



THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL

Seniors prevail in their last Spirit Week

by Emily Duvall and Sarah Gouldrup
Opinion and Humor Editors

The second and final spirit week of the 2022-2023 school year graced the LGHS campus from Monday, Apr. 3 to Friday, Apr. 7. Since the week preceded spring break, students were full of excitement and ready to show off their school spirit.

The week commenced with a grey outfit-themed day, or "groufit" day. Lunchtime Spikeball took place on the front lawn. The juniors took home the win, with the seniors placing second, the sophomores coming in third, and the freshmen clinching last place. The spirit hallway also debuted on Monday, showcasing the cities that each class recreated. The seniors were New York City, the juniors were Los Angeles, the sophomores were Las Vegas, and the freshmen were San Francisco. For the hallway contest, the seniors took first place, followed by the sophomores, the juniors, and then the freshmen.

Tie Dye Tuesday was up next on the roster for dress-up days during spirit week. The campus was full of varying colors and patterns. Lunchtime brought a large battle to the front lawn: T-Rex Hungry-Hungry Hippos. The game required two players from each class wearing inflatable T-Rex suits to run one at a time and gather as many balls as possible at the other end of the field. The dinos then had to run back and place all balls collected into a bin. After about two minutes, the class pair with the most balls won. The seniors took home first place with the sophomores placing second. The freshmen and juniors got eliminated because of a dino-on-dino fight that occurred during the match for third place.



HUNGRY, HUNGRY DINO: Los Gatos dino-student competes in lunchtime game.

Wednesday was a very "super" day, with people dressing up as many different superheroes. At lunch, the classes competed against each other in a Sponge Water Transfer Relay. Donning vision-blocking masks with our very own **Kevin Buchanan's** face on them, contestants ran across the lawn with a sponge to a bucket of water to absorb water into the sponge, then ran back to dump the sponge water in the bucket. The seniors raced to first, sophomores placed second, the freshmen got third, and the juniors came in last.

On Thursday, students either bundled up for the chilly April weather or went full-vacation mode in a swimsuit and sun hat for Cold Front versus Heat Wave day! LGHS experienced a variety of weather-themed outfits that either transformed a classroom into a beach day on a tropical island or a winter extravaganza. The lunchtime game consisted of a high-spirited relay race where students from each grade competed against each other in three different rounds. The race began with a potato sack jump, segued into a tricycle race, and ended with the creation of a bean bag. While the triathlon filled the lawn with lots of laughs and competition, the juniors ultimately claimed the victory, with seniors narrowly missing that first place spot. The sophomores also took home a third-place win, and the freshmen finished out the race in fourth place. By the end of the week, the seniors were in first place heading into the Friday rally, ready to take home their win.

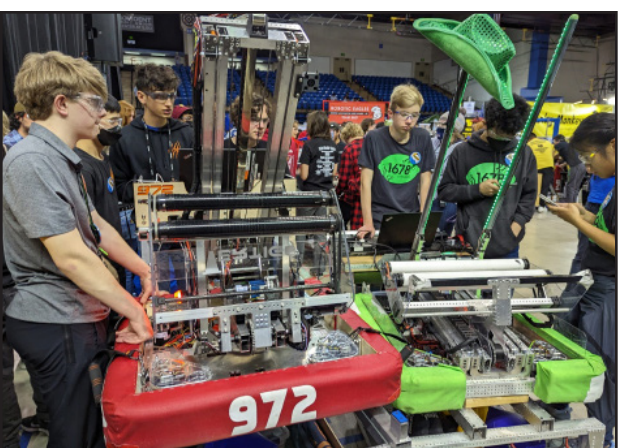


PULL THROUGH: The sophomore team fights to win tug-o-war against the juniors.

Robotics Team 972 qualifies for Worlds

by Linda Wang
Humor Editor

On Mar. 27, the LGHS Robotics Team 972 qualified for the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Championships after receiving the Regional Champion award at the San Francisco Regional. This is the first time the team qualified since 2018. As a result of the qualification, Iron Claw Robotics will compete with hundreds of teams across the world in Houston.



BEEP BOP BOOP: Team 972 stands ready for their competition next to Team 1678.

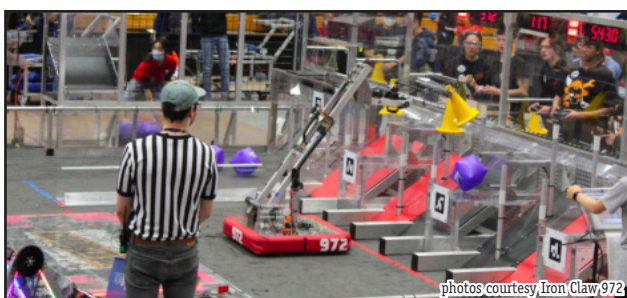
Since the Hueneme Port Regional, Team 972 has made significant changes and improvements to their robot. "We found that there were a lot of errors with the claw and the arm supporting the claw...there was a ton of backlash on the arm," explained senior **Emi Hiroshima**, Manufacturing Lead for Iron Claw. "Not only was it not consistent, the claw had a very narrow range." To correct these inconsistencies, students **Max Schleicher** and **Leison Gao** led the design of a new robotic intake using computer aided design (CAD), and the rest of the team machined, assembled, and programmed the robot to accommodate this change.

Junior **Julia Dang**, Fundraising Lead and member of the electrical team, described that this year's robot "showed one of the strongest performances our team [Team 972] has ever experienced." Going into the San Francisco Regional, where teams' robots scored points for their ability to complete tasks quickly and effectively, Team 972's robot con-


sistently achieved fast cycle times and stayed functional throughout.

Unfortunately, the competition did not go as smoothly. While Team 972 originally paired up with Mountain View High School's Team 971 and Credo High School's Team 8016 for their alliance, Team 8016's drivetrain broke down. Team 971's alliance captain made the difficult decision to drop Team 8016 as a result, leaving Iron Claw robotics with a 2v3 for the rest of the competition. However, Team 972's consistent robot, prompt decision making, and dedication led them to their Houston Championships qualification against all odds.

Iron Claw Robotics continues to contribute time every week to add to their robot's functions. "We are busy improving our automated robot driving code to try and improve our average match score. We are also making spare parts for the robot," Dang explained. In addition to improving on their robot mechanically, Team 972 has been trying to fundraise and publicize their project to parents, classmates, companies, and local businesses so that enough robotics members may attend the championships in Houston. The competition is key for allowing the robotics team to grow technically, professionally, and personally. "There's going to be a lot of teams that are going to be really good. It would be a good learning opportunity to talk to some of the teams that are around the world and see [what] their perspective of robotics is," Hiroshima reflected.



THE CHAMPION: The team aims the robot to place the scoring cone on a platform.

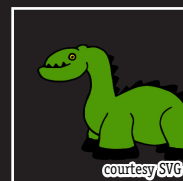


Scan this QR code to support the Iron Claw Robotics Team 972

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CA calls to preserve water

by **Dell Dumont**
Graphics Editor

Governor Gavin Newsom announced changes to ease drought emergency provisions and to continue to support impacted communities statewide. The state has also advanced actions to boost water storage and supply in the wake of this winter's historic rainfall and snow totals.

Climate change has made California's dry and wet spells more extreme and unpredictable. The last three years marked the driest period in the state's history, but recent rain and snowfall have dramatically changed conditions in most parts of the state. The state also announced an increase in expected State Water Project deliveries to local agencies, with a 75 percent anticipated allocation. Twenty-nine public water agencies that provide 27 million Californians now expect to deliver an increase of 40 percent of requested supplies—the highest since 2017.

Although recent storms have helped to mitigate the drought's effects, some communities across the state will still experience water shortages, especially regions that depend on groundwater supplies that have been severely depleted in recent years. Newsom's order ends the voluntary 15 percent water conservation target, while continuing to encourage conservation efforts. Local water agencies are not required to implement level 2 of their drought contingency plans. The executive order will maintain



SPEAKING OUT: Newsom announces new water regulations.

the ban on wasteful water uses and orders focused on specific watersheds that do not benefit as much from recent rainfall. All 58 counties retain their state of emergency and allow for drought responses as well as recovery efforts to continue.



NO MORE DROUGHT: Residents should still conserve water.

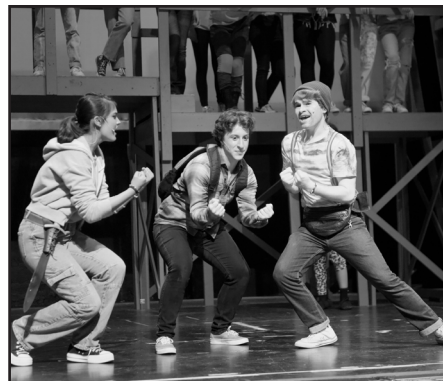
Newsom visited the Dunnigan Groundwater Recharge Project in Yolo County, where he emphasized the state's work to accelerate groundwater recharge to efficiently use the effects of the winter storms. The state is working to expand groundwater recharge by at least 500,000 acre-feet as part of the water conservation program. Newsom declared that the recent extreme weather conditions "make it crystal clear that Californians and our water system have to adapt to increasingly extreme swings between drought and flood. As we welcome this relief from the drought, we must remain focused on continuing our all-of-the-above approach to future-proofing California's water supply."

Despite these announcements, the governor made clear that Californians must continue to use water wisely and efficiently. On Mar. 24, Newsom commented, "We're not out of the woods." The west coast as a whole is experiencing the worst drought in at least 1,200 years. Last year, state scientists also predicted that California could lose 10 percent of its water supplies over the next 20 years. Newsom went on to ask California residents to maintain vigilance to deal with the drought's effects. (Sources: CNN, CA.GOV, LA Times)

LGHS shows spring musical

by **Ainsley Northrop**
People Editor

A product of many people's hard work, the Los Gatos High School 2023 Spring Musical opened on Mar. 24. This year, the LGHS drama department decided to perform *The Lightning Thief* — a Percy Jackson musical. This show not only featured LGHS students in the cast, but also provided an opportunity for students and staff to work behind the scenes in order to put together the amazing production. Inspired by Rick Riordan's well-known book series and directed by **Janna Rigby**, this musical follows Percy Jackson, Annabeth Chase, and Grover Underwood as they embark upon a quest to locate Zeus' missing lightning bolt and maintain peace among the Greek Gods.



ACT IT OUT: LGHS students perform a scene in the play.

Among the many performers was senior **Ethan Holl**, who took on the role of Percy Jackson. He elaborated, saying "It's such an iconic character that I think a lot of us grew up with, so I really wanted to do him justice." Many of the student actors, including Holl, did extensive work to better understand their characters and learn their backstory. He described the creative research process that he used to prepare for the performances: "The first thing I did [was look] at fanart because I feel like that's the central part of Percy Jackson fandom. Then I tried to get his physicality [and also] reviewed the books."



SMILE: The cast of the Lightning Thief poses for a photo.

According to Holl, the rehearsal process only spanned about eight weeks, but that motivated performers to work harder. Emphasizing the unique aspects of the show and rehearsal process, Holl explained a particularly memorable part of the show, where actors engaged in a staged sword fight: "They gave us real dulled swords, so it was like eight pounds of steel...I feel like most youth theaters aren't going to let kids play with giant hunks of metal [so] it was really fun."

Freshman **Amiya Sheth** — who played Annabeth Chase — described her experience with playing a lead as an underclassman. "It felt scary [to be a lead] at first, but honestly, it didn't really feel any different. I was just like 'Okay, I'm playing this role.'" Sheth described her favorite part of the musical as performing the song *Put You in Your Place* alongside junior **Logan Campbell**, who played the character Clarice. Sheth, among others, was drawn to the show almost instantly. "I had my mind set on doing the musical just because I really enjoy [theater]. I wanted more experience and shows under my belt."

Even outside of rehearsals, castmates became life-long companions, having cast dinners and more. Both Sheth and Holl expressed their love for the warm community that came along with the show. Holl remarked, "I think I'm kind of in an upperclassmen bubble, so it was nice getting to know, on a personal basis, a bunch of underclassmen."

LGHS' *The Lightning Thief* wowed audiences, as well as brought joy to the dedicated cast and crew who made it possible.

West Valley College addresses shooter threat on campus

by **Maya Gomez**
Editor-in-Chief

On Mar. 13, West Valley College went into lockdown following reports of an armed intruder entering campus. At roughly 11:00 AM, a West Valley employee "witnessed a possibly armed man talking to another man in the parking lot and immediately notified police." Just two minutes later, campus officials placed the school in lockdown. Upon investigating, campus police and local authorities



EVACUATE: Students vacated the parking lot after admin lifted the lockdown.

uncovered that "the object in question was not an actual firearm, but a replica firearm." After authorities detained the two people involved, West Valley administration lifted the lockdown at 1:39 PM and canceled classes for the remainder of the day. Later that afternoon, West Valley College President Stephanie Kashima released a statement to the community detailing the events of the incident and how the school responded. "I wanted to reach out to you all — our dear students, faculty, staff, and administrators, our Viking community — for staying united in our efforts to keep everyone on campus safe amid the lockdown...Today was a reminder that we are truly interdependent and that we all need and rely on one another in protecting our community and in keeping our fellow students, colleagues, friends, and neighbors safe," Kashima stated. "It is unfortunate that we continue to live in a world where we must create concrete protocols for situations like today's."

Kashima concluded her statement by outlining what the administration plans to do moving forward, additionally noting that they provided free counseling services for all employees and brought mental health professionals on campus the day following the incident. She wrote, "In the coming week, we will be refreshing our 'building monitor' list to provide updated training on lockdown procedures, building sweeping procedures and other emergency training for point people assigned to each building on campus...While the outcome was positive, I recognize that this type of event has an impact on all of us."



DESOLATE: The West Valley College campus is empty following the lockdown.

LGHS senior and Middle College student **Samantha Benadom** was in the middle of a human anatomy lab when administration issued the lockdown. "It was bizarre to be staring at a dead body while being told there's a gun on campus," Benadom said. While she praised administration for how they handled the situation, the senior concluded her interview stating, "I knew it was entirely unlikely, but I mean in a case like that, you can't help but think about the possibility that that body could be yours."

LGHS student creates Fentanyl High documentary

by **Georgia Kaufman**
Opinion Editor

Kyle Santoro is a junior cinematographer at Los Gatos and well known by the community for his work with LGHS sports, MOSAIC, local advertisements, and safety videos. Santoro is releasing his own documentary in partnership with larger organizations, including Song for Charlie as well as his own film production company, Life Cinema 2 (LC2) Productions, titled *Fentanyl High*, which will premiere in the LGHS theater on May 9.

Santoro created *Fentanyl High* to address the fentanyl epidemic that is currently prominent among 16 to 19 year olds. He emphasizes that his participation in the creation of the documentary brings a "peer-to-peer point of view, instead of an educator or an adult point of view...We know kids our age tend to listen to their peers which will be useful in getting the message out that this is a serious problem." The junior acknowledges that educators are doing the best they can to inform students about the dangers of fentanyl, but it still just isn't enough.

The junior cinematographer organized and produced this film to help students understand the dangers of counterfeit pills. "Just in the past two years, we've lost two kids in the [Los Gatos] community to fentanyl — counterfeit pills, not even knowing it was in what they

were taking." He adds, "at the end of the day, the most impactful thing I can do is use my passion to get the message out that this is a serious problem." Beginning the project in December, Santoro has been doing all things pre-production over the past three months. Having just begun filming at the end of March, the junior currently has a team of about 24 people who are working behind the scenes as producers, crew members, actors, and interviewees.

"What I hope to get out of this is that parents and kids our age [will become] more educated about this topic and actually [relay to] their friends and peers this information." There is a lot of publicity and marketing going into this project that Santoro has created. He stated, "The district is involved to help [reach] kids and families from all over the Bay Area." The junior is collaborating with Ed Terman, founder of the fentanyl awareness organization "Song For Charlie," to put together a curriculum to accompany the film for all schools in California. Santoro is partnering with Song for Charlie, LGHS, and the Boys Team Charity to make this production happen.

