt like it) so I closed my eyes, grabbed a bottle, and hoped for the best. When I met up with my friends, and sat down to eat, I saw that I had picked up a blackberry flavored Hint water. I enjoyed it, and will definitely make my parents buy some from Target next time we go, but what if I had gotten the watermelon?



N. Chen

GRUETTER CRIES AROUND LG

by Kate Gruetter
Culture Editor

I don't like crying openly. That's not to say I'm against public displays of emotion; I love kicking chairs in anger, sighing dramatically in Chemistry, and groaning with confusion at any given moment. However, I refuse to cry in front of people. Absolutely hate to do it.

This is a trait that has led me to seek out...creative avenues. One of these avenues is something I have newly coined: Bathroom Breakdowns. Which is just what it sounds like — Kate bawling her eyes out in public restrooms, composing herself in said restroom, and then returning to wherever she was previously, as if she is totally fine. Which she is not.

I would like to say that these bathroom breakdowns began only recently, but they did not. The first time I ever cried in a bathroom was when I went to science camp, which was exactly five years ago to the day on the date I am writing this, Oct. 25. I had not yet mastered the difficult cover-ups necessary to crying in bathrooms but pretending you're okay, so I ended up convincing my entire cabin I had an eye infection. Crying? Nah. Infected in the eye? Yuh. Obviously, they did not believe me.

The breakdown I take the most (and consequently, the least) pride in is that of June 22. On this date, I cried in the Georgia Aquarium bathroom. My breakdown was short and sweet, and thankfully the sounds of aquarium excitement drowned out my sobs. Why did I cry in an

aquarium, arguably one of the happiest places on Earth? That's a secret I'll never tell. XOXO, Kate Gruetter, AKA the bathroom breakdown girl.

I did indeed also cry for twenty minutes in an Office Depot. I'm not proud of it. It would likely be more honorable to claim I was simply so moved by the variety of highlights and lined paper that I broke down crying in gratitude and joy. And, for the sake of my dignity, we'll say that's what happened.

Now, I haven't been going in chronological order with these incidents because I like to let my creative juices flow, and also because I have a horrible memory. However, one of the biggest breakdowns I recall is that of Memorial Day weekend. I went to a Mexican restaurant with my family, and after ordering, I promptly went to the bathroom and bawled my eyes out. Something special about this incident is that it occurred right after I got my nails done, and, in the process of dramatically sobbing, I chipped three of my nails. How fun!

Another breakdown I remember fondly is my Chipotle incident. This breakdown occurred far more recently than I care to admit, but I find it important because it marked a trinity of retail store breakdowns. Chipotle, Panera, Office Depot. I dare you to bet which store will turn this group into a quartet. Anyhow, this session was brought on when my burrito died in my arms. My poorly-wrapped dish completely fell apart five bites in. How dare you Chipotle? Truly a disgrace.

If any of you read this recollection of memories and try to confront me about said incidents, I will deny their existence. You have been warned.



N. Chen

SULLIVAN HAS A NEW OBSESSION OVER WATER SORT GAME

by Sophie Sullivan
Editor-in-Chief

Do you know what it feels like to undergo rapid cognitive deterioration at the hands of IEC GLOBAL PTY LTD's "Color sorting puzzle game," Water Sort Puzzle? Either you're entirely in the dark, having never experienced the epic highs and lows of accomplishing levels 83-104 in the back of Kevin Rogers's AP Psychology classroom, or you've already yielded a worthwhile percentage of your screen time to dominating worthless levels.

If you have not yet experienced the latter, I'll briefly illuminate this chaotic state of being. I invite you to recall the bitterness of mid-September to late October last year when Among Us held our community in a chokehold. Water Sort Puzzle accomplished in seven days what Among Us did in seven weeks. Before you could say "Watch an ad to receive an additional water tube," I had become the sticky iPad kid I had been so vehemently against. It all began when I borrowed my friends' phones to try my

hand at levels they were frustrated over; shortly after, I entered the first stage of grief: denial. "No," I recall saying, "I won't download your stupid puzzle app. I'm not simple like you."

I was, in fact, that simple, and the game guided me through the five subsequent stages of grief. Once the app had loaded onto my phone on that unassuming Tuesday, I isolated myself and racked up four hours of gameplay after school. Then, when I could not surpass level 105, I began the third stage of grief: anger. Was I to delete the app and call my mom? Should I look up from my phone for the first time in hours? No, I bargained — onto the next stage — and sat through a 30-second ad for some child's game called "EverMerge-Merge and Match!" for an extra water tube.

This is where my career in Water Sort Puzzle started to go awry. I can't tell if my ensuing depression was the result of a developing game addiction, the fact that I'm stripping 18 years of my life down into a digestible 650-word essay for an admissions officer who's never met me, or because I have a

serotonin deficiency, but I haven't opened the app in over a week. In all honesty, that's probably the closest I'll get to the last stage of grief: acceptance. If you're still not sold on how much this app consumes me, here are legitimate texts I've sent to a groupchat:

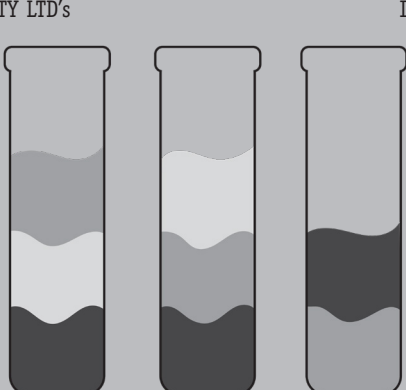
"I know I have an addiction because when I close my eyes all I see is water sort puzzles";

"Dude the water sorting community at Los Gatos is an actual epidemic";

"U would never expect it but once one person speaks up everyone comes clean about being on level 1000."

And you know what? I may have developed mild insomnia because I envision eight multicolored water tubes on a gray cartoon background as I fall asleep, but I still hold my stint with this app in high regard.

Water sort puzzlers of Los Gatos, you are not alone! I stand with you and your regressions to infantile behavior as we live life consumed by the monotonous grip this age 4+ puzzle game has on us. I demand that we shed the stigma of playing a game designed for mothers to download so that their still-teething fourth-grade hell-baby has something to do while waiting for a dentist appointment. Your level 436 achievement is one to wear proudly and share when asked for three fun facts about yourself.



N. Chen

EVANS TELLS ALL WHO SHE DOESN'T LIKE

by Alex Evans

Opinion Editor

I am unsure if everyone is like me, but I am extremely particular about my likes and dislikes. Typically when I like something, I love it; and the reverse goes for when I dislike something, I absolutely loathe it. Something about this train of thought caught me in a spiral and I ended up asking myself: what characterizes the person who opposes me most? Who do I want to stay as far away from me as possible? So here is the list of those traits; as the reader, you can treat this sort of as a "put a finger down." The more that this description applies to you, the further you should stay away from me.

First and foremost, if you are a Dan + Shay fan, or even listen to their songs in general, you have committed a criminal offense in my mind. This is essentially the most important one, so it should weed out a number of you from the start. I am going to preface this by setting the scene; you are going to listen to some music. Of all the songs in the world, literally millions of individually handcrafted and unique songs that are capable of evoking so many intense emotions written with complex lyrics and different components, you decide on listening to 10,000 Hours by Dan + Shay. I am not saying you deserve capital punishment, but that is the only viable option here.

There are so many other life paths and decisions you could have taken leading up to this moment to avoid it, and still, you have let me down. That being said — either learn from me (a sane human) and block Dan + Shay on Spotify, or board a mission to Mars and get as far away from me as possible.

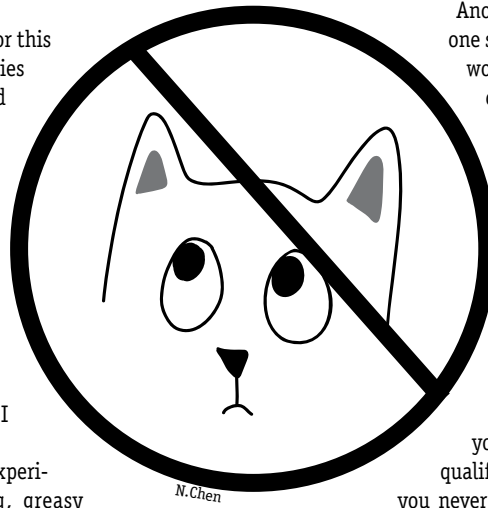
I have a little more understanding for this one, but if you love toddlers and babies we are not compatible. I understand that they are really cute for the first 15 seconds, but any time after that (when they start crying, throwing up, pooping themselves, or making any sounds) they are just straight up unbearable. I do not intend to flame babies here, even though I want them to stay away from me, too. Shifting focus to the people who just love kids, I have literally nothing to say to you other than, why? Toddlers especially, I just can't get behind it.

Maybe I have had one too many experiences with the Cocomelon-watching, greasy iPad, grimy-handed, and wet-coughing toddler asking

me to play Mario with them on their Nintendo Switch, but still. You are simply a different breed than I am, so to those who simply enjoy spending time with kids — get away (in the nicest way possible, you are probably really nice).