When asking what impact he believes this documentary will make, especially for young high school students, Santoro replied with two words: "Save lives." He explained that the release of this film is mainly for people to realize that "the mindset of 'it won't be me or my friends' is naive. Kids our age can make decisions without

thinking...[the film] is not just addressing 'don't do drugs,' but it's also addressing the problems behind decision making." After asking about what he has learned during the production process, he added, "I'm capable of using my platform and voice to speak out as a teenager in a critical situation like this...I [believe] am really capable of being able to save kids' lives at our age."

Come the release of *Fentanyl High*, students, parents, teachers, and community members will also be able to watch the documentary on Vimeo.



SAVE THE DATE: The documentary poster showcases May premiere date.

ASR students receive Synopsys Championship awards

by Jordan Chan and Linda Wang
Editor-in-Chief and Humor Editor

A total of 29 out of the 42 Advanced Science Research (ASR) students received awards on Mar. 26 during the Synopsys Championship Awards Ceremony. Eight of those recipients — seven LGHS students and one SHS student — secured invitations to compete at the state level at the prestigious California Science and Engineering Fair on Apr. 11.

Throughout her research, senior **Sasha Balasingam** focused on social behavior, testing a new model of autism in *C. elegans*. She explained, "People with autism are very socially isolated or have social

and communicative deficits. So I tried to replicate that with worms." Her ASR project this year built off of her past three years of research. Balasingam will continue exploring neuroscience at Stanford next year.

Another biology-focused project was senior **Rodrigo Cantu Valadez's** on lipase, an enzyme that may assist in a more biologically sustainable way to break down microplastics. "Ideally, a real world application would be to create a membrane to trap the enzyme, where you can target specific areas," Cantu Valadez explained.

Junior **Elizabeth Snyder** similarly focused on microplastics in ecosystems, but more specifically on the detrimental effects of multiple microplastics. "Microplastics have this quality where they've been shown to absorb some other toxic chemicals in the water," Snyder specified. "I hope people realize the importance of preventing pollution and contamination in our environment...it's only going to get worse as we keep consuming plastic."

Sophomore **Cadie Ho** looked at whether incisions in plants caused by bees' bites influenced plants' pace of growth. She also studied the saliva that bees secrete, which is filled with enzymes that could possibly "be used as a cheap solution for plant growth." Ho stated, "My project shows a deeper exploration into the symbiosis between bees and plants."

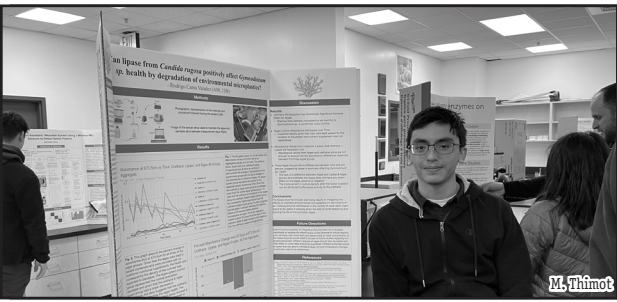
Fellow sophomore **Mina Nakamura** also worked with plants, which allowed the two researchers to collaborate and "talk about issues

that [they both] ran into." Nakamura wanted to examine the effects of microplastics digested by mealworms on plants. She wanted "to raise more interest and awareness [about] microplastics...it takes an astronomical amount of [enzymes] to biodegrade the plastics at the level we throw them away."

Sophomore **Brandon Ha** developed a project that used low frequency sound waves in planaria to test the effects of music on health regeneration. Paired with his dedication and research, Ha's creative and organic idea was a significant factor in his state qualification. "Music can be a very powerful theme," Ha remarked, "Sounds of music can be quite powerful in many different ways."

Diacetyl, a product found in some artificial waters, popcorns, and cigarettes, was the topic of sophomore **Sophia Nguyen's** research project. After feeding several groups of fruit flies different levels of diacetyl, she tracked its distribution as it traveled through their intestines. Nguyen hopes that "as the [Diacetyl] industry is developing, we take a look at what we're eating and what that does to our body."

Science Department Chair and ASR teacher **Cathy Messenger** congratulated all of the ASR students for their hard work, mentioning that this has been "our best year yet." She expressed, "A lot of them were experienced students who really were able to build on what they've done before, and I'm really looking forward to see how they do."



BREAKDOWN: Cantu Valadez presents his project on breaking down microplastics.

Pajaro River flood demolishes Monterey County

by Margo Rawlings
News Editor

After extreme rain and severe weather conditions, the Pajaro River burst through the old Pajaro levee on Mar. 10, flooding the small Monterey County town of Pajaro. The disaster forced citizens to evacuate, abandoning their belongings and homes. Many residents escaped across the river, searching for shelter in neighboring towns such as Watsonville.

The next morning, emergency response crews arrived to aid residents who remained in their homes and assess the extensive flood damage. The crews began re-constructing necessary infrastructure, such as the water and sewage systems. Battalion Chief Gino Degraffenreid, who led the emergency crews, noted, "We are trying to restore normalcy as quickly as possible." At the same time, the crews discovered three water systems with contaminated water. Although this is not the first time the levee has failed, this failure has caused some of the worst damage. As the hole in the levee expanded to about 400 feet wide, the crew struggled to repair it, attempting to use sandbags and rocks in order to minimize further damage.

Michael Flores — the deputy secretary for California's Department of Food and Agriculture — oversees fairgrounds that can be used for emergency sites in cases similar to this throughout

the state of California. Flores acknowledged that many Pajaro residents will not have homes to return to once the water recedes. Additionally, he continues to work towards modernizing the fairgrounds so they are better equipped to deal with crisis situations like these. Flores said, "Not all of our facilities are set up for [these situations]. Because of climate change we know the effect is long term - this is not just something that is going to go away."

Gertrudis Rubio, whose family fled their home, explained, "It has felt traumatic. The water came and destroyed our house. It destroyed everything." Rubio shared that she is most concerned for her younger brother, who suffers from seizures and was unable to access medication. She continued, "We have nowhere to go. We have to stay here until it's over, but we don't have enough money to pay rent." Unfortunately, this is the reality for many Pajaro residents, with 18 percent falling below the poverty line. José Hernandez, who remained in the flooded community to care for his pets, explained, "Everybody wants to come back to their houses like normal life. But I don't know if it's going to be possible. I don't know when...We really need help. That's the thing. They have to do something now."

So far, President Biden has approved an emergency declaration so flood victims can file a claim to get funds to rebuild their homes and pay for expenses that resulted from the evacuation.

(Sources: NY Times, The Guardian, Washington Post)



UNDER WATER: This aerial view shows a flooded neighborhood in Pajaro.

APES students teach kids

by Alex Evans
Editor-in-Chief

Throughout the last weeks of March, AP Environmental Science (APES) students conducted their annual Biosite Field Trip in collaboration with local elementary schools. Over the past ten years, different APES class periods have paired up with fourth grade classes from schools across the district to teach the youth more about the biological makeup of the Los Gatos Creek and the way that we influence the ecological systems around us.



TREKKIN': Fourth graders go on a nature walk with guides.

In late February and early March, APES students began writing their lesson plans for the five stations they would lead their groups of students through. The stations aim at teaching students about the scientific makeup of the creek and the health of the water. More specifically, AP students directed their fourth graders towards their individual impact given each of the tests they did.

Considering years past, APES teacher **Jennifer Bryan** said: "I think it's really fun to get the seniors to connect with the fourth graders, as the fourth graders then grow up and get to do biosite with the next fourth graders." Moreover, Bryan corroborated the emphasis on test areas: "The fourth graders get to learn about their own backyard."

Student leaders felt their hard work pay off when their lessons ran smoothly. Even though the high school leads were teaching, they still had lots of fun with the different stations and kids; senior **Jack Temple** said, "I liked the bucket station."

Senior **Gianna Golino** agreed, stating her favorite station: "My favorite part was when we could not get the water from the bridge, and we were all pulling the rope up. In failing we learned the value of community." Golino felt relief on the day of, saying all the practice had helped her prepare for the real run: "Having the chaperones there with us, we really had to really know our stuff."

One of the most challenging parts of Biosite is that the fourth graders are unpredictable. No students expected the natural distraction of sour grass flowers, as the kids would run off path and pluck the yellow flowers for their stems. Senior **Sam Elliott** detailed: "The kids wanted the sour-grass. They would literally step on it and then go back to grab it."

Furthermore, a part of the lesson plan was to write out questions to ask the kids and then list potential answers they may have. Another senior, **Max Fiore**, confirmed the kids unpredictability by saying: "You can't really predict anything the kids are going to do or say." Through these one-off conversations, Elliott reflected on the bonds that she made with her students. Elliott said: "I liked the nature walks because we got to know the students and their personalities."

APES students — good job on your Biosite field trips. Who knows, maybe one day these fourth graders will be APES students themselves.



SCHOOL OF FISH: Students play an educational salmon game.

Spring spirit week ends

by Emily Duvall and Sarah Gouldrup
Opinion and Humor Editors

This year's spirit week concluded on Apr. 7 with the infamous spirit rally. LGHS students brought all of their energy and enthusiasm to Helm Field to close out the fun and eventful days before spring break. Although there was some rain and clouds, unlike past spring rally days, the campus was still covered in waves of green, blue, orange, and black. To open the event, senior ASB Spirit Representatives **Jiwoo Hong** and **Jack Temple** rolled up in a golf cart driven by our very own Mr. **Chris Nespor**.



BELIEVERS: Seniors prepare for the "I Believe" chant.

The classic "I Believe" chants happened on the field, like it did last fall, due to administrative concerns about bleacher stability the prior year. Immediately following the chants, students raced to the bleachers to watch the first game: Balloon Pop. The activity involved each class running towards a chair, popping a balloon by sitting on it, and then running back to their team to put a letter on a board. The seniors, who were the first team to spell out the correct word with all their letters, won the game.

Following the Balloon Pop, the band came out for their iconic rally performance. They brought immense energy and impressive tricks while playing their instruments in sync. Each grade returned the energy back to them, cheering as loud as



LAST ONE STANDING: Duvall triumphs in Musical Chairs.

they could while band members swung their trumpets in perfect synchronization despite blindfolds hindering their vision.

After the band's show-stopping performance, the teachers stepped out on the track for their game. Teachers representing every grade took turns bouncing on yoga balls to a marked endpoint and back. Three teachers had to make the trip consecutively before the leadership students declared a winner. In the end, the teachers sporting all black attire (in honorary senior fashion) pulled through with a victory.

The students could barely hold back their anticipation for the next game: Musical Chairs. The participants circled the inflatable chairs as pop hits by Rihanna, Pitbull, and more played in the background. While the other grades put up an admirable fight, **Emily Duvall** won the game for the senior class, ending up as the last one sitting in the musical showdown.

With little time in between, the rally transitioned into another performance, this one by the LGHS Varsity Dance Team. The girls danced to a variety of music that had the students on their feet cheering along, and their routine featured different tricks such as aials and back flips.

With the seniors taking home first place in every match except for tug of war, and dominating lunch games, they ended up winning the entire week. Needless to say, the 2022-2023 Spring Rally was a smashing success thanks to the effort and dedication of the entire leadership class!

- Tornadoes sweep through Mississippi
- Russia arrests a Wall Street journalist

NATIONAL

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Former student opens gunfire on Nashville students

by Ella Marrufo
Sports Editor

A shooter opened fire on The Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee on Mar. 27, killing three nine-year-old children and three adults aged 60 and older. The Covenant School, a small Christian private school, reported the gunfire to local authorities at roughly 10:15 AM. In less than 20 minutes, law enforcement killed the gunman.

Police later identified the shooter as 28-year-old Audrey Hale, who attended Covenant when he was younger. In the early days of the investigation, there was confusion among police and various news sources surrounding Hale's gender; officials originally reported him as a woman, but later discovered via his social media that Hale used "he" and "him" pronouns as well as the name Aiden. Hale reportedly had been receiving treatment for an "emotional disorder," and Metropolitan Nashville Police Chief John Drake noted that "the parents felt [Hale] should not own weapons." Officers believe a sense of "resentment" led him to target this school specifically, but they did not say he was targeting any certain person, nor did they provide any particular motive.

Soon after people learned that Hale was transgender, an alarming bipartisan divide arose between liberals and conservatives. Nashville radio host, Clay Travis, took to Twitter to comment, "This was a terror attack on religious people by a deranged lunatic trans person." Additionally, Matt Walsh, a political commentator and author, targeted liberals in support of anti-gun laws in one of his podcast episodes, saying, "This is not about guns, and these damned frauds know damned well that it is not about guns." Walsh had to cancel a college campus speech on Mar. 30 because of negative reactions and threats to him and his family following these transphobic comments.

After using a search warrant to investigate Hale's home on Apr. 4, officials discovered a suicide note as well as weapons and ammunition. This warrant is also how police learned that Hale was a former student at The Covenant School. Furthermore, a personal journal revealed that Hale had been planning this event for several months and "considered the actions of other mass murderers," according to a news release by Nashville police. Prior to the shooting, Hale had legally purchased seven guns. During the event he was armed with three weapons: an AR-15 rifle, a Kel-Tec SUB2000 pistol, and a Smith and Wesson handgun.

In the aftermath of the shooting and for days after, thousands of people took to the Nashville Capitol Building to protest for tighter gun control. Regardless, it is highly unlikely that Nashville will amend its laws. Tennessee Representative Tim Burchett addressed that Congress would not be restricting gun control laws any more than they are currently.

(Sources: CBS News, CNN, New York Post, NY Times, Twitter)



ON THE SCENE: The Nashville police arrive at the scene of the school shooting.

DeSantis fights Disney

by Ashir Rao
Public Relations Manager

Beginning in March, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis appointed a board to oversee Disney's development after the corporation criticized Florida's controversial "Don't Say Gay" law. However, a Disney-controlled board, competing for power with DeSantis's alternative board recently passed a series of covenant agreements that largely strip DeSantis's board of its power. The agreements will be in effect for the foreseeable future, or "until 21 years after the death of the last survivor of the descendants of England's King Charles III."



DESANTIS DISSES DISNEY: Ron DeSantis attacks Disney's board.

When reached for comment by the Orlando Sentinel, Taryn Fenske, Ron DeSantis' spokesperson, stated that the new agreements "may have significant legal infirmities that would render the contracts void as a matter of law." Furthermore, Brian Aungst, a member of the DeSantis-backed board (called the Reedy Creek Improvement District), stated the agreements were "a subversion of the will of the voters and the Legislature and the governor."

Disney CEO Bob Iger responded soon after the investigation announcement, blasting DeSantis's actions as an attempt to "punish a company for its exercise of a constitutional right. And that just seems really wrong to me."

On Monday, Apr. 3, DeSantis asked Florida's chief inspector Melinda Miguel to conduct an investigation into the agreements signed by the Disney-backed board. The investigation is in response to the signing of an agreement by the Reedy Creek board to give authority to the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District, and will also include investigations of individual Disney employees who may have been involved in the signing of the covenant agreements. DeSantis threatened in a letter that "Any legal or ethical violations should be referred to the proper authorities." A prolonged legal showdown would cost the Florida state government millions.

DeSantis recently dedicated an entire chapter entitled "The Magic Kingdom of Woke Corporatism" in his latest book *The Courage to be Free*, to a discussion of his side of the story in this conflict. In it, he bemoans getting married at Disney World. He also attacks Disney for espousing "woke gender theory" and argues that the media is pressuring him on LGBTQ rights issues. He compared the feud to "the shot heard 'round the world" for Florida.

(Sources: Axios, Vox)



THE HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH: Tourists visit Disneyland.

Grand jury indicts Trump

by Megan Hastings
Media Production Editor

A New York grand jury indicted former United States President Donald Trump on Mar. 31 for allegedly paying money to silence actress Stormy Daniels regarding an alleged affair with Trump in 2006. The indictment went to trial on Apr. 4, where Trump pleaded not guilty. In reaction to the charges, politicians including former vice president Mike Pence, have denied the claims made by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

On Mar. 30, Bragg issued Trump a 34-count indictment regarding hush money payments made to Daniels to buy her silence. Trump denied having any relationship with Daniels. Prosecutors allege the payment was made to undermine the 2016 election. According to the charges, Trump "repeatedly and fraudulently falsified New York business records to conceal criminal conduct that hid damaging information from the voting public during the 2016 presidential election." Prosecutors claimed that Trump participated in an illegal scheme to bury damaging material, including a \$150,000 payment that was illegally ordered to cover up information from Playboy model Karen McDougal.

The investigation into Trump for falsifying business records, a felony in New York, started while he was still in office. The indictment ties to a \$130,000 payment made by Trump's then-personal attorney, Michael Cohens, in late 2016. In 2019, Cohen himself confessed in front of Congress and confirmed that the payment, made just days before the 2016 election, was an attempt to keep Trump's reputation intact and prevent Daniels from going public with the affair. If convicted on all of the 34 felony counts, Trump faces a maximum of 136 years in jail. However, there is a chance that he will receive minimal to no jail time and get probation instead.

The 45th president has vehemently denied committing any crimes. On Mar. 31, Trump took to his own social media platform, Truth Social, to accuse



RIGHTIST RHETORIC: Trump's indictment rallies supporters.

Bragg of "indicting a totally innocent man in an act of obstruction and...election interference." Trump also called out other Democrats, including current President Joe Biden. He posted a photo of attorney Bragg, saying, "The radical left, Biden Democrats seem desperate to derail by any means Donald Trump from becoming president again."

As the first former president to face indictment, Trump's arraignment was open to the public with closed-circuit television airing the proceedings. The possibility of the former president's trial occurring in Manhattan has alarmed Trump's advisers and allies, who cite the borough's predominantly Democratic voters as evidence that the defendant will not receive a fair trial. Trump was amidst his 2024 campaign before his indictment and stated that his campaign will continue despite the trial.

(Sources: CNN, NY Post, NPR, TIME)

Digestibles: Countries make peace, Judge faces criticism

Iran and Saudi Arabia forge a peace deal: On Mar. 10, Iran and Saudi Arabia signed a peace deal in Beijing to reestablish diplomatic relations between Tehran and Riyadh after seven years of conflicts. For years, China has been a top oil importer for both Iran and Saudi Arabia. It sought stability in the Persian Gulf for the safe passage of oil and goods. Through this deal, China obtained a victory in diplomacy as it aims to promote an alternate perspective to the global order that is being led by the United States, in light of the United States' perceived withdrawal from the Middle East.

(Sources: Axios, CNBC, Heritage, Time, NY Times, USIP)

- Dell Dumont, Graphics Editor



SAFE PASSAGE: Oil transportation vessels can now travel safely in the Persian Gulf.

Prosecutors charge FTX founder: In an indictment unsealed on Mar. 28, prosecutors charged FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried with conspiracy for directing 40 million dollars in bribes to one or more Chinese official to unfreeze assets relating to his cryptocurrency business. This is the third indictment Bankman-Fried has faced since the collapse of his cryptocurrency exchange in 2022. Previously, he pleaded not guilty to stealing billions of dollars of FTX customer funds, as well as misleading investors and lenders. His latest indictment includes the 12 charges Bankman-Fried already faces, with an additional count for conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

(Sources: AP News, CNN, Wall Street Journal)

- Nadia Liu, Public Relations Manager

Trump criticizes judge: According to federal campaign contribution data, Judge Juan M. Merchan — the judge appointed to preside over former president Donald Trump's tax fraud arraignment — appears to have made multiple donations toward Joe Biden's 2020 presidential campaign. Records show that Merchan made three donations through the Democratic donation platform ActBlue in July of 2020: one 15-dollar donation directly to Biden's campaign and two ten-dollar donations to the affiliated organizations Stop Republicans and Progressive Turnout Project respectively. Trump, who pleaded not guilty to 34 felony charges during his Apr. 4 court appearance, labeled Merchan as "a Trump-hating judge with a Trump-hating wife and family." While Justice Merchan did not act in an illegal manner,

his political opinion could exacerbate backlash and tarnish the validity of the trial in the public eye.

(Sources: NBC, NY Times)

- Brynn Gibson, Editor-In-Chief



TRUMP IN TROUBLE: District Attorney Alvin Bragg helps to indict Trump.

FDA authorizes the sale of Narcan over the counter

by Nadia Liu

Public Relations Manager

On Mar. 29, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the sale of the leading version of naloxone, Narcan, without a prescription, making it the first opioid treatment drug to be sold over the counter. The overdose-reversing drug comes in the form of a nasal spray from Maryland-based Emergent BioSolutions and is the best-known form of naloxone.

Narcan can reverse opioid overdoses, including heroin, fentanyl, and oxycodone. Other brands of naloxone, including injectable forms, are currently unavailable over the counter, but that may change soon. The FDA will now allow generic brands of Narcan to file applications to switch their drugs to over-the-counter. Purdue Pharma-funded nonprofit Harm Reduction Therapeutics Inc has already sent an application to the FDA requesting to distribute its form of spray naloxone without a prescription.

In a news release, the FDA stated, "Today's action paves the way for the life-saving medication to reverse an opioid overdose to be sold directly to consumers in places like drug stores, convenience stores, grocery stores, and gas stations, as



A SPRAY THAT SAVES: Over-the-counter Narcan comes as a nasal spray.

well as online." Although Narcan was already available to buy without a prescription at pharmacies, the new FDA approval allows the drug to be sold in places without pharmacies, such as supermarkets, online retailers, and convenience stores, reducing the stigma that can come with behind-the-counter purchases and making the drug easier to acquire.

The FDA approval comes at a time of staggering numbers of opioid-related deaths in the US, fueled largely by the spread of synthetic opioids including illicit fentanyl. Over a 12-month

period ending last October, there were 110,236 opioid-related deaths, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In a statement, Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra explained, "We can prevent overdoses and save lives by making naloxone more accessible, and at the same time, we can ensure equitable access to essential health care."

FDA approval of Narcan will dramatically increase access to the life-saving drug, especially for people who live in areas without harm reduction services. Emergent Bioservices announced that it hoped to make Narcan available on store shelves and online by late summer, but did not immediately say how much it would cost. The US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services says that coverage of the over-the-counter nasal spray would depend on the insurance program. Many are advocating for Narcan to be sold at an affordable price. In a tweet, the National Harm Reduction Coalition wrote, "While we welcome #naloxone in any form being accessible over-the-counter, we're echoing the need for naloxone to be free and accessible for all."

(Sources: AP News, NPR, NY Times)

Two Army helicopters crash

by Megan Hastings

Media Production Editor

On Mar. 29, a crash that occurred during an Army training exercise in Kentucky ended with the deaths of nine US soldiers. The crash involved two helicopters, with four of the victims in one and five in the other. In a statement from the Fort Campbell Army base, the base revealed the victims' ages ranged from 23 to 32.

The crash occurred late at night in Trigg County, 30 miles west of Fort Campbell, and involved two HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters of the 101st Airborne Division, the Army's only air assault division. The crash took place in an open field near a residential area, so there were no injuries or casualties on the ground. Trigg County resident Nick Tomaseo lives about a mile from where the crash took place and said the helicopters looked low and close to each other before they crashed. Tomaszewski stated, "All of the lights in their helicopter went out. It was like they just poofed...and then we saw a huge glow like a fireball."

Brigadier General John Lubas, Deputy Commander of the division, explained that the aircrafts were practicing medical evacuation drills, but he clarified that the crash occurred while they were flying and not while they were practicing. In the aftermath of the crash, Kentucky State Police, the regional government, and the state Division of Emergency Management all arrived on the scene. According to Lubas, the fort received alerts about the accident "through multiple means, and additional Army planes were in the air."

The exact reasons for the crash are unclear, and it is unknown whether or not the planes collided while in air. Daniel Matthews, a public affairs officer for the 101st Airborne Division, told AP News, "At this time, there is no determination on the specifics regarding

the accident." He explained that an aviation safety team from Alabama will investigate the accident. Lubas also commented that the cause of the crash is unclear. The Black Hawk helicopters involved in the crash use equipment similar to the black boxes on passenger planes, which records the performance of aircrafts in flight and helps analyze crashes. Lubas hopes that this will provide more information as to what occurred.



OMW: HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter prepares to land.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said that he and Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee were "committed" to assisting families who had lost loved ones. Tim Gore, a pastor in North Carolina, revealed that his son was one of the victims who lost their lives in the crash. He called his son, Staff Sgt. Joshua Caleb Gore, a "real-life Captain America." US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin sympathized with the families victims, stating, "I'm saddened by this tragic loss, and I am working with Army leadership to make sure our troops and their families receive the care that they need in the wake of this accident." (Sources: CBS, NBC, AP News)

Tornadoes devastate MS

by Bridie Beamish

Culture Editor

On Mar. 24, a series of violent tornadoes touched down in western Mississippi, killing 25 residents. Thunderstorms and extreme weather also swept through Alabama, with authorities reporting at least one citizen dead. The storm, which lasted for more than an hour, left thousands without power and destroyed a myriad of buildings and homes.

The first tornado, which was a four out of five on the Enhanced Fujita (EF) scale, moved east through Rolling Fork, Mississippi, ripping roofs off of houses and knocking over the town's water tower. It reached wind speeds of up to 170 miles per hour, then traveled 60 miles northeast. Soon after, another tornado touched down near Black Hawk and was a three on the EF scale, with winds reaching speeds of 150 miles per hour. Two additional tornadoes landed near Montgomery, Alabama.



SCARY STORM: Updrafts form supercell tornadoes.

The tornadoes developed from a supercell storm, a rotating storm in which the updraft and the downdraft of the wind become separated. Warm air near the ground and the wind's change of speed and direction at increasing heights cause the storms. While supercell storms are one of the least common types of storms, they are among the most destructive and can sustain themselves for a greater period of time than average storms.

Rolling Fork Mayor Eldridge Walker declared that his "city is gone." First responders rushed many residents to the hospital, while other victims remained trapped in their homes as officials searched for survivors. Walker declared, "My advice to people: one, to be thankful that they're alive. Houses that are torn up can be replaced, but we can't replace a life. My advice to them is to stand still and wait on the first responders to take care of them as we journey down this situation together."

A severe weather warning for the area also continued until the following day as the South braced for a weekend full of heavy rain and winds. Two days after the tornado, more than 20 million residents were at risk of further severe storms throughout the South and areas of the Midwest. Power outages continued throughout the weekend as well. As the storm pushed off the East Coast, main threats included high winds, hail, and isolated tornadoes.

The day after the storm, President Joe Biden visited Rolling Fork to speak with the community members. He vowed that the federal government would aid Mississippi in recovering and rebuilding the devastation. He explained, "We're not just here for today. I'm determined, and we're going to leave nothing behind. We're going to get it done for you. That's why I'm here."

(Sources: BBC, CNN, Earth Observatory, NPR, NY Times)

Silicon Valley Bank faces crisis due to stock crash

by Margo Rawlings

News Editor

Last month, the United States faced the second-largest banking failure in its history and the largest banking failure since the financial crisis of 2008.



TROUBLES IN TEMPE: The SVB stands in the city of Santa Clara, CA.

On Mar. 8, Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) — whose deposits had been declining since the beginning of the year — announced that since it was short on capital, it was forced to sell all of its available-for-sale bonds at a 1.8 billion dollar loss. The bank then said it would raise 2.25 billion dollars by selling a mix of combination and preferred stock. This began a domino effect, lowering the value of other major banks as well. In fact, when the stock market opened on Mar. 9, not only did Silicon Valley Bank Financial's stock crash, losing 160 billion dollars in value, but banks such as JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, Citigroup, and Bank of America lost a combined total of 52 billion dollars in market value.

The dilemma only worsened as news of the situation spread throughout the media, with more Americans becoming aware of the crash, and various venture capital firms along with other clients attempting to withdraw their deposits. In total, Silicon Valley Bank customers attempted to withdraw almost 42 billion dollars within 24 hours, which led to the bank having a negative balance of 958 million dollars by the end of the business day.

Silicon Valley Bank customers explained that CEO Greg Becker's plea for all clients to remain calm amidst the crash did not reassure them, and even left some feeling more doubtful about the bank. Ryan Falvey, a former employee of SVB, explained that for startups, "When you say, 'Hey, get your deposits out, this thing is gonna fail,' that's like yelling fire in a crowded theater...It's a self-fulfilling prophecy." Silicon Valley

Bank was then unable to give their depositors their requested withdrawals since they only carried their fractional reserve, a portion of depositors' money that remains in cash, while the remainder was held in long-term bonds that were now worth even less. These events continued the bank run that was already well underway.

Thankfully, the following day the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation took over the bank and guaranteed entire deposits citing that it posed a large risk to the US economy. Usually, only up to 250,000 US dollars are insured in accounts.

Following the bank failure, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission launched independent investigations to better understand what really caused the bank failure. In a hearing overseen by the Senate Banking Committee, Michael Barr, the Federal Reserve's vice chairman for supervision expressed that "SVB's failure is a textbook case of mismanagement." He explained that the US government had notified the bank of various issues dating back to Nov. 2021, but the bank did not resolve them.

President Biden addressed the bank's crisis, reassuring Americans. He detailed, "Americans can rest assured that our banking system is safe. Your deposits are safe. Let me also assure you we will not stop at this — we'll do whatever is needed."

(Sources: WSJ, USA Today, NPR, NY Times)

- DeSantis clashes with Disney
- Six killed in Nashville shooting

WORLD

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Protesters engulf Israel after government proposes reforms

by Victor Josifovski
National/World Editor

In recent weeks, Israeli protests surrounding planned reforms of the nation's judiciary reached new heights. While protests have occurred for months, recent developments, like the firing of Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, inflamed the political crisis and created an organized reprisal that threatens to bring the nation to a standstill.

Protests first began months ago, when Israeli president Benjamin Netanyahu introduced a significant slate of judicial reforms, which, among other changes, would give the Israeli parliament and its ruling majority parties more power over the judiciary. Tensions only escalated on Mar. 26 when Netanyahu fired Gallant for publicly voicing discontent with the reforms, prompting tens of thousands of discontented Israeli citizens to engulf the streets of Tel Aviv in response.

Beyond the protests, widespread labor strikes have affected several economic sectors, as unions and workers protest the changes. Various unions -- including the Histadrut labor union, the largest in Israel with nearly 800,000 members -- called a general strike. In effect, the nation was brought to a near standstill. In Tel Aviv, flights at the nation's largest airport were grounded. Meanwhile, the nation's universities and commercial industries were shut down,

and strikes extended to public health, transit, and banking sectors as well. Strikers hope the civil unrest will bring the government to the negotiating table.

Netanyahu's proposed reforms would drastically alter the functioning of the Israeli Supreme Court, which has operated largely the same since the founding of Israel in 1948. While the proposed changes are extensive, among the most significant would be the reorganization of the nine-person judicial selection committee, which would give the government a majority in the selection process. Another sticking point is the institution of an override clause, which would allow the parliament to pass laws formerly ruled invalid by the court. Critics of the changes insist that these reforms would undermine Israeli democracy.

Responding to the general outcry, Netanyahu and his government agreed to pause the reforms on Mar. 27, deciding to wait until the next parliamentary session to proceed. While Netanyahu conceded that "We are in the height of the crisis that is threatening our basic unity," he maintained that the judicial overhaul was necessary. When US President Joe Biden expressed his disapproval of the changes, Netanyahu lamented that "Israel is a sovereign country which makes its decisions by the will of its people and not based on pressures from abroad."

In the coming weeks, Netanyahu will have to manage between his administrative goals and quell what has quickly become a political



BACKLASH: Israeli citizens raise flags during several protests in Jerusalem.

crisis. While the nation of Israel buzzes with political fervor, the Israeli parliament will soon convene and decide the fate of the Netanyahu's proposed judicial reforms.

(Sources: BBC, CNN, NBC, Politico, NY Times)

Russia detains US journalist

by Dell Dumont
Graphics Editor

On Mar. 30, the Russian Federal Security Bureau (FSB) said it detained an American Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reporter in the city of Yekaterinburg, a Russian city around 800 miles east of Moscow, for alleged espionage. The FSB accused 31-year-old Evan Gerschkovich, a correspondent based in Moscow, of trying to obtain state secrets. According to the FSB, Mr. Gerschkovich "acting on the instructions of the American side, collected information constituting a state secret about the activities of one of the enterprises of the Russian military-industrial complex."