Another MAJOR red flag to me is not liking cats. This one seems so one-dimensional, but really there is nothing worse than a person who openly dislikes, or even hates cats. I have gone on about this forever. Last year I wrote an article to state that your disliking of cats only stems from your fear of rejection, and I stand behind this claim to this day! One cat doesn't want to be around you and you decide to file a complaint against cats as a whole. Clearly, they had a reason to dislike you in the first place, so I am going to stick with them on this one.

Lastly, I want the people who do not read El Gato to stay away from me. This one is especially easy to openly hate on, considering they won't even see this. Assuming you read to this point, you probably haven't been offended by my good-person-qualifications yet, so we should be friends. Anyways, see you never to the Dan + Shay fans, toddler sympathizers, cat haters, and non-El Gato readers.



Hein wants the deer to chill out

by Marissa Hein

Graphics Editor

To all the deer that inhabit Kennedy Road, Listen up. I have a bone to pick. Let me set the stage. Monday, 7 AM. I have not yet had my coffee, much to my dismay. On top of all that, it was a "No Bones Day," which soon became abundantly clear to me. My brother and I were on our way to school, singing (or screaming, depending on how judgmental you are) along to Lil Nas

X's new album, as one does. Nothing out of the ordinary, right? Wrong. All of a sudden, as I rounded the last of Kennedy Road's treacherous curves, one of you jumped out of the bright fog, straight at my car. Not in front of my car. AT my car. I slammed on the brakes and locked eyes with the unwelcome creature that appeared before me in shock. It did nothing except stare back at me, its eyes empty and void of any brain activity. We were in our standoff for a good 30 seconds.

Now, let me be clear: I am all for wildlife preservation. I think you are all beautiful and majestic creatures. I understand that mornings are the ideal time and temperature to prance along the worn path that leads from my house to school. However, what really bends me out of shape (both figuratively and almost literally) is the fact that this was not the only time that something like this happened.

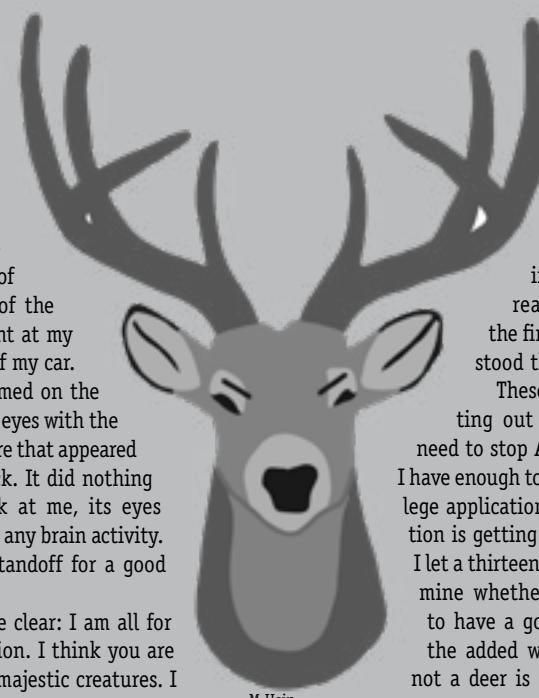
Yes, you heard that right. The event described above was only the first of a long string of incidents. Over the past few weeks, an unbelievable number of deer have mistaken my

car for a crash-landing pad. These moments are really driving me up the wall (again, both figuratively and literally). My most terrifying encounter occurred not in the wee hours of the morning, but in the afternoon on my drive home from school. It was a nice day, so naturally I had my car windows rolled down and the sunroof open. That was my first mistake. I was almost home, deer-free, when I saw it out of the corner of my eye. A beige, four-legged body came barreling towards me,

right toward my window. This was one of those act-first, think-later moments. I stepped on the gas, leaving the heathen in the dust. As I zoomed away, I spotted it in the corner of my rearview mirror. Like the first encounter, it just stood there, staring at me.

These moments are getting out of hand, and they need to stop ASAP. Quite frankly, I have enough to worry about — college applications, when One Direction is getting back together, why I let a thirteen-year-old pug determine whether or not I'm going to have a good day — without the added worry of whether or not a deer is going to end up in my passenger seat. We have lived in harmony for over a decade, and I don't see why that has to change now. It's not too late for us. We can be on good terms. We can coexist. We can even be friends, just like we were before. All I am asking is for you to please, please refrain from leaving a mammal-sized dent in the side of my car. That's all I wanted to say. I truly hope that you will reflect on your actions and take the time to improve.

Until we meet again, Marissa Hein



Duvall recalls her first memory

by Emily Duvall

Humor Editor

A few weeks ago, I stumbled upon a TikTok, and it asked, "When was the moment you gained consciousness?" Now, some of you may be wondering what they mean by this. It does not mean that I had been unconscious up until that moment — I am going to explain that shortly — rather, it means: When was the moment I actually realized, "I'm alive!" Not like a, 'wow this is something I'm going to remember,' more of an 'I-am-here, and this is the first time I am aware of it!' To put it a bit simpler, think of it as my first memory. The original of the original. I really had to think about it, because I genuinely thought to myself, what is the first actual thing I remember? When did I have that moment where I'm like:

Yep! I am alive and can remember now!

It all begins when I was around four years old, on an auspicious day. It was early in the morning, and I was investigating what to do with my spare time since my mom was getting ready for something and I'm not completely sure what it was. Remember, this story will be a bit fuzzy since it is basically my first time doing the whole memory thing. Anyway, I lurk into the family room to find one of my absolute favorite things to play with: Play-Doh. I pick out the freshest container, which in this case is bright green, and I have a field day playing with it.

Might I add, however, that I play with said Play-Doh on the unprotected carpet. Conscious

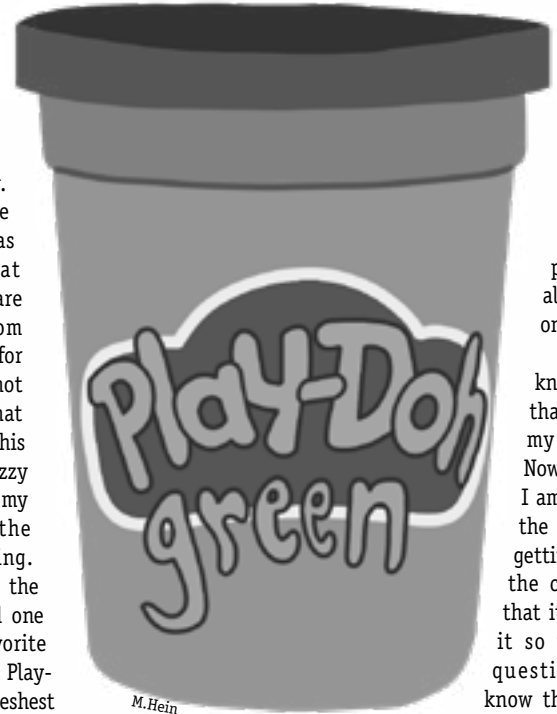
me now realizes how horrible that was and what a menace to society I was for committing the heinous crime, but here we are. I begin to squish the fluorescent green Play-Doh into the carpet like it was my one and only calling in life. I remember the pattern on the Play-Doh from the carpet imprints being so mesmerizing. Believe it or not, this did not make a mess and it came right off the carpet later. But, I continue to press into the carpet to make a nice little crunchy layer.

As I am still hard at work, my mom comes in and is definitely not pleased. She was on the phone talking to someone, and I can still picture, so perfectly, the shock in her eyes. I thought what I was doing was totally fine, but I quickly realize that it was, in fact, not. My punishment: I had to be in charge of getting the Play-Doh off of the carpet, and was told to get it off as soon as possible so we are not stuck with crusty, green Play-Doh

carpet. Shockingly and quickly, I get the Play-Doh off all in one piece with nothing left in the carpet, and I have to say, at this moment, nothing in my conscious life will phase me after getting all my Play-Doh up in one piece.

My little self didn't know it at the time, but that was my big moment; my moment of clarity. Now, I look back at it, and I am like, what happened the day before? Why was getting Play-Doh stuck in the carpet THAT enticing that it led me to remember it so vividly? These are questions we may never know the answers to. But, I would rate gaining consciousness

10/10, definitely cool, and I am proud to say I have not stuck any Play-Doh into raw carpet since this day. I learned my lesson the first time I could remember it.



Arafah reviews Home Alone with abandonment issues

by Alia Arafah

Opinion Editor

I will admit that I'm super weak when it comes to horror movies. I usually just read summaries online instead of watching a scary movie and suffering the consequences. Occasionally, I give in and watch said scary movie, which results in many nights of leaving my door open and making sure I have a weapon close by in case my clone decides to murder me or Michael Meyers creeps up out of the dark.

But the truth is, this article has nothing to do with slasher films. I'm stalling because I don't want to admit that the movie which scares me the most is Home Alone. No, I have not seen it; yes, I refuse to watch it; yes, you guessed it, it's because I have a fear of abandonment. Even though I've never seen it, I do have strong feelings about it and I am going to attempt to write a review based



on my limited knowledge of Home Alone: the poster, the fact Donald Trump is in it, and the only scene I've watched (which I recently found out is actually from Home Alone 2.)

I should probably expand on my fear of abandonment. We all know and love The Jungle Island: the arcade, play structure, basically Amazon-themed Chuck-E-Cheese knock-off.