Almar Latour, the chief executive of Dow Jones (The Wall Street Journal's publishing company) condemned the arrest in a memo to staffers, saying the company is working "around the clock" to secure his release. The WSJ expressly rejected the arrest, saying that it "vehemently denies the allegations from the FSB and seeks the immediate release of [its] trusted and dedicated reporter."

A district court in Moscow said that Gerschkovich would remain detained until May 29. Espionage trials in Russia often take place in secret, and it is rare for a court to acquit an accused. Trials often take months to unfold. "It's a new low in the US-Russia relationship," said Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center. The arrest of an accredited American reporter "is really setting a precedent."

This is the first time that an American journalist has been imprisoned for spying in Moscow since the Cold War. The arrest occurred a week after US officials charged Sergey Vladimirovich Cherkasov, a Russian national, with being a Russian spy.

The White House said the release of Evan Gerschkovich is a priority for President Biden, as lawyers visited the jailed Wall Street Journal reporter nearly a week after Russian authorities arrested



ACCUSED: Gerschkovich went through a series of proceedings.

him on charges of espionage. Karine Jean-Pierre reaffirmed past State Department warnings advising Americans against visiting Russia and stated, "We've been very clear about Americans not going to Russia. It is not safe." According to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the United States seeks immediate consular access to Mr. Gerschkovich so that it can offer the necessary support. Mr. Blinken commented, "In the strongest possible terms, we condemn the Kremlin's continued attempts to intimidate, repress, and punish journalists and civil society voices."

John Kirby, the strategic coordinator for the US National Security Council, said it wasn't immediately obvious whether the Russian government planned Mr. Gerschkovich's detention or if it intended his arrest as retaliation for Russia's grievances. The foreign ministry of Russia has granted Mr. Gerschkovich permission to work as a journalist there.

Sources: (AP News, CNN, WSJ, USA Today)

War distorts life in Ukraine

by Owen Fugit
Media Production Editor

As of early March, new developments in Ukraine have broadened the information that needs covering. Some of the most important recent developments include Zelenskyy's tour of the frontlines, a bombing in St. Petersburg, Russia that killed a prominent Russian journalist, and the Kyiv monastery.



LEAD BY EXAMPLE: Zelenskyy traverses a Ukrainian trench.

President Zelenskyy Visits Cities: Beginning in March, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy toured major cities on the frontlines of Russia's war in Ukraine. Zelenskyy started his tour by rail in the southern city of Zaporizhzhya. The transportation aspect is a key component of Ukraine's military logistics. Zelenskyy has been working for some time to boost morale with public appearances in frontline cities. Following a big tour in March, it was a surprise that Zelenskyy decided to travel again to Ukraine's frontline cities. While in Zaporizhzhya, Zelenskyy talked with locals and officials, asking questions about the war and its impact on their lives.

Explosion in St. Petersburg Cafe Kills War Blogger: On Sunday, Apr. 2, an explosion in a St. Petersburg cafe killed Russian war blogger Vladlen Tatarsky. Tatarsky was conversing with a small crowd gathered at the cafe when an explosion

ripped through the building, killing Tatarsky and wounding 30 others. Witnesses say that a woman gave Tatarsky a box with a bust of himself inside. According to the witnesses, the bust contained the bomb that exploded just a few moments later. Interfax news reported that Darya Tryopova, a St. Petersburg native, was arrested soon after. Tryopova had a preexisting record of participating in anti-war rallies. Russia suspects Ukrainian involvement, but Zelenskyy said in a video address he does not think about Russian domestic events but did not directly deny Ukrainian involvement.

Kyiv Monks Face Eviction: Monks in Kyiv's historic Monastery of the Caves defied an eviction order from the Ukrainian government due to suspected ties with Moscow and the Russian Orthodox Church. The monastery is 980 years old and is a national symbol of Ukraine and Ukrainian history. In 2019, the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox churches were engulfed in a schism that split the Orthodox church. Now, with the ongoing war in Ukraine, the orthodox church is finding itself at the center of geopolitics and religious politics. The head of the Monastery of the Caves, Metropolitan Pavlo, is now under house arrest for his alleged ties to the Russian government and the Russian Orthodox Church. Pavlo denies any wrongdoing on behalf of the monks.

(Sources: AP News, Reuters, RadioFreeEurope)



EYE OF GOD: The Monastery of Caves presides over Kyiv.

US and Canada revitalize border management agreements

by Rory Zeman
National/World Editor

On Mar. 4, United States President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced they had reached an agreement concerning asylum-seekers at the US-Canada border.

Their agreement would permit the US and Canada to turn down any asylum-seekers illegally entering either country through an undesignated entry point. The deal will be an extension of the Safe Third Country Agreement, which both countries signed in 2002. The former agreement allowed US and Canadian border officials to return any asylum-seekers back to their home country, provided that the country they came from is considered safe. However, this legislation previously applied only to official entries on the US-Canada border, allowing illegal immigrants to evade the policy by using undesignated border entrances.

The new, expanded version of the deal will encompass a stricter variant of the former agreement, allowing both the US and Canada to reject asylum-seekers on the basis of the illegality of their entry through unofficial entry points on the border. Despite some Democratic pushback, the

Biden administration will accept these measures to keep tighter control over the number of illegal immigrants within US borders and to encourage legal entry into the US.

Canada, as part of the deal, also agrees to expand its efforts to admit a greater number of asylum seekers. Canada has the goal of offering legal passage



OPEN ACCESS: The US-Canada border sits unprotected.

into Canada for Latin American and Caribbean people in order to "compensate for closing these irregular crossings," said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The deal comes after a year of increased illegal immigration at the US-Mexico border and the US-Canada border. In 2022 alone, nearly 40,000 illegal immigrants crossed into Canada from the US, and in the first two months of 2023, almost 10,000 crossed into Canada. On the other hand, the US received significantly lower numbers of Canadian migrants, with there being around 4,000 illegal Canadian immigrants in the US for the entire year of 2022. Many of these illegal migrants originally crossed the US-Mexico border and traveled North via Roxham road, a New York road that ends at the US-Canada border at an illegal entry point.

These attempts by the US to keep tabs on the record-high numbers of inflowing illegal migrants also include new efforts to provide legal access to US citizenship to around 30,000 migrants. These migrants, who will enter from Venezuela, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Cuba, will receive new opportunities for legal US entry as part of a sponsorship program. Although the border agreement will endeavor to limit illegal immigration, it will open new opportu-

nities to asylum-seekers with hopes of finding legal safety in the US and Canada.

(Sources: CBS, CNN, NPR)



UNITED WE STAND: Trudeau and Biden greet one another.

EDITORIAL

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- Citizens should call for equitable and widespread public transport

Los Gatos must support local public transportation

by Angela Sheu
News Editor

Los Gatans are painfully familiar with our town's notorious gridlock, which is especially bad after school, on weekends, or amid summer beach traffic. While it's a complex and compounding issue with no single solution, expanding public transit infrastructure would offer a more sustainable and equitable future for Los Gatos. This step towards greater accessibility and inclusivity, however, requires the entire Los Gatos community — not just town and transportation officials — to enable and advocate a larger, long-term role for public transportation.

The already minimal public transit options in Los Gatos are on the decline. Because of congestion and low ridership, Valley Transportation Agency (VTA) plans to redraw route 27 — the predominant bus through Los Gatos — on Saturdays and Sundays beginning Apr. 24. Instead, the buses will run on Saratoga-Los Gatos Road to circumvent downtown delays, and riders will need to walk up to a mile more to reach a stop. The VTA eliminated local routes 48 and 49 several years ago; now, Los Gatos lacks designated local routes and has limited connectivity with the rest of Western Santa Clara County. VTA has no current plans to improve Los Gatos transit.

The West Valley region largely fails to prioritize public transportation because the area is more affluent than other parts of Santa Clara County. At a Town

Council meeting, Council Member and VTA Board member Rob Rennie elaborated that fewer people take buses, making the area harder to service. VTA cited that only two to seven residents take the 27 bus through downtown Los Gatos on an average weekend day, versus hundreds of riders along the rest of the route, which runs from Campbell to Santa Teresa. Ultimately, VTA must serve all of Santa Clara County, and downtown delays prevent buses from arriving on time to every following stop, including the hospital and the light rail. As is, traffic has continued to worsen and maintaining public transportation downtown has become increasingly infeasible and difficult to justify.

Traffic has made life within Los Gatos less accessible for all. Town Council Member Rob Moore reflected on feedback he received while speaking door-to-door with the Los Gatos community: "By far the number one [concern] I heard was traffic." Between school, commuting, and beach traffic, "It's a dominant issue that affects everybody."

Dwindling bus service, on the other hand, impacts certain groups disproportionately: younger people, older people, and those without the means to purchase a car. While many Los Gatans neither need nor take public transit, it's a necessity for those who do; our community's passive acceptance of driving as the primary way to travel overlooks these groups and quietly reinforces social and economic barriers. As a result, expanding public transportation is an

essential, tangible way to address inequity. Moore expounded, "When we talk about issues of equity and inclusion, we need much stronger infrastructure that allows anyone to make their way to and around Los Gatos."

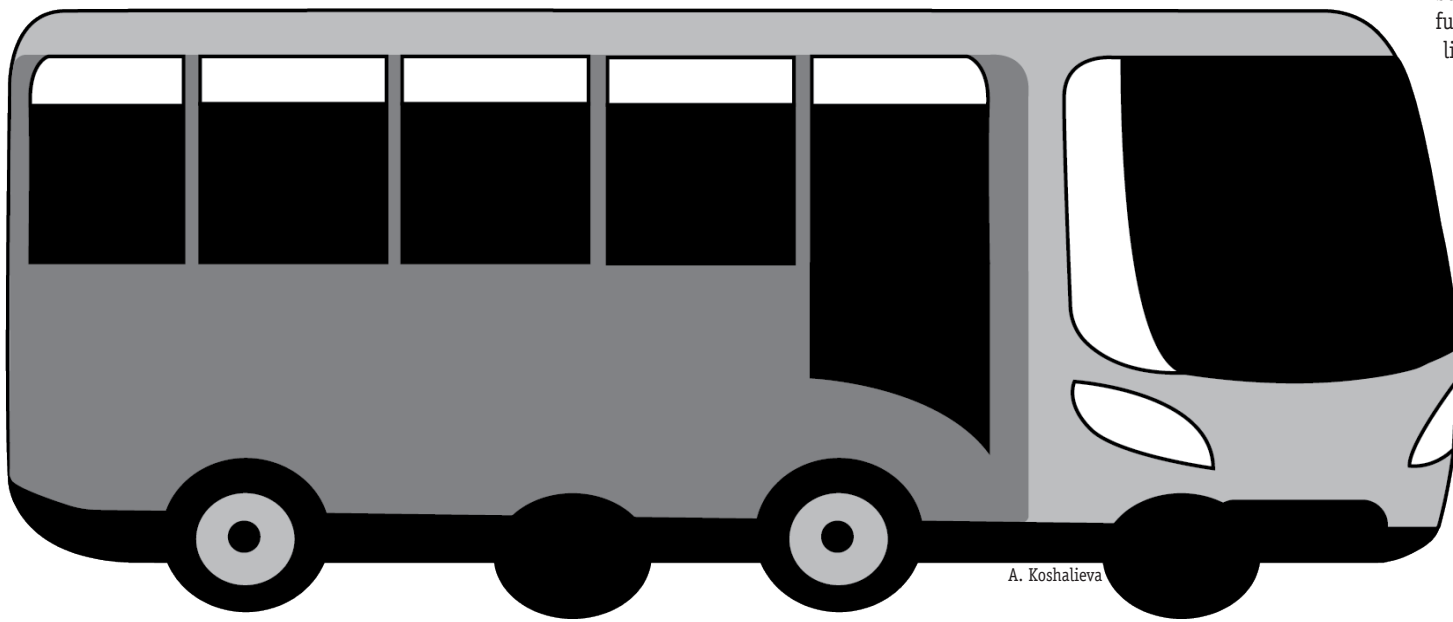
Moore encouraged Los Gatos citizens to organize around and directly advocate public transportation, as "it shows it's not only one person pushing for change. It makes all of us more effective and makes it a lot easier to get that change done." He noted that while he's heard many residents with general concerns about traffic, the town council rarely receives comments about public transportation. He invites residents, and students in particular, to participate in the public process by either writing letters or emails to the town council or speaking at public meetings.

VTA also requests public feedback. They are currently reviewing the Visionary Network, which will become a blueprint for Santa Clara County transit service and development over the next thirty years. They invite community feedback — particularly on where to introduce more service and how to encourage greater ridership — before their committees present it to the VTA board in May for adoption. Their Valley Transportation Plan 2050 survey takes ten minutes and is accessible online until Apr. 30. Responses, in part, inform the Visionary Network, and filling it out allows residents to provide direct feedback on future transit, streets, and highway projects.

Most importantly, Los Gatans should opt for taking the bus. Ridership data largely guides VTA's decisions; by taking the bus, we can communicate that we value the system and think it deserves further resources. Moore concurred, "It's not cheap to invest in bus routes...Riding the bus is seemingly small, but that is one of the best things anyone can do to demonstrate that we are a community that supports public transportation."

Buses are particularly opportune for LGHS students. Senior **Rosie Lu** noted that taking public transit to and from school beginning freshman year enabled greater independence and helped lighten her parents' load. Junior **Alex George**, who similarly rides buses as his main form of transportation from school, to work, and to weekend guard rehearsals, noted that more people taking the bus would help alleviate traffic and parking issues. With stops directly in front of the high school, riding the bus is also an expedient alternative to the LGHS parking lot. Lu reflected, "the buses are on time, they're sanitary, and all of the stops are within walkable distance from where I need to go." Furthermore, the Transit mobile app provides route planning and time updates that make riding the bus (or other forms of public transportation) additionally convenient.

As of now, Los Gatos' public transportation network is weak, but we have the opportunity to advocate better service, forge a stronger relationship between Los Gatos and VTA, and pave the way for future transformative infrastructure possibilities like light rail access. Opting for and providing feedback on transit is essential to enable robust service in Los Gatos and for ensuring that our town is accessible for all. (Source: VTA)



APRIL/MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24 Boys' Volleyball vs. Fremont @ Home	25 LGSUHS Board Meeting	26 Girls' Swimming SCVAL Trials @ Home	27 Boys' Swimming SCVAL Trials @ Home	28 Senior Talent Show	29 Junior Prom
30	1 AP Tests: Government, Chemistry, Spanish Lit.	2 AP Tests: Chinese, AP Environ. Sci., Psychology	3 AP Tests: English Lit., Computer Sci.	4 AP Tests: Statistics	5 AP Tests: European Hist., US History	6 Track and Field CCS Championships @ Home
7	8 AP Tests: Calculus AB, Calculus BC	9 AP Tests: English Lang., Japanese, Physics	10 AP Tests: Spanish Lang., Biology	11 AP Tests: French, Physics 1	12 AP Tests: Music Theory	13
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Senior Prom
21	22	23	24	25	26 Freshman Fun Run	27

Scan to take the VTA survey!



EL GATO

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- Students should invest money
- Bring back school spirit

OPINION

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Combat frustrating culture by tipping your workers

by Linda Wang
Humor Editor



Usually, Americans are good at tipping their workers, something I'm very grateful for as a service worker. Forbes's 2023 Tipping Culture Survey reported that 95 percent of respondents said they tip at least sometimes and 76 percent said they tip always/often. Recently, tipping culture has been a topic of even

greater discussion after the pandemic negatively affected business for service workers. With this observation, we also see more anti-tipping discussion. While the foundations of tipping culture are problematic and its presence is a flaw of our economic system (more on this later), we still need to respect service jobs and tip when we can. However, we should not shame others for failing to tip if their circumstances cannot allow for it — as long as we still respect service workers.



The history of tipping culture has far darker roots than its current social position. Tipping began in the feudal system when masters occasionally gave their servants extra change. The basis of tipping came from a class system, one in which someone considers another inferior and therefore gives them something extra. During the US's early years, people shunned tipping culture because they considered this class system outdated, but after the Civil War ended and millions of enslaved people became free, businesses did not pay them livable wages. Newly freed Black workers relied entirely on tips in order to survive, and this concept persisted into the present.