There are so many reasons not to go to the Jungle. You're likely to find new viruses breeding and multiplying in the play structure, it smells like moldy feet, and the pizza is most definitely reused (queue the Shane Dawson conspiracy theory video.) But, somehow, I ended up there for a kids' birthday party; the party left me; and I had to frantically run through tubes and up ladders looking for someone familiar for about 10 minutes before my dad showed up. This event embedded itself in my brain and now I have a genuine fear of being left places or forgotten. It's okay, you can laugh. I haven't fully processed the event, but I'd rather joke about it than do that.

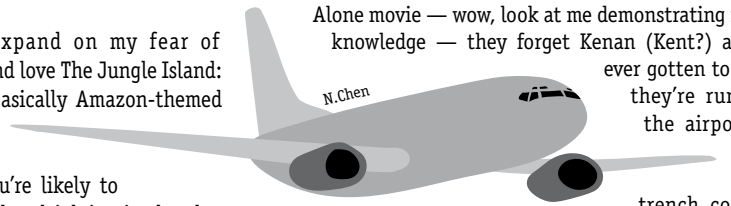
ANYWAYS, enough about that. It's time for my Home Alone review. As for the overall plot, I do not understand how it can be entertaining to

watch a young child attempt to stop robbers from coming into his home after he's been forgotten by his parents. Not only did they completely forget a child, they did it multiple times. In the second Home Alone movie — wow, look at me demonstrating my Home Alone knowledge — they forget Kenan (Kent?) again! I've only ever gotten to the part where they're running through the airport, the boy is following his dad's brown trench coat then starts following the wrong person.

After this scene, I panicked and turned the movie off, but the image of a crowded airport is etched into my brain and definitely adds a whole new level to my Jungle trauma.

The only other thing I know about Home Alone is when Kyle (no, Kayden) asks Donald Trump for help. This is probably my second worst fear, after being abandoned. I think if I even walked by the man he would call me a terrorist and have me deported, despite the fact that I was born in California.

I wish anyone who is watching Home Alone this holiday season luck in their endeavor. As for me, I will not be watching, thank you very much. I do not need more trauma and I think Korbin's parents should lose custody.



- Ryu helps his peers via tutoring
- Evenden leads field hockey team

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NORTHROP PROVES HERSELF ON STAGE AND AT LG

by Sonali Muthukrishnan

Editor-in-Chief

Freshman **Ainsley Northrop** shines both on stage and off. With a winning personality, a love for musical theatre, and a determination to explore, Northrop is sure to find success at LGHS.



In her first year of high school, Northrop is taking on a number of challenging classes, including Honors English and Honors Biology. In addition to these courses, Northrop is also continuing her foreign language journey, taking on Spanish 2. She took Spanish 1 during her 7th and 8th grade years at Raymond J. Fisher Middle School. Northrop reflected on her course load this year, saying, "I like all my teachers," and expressed that her fondness for her teachers alleviates some of the stress that comes with a new year of high school courses.

To satisfy her passion for the arts, Northrop is also part of the school's Concert Choir class as well as Drama 1. The freshman began choir last year as a Soprano 1, the highest female part. Northrop experienced her very first high school choir performance a couple of weeks ago at Saratoga's McAfee Center. At the event, the Concert Choir class collaborated with the Chamber Singers to perform a piece called *Sing Gently*, by Eric Whitacre. Prior to that, she played in Fisher's Orchestra class, first as a violinist before moving on to the viola.

Outside of school, Northrop continues to pursue theatre. She shared that, "I try to do at least one show every year." Typically, she performs musical theatre productions with Los Gatos Youth Theatre (LGYT) or Children's Musical Theatre San Jose (CMT). This past summer, Northrop starred in *All Shook UP* at LGYT. In the production, an Elvis-themed musical with a whopping 26 dance numbers, Northrop played Martha, a member of the show's female dancing trio. The show was Northrop's first Encore LGYT show, as she just moved into the older age group. Just last week, Northrop added dance classes at CMT to her schedule. Primarily, she focuses on musical theatre style dance and tap dancing. The young star also takes biweekly voice lessons with Heather Stokes, LGYT's Artistic Director and a local Broadway legend. The lessons focus on theatre singing and general vocal technique.

In her free time, Northrop enjoys hanging out with her friends, family, and pets. As a self-described "mountain kid," the freshman has an entire zoo at home that consists of three dogs and two rabbits named Alfredo and Pickles.

Looking ahead, Northrop is excited to see what high school has in store for her. She revealed that she is "definitely looking forward to more Honors English-type classes" in the future. Not only is she planning on continuing choir next year, but she may check out the high school's Journalism class as well!

Northrop's bubbly personality, zest for life, and overall excitement for the rest of her high school years are sure to guide her down a successful path.



photos courtesy A. Northrop

Ryu channels passion for math

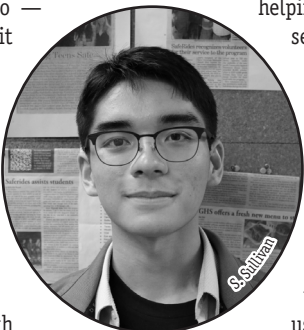
by Sophie Sullivan

Editor-in-Chief

In adjusting to the pandemic, perhaps one of the most difficult endeavors for students to take on is finding joy in dark times. For senior **Dylan Ryu**, though, this comes naturally. His unique ability to envision new pathways to almost everything he tackles in life — whether it's complex math problems, engagement in online communities and commerce, or advanced piano — allows Ryu to incorporate the pursuit of happiness into whatever he takes on.

One of Ryu's most confounding passions is his desire to achieve a major in mathematics and, eventually, a teaching position in the field. Contrary to many students who gravitate towards English and humanities-based courses versus STEM, Ryu finds math to be "unique" in that "concepts build upon each other," finding them to be far less "monotone" than English. He noted his gratitude towards educational opportunities in the field, including advanced courses at the high school, Apex Online Learning, West Valley and De Anza Colleges, and Fusion Academy in Los Gatos.

In particular, though, he noted that his experiences with Apex led him to begin tutoring peers taking similar classes. As entirely online, self-guided courses culminating in unit exams meant to stand-in for structured classes at the high school, Ryu felt Apex "exacerbated procrastination issues that a lot of students have." Without a teacher present, "there's no one to physically talk to you and explain subjects." Thus, Ryu did what felt natural: he became a teacher for his peers.



"I saw people struggling with this online course, and I went: well, I can help explain that to you to the best of my capabilities, and hopefully you will end up doing better in this class because of that," he explained.

In addition to tutoring, Ryu seeks chances at peer building in other communities, both virtual and in-person. Online, he became involved with marketing, outreach, and statistics over Discord, helping facilitate "commissions for art or services for video games." He's also a board member with SafeRides of Los Gatos, a local group offering free rides home to LGHS students on Friday evenings and dance nights. He stated he hopes that "more people hear about it, either they volunteer or that they know about it so they use it more," as he knows that "more usage fosters even more usage." In his rare free time, Ryu plays piano at local senior centers — a skill he's mastered over 14 years of practice and for which he achieved a California Certificate of Merit.

When asked how he continues to stay motivated despite the constant risk of setbacks, Ryu noted that he feels he's already overcome his biggest obstacle yet. "I was born with stage four neuroblastoma, a form of cancer," Ryu explained. Though he beat cancer soon after birth, he lives with what he describes as "[long-lasting] and chronic side effects." This means regular doctor's appointments, lengthy absences, and, despite its implications, an "upside to life." Ryu went on to say that his cancer is part of the reason he hopes to become a teacher because he "feels so invested in school," considering the number of pathways students can take to achieve an education. "I wouldn't be who I am without it."

DALESIO ROWS TO VICTORY

by Michaela Thimot and Dana Hathaway

Culture Editor and Sports Editor

The few moments determined freshman **Victor Dalesio** isn't dedicating his time to rowing for gold, he can either be found at a Santa Cruz record shop increasing his collection or down south with his Brazilian extended family. A newbie to the school, Dalesio has already adjusted and settled in while balancing his workload and five-day-a-week practices.

The talented oarsman first discovered his passion for rowing right after fifth grade when he joined the Los Gatos Rowing Club. Over the past three years, he has grown into a quite accomplished rower. After the season ended, his coach told him there would be an extra month of optional open boathouse, and Dalesio jumped at the chance to improve his skills. Not long into the off-season practices, his coach noticed that he was exceptional in a single and asked him if he wanted to go to nationals, just two weeks prior to the regatta. When asked to compete in the U15 singles event he, "was totally shocked, but of course [he] really wanted to because it's a dream of [his]."

The weekend his eighth grade year ended, he flew out with the rest of his team to Sarasota, FL. The rowers spent the first few days of their trip getting used to the course they would race on. Dalesio's U15 singles event was one of the last few races of the weekend, so his whole team was watching and cheering for him. Because of his team's support, Dalesio felt extremely confident during his race, and it led to victory. The win was even greater for Dalesio because it was his first ever regatta, and he took home the gold.

Despite winning his first regatta, Dalesio continues to work hard to ensure he achieves wins in his upcoming races as well. Since he began rowing, he stated that the sport "has taught [him] to be disciplined and to fight for what [he] wants to achieve because if there's something that [he] really wants, rowing has taught [him] to just go for it and do whatever he can to get there."



courtesy V. Dalesio

Outside of rowing, Dalesio thrives both in the classroom and at home. He elected to take Intro to Engineering this year, describing the class as "fun and pretty interesting because we do cool projects sometimes." He is also part of LGHS's Learn, Explore, Act, and Design program (LEAD), although he explained that that the program is a "really good opportunity to have, but not the right one for [him] in future."

After a packed school day and extensive practice, Dalesio's great dane Mina is sure to greet him when he enters the house. When asked the pressing question of cats versus dogs, he laughed before responding, "Is that even a question? Dogs, of course!" Not only is Mina there for him at home, but his older sister **Juliana Dalesio**, a senior at LGHS, is a supportive presence as well. The siblings love to spend time at their house in Santa Cruz together, along with discovering places to make new "unnecessary" purchases.

Elliott shows her skill both in and out of the pool

by Bridie Beamish

Media Production Editor

Los Gatos High School sophomore **Karissa Elliott** has no trouble chasing her creative passions. Whether she's dominating in the pool, on the court, or on the stage, this athlete makes sure to leave her mark. Jumping into the water when she was just nine years old, Elliott's passion for water polo has only grown over the years, turning her into a dedicated and prized player.

Joining Varsity her freshman year, Elliott described the experience as rewarding, claiming, "I think it was the right choice because I grew a lot more as a player, and I learned the game better." Currently a sophomore and utility player — jumping in wherever needed — Elliott expressed her love for returning to the sport after COVID. "I love having the crowd cheering. That makes me feel so much better when I am playing." She further recalled, "I got this one goal, it's called a sweep shot, and it hit the crossbar then bounced in, and everyone was cheering really loudly." Elliott played a key role in the team's league championship win on Oct. 30, and was excited to participate in the league championships this year after only playing regular games during the last COVID-affected season.

When asked about the team's culture, Elliott declared her appreciation for her teammates, saying, "I know that they'll always be there to have my back." She further described one of her favorite team moments, occurring after she assisted her teammate in a goal: "We both just swam up to each other and hugged in the water. That was a really cute moment."

Though Elliott expressed her dedication and passion for the sport, she concluded that she was undecided on whether she has plans to play in college. The water polo star voiced her concerns over the recruiting process, but stated, "I don't want to close the door. It's definitely still open, but I'm not 100 percent sure if I'm going to move on with it."

Though a skilled water polo player, Elliott does not limit herself, demonstrating her affinity for athletics through basketball, swimming, and dance. Starting basketball when she was in kindergarten, this athlete claimed her love for the sport and stated, "it's just always been a part of me and my life." She further proclaimed her enthusiasm over swimming as she enjoys getting to race and the feeling of accomplishment. Elliott followed up with her passion for dancing. Describing it as "an outlet" and declaring, "I always feel so good when I'm dancing because I'm not really thinking, I'm just in the moment, especially being on stage with lights on [me] I feel so powerful. I'm not thinking about anything else, just how happy I am in that moment."



courtesy K. Elliott

This sophomore makes room for both her athletic and academic talent, stepping a foot into both worlds. When asked about her classes this year, Elliott shared her adoration for her guitar class. She explained, "I'm not really a musical person. I love to listen to music, but I'm not the one playing the instrument. So I think it's really cool to get to be on that side of it." The beginner continued, "It's a cool creative outlet that's different from sports." Elliott's busy schedule requires her to be on top of her game, and she explained her management of academics and athletics: "I have to be really efficient with my work, and I have to manage my time well, balancing how much effort I put into certain things."

Evenden makes her mark on the field

by Lucy Sells

Media Production Editor

If you're ever in need of a captivating conversation, senior **Natasha Evenden** is the girl for you. Whether you hear about her cat Licorice, field hockey, lacrosse, winning homecoming queen, or crashing her car, Evenden is sure to recall unbelievable, yet amusing, stories.



courtesy N. Evenden

Evenden has been captain of the field hockey team since her junior year, a position coveted by seniors and nearly impossible for juniors to earn. Despite being cut her freshman year, Evenden decided to use the struggle as motivation, pushing herself to be better, and eventually rejoining the team that same year. Evenden remembers gag gifts on her birthday, ruined gender reveals, and food poisoning as just a few of her favorite "fockey" memories. Of these memories Evenden simply says, "[they] remind me of how tight-knit we are, how much I love my team."

Despite putting on a confident front, being field hockey captain as a junior was not easy for Evenden. She constantly felt the need to prove

herself and be as great as previous captains. Now she wishes she had stressed less and been more confident. Following her own advice, this year Evenden has been playing more freely, scoring over 20 goals in the season.

Not only is Evenden a field hockey star, but she is also an incredible lacrosse player, making varsity her freshman year. Starting the sport in eighth grade, Evenden was behind most of the players her age skill-wise. Every day Evenden would go into her yard and practice lacrosse, and her perseverance paid off. Her biggest piece of advice is to "Work hard and don't stop working hard. Don't become okay with how good you are because you can always get better." Evenden's love for sports derives from her competitive spirit, as well as a love for being part of a team.

Even though her passion for sports is huge, Evenden's biggest love is her cat Licorice. During our 13-minute interview, Evenden spoke of her cat for over six minutes, detailing his love for his teal blanket, his bee costume for Halloween, stretches, and hiding out in Evenden's room. Although Licorice may get muddy paws and tracks through Evenden's house, her love never fades.

Evenden plans on majoring in political science in college with a future goal of becoming a civil rights lawyer. Looking at 20 schools in total, Evenden is primarily focused on schools around Boston, such as Boston College, Tufts, and Northeastern, but this future lawyer is also looking for schools near Washington D.C., the political science capital. Evenden plans to apply to Georgetown, American, and George Washington University there. Regardless of what she decides to do, or where she decides to go, Evenden is sure to achieve great things and leave a lasting impact on whomever she encounters. Be sure to come see Natasha Evenden play during field hockey's post-season, or in the spring on the lacrosse field; you will not be disappointed.

Wilkens becomes a triple threat

by Marissa Hein

Graphics Editor

Junior **Tommy Wilkens** is no stranger to the spotlight. His dedication to the performing arts is clear, as he is both an experienced actor and musician. Wilkens's theatre journey began early in his childhood after his mom spontaneously signed him up for a summer camp. According to Wilkens, he "got hooked after that, and just kept on doing it because [he] really enjoyed performing."

Wilkens most recently portrayed Felix Sr. in Los Gatos High School's fall play, *The Hope and Heartache Diner*. Although the show closed less than a month ago, he is already onto his next project: co-directing a one-act called *Out of the Box* with junior **Esme Jacques** for the Drama Department's bi-annual fundraiser, *Dramatic Desserts*. The show was written by Los Gatos High School alumni **Hannah Wild** and **Alexandra Gray**. Wilkens' directing experience began in drama class. He chose to take on the one-act because he "really liked Hannah's one-act when we attempted to do it [last year] over Zoom, and I thought it should be performed [live]." Directing a one-act is no small feat, but Wilkens is still managing to find time to participate in the Drama Department's musical review, *All Together Now*, which will open in November, shortly before *Outside the Box*.

Although he gave a stellar performance this fall in *The Hope and Heartache Diner*, Wilkens' favorite role to date is his part as Jim Haller in Los Gatos Youth Theatre's *All Shook Up*, which debuted in July. One day, Wilkens hopes to earn a spot in a production of *Jekyll and Hyde* as Dr. Jekyll because "it's a really complex character and you get to play three different very opposite aspects in one body. Yeah, that would be a cool opportunity." Performing in *Jekyll and Hyde* could very well be in Wilkens' future, as he intends to pursue theatre. Whether that means majoring or

minoring in theatre while in college or pursuing it recreationally, he definitely plans to keep it in his life. When asked if he would ever consider doing film, Wilkens responded, "I prefer theatre, because I like the immediate feedback you get when you do something well, like when I have a funny line. That's really rewarding."

Besides theatre, music is one of Wilkens' biggest passions. When he is not acting or directing, he can be found mastering the plethora of instruments he plays. He is currently learning how to play the trumpet as part of his involvement in the high school's concert band. On top of that, he also plays the saxophone, piano, ukulele, and melodica, which, according to Wilkens, "has the face of a keyboard, but it's a wind instrument so you're blowing into [it]. It's kind of like a harmonica but you're playing the keys. It's like a mini keyboard. It's fun. It sounds like an accordion." When asked what prompted him to pick up so many different instruments, he explained, "I enjoy music and singing, so it's fun to be able to use music with different instruments."

Whether he pursues music, theatre, or a balance of both, Wilkens is sure to achieve great success. He is a gifted and serious artist at his core, and he cannot wait to continue entertaining the world with all of his talents.



courtesy T. Wilkens

GARWOOD EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF BROTHERHOOD

by Kate Gruetter

Culture Editor

When asked to describe himself, sophomore **Scott Garwood** answered, "Someone who works hard, someone who is a good leader, but most importantly is a good teammate." Garwood's answer is one that stays true to his character. A receiver and safety for Los Gatos High School's Junior Varsity football team, Garwood is everything mentioned and more. A player who prioritizes his team, a brother inspired by his family, and a leader dedicated to his sport.