People in service jobs, such as waiters/waitresses and baristas, often cannot live on minimum wage without the additional income they receive from tips. In today's workplace, while large corporations earn billions of dollars in profit every year, some of their entry-level minimum wage workers cannot even

scrape by. Money is not scarce anymore, but, despite the fact that workers in our generation have more economic security than in past history, tips are a more secure source of income for service job workers than trusting their company to pay them a livable wage. For smaller businesses, tipping becomes even more crucial when there is no large stable corporation can guarantee a steady paycheck.

As a service worker, I cannot speak for all service workers. But for me personally, I have no problem with people who cannot tip. Square, one of the bigger companies that regulates digital payments, reported that "Tips at full-service restaurants grew by 25.3 percent in the third quarter of 2022, while gratuities at quick or counter service restaurants went up 16.7 percent compared to the same time in 2021." Tip options are getting more and more expensive, with the lowest percentage shown on the screen being as high as 15 percent, and some people cannot afford to consistently tip at that percentage.

Fortunately, the vast majority of us in Los Gatos do not rely on tips in order to afford basic living expenses. While tipping culture can be extremely frustrating, and its roots are stained, it has firmly established itself in our wages today, and we must take part in it to aid our service workers if we can. If you can't tip today, it's alright. But if you have a dollar or two to spare, we would greatly appreciate it for our service.

(Sources: ABC News, Forbes, NPR)

Fugit suggests investing

by Owen Fugit
Media Production Editor



I want to talk about investing, specifically for students. It might seem like something you only need to worry about when you get a "real job," or something that feels distant and inconsequential.

That's far from true. Investing is for everyone, and it's a skill that anyone can learn. For high schoolers, I believe that this is the perfect time to invest, or at least to learn how to. Due to the unique state of the economy, high schoolers actually have an age advantage, which we must act on.

When you purchase shares in a company, you are getting a very small stake in the ownership of that company. For example, if I bought 100 dollars worth of stock in Apple, technically I have ownership, but it is not like I will meet Tim Cook or make major decisions about the company. I succeed when the stock price succeeds, and I suffer when the stock price suffers; Therefore, take ownership in a company because you believe it will grow and you believe the stock price will go up.

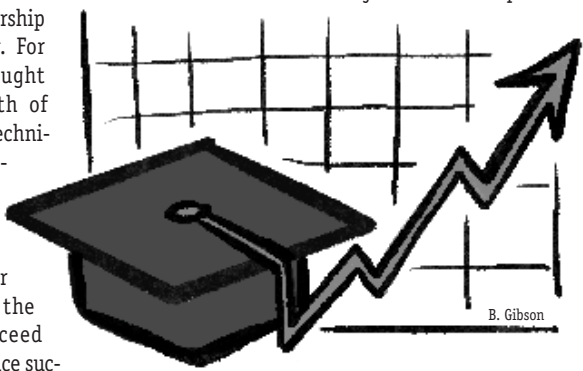
You can start investing today — if you're 18, of course. If you are still underage, talk to your parents about their investments. If you can invest legally, you absolutely should. Here's how: start by finding a good broker. Many people use Robinhood, Charles

Schwab, and E*TRADE, to name a few. It is up to the investor to find the right broker for them. It takes time and can get very technical, but trading with a service you hate just because someone recommended it to you is far from ideal. After finding your broker, put some of your money into an investment account with your chosen broker. From here, you can pick and choose stocks, like Apple or Google.

There are different types of securities you can buy through your broker. Stocks, which we already covered, should be offered by your broker. Bonds, which are loans to companies or the government, are generally a less risky investment compared to stocks, but the return on your investment is lower. Most brokers will also let you trade exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which are like professionally managed stock portfolios that you invest in, getting rewards from many different companies. Many seasoned investors like Warren Buffet recommend investing in ETFs because they can diversify your portfolio immensely. Diversification means investing in a wide range of companies across many different fields and sectors, along with a healthy investment

in bonds and ETFs to balance out market falls when they occur. The world of finance and investing is huge, and it is easy to get lost and confused. Many banks and brokerage firms offer free media explaining investment terms. You should learn to invest sooner rather than later because it can quite literally pay dividends in the future.

(Sources: Robinhood, E*TRADE, NYSE, Nasdaq)



Embrace your boredom

by Lucy Panicacci
Culture Editor



Growing up, my parents often told me, "Your phone rots your brain." Although this statement seemed foolish at the time, as I have grown older, it has become more

and more relevant. With the ubiquity of phones and other screens in the modern world, the emotion of boredom has almost become obsolete. Phones allow people to fill disinterest with instant gratification. People should be more aware of their dependency on technology and its potentially negative effects and embrace boredom, for it is an essential part of existence.

In our current society, boredom has become a choice that most deny. According to a Centers for Disease Control survey, kids ages 8 to 18 spend an average of 7.5 hours a day on a screen, not including homework. Although this entertainment diminishes the feeling of boredom, it leads to larger issues down the line. Sandi Mann, a psychology lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire, advised, "We're trying to swipe and scroll the boredom away, but in doing that, we're actually making ourselves more prone to boredom."

The dependence on technology makes boredom more unbearable, leading to unhealthy habits, particularly the need to go on devices right when one wakes up and before one goes to sleep. The

use of devices before bed negatively affects sleep by continuing to stimulate the brain, disrupting the circadian rhythm, and preventing relaxation.

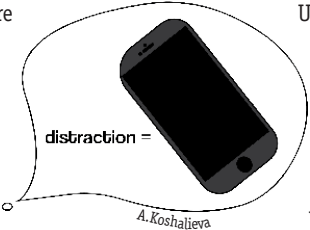
The use of devices before sleep or to help people sleep eliminates necessary time for self-regulation and reflection. This stimulation detaches individuals from reality, not allowing them to face their emotions and thoughts. Dr. Sharon Horwood, a senior lecturer at Deakin University, stated that

devices "increase our absent-mindedness, reduce our ability to think and remember, regulate emotion."

Furthermore, sitting with one's own thoughts without external stimuli has health benefits. Neuroscientist Alicia Wolf of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute found that boredom boosts creativity by allowing the brain to rest and replenish. According to the Mayo Clinic Health System, a break from brain stimulation also gives the mind time to consolidate memories and replay scenarios. In a state of boredom, people create solutions and innovate.

Thus, people should pursue mentally enriching activities that help them practice boredom. This could mean going on a walk, breathing exercises, or simply sitting in silence and daydreaming. Embracing boredom does not mean a drastic reduction of screentime; it means finding one's personal balance and enjoying themselves without the need of other stimulation. Instead of depending on fictional entertainment to help one recover from the day, people should try to appreciate their own thoughts.

(Sources: CDC, Cleveland Clinic, Forbes, The Guardian, Mayo Clinic, TIME Magazine)



Give horror the same credit as other movie genres

by Rory Zeman and Megan Hastings
National/World Editor and Public Relations Manager



Prestigious awards like the Oscars gain millions of viewers every year and recognize hundreds of movies and their production teams for their cinematic achievements. In the 95 years since the Oscars premiered, awarded genres have ranged from romance to comedy to musicals. But over the nearly 100-year timeline, one genre stands out as the most criminally underrated and overlooked — horror. Though there have been occasional Academy Awards given to horror movies, the genre gets snubbed at many award shows.

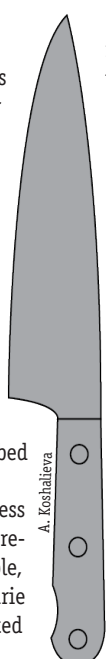
Horror is a genre home to countless classic, timeless movies — movies that break the standards of previous genres and single-handedly create their own. For example, the "final girl" trope, consisting of Jamie Lee Curtis's Laurie Strode and Neve Campbell's Sidney Prescott, can be accredited to the horror genre.

Horror films aren't just intended to be frightening, as they can consist of a variety of parts of other genres. For instance, many horror movies also contain comic relief. Whether it be the funny manner in which a character is gruesomely killed, or the hideous yet hysterical way a monster looks, horror movies seldom disappoint with their subtle humor. Horror movies are also great vessels for drama. For example, they often involve facing a character's challenges in life without having direct relations with their killer. Finally, horror movies can often be closely tied to action and adventure, giving protagonists a grand task in order to survive or defeat their seemingly unstoppable killer. Characters may also find themselves on a long and treacherous journey in hopes of saving themselves or someone close to them.

Although horror movies are sometimes seen as a series of bloody, meaningless murders, they are a "package deal" when it comes to aspects of other genres.

Horror movies can also convey messages to viewers about their own lives, and they illuminate warning signs or even valuable life lessons. For instance, R.L. Stine's Goosebumps series often contains hidden messages in each and every episode, which often concern the defeat of the protagonist in the face of some sort of horrific evil. Horror movies can also help viewers understand the importance of facing past traumas or fears. Take Stephen King's It for example: an alien clown torments the characters in the movie and distorts their reality to feed off of their greatest fears. By the end of the movie, the protagonists must face their past traumas and fears to overcome and defeat the terrifying Pennywise to save themselves from imminent torment and death.

Although people most often view horror movies with disgust for their gruesome and seemingly meaningless content, the horror genre is actually one with many unseen gems, it and deserves more recognition with regards to its awards and respectability.



Darkness doesn't equal evil : American Dirt is inaccurate

by **Macy Dennon**
News Editor



People label me as terrifying, dangerous, and a devil worshiper simply for the Joker poster hanging up in my room. Granted, to the average Joe, this poster would be scary as

it portrays the Heath Ledger Joker in a black city with shrapnel all around and very little light on just his face. However, to those who understand the context of the poster and the character, it is simply a work of art. The Joker is one of the most iconic characters in pop culture, and the poster is a representation of that. It is not scary; it is not dangerous. But to jump to the conclusion that a poster in my room of a movie means that I wish to bow before the devil is not only harmful but hurtful. It is time to break the association between society's opinion of dark themes and so-called evil.

The formal definition of evil is the complete opposite of good or something lacking good. One could argue that evil is subjective, but the vast

majority sees evil as the portrayal of immorality, commonly associated with darkness. In my discussions, I will refer to evil by its general definition.

For most people, darkness connotes scary monsters and creepy shadows. Even in my favorite movie series, Star Wars, black is associated with the antagonistic Sith. In popular culture, a dimmer or dark theme of colors represents evil, but society should not direct hate toward others because of this stigma. Just because someone likes to dress in dark clothes and decorate their room with dark picture frames does not mean they intend to harm others without



B. Gibson

remorse. Black paint or framed pictures are good examples of these dark themes in rooms. Associating these darker themes with emanate danger is very harmful to those simply trying to express themselves. No one wants hate to spread. For those who struggle to equate darkness to something good, imagine closing your eyes and going to sleep. For many, that is a blissful moment — it brings positive emotion associated with darkness.

Equating darkness with evil is like saying Batman is evil because he wears black. While some people may associate darkness with evil, it is important to understand that darkness is often used as a representation of the unknown and mysterious. In Batman's case, his all-black costume is a representation of his mysterious and fear-striking heroic persona. He is a special case that plays on the negative trope as well as he uses his dark clothing to strike fear into the criminals he pursues. Another thing

deemed dark by society is the Joker. His life and morals are dark, but one can like the character without wanting to follow him blindly like a goon. The Joker, as a character, also worked to break the stigma because of his regular opt for brighter pieces of clothing, yet his character is still dark. Despite what society trains our brains to think, going on a mass murdering spree and the color of the clothes one puts on in the morning do not have a relation.

Those who put others down for perceived evil fail to see that, even though they believe they are metaphorically light, said light blinds them to the reality of the situation.

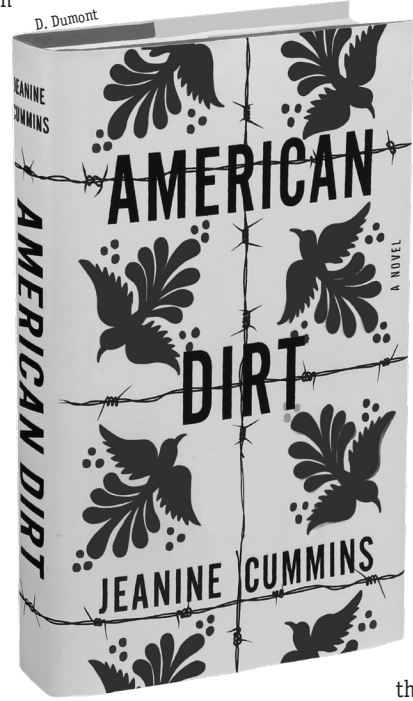
by **Ella Marrufo**
Sports Editor



Authors should never be obligated to fit their writing into boxes — to have to write certain characters or tell only stories of which they have experience with. However, Jeanine Cummins crossed a

boundary when she wrote American Dirt, a story about a Mexican woman and her son who must illegally immigrate to the United States. While the novel garnered numerous accolades and praise for its storytelling and prose, it also brought about controversy and faced harsh criticisms since its release in 2020 because of Cummins' race and the book's content. Because of these faults, American Dirt should not be taught or included in reading lists across high schools in the United States.

The first issue to address is the fact that Cummins is of White and Puerto Rican descent, though she calls herself and her family White "in every practical way." Cummins had no personal experience with the events told, and many people who went through the immigration process have accused her of not doing adequate research to tell an accurate story. In response to these accusations, Cummins claimed that she does have experience with the process because her husband was once an illegal immigrant. Nevertheless, she failed to mention that he was from Ireland, not part of a minority group, which angered people even further. Since then, she has attempted to defend herself by mentioning her Puerto Rican grandmother and further identifying herself with the Latino community — notably only after receiving a great deal of criticism. In writing American Dirt, Cummins told



D. Dumont

a fabricated and overdramatized story of which she had no right to do so, given this lack of research and shading of the truth.

However, the greater issue at hand is not Cummins' race, but rather the laughable dramatization and blatantly inaccurate content of her novel. One Mexican-American writer, Myriam Gurba, criticized the way Cummins glorified America as a safe haven away from the violent, crime-ridden Mexico, noting, "Mexicanas get raped in the USA too...You know how dangerous

the United States of America is, and you still chose to frame this place as a sanctuary. It's not." Gurba further states how American Dirt "aspires to be Día de los Muertos but...embodies Halloween." Cummins wrote her novel to appeal to her White, American audience. The characters who should represent a very specific demographic are instead molded, painted over, and contorted to fit into a "safe," palatable narrative.

Many schools across the US offer American Dirt as an optional reading book, Los Gatos High School included. However, taking into account the controversy surrounding

this book, we should reconsider having it on our reading list. There are countless other educational and impactful novels that tell Mexican immigrants' stories written by actual Latino authors that could take its place. The bottom line is, if people who have actually experienced the immigration process that this novel tells are offended by the book's contents or believe the narrative Cummins tells is inaccurate, there is no reason for it to be taught or offered in schools, including our own. (Sources: NY Times, Vox)

Queer exploitation in film and media is problematic

by **Kate Gruetter**
National/World Editor



Queer representation in the media is something producers, directors, and writers often attempt to integrate into their work, and something they often do poorly. This failed representation presents itself in many ways: stereotypes, queerbaiting, or even homophobia. Yet,

there's another not-so-subtle misrepresentation that usually goes unnoticed, but is just as harmful to the LGBTQ+ and Queer community. This is the manipulation, misrepresentation, and stereotyping of queer characters to enhance a book or movie's plot, making it perhaps more aesthetic and dramatic, but harming the queer community in the process.

A prime example of queer exploitation in film occurs in the popular Timothee Chalamet movie Call Me Be Your Name. Although this future classic sports beautiful cinematography and a heartbreak-

ing storyline, it masks a predatory undercurrent with such aesthetics. The film paints homosexual relationships as exploitative, with an older man, Oliver, grooming Chalamet's younger character, Elio. Rather than use the central gay couple to advocate for acceptance, the film normalizes sexual exploitation in the gay community. Call Me By Your Names uses and normalizes this age gap to create a more



D. Dumont

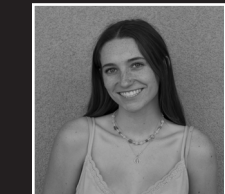
alluring and interesting plot. However, by doing so, the film paints the queer community in a negative light. Overall, the movie and its accompanying book manipulate gay individuals to further its plot and drama, allowing exploitation as a means to achieve cultural significance.