Given his early start in the sport, football has had a large influence on Garwood's life. His dad "played in college and in high school when he was a kid" and he even noted that his "uncle played, and he went to the NFL, so that was cool." His late uncle, Pat Tillman, is famous

for giving up his NFL career to join the military after 9/11, and sadly died in combat. The greatest inspiration for Garwood, however, is his brothers. Garwood thoroughly enjoyed watching his older brothers play, and said that "it drove me to become a better athlete and harder worker." The encouragement and influence of his siblings motivated Garwood to "play as hard as [he] could" and he reflected that "no matter what we did athletically, [as kids] it became a competition." Garwood has carried this appreciation for competition and community through years of playing experience.

However, Garwood doesn't play football for glory and gold, but for "the brotherhood, like playing with your friends," as well as "just the joy you get out of it." He mentioned, specifically, his friend **Spencer Burg**, whom he describes as "awesome." "[Burg] started Pop Warner in like seventh grade and we've been playing together ever since." Garwood also noted sophomore **Jalen Thomas**, someone he "started [playing with] in like fifth or sixth [grade]." He described Thomas as someone who "is really fun to play with," despite the fact that they have been separated since Thomas got brought up to Varsity this year.

Garwood also recalls a multitude of enjoyable football memories, one of which includes a trip across the country. When playing Pop Warner, he related how "our team was really good and we got to go to Florida for football." While there, the players "got to go on a bunch of rides," at the Florida amusement parks. According to Garwood, "the laughs you share with your teammates are awesome."

In addition to making lifelong friends and memories, Garwood also appreciates the rivalries that are part of the sport. There's always a team the sophomore looks forward to facing. "Palo Alto is our big rival,"

Garwood said. "My brothers both played against them, and that's when the rivalry was really big." This familial bond is a big motivator for Garwood and it "fires me up to play against [Palo Alto]."

Garwood is no stranger to victory, for both of Los Gatos High School's football teams have remained undefeated in their respective league seasons. However, the influence of his brothers, positive memories, and supportive teammates all contribute to his appreciation for competition and camaraderie, rather than a trophy or recognition. This sense of community exists off the field as well. In the Los Gatos community, Garwood "volunteers for Boys Team Charity," which, according to Garwood, does "a lot of cool stuff for kids that aren't as fortunate." Much of this work is performed with other members, so teamwork once again plays a large role.

Overall, Garwood is a player to watch out for. With his skill, genuine love for the sport, and commitment to his teammates, he is sure to achieve his dream of playing on Varsity his junior year, and possibly competing later in college.



photos courtesy S. Garwood

SLOVER SETS HERSELF UP FOR SUCCESS

by Michaela Thimot

Culture Editor

Whenever she can spare a moment from her rigorous student-athlete lifestyle, junior **Hannah Slover** spends her time writing music, eating endless amounts of sushi, and rearranging her room for the millionth time.

The 2021-22 school year is off to an excellent start for Slover, as she recently verbally committed to play Division 1 volleyball at UCSB. She was offered not only a multitude of volleyball scholarships, but also a few opportunities to run track as well. After a lengthy recruiting process, Slover made the decision to accept UCSB's full ride volleyball offer. She visited Santa Barbara before and was able

to meet her future teammates and coaches. The team is in the midst of a wonderful season and are currently first in the Big West Conference. Being with the team made Slover feel right at home as she instantly connected with the players and coaches. Slover has, "been working towards this goal for [her] whole life... and it's a relief that [she] finally gets to do what [she's] been wanting to do since [she] was a little girl."



Along with her soon to be team, Slover's LGHS volleyball team is having an exceptional season, with the team heading to NorCals and hopefully to state. The team had an exceptional record this season in their league games and Slover states that the joyous atmosphere among the players and the passion they all have for the sport has led them to victory. Slover has been on the LG Varsity volleyball team since her freshman year. Even as a freshman, she made an enormous contribution to the team with almost 500 kills during the season.

Although volleyball is Slover's main focus, this year she is also focusing on track and field. She has had a lot of fun with track over the years, but "hasn't taken it as seriously until this year." In middle school, Slover obtained some high jump records by jumping 5'5" in just seventh grade and she hopes to break more records this upcoming season.

Slover's family is not short on unbelievable athletes. In college, her dad was a pole vaulter at UCLA, while her mom was a hurdler at Cal Poly. Her parents push her to achieve her goals and she is heavily inspired by both of them. Slover's grandfather — also a pole vaulter in college — has been a track coach for 50 years;



photos courtesy H. Slover

she credits him for a lot of her success as she spends a great deal of time training with him.

Her love for music and beautiful voice, however, comes from her grandmother and the two sing together whenever they get the chance. Slover is also extremely close to her younger, kind-hearted brother Sean, who is finding his own passion for sports with hopes to play for the LGHS football team next year as a freshman. In college, Slover is considering studying something in the realm of psychology or sports medicine.

Slover has always loved to travel and dreams of playing volleyball internationally some day in the future. She got the chance to live in Ireland for nine months in fifth grade and got to see many other parts of Europe as a result. Regardless of what she decides to do in the future, her determination will allow her to accomplish her dreams.

- LGHS soccer teams get ready to play
- Blackhawks ignore sexual misconduct

SPORTS

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Large turnout at LG soccer tryouts indicates promising season

by **Senji Torrey**

Public Relations Manager

As LGHS transitions from fall to winter sports, the beautiful game comes to the forefront as both the girls and boys soccer seasons get ready to kick off.

Tryouts began on the week of Nov. 1, and are scheduled to end on Nov. 12. On the boys Varsity team, **Alex Saunders** will once again serve as head coach, with **Frank Marriotti** as an assistant and goalkeeper coach. Recent LGHS alums **Dori Hjalmarson** and **Ziggy Valencia** will head the JV boys team for this upcoming season.

Pablo Cueto, **Tom Hicks**, and **Mike Grom** are expected to coach the Varsity girl's group, while **Richy Licon** and **Andres Garcia** will split duties as coach for the girls JV squad. Out of these nine coaches, six coach at Liverpool FC Bay Area, an LG-based soccer club that has close ties to the school.

The tryouts process proved difficult for coaches due to the sheer number of players who attended these training sessions. Almost 80 students showed up to compete on the first day of boys' tryouts, with a few more sprinkling in during the rest of the week. The girls saw a large turnout as well, forcing coaches to keep eyes on more than one player at a time so as not to miss any hidden talent.

Despite it only being two weeks into the preseason, the Varsity boys have already discovered a potentially season-defining disparity in the goalkeeper position. The team hopes that junior **Chase Hooper** will step up and fill the vital role.

The Varsity girls, who are coming off of an undefeated league-winning season, are looking dominant as usual, with many returning seniors and incoming juniors to keep their reputation alive.

The boys Varsity team's first match will be a home game against Latino College Preparatory Academy on Dec. 13, giving the team ample time to prepare for their first test. Their first league match will be against Homestead on Dec. 30 at Helm Field.

The girls Varsity start their preseason preparations a bit earlier, facing off against Saint Francis on Dec. 4. They will also be taking on Menlo Atherton, Mountain View, and Leigh before their season league opener against Homestead, though the girls will not be hosting this Dec. 30 game. JV matches will take place on the same day and against the same teams for most of the season.

All four teams will play 13 regular season games, and up to three postseason games for both Varsity squads if they make it into the top eight teams in their respective division. For reference,

the boys will be in Division II, while the girls will be playing in the Open Division.

With the season less than a month away, Los Gatos High School Soccer is beginning to ramp up for a season that will resemble the pre-COVID era, while also giving insight into what post-pandemic sporting events may look like.



MAKING THE CUT: Tryouts for the girls' soccer team take place on the baseball field.

Warriors' defense can bring a title

by **Matthew Fehr**

National/World Editor

The NBA season officially kicked off on Oct. 19, with a return to the traditional 82-game schedule that COVID-19 disrupted. To celebrate the NBA's 75th anniversary, the league compiled a list of the 75 most impactful players in the game's history "selected by a blue-ribbon panel of media and current and former players, coaches, general managers and team executives" according to the league's website. The NBA also created a modified logo in celebration of the event, which can be found on new merchandise, uniforms, courts, and all forms of media. Several games throughout the season will be billed as NBA 75 Classic Matchups to "celebrate the teams, players, coaches and moments that have defined 75 years of NBA basketball."

The Golden State Warriors, one of only three teams that have participated in every NBA season, is also celebrating its 75th anniversary. Originally located in Philadelphia from 1946 to 1962, the Warriors have won six championships, four of which are during the team's stay in California. Eight players from the Warriors franchise — Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant, Rick Barry, Wilt Chamberlain, Paul Arizin, Nate Thurmond, Robert Parish, and Jerry Lucas — made the anniversary team. Notably omitted from the list is Klay Thompson, a five-time all-star and arguably one of the greatest shooters in the league's history.

After disappointing seasons from 2019 to 2021, largely due to injuries suffered by Curry and Thompson and the loss of Kevin Durant in free agency, the Warriors are looking to be title contenders once more. Thompson, who tore his left ACL in game six of the 2019 NBA Finals and tore his right Achilles during a pickup game in 2020, sidelined him for the past two years. Ramona Shelburne of ESPN has reported the Warriors' Christmas Day game as a tentative return date for Thompson. Andre Iguodala, a key roleplayer during the Warriors' championship

run from 2015 to 2019, has also returned to the team after being traded to the Memphis Grizzlies before the 2019-2020 season.