Another example of film creators using homosexuality to further their plotlines and while simultaneously perpetuating stereotypes happens in the 2001 film Lost and Delirious. This film follows two boarding school roommates, Tori and Paulie, who are in a secret gay relationship. When one of their schoolmates finds out, Tori pretends Paulie came onto her as an act of sexual aggression, causing the alleged aggressor to fall into a destructive spiral. This movie furthers the violent and angry lesbian stereotype, depicted through Paulie's actions following Tori's allegations, and does so to further its own dramatic effect and tragic plot line. In an attempt to add to the movie's melodramatic "aesthetic" and formulate an alluring storyline, Lost and Delirious portrays gay relationships and gay individuals in a harmful light.

Overall, movies need to stop representing the queer community in a damaging manner for aesthetic or plot purposes. This film "strategy" seriously harms the community and results in the furthering of stereotypes and microaggressions against LGBTQ+ individuals. (Sources: Buzzfeed, UPROXX)

Evans emphasizes a need to bring back school spirit

by **Alex Evans**
Editor-in-Chief



After witnessing the overflowing schoolwide exuberance for all spirit-related events in past years, the student participation in lip dubs, rallies, and spirit days this year seems simply lackluster. Specifically, attendance at this year's lip dub compared with past years underscored this steady decline. With

increasing toxic college culture and missed in-person experiences due to COVID, students do not exude as much school spirit as they used to. Considering these changes, it is important that students — especially seniors — reshape LGHS culture.

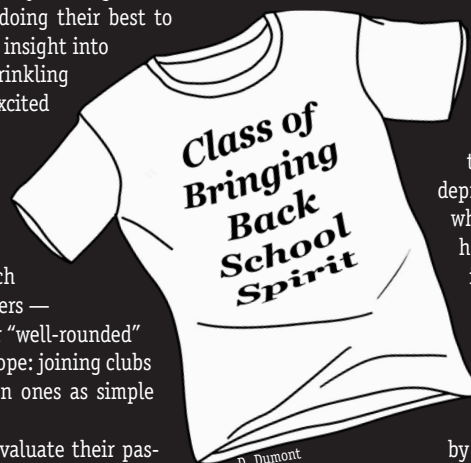
The pressure falls especially on our current seniors because we experienced spirit week of freshman year — what spirit was like before COVID. When speaking with LGHS senior **Sam Elliott**, she noted the visible class pride during the spirit rallies, "Our grade learned to have good spirit in that first year, especially with the 'I believe' chant with everyone crouched and wearing spirit gear." Nowadays, the careless and casual spirit attire and lack of competition in "I believe" chants hardly compares.

ASB Vice President **Maya Segev** largely attributed the changes in culture to COVID years. Segev determined, "The spirit never really recovered after COVID, but leadership is working really hard right now on the rally and spirit hallways." Leadership is doing their best to innovate and emulate what once was. Segev gave insight into what the future may hold: "We are considering sprinkling spirit days throughout the semester to get people excited and meshing together."

Although a misunderstanding of what spirit once was is a huge part of the problem, enhanced college culture and pressures also pose a threat to our culture at LGHS. With increasingly competitive college admissions and pressures from pretty much everyone — ie: parents, other students, and teachers — students constantly join clubs and sports to appear "well-rounded" on applications. This behavior is now a common trope: joining clubs and failing to appear at meetings or events, even ones as simple as the lip dub.

To correct this behavior, students should re-evaluate their passions before committing to many different clubs and loading courses with AP classes. For many, it is hard to step down in rigor as they face pressure from parents and friends; this simple suggestion to "re-

evaluate" may not solve this problem altogether, but it is a step in the right direction. Further, this could help mitigate student burnout that results from such vast commitments.



D. Dumont

This may be harsh, but it is frustrating when individuals refuse to foster class culture in exchange for grindset mentalities that omit any sort of joy. It is depressing to witness my peers' rigidity when it comes to participating and having fun, especially when LGHS is incredibly capable of an exuberant and excited spirit culture.

Seniors must lead by example in the closing of our year, and underclassmen can work to correct the college culture mindset by following their true passions. Go watch a lip dub from a few years ago, talk to a senior about their freshman year, or quit your club in favor of one you're passionate about. Or, just dress up and get excited!

The Los Gatos Key Club and Kiwanis Club of Los Gatos host bi-monthly trail cleanups right next to Los Gatos High School on the Los Gatos Creek Trail. Oftentimes, students from other local schools' Key Clubs attend, so these are the perfect opportunity to meet with like-minded, service-oriented peers. Kiwanis Club members also provide gloves, trash grabbers, bags, and snacks to enjoy for attendees. If you're interested, stop by a Key Club meeting on Tuesdays in Room 91B for more information. The tentative date for the next cleanup is Apr. 22 (Earth Day). You can also find a cleanup near you on earthday.org by going from their home page to their "Take Action" page to their "Join a Cleanup" page. There is plenty of helpful information about finding pre-existing cleanups, the Great Global Cleanup, and planning a cleanup of your own.

(Source: Earth Day)

-Jordan Chan, *Editor-in-Chief*



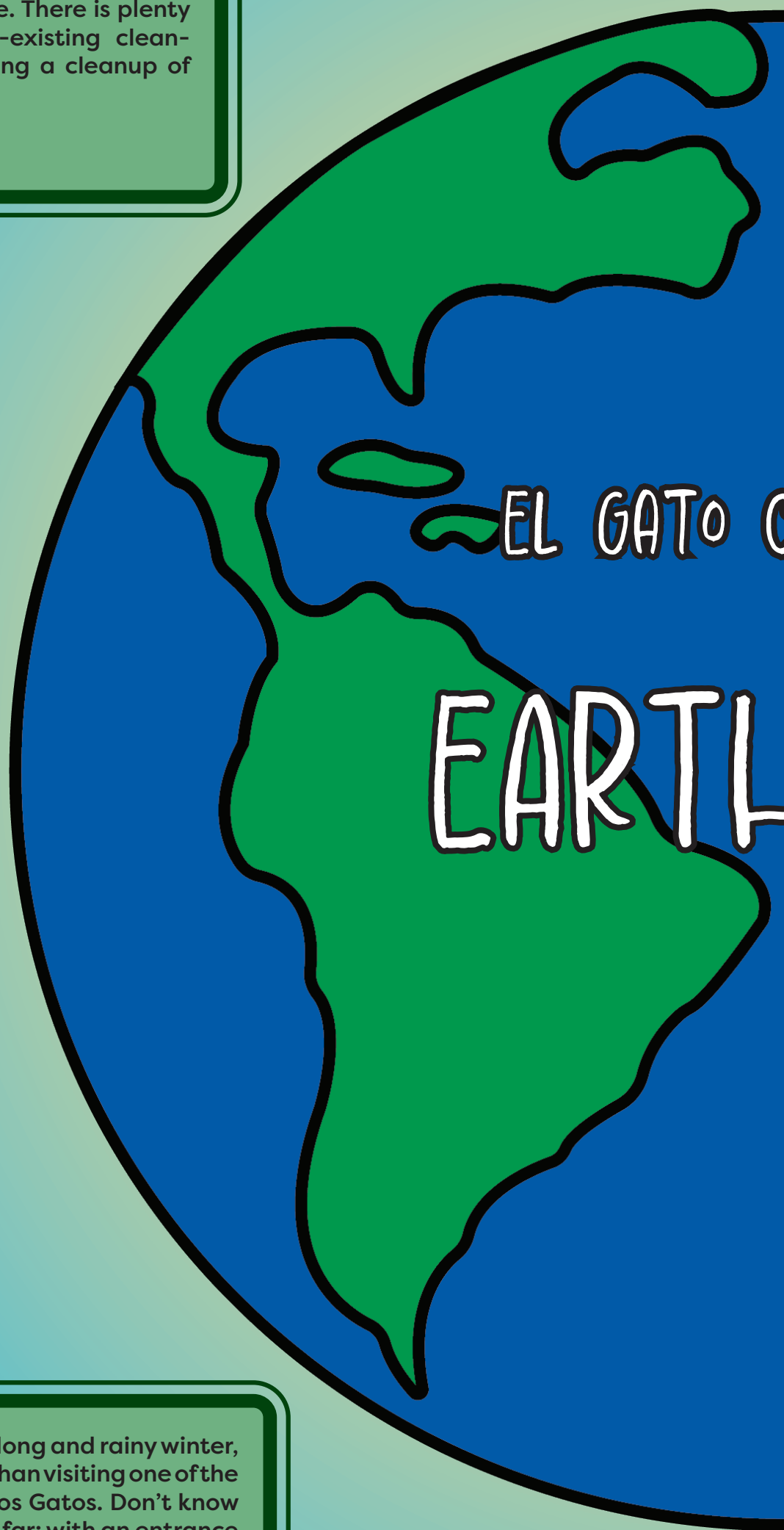
One third of all of the food grown for consumption in the United States – roughly 408 billion dollars worth – ends up discarded. The environmental impact of food waste is significant; it contributes to nearly ten percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. It is crucial that we as a community do our part to reduce our personal food waste by creating meal plans, saving leftovers, straying from overbuying, and using and/or donating to local food pantries. (Sources: Mayo Clinic Health System, The Washington Post)

-Maya Gomez, *Editor-in-Chief*

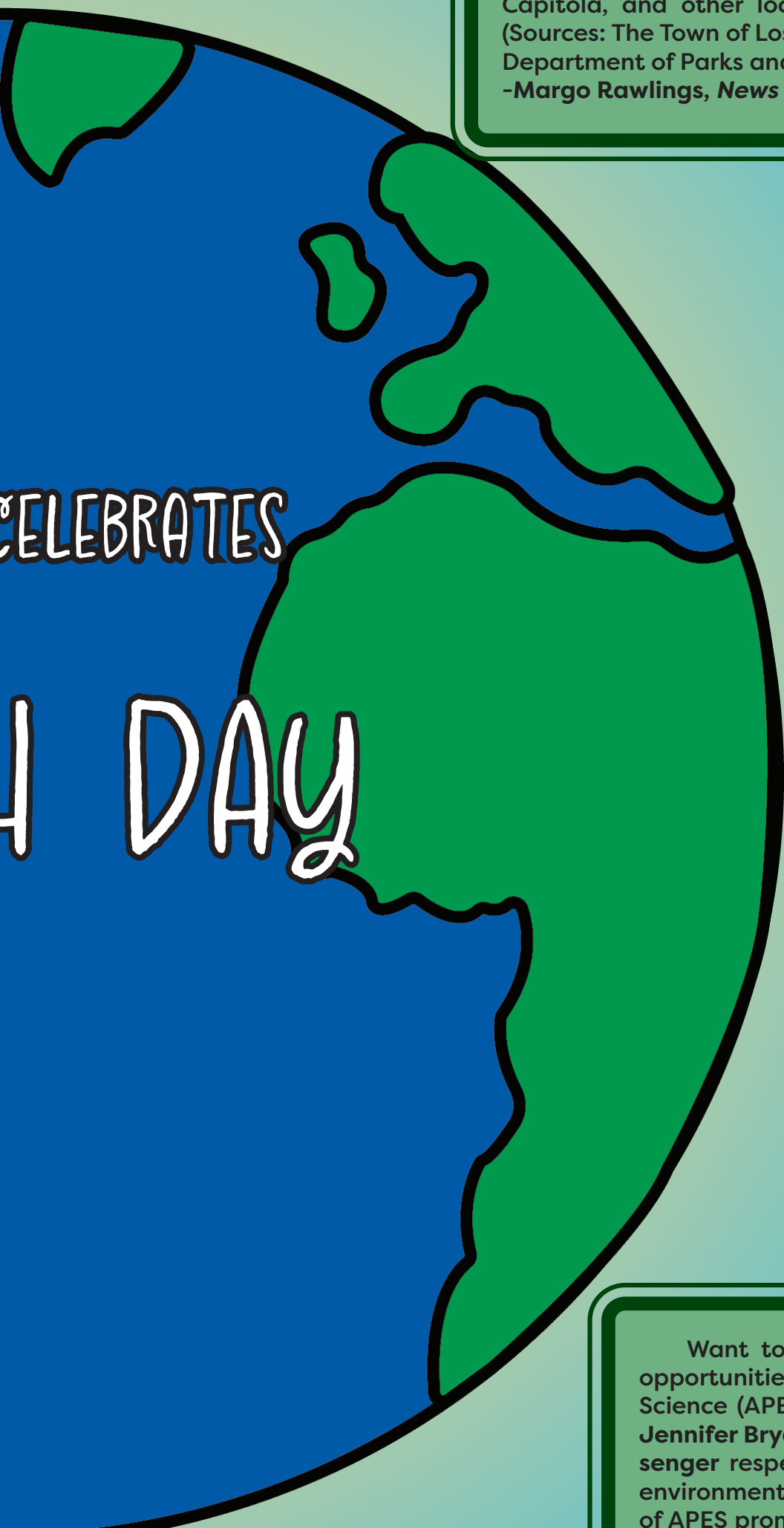


With spring in full bloom following a long and rainy winter, what better way to celebrate Earth Day than visiting one of the countless trails and open spaces near Los Gatos. Don't know where to go first? You don't have to look far; with an entrance just a two-minute walk from LGHS, you can take the Los Gatos Creek Trail all the way to Lexington Reservoir. If you're looking for more of a workout, you can hike or bike to the top of St. Joseph's Hill. If the rolling green hills are calling you, Almaden Quicksilver County Park is just a 15-minute drive away. A former mercury mining outpost, the park offers an expansive network of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. For breathtaking views of the Santa Cruz mountains, I recommend visiting Castle Rock State Park off Skyline Boulevard. While parking is not free, you can sit on a giant rock, which is always a plus. (Source: Google Maps)

-Brynn Gibson, *Editor-in-Chief*



There are several organizations around us that work to preserve the environment and keep it clean. Across California, individuals can volunteer with Adopt-A-Highway to keep the freeway free of debris. Specifically, in Los Gatos, anyone can sign up for monthly clean-ups at the 20B exit of Highway 17. Additionally, there is a similar program called Adopt-A-Beach where, through the Parks and Recreation Department, interested people can volunteer to help clean beaches in Santa Cruz, Capitola, and other locations along the coast. (Sources: The Town of Los Gatos, California Department of Parks and Recreation)
-Margo Rawlings, *News Editor*



Ethos, a refillery and low waste product store, opened its doors on Mar. 11 in downtown Los Gatos. The store's website states they "focus on curating refillable and reusable alternatives to disposables that help put an end to throwaway culture." Refilleries are a new concept that ask shoppers to reuse containers every time they shop to reduce plastic waste. Ethos, which mostly sells home and shower products, opened their first store in downtown Capitola before expanding to Los Gatos last month. If you're interested in a sustainable buying experience, check out the store or visit online at ethossantacruz.com.
-Dana Hathaway, *Editorial Editor*



Want to know more? LGHS hosts incredible opportunities courtesy of the AP Environmental Science (APES) and AP Biology classes taught by Jennifer Bryan, Amelia DeLaPaz, and Cathy Messenger respectively. Along with the study of the environment and climate change, the curriculum of APES promotes sustainable behaviors students can apply to their lives. Whether or not you are STEM oriented, consider these classes to get a more in-depth understanding of conservation ecology!
-Alex Evans, *Editor-in-Chief*



- Gruetter hypes independent short stories
- Hathaway details the Eras Tour openers

CULTURE

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Beamish reviews Lana Del Rey's newly released studio album

by **Bridie Beamish**
Culture Editor

On Mar. 24, American singer-songwriter Elizabeth Grant, more commonly known as Lana Del Rey, released her ninth studio album, *Did You Know That There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd*. The album has 16 tracks and features similar whimsical and quirky writing heard on the singer's previous albums. The new album focuses heavily on her family, discussing her grandfather, father, brother, and sister, as well as the idea of motherhood.

The album's opener, *The Grants*, is a nearly five-minute ballad about the afterlife. The singer focuses on the beauty of life and the bittersweet circumstances that come with passing away. Del Rey sings about carrying the memories of her deceased loved ones and how "When you [pass away] all you take...is your memories."