Golden State has had a strong start to the season, going undefeated in the preseason and winning their first four games before falling to the Grizzlies in overtime. Much of the Warriors' success can be tied to the team's proficiency on defense; they have the best defense rating in the league at 97.1 points allowed per 100 possessions, the lowest since the 2003 to 2004 Detroit Pistons. In fact, the Warriors' offense isn't particularly impressive, with an efficiency rating of 13th in the league. With the return of Thompson drawing closer and a strong offensive start to the season by Curry — he currently sits at seventh in the league for scoring with an average of 25.8 points per game — the Warriors could end up being legitimate title contenders.

(Sources: Sporting News, NBA, Mercury News)



POOLE IN ACTION: Warriors yell after yet another win.

Dance and cheer perform at half

by **Jenna Roselli**

Public Relations Manager

On Oct. 28, the Varsity dance and cheer teams dazzled the crowd as they strutted across the field alongside band and Varsity football during the senior night ceremony at the Varsity football game. The cheer team performed a vigorous new routine with flips, clean lines, stunts, and spectacular tricks. Senior **Ishy Slater** recounted the night as "surreal to actually be a part of the night after watching it every year." Senior members enjoyed the night even more when "the freshman, sophomores, and juniors all made posters for each of the seniors and some of them brought individual gifts for us, which was very sweet of them!" said Slater. In addition to the senior celebration, the cheer team also got to show off the amazing kids they taught at their fundraiser youth cheer camp.

The fans in the stadium received a fun surprise for the first quarter of the game with the fiery spirit of a little over two dozen kids cheering on the sidelines. The kids, age five to thirteen, attended a two-day youth cheer camp on Oct. 22 and 23, held by the Varsity and JV cheer teams as a way to fundraise for the school's cheer program. At the camp, the attendees learned about the hard work that goes into being a cheerleader and participated in some team bonding with various games including freeze dance. They learned simplified sideline chants, short routines, and some techniques such as hurdler jumps and toe touches. In addition, they prepared a full performance to present to the audience of parents, family, and students at the Oct. 28 Varsity football game. The kids impressed the audience with their high energy cheers before performing their minute long routine they prepared during camp at the end of the first quarter. They received a round of applause and resounding support from the stands as they cheered and danced to Dua Lipa's "Levitating." Ecstatic to finally be able to host another youth

cheer camp, Slater described the team's gratitude "to see the kids on the sideline at the game and having the opportunity to cheer with us."

As for the dance team, the girls sparkled on the dance floor with a sensational performance to J.Lo and Pitbull's "On The Floor" choreographed by juniors **Julia Metz** and **Sarah Gouldrop**. Metz described their experience choreographing the halftime routine on senior night as "challenging but super fun, especially to be creating it with one of my best friends." Senior **Alex Dildine** outlined her senior night as "definitely a full circle moment." Many of the Varsity dance team seniors felt the same way as Dildine, who found herself reminiscing on past senior experiences: "I remember celebrating the seniors of the class of 2018 and it was so fun and special to actually be the seniors." Dildine explained that the entirety of the night felt even more meaningful as "the underclassmen and juniors did a great job of making us feel special and it made me really appreciate my last four years on the dance team."

Now, the dance and cheer teams continue rehearsing new performances in the hope to show their Wildcat spirit at the Varsity football games, should they have any home games during the CCS tournament.



SASSY AND CLASSY: Cheer performs during a Varsity game.

Major League season ends in a flourish with the World Series

by **Trent Bartlett**

National/World Editor

The Atlanta Braves have won the 2021 Major League Baseball World Series, defeating the Houston Astros in six games. The Braves won the last game in Houston by a score of 7-0, taking home the title of champions. This year's World Series was nothing short of incredible, from the drama of the Astros being back, to the Braves defeating the Dodgers.

Coming into the World Series, the Braves were slated to lose to the Astros, according to the spreads with the Braves having a +900 to the Astros +750, both behind the Dodgers.

That most certainly didn't stop both teams from overcoming intense battles to get the chance to win it all. The Braves faced the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League Championship Series (NCLS), while the Astros took on the Boston Red Sox in the American League Championship Series. Both teams won in six games.

While the Astros won the World Series in 2017 against the Dodgers, there was plenty of controversy behind the victory. In 2019, allegations of cheating were proven and the Astros were fined five thousand dollars and forced to forfeit their 2020 and 2021 first and second round draft picks. Therefore, many were against the Astros winning the 2021 World Series and supported the Braves in their attempt to end a 26 year drought.

Game one was played in Atlanta followed by game two. The Braves took home the win in the first game by a score of 6-2. The first run of the World Series was scored in the first inning and then

the Braves kept their streak going, scoring two in the first, one in the second, and two in the third to come away with the win.

The Astros followed with a win in game two by five runs with a score of 7-2. Houston was able to even the series by scoring four runs in the second inning proceeding to go up 5-1 after the inning and never looked back.

The Braves shutout the Astros to a shutout in the third game and won by two points. The scores came in innings four and eight and pushed the Astros back on top and they were only two wins away from the title.

Game four saw the Astros go up two games to a series score of 3-1. They did this by winning game four by a score of 3-2. The Braves actually came back from behind in the seventh and eighth inning scoring two in the eighth and one in the seventh.

With the Braves only one game away from winning the World Series, the Astros fired back with a win. They scored plenty of runs and won by a score of 9-5. However, the Braves came out strong by scoring four in the first but then struggled in the remainder of the game as the Astros came back strong.

The Braves rebounded in game six. Jumping out to a three-run lead in the third inning, the Braves kept going and pitcher Max Fried pitched a shutout. After winning the game 7-0, the Braves were crowned World Champions.

This postseason for the Braves was also a history-making season. The Braves scored a record of 23 home runs in the postseason and were able to cap it off with 70 percent of their



READY FOR THE TEAMS: The field is prepped for the Astro v. Braves World Series.

runs scored by home runs, making it the highest percentage in the World Series.

(Sources: ESPN, NY Times, Sporting News)

LG Field Hockey preps for CCS

by Emily Duvall
Humor Editor

The Los Gatos field hockey team is wrapping up their season after playing their senior match on Thurs., Oct. 28. They played Presentation High School and walked away victors, with a score of 10-0, for the second time this season. Currently, the team is first in their league, Santa Clara Valley-De Anza Valley Field Hockey, and have a record of nine wins and only one loss.



JUMP FOR JOY: Players celebrate a win against Gilroy.

The team has already secured their spot in the playoffs for the California Coast Section (CCS). Their win streak now stretches to a whopping seven regular season wins in a row. Due to their success so far this season, they earned the first seed in the CCS tournament. Moving into the season of playoffs, they are training harder than ever, continuing their schedule of practicing six days a week for about three hours. Junior field hockey player **Samantha Elliott** explained how practices have "definitely gotten more intense since we've moved into CCS, because everyone wants to perform really well so that we can come out with a win."

For senior night, instead of coming to school regularly dressed in their uniforms for game day,

the junior field hockey players came to school wearing orange tie dyed shirts that read "We Love Our Seniors." With the field hockey team's incredibly close relationship, the younger players on the team made the senior's last league match incredibly memorable. Elliott explained how prior to playing the game, each grade was assigned a job to help honor the seniors on the team. The freshmen created handwritten cards, while the sophomores gave giant gift baskets, and the juniors were each in charge of writing and delivering speeches before the game. In addition, the parents of the seniors made poster boards for each of them to display on the bleachers while they played.

During the game, the coach made it so that each senior on the team started in the first and last quarter of the game. Elliott shared in an interview, "this is a big tradition for the team, and since Presentation is a team we are usually able to beat pretty easily, it was fun to see all the seniors on the field at the same time." In addition, the coach had every single varsity field hockey player get minutes in the game. Elliott explained how the match was really special and that it was very heartfelt for all the seniors to have a game like this.



REACH: Sarah Harrell protects the ball from opposition.

Be sure to lookout for the semi-final match on Wed., Nov. 10 and potential CCS final on Sat., Nov. 13.

Football starts postseason play

by Georgia Kaufman
Media Production Editor

The Los Gatos High School Varsity football team has brought home yet another dub, leaving them with a 10-0 regular season record. On Oct. 28, the Varsity team absolutely demolished Mountain View High School at their last home game by a final score of 56-7.

In the first quarter alone, LG managed to score four touchdowns. Junior quarterback **Jake Boyd** made a 53 yard pass to senior wide receiver **Luke Pittock**, resulting in the first touchdown of the game. The three other first quarter touchdowns included one from senior wide receiver **Alejandro Quijada**, senior running back **Caspian Bailey**, as well as a 99 yard pick six from junior Landon Heard. LGHS was up 28-0 within the first 12 minutes of the game, and could see a clear win ahead.

Heard came through with his interception after Mountain View attempted to score only one yard from the endzone. Running the 99 yards, Heard was recognizably the MVP of the night; his interception was single handedly the greatest play of the game. Senior linebacker **Jake Ripp** proved himself to be one of the most notable tackles, blocking a Mountain View athlete around the 35 yard line, allowing Heard to score the touchdown.

Second quarter touchdowns came from Boyd, Quijada, and another pick 6 (22 yards) from Junior lineman **Kevin Rogers**, leaving the Cats with a 49-0 lead over Mountain View.



HERE WE GO: Los Gatos football team gets ready for a game.



GO TEAM: William Dal Porto and Wil Brennan pose for the camera.

The third quarter of the game was the first and only time Mountain View scored. The one yard rushing touchdown softened the blow at the end of the evening.

The fourth quarter began 49-7. Junior wide receiver **Levi Romero** closed the game with a touchdown, leaving Los Gatos with their 56-7 victory. Throughout the game, Romero made three solo tackles and two assists.

Other notable athletes during this game include senior wide receiver and defensive back **Olin Bernhoff**, senior wide receiver and defensive back **Quinn Merritt**, junior running back and linebacker **Chase Hinson**, and junior wide receiver and linebacker **Henry Wong**.

The JV and Freshman teams have also been competing well. JV is currently following in the Varsity team's footsteps, holding a 9-0 overall record. The freshman team holds a 7-2-1 record as well.

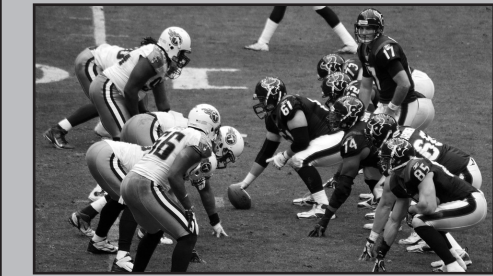
Los Gatos won their game against Milpitas on Nov. 5 with a final score of 34-7. Notable athletes during this game included Boyd, Bailey, junior running back/defensive back **Emiliano Mejia**, senior wide receiver/defensive back **Yuma Roux-Moriwaki**, and sophomore wide receiver/defensive back **Jaylen Thomas**.

From the way it looks right now, LG is on the way to dominate in their upcoming California Coast Section (CCS) games. Make sure to keep up with the Los Gatos Varsity squad during their postseason!

NFL Teams get ready for the second half of the season

by Trent Bartlett
National/World Editor

After eight weeks of eye-catching football, the National Football League's (NFL) halfway mark is quickly approaching. While the first half may be over, the action was nothing short of amazing.



TAKE THEM DOWN: Tennessee Titans' defensive line gets ready.

While the National Football Conference (NFC) has seen the expected teams flourish into Super Bowl caliber teams, the American Football Conference (AFC) has seen an incredibly unpredictable rankings each week. The NFC has the Los Angeles Rams,

Arizona Cardinals, Green Bay Packers, and reigning champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers all at 7-1, while the Dallas Cowboys follow closely behind at 6-1. The AFC's top teams include the Cincinnati Bengals, Baltimore Ravens, Las Vegas Raiders, and Los Angeles Chargers, and the conference is still a tossup as to who will take the number one spot going into the playoffs.

With the Tennessee Titans currently on top of the AFC, many are concerned about their star running back, Derrick Henry, and his health status. Henry broke his foot during their victory over the Indianapolis Colts and got it surgically repaired on Tues., Nov. 2. Behind the Titans are the Las Vegas Raiders, who have recently had a crazy season with the firing of Head Coach John Gruden due to racist, sexist, and homophobic emails that came to light.

The Raiders also released star wide receiver Henry Ruggs III after he was reportedly involved in a car accident while under the influence, leaving one person dead. The court charged Ruggs with a DUI resulting in a death.

While the NFC has stayed away from controversy this year, competition has been prodigious. In the NFC the top teams all have star players on both offense and defense. The 7-2 Rams recently acquired All-Pro linebacker Von Miller, who, paired with Aaron Darnold and Jalen Ramsey, raises the team's ranking in Super Bowl predictions.

However, Tom Brady has proven time and time again that you can never count him out. Brady is performing "as great as ever" according to ESPN analyst Dan Orlovsky. He is paired with three star wideouts, a hall-of-fame-bound tight end, and a top five offensive line and defense.

One team that has underperformed this season is the Kansas City Chiefs with a record of 4-4. The Chiefs have stars at every position, yet struggle on both sides of the ball — failing to get consistent game play and ranking 31st defense, allowing the worst yard per game of any team in the league.

The local 49ers once again are struggling with injuries, with both quarterbacks having to miss time and starting running back Raheem



EXPECTATIONS: Kansas City Chiefs' fans wish for a better record.

Mostard's season-ending surgery after an injury in Week 1. The Niners have also seen star tight end George Kittle, on IR for over half of the games played.

While the remainder of the season is bound to be intense, the action will not disappoint. This season, every week has seen at least one overtime game, keeping things extremely interesting. This year the league has drawn much attention from viewers who are looking for action each and every week. The games are slated to increase for the second half of the season, and who isn't excited about that. (Sources: NFL, CNN, ESPN)

The Blackhawks face backlash after not addressing assault

by Senji Torrey
Public Relations Manager

Trigger Warning: This article discusses the issue of sexual misconduct in sports.

In 2010, Kyle Beach came forward to report his experience with sexual assault while part of the National Hockey League's (NHL) Chicago Blackhawks. After 11 years of dismissals and muzzling, private firm Jenner & Block took up Beach's grievance in a five month investigation. What came out of this investigation has transcended the Blackhawks organization, promising lasting effects in the NHL as a whole.

In the report, Beach — who identified under the pseudonym John Doe — described a non-consensual physical encounter initiated by video coach Brad Aldrich in the coach's apartment. According to ESPN, Beach was subject to a "sexual encounter" with Aldrich, and received many phone messages that were sexual in nature. Beach also testified

that the video coach took advantage of another player who remained nameless. When questioned about these allegations, Aldrich — who resigned in mid-June of 2010 to avoid an impending personal investigation — claimed that these encounters and texts were consensual.

Notably, Beach told Al MacIsaac, who served as senior director of hockey operations during that time, shortly after the incidents. MacIsaac called a meeting with six other Blackhawks leadership members, where they agreed to set the issue aside. One of these leadership officials is the Blackhawks' now former General Manager Stan Bowman, who gave context and insight into the gathering. Bowman alluded to Chicago's playoff run, and how this affected their ultimate decision to take no action. In a statement, he explained that head coach Joel Quenneville "shook his head and said that it was hard for the team to get to where they were, and they could not deal with this issue now."

Bowman and MacIsaac have since resigned amid pressure from both the public and organization. Quenneville has also resigned from his job as head coach of the Florida Panthers. He walked away with two years left in his contract that was worth upwards of 15 million dollars. In a personal statement, he expressed his remorse, writing "My former team, the Blackhawks, failed Kyle and I own my share of that. I want to reflect on how all of this happened and take the time to educate myself on ensuring hockey spaces are safe for everyone."

In response to the investigation, Beach has expressed a sense of weight being lifted off of his shoulders. He laments that "You could never imagine being put in this situation by somebody who is supposed to be there to help you, and to make you a better hockey player." He would later add that he felt "scared and alone, with no idea what

to do." These two quotes eerily resemble the testimony of the many victims of Larry Nassar, the former US Gymnastics doctor convicted of sexually molesting young gymnasts. To clarify, the parallels are uncanny, but to rank these two events against each other is ill-advised.

Blackhawks owner Rocky Wirtz requested that the Hockey Hall of Fame, the organization responsible for the championship Stanley Cup trophy, go through the process of "x-ing out" Aldrich's name from the 2010 section of the official Stanley Cup. More broadly, the NHL has fined the Blackhawks 2 million dollars for "the organization's inadequate internal procedures and insufficient and untimely response" to Beach's case.

In spite of the immense pain that he still feels, Beach stated that it's "a great feeling of relief and vindication...[to] no longer [have it be] my word against everybody else's."

(Sources: NBC Chicago, ESPN, CNN, Sporting News)



IT WILL GET BETTER: Kyle Beach looks at the ice hockey rink before a game.



NEW MAN FOR THE JOB: The new coach of the Blackhawks looks over his team.



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LGHS girls' tennis teams finish strong in regular season

by Nathan Chen
Graphics Editor

After an exhilarating few months, the LGHS girls' tennis teams finished their regular season and are now looking forward to CCS championships. On Oct. 7, both the JV and Varsity teams played Gunn and, unfortunately, came home without a win. The JV team lost two to four while the Varsity team lost two to five. They fought hard against the talented Wilcox team on Oct. 12, but in the end the JV team lost one to four and the Varsity team lost 3 to 4. The teams almost rallied, but players' morale dropped, leading to the loss. Coach **Pablo Cueto** called on the team to stay together and cheer for each other during future games.

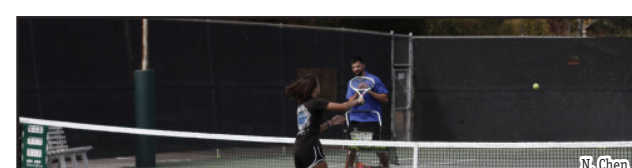
The JV girls played against Milpitas on Oct. 14 and lost 1-5. While the JV team struggled, the Varsity team leapt ahead, winning 6-1. The Fremont game on Oct. 21 concluded with a 6-1 Varsity win. The Varsity team continued its streak by gracefully winning 6-1 against Santa Clara on Oct. 26, even when the courts had lots of leaves, making matches difficult. Although both teams put up a good fight, the JV and Varsity teams both lost to Lynbrook in their final matches with a 1-6 score.