Released as a single on Dec. 7, 2022, and accompanied by her album announcement, Del Rey's single *Did You Know That There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd* is currently the most-listened-to off the album with over 42 million streams on Spotify. The slow-paced melody relies on a piano-heavy backing track and is a vulnerable song focusing on Del

Rey's soul and desire for someone to love her inner beauty. She sings, "I can't help but feel like my body marred my soul. Handmade beauty sealed up by two man-made walls," and "Love me until I love myself."

Fingertips is a personal favorite of mine due to its intricate poeticism and more profound significance. Del Rey explained, "I felt like [the song] was important because everyone was always like, 'explain yourself.' And I was like, 'I'll tell you everything I'm thinking in two minutes in a seven-minute song and just rip through it...That song kind of says it all.'" Del Rey further described it as her "innermost thoughts" as it discusses the emotional baggage from her past and her insecurities about the future. With little structure and no rhythm, the ballad feels immensely raw and emotionally complex.

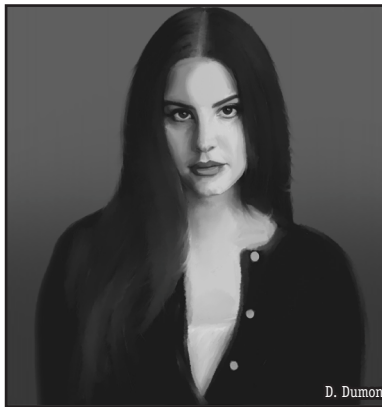
In *Fishtail*, Del Rey depicts how her partner is inconsistent in their relationship,

wanting her to be sad but also attempting to show her love. Del Rey represents care through her partner braiding her hair into fishtail braids: "Don't you dare say that you'll braid my hair, babe, if you don't really care." With a tendency to see the world through rose-colored glasses,

Del Rey depicts how while "for [her] you are the one," her partner does not reciprocate her same loving tendencies. Another notable mention is *Grandfather Please Stand On The Shoulders Of My Father While He's Deep-sea Fishing*, which, at its heart, addresses the criticism and hatred that comes with fame.

By juxtaposing her familial and personal relationships, Del Rey's album communicates intricate themes about love, insecurity, fame, and family ties. So if you find yourself in need of new music, turn on *Did You Know That There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd* and enjoy the whimsical and distinct melodies.

(Sources: Billboard, Genius)



D. Dumont

Chan critiques *Shadow and Bone* • Gruetter promotes short stories

by **Jordan Chan**
Editor-in-Chief

On Mar. 16, Netflix released its second season of *Shadow and Bone*, a fantasy television series adapted from young adult fiction novelist Leigh Bardugo's bestselling books. This season, Sun Summoner Alina Starkov, played by Jessie Mei Li, continues her quest to bring down the Shadow Fold, while surrounded by new and old allies.

Some of the highlights of this season include the beautiful costumes and sets, which bring Bardugo's writing to life, as well as the interactions between the Crows. Even though the depiction of the budding romance between Jesper and Wylan — played by Kit Young and Jack Wolfe — does not follow the canon, I looked forward to every adorable interaction between the two during the show. Unfortunately, I wasn't particularly impressed by season two's writing. I had to pause and cringe more than a few times while watching, and the cheesy special effects also leave something to be desired, but overall, I had a blast watching everything unfold.

The television show *Shadow and Bone* is based on Bardugo's trilogy of the same name; however, it incorporates elements from her equally popular duology set in the same magical universe — dubbed the Grishaverse — titled *Six of Crows*. As an ardent *Six of Crows* fan, I was disappointed by the way the show's producers attempt to tie the Crows' stories in with those of the main cast of the *Shadow and Bone* books. Part of the problem is that including them in this series never made sense to me. The events of *Six of Crows* and the events of *Shadow and Bone* take

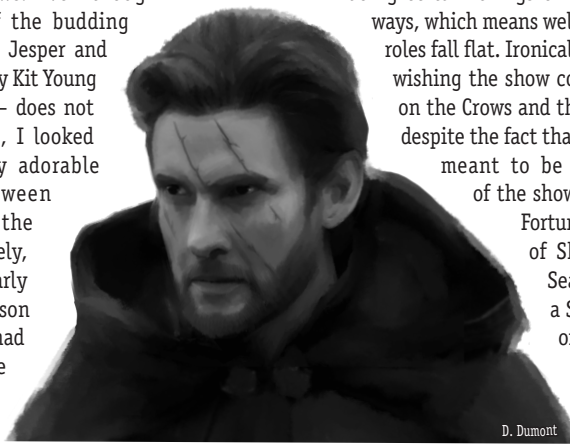
place years apart; hence, the characters from each should never interact with one another. In order to create a comprehensible timeline, the show's writers change storylines drastically and cut bits and pieces out of *Six of Crows* to include on screen.

Furthermore, attempting to integrate so much content into a short, eight-episode series harms the pacing of the story. The show switches from plot line to plot line at a rapid-fire pace. There is not enough time to fully develop characters by contextualizing their motivations for doing certain things or acting in certain ways, which means well-cast, well-acted roles fall flat. Ironically, I found myself wishing the show could simply focus on the Crows and their complexities, despite the fact that they were never meant to be the main focus of the show.

Fortunately, the ending of *Shadow and Bone* Season Two sets up a *Six of Crows* spin-off. Although the spin-off hasn't had an official confirmation, show-

runner Eric Heisserer has mentioned that it is already in the works. Its release, however, may depend on the success of *Shadow and Bone*. I'm looking forward to seeing my favorite characters take center stage and finally get the care and attention they deserve. Admittedly, I'm worried about how the writers will stay true to the *Six of Crows* story without creating something incongruous with the *Shadow and Bone* TV series — since it contains major parts of the Crows' story from throughout the duology. However, I know that there is still plenty of amazing content to adapt to the screen that may compel future audiences.

(Sources: Cosmopolitan, Netflix)



D. Dumont

by **Kate Gruetter**
National/World Editor

Independent publishing house 9VT\5 released an anthology of short stories titled *Between There and Now, Too* on May 16, 2022. With 24 stories and nine different authors making up the collection, *Between There and Now, Too* is 188 pages of entertainment, philosophical ponderings, and questionable creativity. Though at times unsettling, the compilation's musings are poetic and thought provoking. The different voices and styles of each author shine through in their respective stories, providing something refreshing and surprising with the turn of every page.

Between There and Now, Too kicks off with *Rhododendron* by Beatrice Helman, a story of teenage coming of age and the complexities of girlhood. Exploring the intricacies of a girl's first relationship, the story beautifully weaves together heartache with the melancholy of growing up. Featured shortly after Helman is Radke, whose stories are some of the shortest, but also some of my favorites. All three of Radke's compositions appear to be simple stories, but quickly uncover deeper undertones. Each story details a different individual and/or experience of his life with vivid imagery of three completely different atmospheres: jail, a nightclub, and the great outdoors. The absurdity and randomness of these ponderings are what makes Radke's oeuvre one of the most stand-out pieces, topped only by Jack George and Isabella Greenwood.

Before I further praise the magnificent musings of George, I want to acknowledge *Between There and Now, Too*'s last two contributors: Jose Carpio and Marlon Webster Paine. Carpio's work is by far the most creative of the collection; he wrote his story *Curriculum Vitae* in the format of a cheeky resume, using a unique medium to deliver a compelling story of a struggling adult's journey to find work.

Different from the works' of other authors, Paine's four stories all speak on the same topic: a woman's relationship with her father. Each story explores a different perception the narrator has of her father and his suicide, including his experience playing in a band and his presence in her life prior to his death.

Now, for the top two. George precedes Greenwood with two stories. George's first work follows the connection between mother and daughter after separation, using inconsistent narration and formatting to convey the disconnect between the pair during adolescence and young adulthood.

Though slightly disturbing and difficult to follow, the story's poeticism and complexity make up for its confusion. George further proves his talent with his second tale, *Refrain or A Bear Named Spruce*. Narrated by a stuffed bear named Spruce, this piece follows the coming of age of a teenage girl struggling with her sexuality and self harm. The innocent and often clueless perspective of Spruce is refreshing, and adds a melancholic tang to a tragic yet moving story of coming out.

Greenwood's first story speaks to a question we've all had or have: what it would be like to live on your ceiling. Slightly whimsical and quirky, this short piece is beautiful and comforting. Greenwood's following stories sport more terrestrial themes, with the first being titled *Oilseed Rape*. A beautiful piece about sexual assault and the power of words, the tragedy and honesty of Greenwood's composition brought me to tears. A clear standout of *Between There and Now, Too*, *Oilseed Rape* is a piece I wish everyone would read and examine.

Though it often seems like short stories lack depth, or are a cop out for reading or analyzing a full book, they're actually just as important and interesting to read as a novel. So, the next time you're looking for a slightly quicker and thought provoking piece of literature, buy yourself a copy of *Between There and Now, Too* (or ask to borrow mine).



A. Koshaliev

Zeman approves of Apple TV's *Ted Lasso* Season Three

by **Rory Zeman**
National/World Editor

On Mar. 15, Apple TV+ aired the highly anticipated first episode of the third and possibly final season of the hit show *Ted Lasso*. The show tells the story of American football coach Ted Lasso, played by Jason Sudeikis, who is hired as the new coach for the AFC Richmond soccer club in England. The show is great for people who crave comedy, action, and drama, all of which can be found in just this one show.

The show never lacks comedy, with Rebecca (Hannah Waddingham), the owner of the AFC Richmond club, hiring Ted, who knows nothing about the sport of soccer, to coach her team so they will lose, thus undermining her ex-husband. Furthermore, the premiere episode of the new season featured a surprisingly hysterical beginning, with Ted Lasso making the team visit Richmond's sewer system to teach them a lesson about distractions.

As a dramatic comedy, emotion still plays a massive role in the series. The new season, despite its comedic relief, still continues to develop the characters and their relationships with each other. Season three brings back



D. Dumont

parts of the old trauma that Ted faced with his ex-wife and their son, additionally mentioning Ted's struggles with anxiety and panic attacks as a foreign coach in a very soccer-centered town.

I also enjoy how the new season's first few episodes incorporate enough action to help balance out the comedy and drama. After getting into the Premier League in a crucial game at the end of season two, season three begins with every newspaper in England placing AFC Richmond in last place in their pre-season predictions. However, soccer legend Zava then decides to sign with AFC Richmond to prove that he can win even on a seemingly bad team. The beginning of season three balances comedy, drama, and action.

Ted Lasso also doesn't disappoint with its fan and critic support. The show has received a solid 72 percent on the audience score and 92 percent on the critics' Tomatometer on Rotten Tomatoes.

With twelve new episodes capping off the third season of the show, I am eager to see how the twists and turns of the beginning of the season will further develop as the season continues airing each new episode weekly on Wednesday nights.

Hathaway discusses the openers for the Eras tour

by Dana Hathaway
Editorial Editor

It's safe to say that Taylor Swift is a household name. From Our Song on her debut album to her recent release *Midnights*, she enralls the world with her catchy and relatable music. The Eras Tour, which kicked off on Mar. 17, further confirmed her popularity when all shows sold out quickly. For those lucky enough to get tickets, it would do them well to become familiar with the openers. I've done the research, listened to the songs, and become acquainted with all nine openers. For the purposes of this article, we're focusing on the Santa Clara openers and three other fan favorites. Without further ado, here's what you need to know to enjoy the hour and a half before Swift steps on stage.

Beabadoobee: Born in the Philippines and raised



in London, Beabadoobee started recording at the age of 16. The artist first found mass fame with the song *Death Bed* (coffee for your head) amidst the pandemic and now she has two albums out — *Fake It Flowers* and *Beabadoobee*. Her latest release *Glue Song* is perfect for all looking for peaceful and engaging music.

Gracie Abrams: This Barnard student is joining the Eras Tour fresh off of her first studio album, *Good Riddance*. Abrams also opened for Olivia Rodrigo during her 2022 *Sour* Tour. Abrams' most popular song is *I Miss You, I'm Sorry*, a heartfelt ballad reminiscing over a past relationship. If you enjoy her songs, tickets are still available for her *Good Riddance* tour from April to early May.

Phoebe Bridgers: In 2020, music experts nominated the Pasadena-born singer-songwriter for the Best New Artist Grammy after her breakthrough album *Punisher*. She also released the album *Stranger in the*

Alps in 2017, which featured hits such as *Motion Sickness* and *Scott Street*. She also collaborated with Swift on *Nothing New* (Taylor's Version). Keep your fingers crossed for this song to appear on tour!

Girl in red: Norwegian singer-songwriter and record producer Marie Ringheim (girl in red) is often cited as a queer icon and one of the most prominent Norse artists. Songs such as *We Fell In Love In October* and *I Wanna Be Your Girlfriend* are popular due to their soft background instrumentals and Ringheim's unique voice. *Girl in red* also supported Billie Eilish on the *Happier Than Ever* Tour in 2022.

HAIM: If you're a Taylor Swift fan — and let's be honest, if you have read this far you probably are — there's a good chance you've seen HAIM featured on the *Evermore* track *No Body, No Crime*. Swift also partnered with the three women on their track *Gasoline*. HAIM is a family affair, as Este, Danielle, and Alana are all sisters born in San Fernando Valley. The band also appeared on Kid Cudi's album *Indicud* and Danielle contributed to Major Lazer's *Free the Universe* album.

That's five out of nine Swift openers! Trust Taylor with her picks — all of these performers have unique and engaging music. For the closest tour to LGHS at Levi Stadium, HAIM and Gracie Abrams will grace us with their presence. Keep an eye out on social media for clips of these other talented artists!

ALVARES DETAILS MORGAN WALLEN'S ALBUM

by Saya Alvares
Sports Editor

On Mar. 3, fans finally got to listen to Morgan Wallen's long-awaited studio album *One Thing At A Time*. This impressive collection features a whopping 33 brand-new songs, three of which were released prior to the album drop. Aimed at targeting a listener's every emotion, Wallen does not disappoint, receiving the number one spot on *Billboard's* Top Country Albums. When describing the album, Wallen stated, "It brings together the musical influences that have shaped me as an artist — country, alternative and hip-hop... It was a blast to create, and I was so grateful to be back in the studio to lay this out for my fans."

Listeners received a sneak peak of this album on a few of Wallen's social media posts, leaving fans ecstatic about the final drop. On Dec. 1, 2022, Wallen posted four video clips on his Instagram that included snippets of the songs *One Thing At A Time*, *Days That End In Why*, and *Tennessee Fan*. An avid Tennessee Vols' fan, Wallen dropped a clip of the song originally on Oct. 16, 2022, during the memorable Tennessee vs. University of Alabama football game, when the Vols' defeated Bama for the first time since 2006. Wallen attended the game and posted a clip of the game with the song over it, making fans go nuts for this perfectly timed drop.

Other songs on the album include the current number one hit *Billboard* Hot 100: *Last Night*. Songs *Thought You Should Know*, *You Proof*,

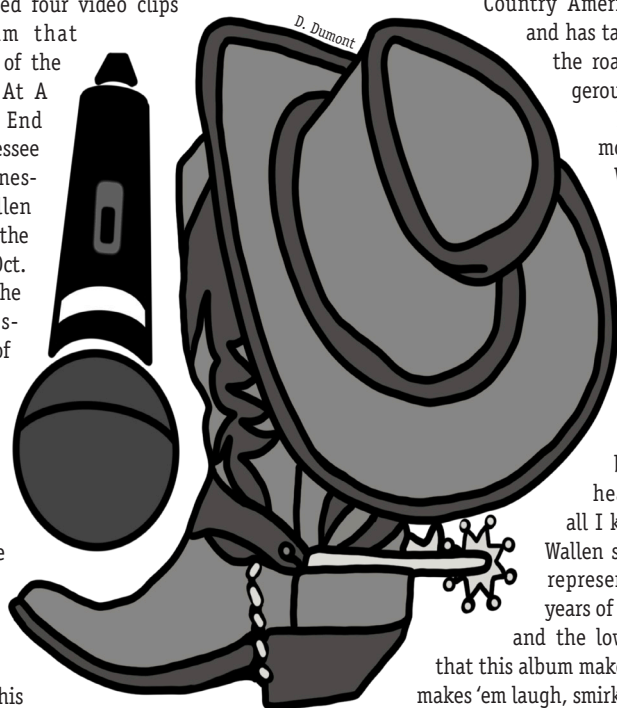
Everything I Love, *Ain't That Some*, and *I Wrote The Book* have also made the chart. *Thought You Should Know* is a song dedicated to Wallen's mother, with lyrics detailing how he appreciates his mother's prayers for him and how they finally paid off. This song is a fan favorite, touching hearts of fans who think of their own mother whenever the song plays.