Sophia Cuevas, a sophomore on the JV team, said that the team "built chemistry really quickly." She added that "everybody was fairly nice. No one was competitive or trying to be better than anyone else." She mentioned that even teams from other schools who were more challenging to play were also welcoming and had good sportsmanship. Her favorite game to play was against Gunn, even though LGHS didn't win against them. "They were just super competitive and it was a good challenge," she said.

Regarding whether she prefers singles or doubles games, Cuevas said, "I only played doubles this season...but I do like singles. It was more fun to be independent. Not that I don't like playing with partners, but it just felt nice to be alone." **Danny Tal**, a junior on the JV team, said that she likes both singles and doubles, and that each has their pros and cons. Tal reasoned that doubles were better "because you have your partner's support if you mess up or if you're doing good." The LGHS tennis teams appear to have exceptional camaraderie and play together very well. **Pela Karamanolis**, a senior on the JV team, explained that "all the players are very close. We are like family, and we support each other a lot, no matter what. We're dedicated and we try hard to do the best we can." Tal added that "I like

that it's a really fun community and we're all really close and we're all really supportive of each other." Many members feel bittersweet about the end of the season. Cuevas mentioned that since the season is over, "I have more time to focus on hard classes such as AP Euro." She continued, saying, "I like to get on the court a lot to play, but now that we don't have [practices], it's kinda sad." Karamanolis agreed, saying that "I'm very proud of what we've accomplished, but I'm going to miss the team."

No matter how many wins or losses the LGHS Girls' tennis teams have, the strong support and collaboration between the players will no doubt lead to even better results in 2022.



PRACTICE TIME: Coach Cueto throws tennis balls to player during practice.

LGHS Wapo comes to an end

by Dana Hathaway
Sports Editor

The tightly packed stands and competitive atmosphere made for an exciting championship game for the women's LGHS Varsity water polo team on Sat., Oct. 30. In a culmination of an entire season's hard work, the varsity team left their home pool with a win. They also gained a ticket to a round of Central Coast Section (CCS), where they played St. Francis High School on Nov. 6. Despite losing 6-4 to the extremely competitive neighboring high school, the women had an incredible championship game and season which, according to captain **Mackenzie Lindholm**, will make for "some amazing memories."

The final game of the season was against Castilleja and the pressure was on for the team to keep their championship-winning streak going. Castilleja was the cause of the team's only conference loss earlier this season, and they brought their A game on the 30th. Lindholm said that "[the game] was super fun. We had all of our friends and family come and watch, and the pool deck was full. Everybody had brought a lot of energy and it was probably one of our best games so far this season, and it was just really fun to have everybody there and play so well." Looking over the entire season, the senior claimed that "we really valued everyone on the team whether they played a lot or a

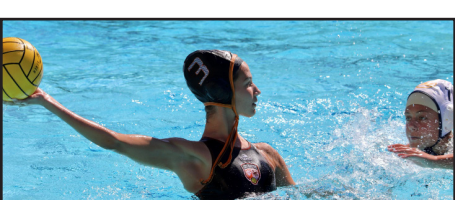


photos courtesy J. Lindholm

VARSITY FUN: Varsity boys' captain plays in LGHS pool. little...it was a season for fun and growth and we saw a lot of success." After the 10-5 championship win, Coach **Don Appleton** jumped in the water alongside the team as they did their team cheer fresh off the excitement of a win.

The Varsity boys' team finished off its regular season on Oct. 30 as well. They had the unfortunate luck to play undefeated Gunn High School in their third game of the league tournament, and lost 16-14 in a close match against the mighty Titans. When asked about the game, senior captain **Cameron Moayed** noted that the team "definitely did not do as well in the league season as we hoped," as the boys lost more than a few games by only a couple goals. Overall, the team had a strong regular season, and Moayed is confident that his team has "a really good chance of winning our CCS Division because of the adjustments we've made throughout the season." The team is a closely knit group, and despite the end to the regular season, they are ready to compete again in CCS.

All 17 water polo seniors, both boys and girls, have completed their final season at LGHS. However, all of the captains brought up the fact that the camaraderie of the team was built off of not just starters, but newer and younger players. The seniors depart after spectacular seasons for both teams, leaving the future of Los Gatos water polo in the capable and incredibly dexterous hands of the other teammates to prepare for an amazing season in 2022.



MAKING A SPLASH: Captain Lindholm prepares to pass ball.

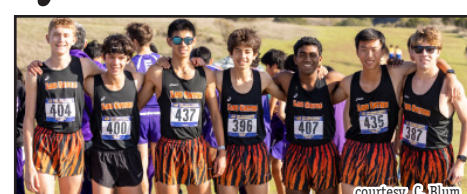
Cross Country dominates

by Emmy Morley
Media Production Editor

After a strong set of initial meets this season, the LGHS cross country team has kept up their good work with quick times and high rankings. In the De Anza League finals, both girls' and boys' JV and Varsity teams competed and came away with strong top scores.

The Varsity girls' team won the De Anza League where they competed against nearby high schools such as Lynbrook and Homestead. They dominated by wide margins in almost every race. Freshman **Shea Elmore** took the title of league champion with a time of 18:10 in the finals. Closely following her was junior **Sophie Tau** with an impressive 18:15. All seven girls Varsity team members took the top ten rankings.

Though the Wildcat cross country teams put in a lot of hard work, they aren't a group that shies away from some fun. Senior **Fiona Herron** noted that the team is a balanced environment. "The team culture is very fun. We all work very hard but also love to mess around. My favorite part is getting to hang out with my teammates, who are some of my best friends." Sophomore **Kate Herron**, when asked about her favorite aspects of her team, mentioned, "long run Sunday's where we drive somewhere fun, often Santa



courtesy C. Blum

WILDCAT PRIDE: Cross Country runners snap a picture together.

Cruz, do a long run and finish with breakfast." She also agreed with Herron on the fun aspects of the team, saying that "Our team is a group of some of the friendliest people on campus. We cheer for each other, whether a race or a workout, and enjoy watching our teammates and ourselves improving. I love Cross Country because you have to put in the work to improve. It's satisfying to finish a workout with tingling legs and tunnel vision and then seeing the results when you PR at the next race. Although running is an extremely hard sport, it's 100 percent worth the effort."

After a series of successful races, The boys' Varsity team took second in the De Anza League, and head into the CCS final alongside the women. Seniors **Rahul Jones** and **Micah Hoang** came away with strong times of 17:05.1 and 17:05.3, respectively. Senior Varsity Boys' team runner **Connor Blum** said on the topic of the girls' team and the seniors, "[The] girls are looking good to go to states and they are trying to make it as a team as well as individuals. The seniors all had big personal records and are excited to have one last cross country race of their high school careers."

As the girls' team gears up for the state finals and the boys' team wraps up the season with several PR's and top rankings, one thing is for sure — the LGHS Cross Country team knows how to get it done.



courtesy K. Herron

CROSSING THE COUNTRY: Athletes pose for photo after meet.

POM: Emily Gouldrup commits to Lafayette College

by Jackie King
Editor-in-Chief

Los Gatos High School added another Division 1 commit to their list this past month with senior **Emily Gouldrup** announcing her commitment to Lafayette College's Women's Volleyball team.

Growing up competing in both gymnastics and soccer, Gouldrup made the decision to begin playing at Vision Volleyball Club when she was around 11 years old after breaking her arm in the gym.

Gouldrup has qualified for Nationals every year since she started playing volleyball, but this past season was the first time her team made it into the top, Open, division. With over 200 teams going to Nationals, qualifying for the top division, which includes only 30 teams, is quite a feat, and would not have been possible without Gouldrup holding down the defense.

As a 5'2" volleyball player, Gouldrup has a different role than most of her team as a resident of the back row: the libero. She described this position as "a leader in the back row who directs the team on what exactly we want to do with defense." During the 2021 club season there were three defense specialists on her Vision 17s team, forcing the girls to "fight it out" in order to win the libero title. With Gouldrup's unmatched dedication and skill, it is no surprise that she won the starting spot, leading her team to a top 20 finish at Nationals this year.

Gouldrup has also been making her mark on the LGHS Varsity volleyball team since her arrival at the school in 2018. As a freshman, Gouldrup said the Varsity team was definitely welcoming to the new presence on the team. A star freshman, Gouldrup beat out veteran players for a starting spot, but says, "most of the girls just want our team to do the best, so it's not necessarily about

playing time, but more about how our team is competing." Inheriting the role of a senior captain this year, she recognizes it is part of her role to "keep the team on track and consistent," describing the team as a family led by the seniors.

With quarantine beginning right at the prime recruiting stage for women's volleyball players, Gouldrup had to endure the draining yet exciting recruiting process online. Although many athletes felt it was terrible over zoom, Gouldrup stated that for her it was "honestly it was almost better doing it online because you just got to spend so much time talking to coaches and you really got to know who they were and meet a lot of the girls as well."

After forming relationships with both the players and the coaches, Gouldrup's interest in Lafayette's volleyball program was solidified because of the "vision the coaches and players have for the team," but she still "wanted to see the campus and get a feel for what it was like because [she] wanted to make sure [she] liked the actual school and culture of the college outside of the athletics." Her visit to Easton, PA confirmed her good feelings, and she accepted their offer soon after. There is no question that recruiting "was definitely a long process," but Gouldrup is happy she can begin looking forward to her life for the next four years across the country.



courtesy E. Gouldrup

STAR SPIRIT: Gouldrup dives for the volleyball during club team game.