This is Wallen's first full-length project since he was caught saying the n-word on camera in February 2021. After being momentarily suspended by his label and radios, he has since apologized and attempted to mend the damage caused by his words. Wallen's sales spiked after the incident, and Wallen met with the Black Music Action Coalition and donated money from the increased profit to multiple organizations. Wallen also posted a video on his Instagram asking fans not to defend his actions. Since, Wallen has received awards from *iHeartRadio* and *Country American Association* and has taken his music on the road with the *Dangerous* tour.

Regarding his most recent album, Wallen hopes it relates to his fans as he says it's a story of the past few years of his life. "I just try to tell it how it is — the good, the bad, the love, the heartbreak. That's all I know how to do," Wallen says. "This record represents the last few years of my life, the highs and the lows... My hope is

that this album makes my fans proud; makes 'em laugh, smirk, cry, and think — just like it did for me." If you are listening for some new music, be sure to give *One Thing At A Time* a listen!

(Sources: *Billboard*, *Music Mayhem Magazine*)



Moore talks Gwyneth Paltrow trial

by Brendan Moore
Sports Editor

The jury of the Los Angeles County Court-house declared actress Gwyneth Paltrow innocent in her ski collision trial on Mar. 30. Paltrow's case followed the 2019 lawsuit filed against her by Terry Sanderson, a 76-year-old retired optometrist in Utah. Sanderson claimed that the actress's rash skiing caused a collision on Feb. 26, 2016, at Deer Valley Resort in Park City, Utah. Following the collision, Sanderson suffered four broken ribs, a concussion, and, according to Sanderson, brain damage. He stated that his brain damage has affected his daily life and personal relationships. Meanwhile, Paltrow countersued for the amount of one dollar in damages and attorney fees.

Paltrow denied the events of the collision stating: "Mr. Sanderson categorically hit me on the ski slope, and that is the truth." Craig Ramon, a member of a skiing group Sanderson arranged the day of the collision, testified as Sanderson's witness. Ramon claimed to hear a deafening scream further down the slope and observed Paltrow collide with Sanderson, leaving him unconscious. According to Ramon, Paltrow then left the scene without checking on Sanderson's status. However, Paltrow questioned Ramon's credibility by stating, "He said he was 40 feet away and colorblind." She later went on to say, "I don't know how he can be positive

about what he saw, especially with how much he changed his story." Paltrow continued to deny Ramon's account concerning her immediate reaction to Sanderson's health. She consulted with a ski instructor who later filed a report saying the identified skier who caused the collision was male.

Furthermore, Paltrow's attorneys inquired about the significance of Sanderson's alleged brain damage. Evidence revealed that Sanderson had difficulty in personal relationships before the collision, shown by a deposition from Sanderson's estranged daughter. Additionally, Paltrow felt Sanderson's lawsuit abused her popularity as a way to receive a large sum of money.

During the second day of the trial, Paltrow's lawyer, Stephen Owens, complained of a newly installed camera in the courtroom, which directly focused on Paltrow. The new camera, according to Paltrow, violated her privacy because of the bombardment by the media during her entrance into the courtroom. This led Paltrow to shock social media by covering her face with a 250 dollar Smythson Soho notebook.

When asked her thoughts on the trial, Paltrow declared, "I felt that acquiescing to a false claim compromised my integrity." Additionally, Paltrow expressed, "I am pleased with the outcome, and I appreciate all of the hard work of Judge Holmberg and the jury, and thank them for their thoughtfulness in handling this case." (Sources: *Forbes*, *NBC News*, *The Washington Post*)



El Gato Recommends: lip dub, Sabrina Carpenter, and more

If you don't live under a rock, you know that our unanimously decided King of LG — junior cinematographer Kyle Santoro — just filmed the annual LGHS lip dub on Mar. 23. Dubbed (pun intended) the "Greatest Event OAT (of all time)" by yours truly, the notorious video is the pinnacle of Los Gatos culture. Capturing all variations of sports and clubs, as well as the student body and faculty as a whole, the lip dub brings the LGHS community together for a four minute and 50 second video to demonstrate how dope it truly is to be a part of such a spirited school. Be sure to check out the lip dub by using the QR code linked here!

- Georgia Kaufman, Opinion Editor

Are you feeling bored? Or feeling that your license could go to better use? I have a solution: take your younger unlicensed co-editor home from school when his parents are unavailable. For a few days, I took El Gato sophomore Brendan Moore home from school. We sat screaming at fellow cars in the senior lot for over 25 minutes together, an extremely bonding experience. Listening to some of Moore's Spotify playlists, which include artists

such as Baby Keem, Drake, Lil Uzi Vert, and *A Boogie Wit da Hoodie*, really blessed my ears with new music. While it's not my normal cup of tea, it allowed me to understand a masculine god complex that undoubtedly boosted my mood. So, if an eager lad needs a ride home from school, don't hesitate to say yes; your monotonous drive home will turn into a captivating adventure.

- Saya Alvares, Sports Editor

On Mar. 17, Sabrina Carpenter dropped four brand new tracks titled *Emails I Can't Send Fwd*, which were not a part of her previously released album, *Emails I Can't Send*. The brand new tunes — *Feather*, *Things I Wish I Said*, *Lonesome*, and *Opposite* — include unique beats and quirky lyrics, adding to the themes of complexity and coming of age on its parent album. Both upbeat and heart-breaking, Carpenter's songs masterfully weave together stories of heartbreak and lovesick musings. So, next time you find yourself looking for something to listen to, it would be Nonsense to not give Carpenter a chance.

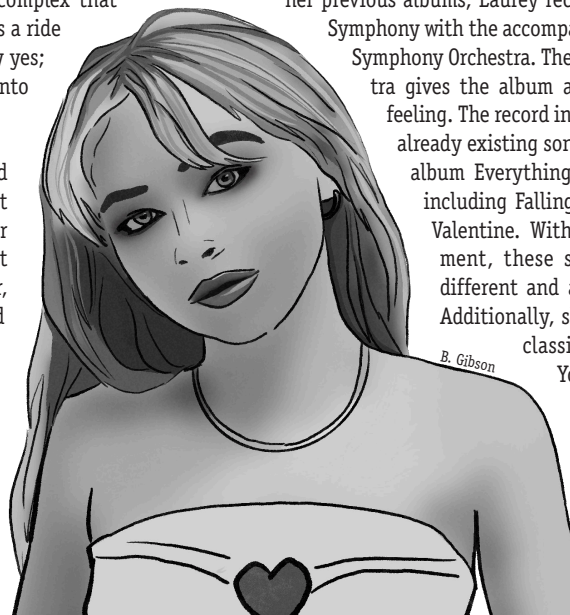
- Kate Gruetter, National/world Editor

For jazz and bedroom pop music enthusiasts, Laufey's recently released album *A Night At The Symphony* is perfect. Unlike her previous albums, Laufey recorded *A Night At The Symphony* with the accompaniment of the Iceland Symphony Orchestra. The masterful live orchestra gives the album a warm and energetic feeling. The record includes new versions of already existing songs from Laufey's 2022 album *Everything I Know About Love*, including *Falling Behind*, *Fragile*, and *Valentine*. With the live accompaniment, these songs sound entirely different and are worth a re-listen. Additionally, she covers famous jazz classics, including *I Wish You Love* and *The Nearness of You*. From a rainy day to a sunny picnic, *A Night At The Symphony* is a fundamental spring listen.

- Lucy Panicci, Culture Editor



Scan QR code to view the lip dub!



- Gibson reveals items in her room
- Evans assesses coffee orders

HUMOR

EL GATO • THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 • LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL • WWW.ELGATONEWS.COM

CHAN AND WANG REFLECT ON THEIR KEYBOARD EXPERIENCES

by Jordan Chan and Linda Wang
Editor-in-Chief and Humor Editor

As of the beginning of the April press cycle, the two of us are proud owners of mechanical keyboards. Now, we know what you're thinking: "Did I ask?" Here's the truth: you didn't have to. Today, we proudly present our experiences as part of the Cool C(k)ids C(k)eyboard Club, otherwise known as the CCCC. (We thought K's would be inappropriate.)

The journey to being cool (owning a mechanical keyboard) can often be a long one. It requires research, dedication, a little bit of money, and a whole lot of patience. Mechanical keyboards are, in fact, quite complicated. While we amateur 'keeb' lovers bought ours pre-built, we still had to consider all of the parts: the keycaps, the switches, the lighting, the case, and even some things that we didn't know existed, like keyboard lube.

Then, we had to consider whether or not we wanted to make modifications. For example, you can exchange your keycaps and switches underneath them, or even lube the switches to give typing a "thocky" feeling (Yes, thocky is the official term for this — you can search it up). It also makes them a lot quieter.

Speaking of sound, the wonderful sounds that come from mechanical keyboards are actually one of the major appeals of buying one in the first place. See, here is where words cannot do our feelings justice. "Cozy keyboard ASMR before you go to sleep! Study with me... keyboard ASMR. You'll want to eat the keyboard after..." We're willing to bet that you've seen the videos. They've haunted all of your social media pages for months and have you pondering your existence at 4:00 AM,

wondering: Should I buy this? Do I succumb to my innate capitalistic tendencies? Supply and demand curve? When can I eat this sound as soon as possible? Is the measly paycheck from my minimum wage service job with my horrible manager worth this experience?

The answer to all of your questions is obviously yes. (Well, maybe not the last one.) And, if you're still unsure of whether you should buy your own mechanical keyboard, look no further than reviews from very real keyboard owners:

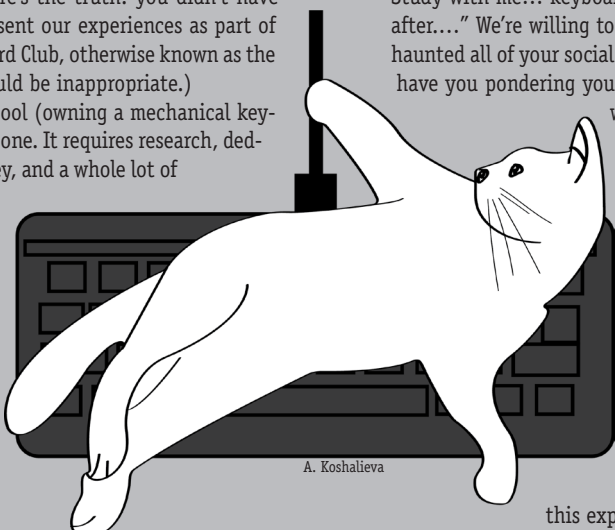
@GregH: I always hated going to school, but after getting my Lazer keyboard, I felt so inspired to type my assignments. Highly recommend it.

@midtbh918: I was initially unsure about my decision to purchase a keyboard, but I eventually went through with it after robbing a bank. The shift was astounding. Not only do my BerryMX switches sound AMAZING, they gave me the motivation to turn my life around completely. I went from all Fs and overgrown hair to a star student who's fashion conscious, and I even got a girlfriend! Thank you, BerryMX!

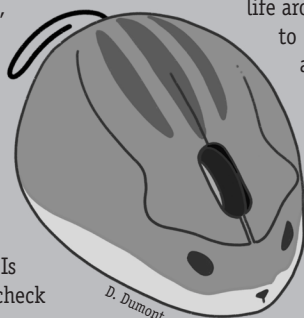
@keyboardenthusiast- EHEHEHEHEHEHEHEH

@idontmissher: After getting my new keyboard, I lost my e-girlfriend because I was more engrossed with hitting those WASD keys than I was with her constant problems, and now, I'm happier than ever.

Join the CCCC at your earliest possible convenience and don't forget to send this article to 50 other people you know! THIS IS NOT A KEYBOARD PYRAMID SCHEME. DO IT NOW.



A. Koshaliev



D. Dumont

Just like the chance of your nose being clear this month, nothing on this page is real.

courtesy flickr

WILLY the WILDCAT

VS

THE LGHS PARKING LOT

Brought to you by **BRINN GIBSON**

HAVE IDEAS FOR A COMIC? SCAN THIS QR CODE TO MAKE A SUGGESTION

GOMEZ REVIEWS NORCAL WEATHER

by Maya Gomez
Editor-in-Chief

Northern California: the land of volatile weather, where you can experience all four seasons in the span of 24 hours! Why is it that you can leave your house in the morning — comfortable in shorts and a T-shirt — only to be shivering by Tutorial?

Now, I love NorCal, but my god it's difficult to leave my house when I'm unsure if I should be packing an umbrella or a pair of sunglasses.

You know what I mean, right? I mean, one day you might wake up to a nice, warm morning; the birds chirp in their respective trees, dogs bask in the sun, and squirrels fearlessly bolt across the front lawn. You may walk into first period and think to yourself, "Wow, this is going to be a wonderful day!" Throughout class, rays of sun peek



D. Dumont

through the blinds, casting illuminating streaks onto the floor. Finally, the bell rings, dismissing you to lunch. You race down the stairwell, push open the door expecting sunlight. Instead, the clouds have rolled in, wind has appeared out of nowhere, and it's suddenly cold and gloomy. Our weather seems to have a mind of its own. In no time, the rain kicks in, and you begin contemplating whether or not you should have brought an umbrella — or a jacket with a hood at the very least.

Then, just as quickly as it began, the rain stops and the sun makes a re-appearance. You can expect

to see a rainbow, maybe even two. Now, don't go feeling too hopeful, I've lived here for a whopping 18 years; not once have I ever seen stable weather. The next day, it's back to rain and gray skies, and you're left sitting in your statistics class, wondering if you'll ever see the sun again.

Don't even try to dress for the weather; it's a losing game. Oh, it was cold this morning so you decided to wear sweats and a long sleeve? Come lunch time, your sleeves will be rolled up, the fabric uncomfortably rubbing against your armpit, and you'll surely dread the trek up to the English wing. On the flip side, when you wake up and the sun is beaming down on the town, don't even think about pulling out that tank top — the sun will miraculously disappear and the temperature will drop 20 degrees in a matter of minutes.

I've come to learn that the only predictable thing about the weather here is that it will always, and I mean always, be unpredictable. One minute you're burning up, the next you're being assaulted with hail. It's like Mother Nature doesn't know if she wants to give us a tan or a cold. But hey, at least we have a good excuse to own an absurd amount of clothing. And who knows, maybe one day we'll adjust to the fluctuating weather. Until then, let's just keep our fingers crossed and our jackets ready.

GIBSON LISTS HER LOST ITEMS

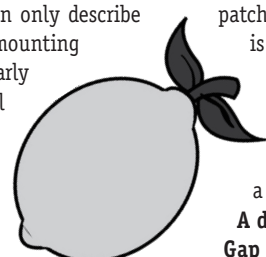
by Brynn Gibson
Editor-in-Chief

In the corner of my bedroom — next to my Yerba Mate tower and collection of Magic Treehouse books — lies what I can only describe as a pile of doom. An ever-mounting assortment of items that are clearly unwanted, yet somehow still remain in my possession, this void of chaos also lies tragically close to my jewelry stand. A few weeks ago, as I lunged across the chasm to reach my Bath and Body Works body spray, my arm knocked one of my favorite earrings into the endless black hole of destruction. I spent five hours looking for that earring. A quitter would have given up, but I was resilient. I tore apart the pile of doom, pulled the bookcase off the wall, and emptied out every single drawer within a six-foot radius of the incident spot. I never found the earring, but I would like to list the items that I did encounter during my search.

- A fake lemon:** I don't know where this came from.
- My AP Euro Textbook:** Oops.
- A leprechaun hat:** Great find, but not in time for St. Patrick's day.
- My ukulele, horrendously untuned:** I took a break to play Riptide.
- My Fisher sub-seven mile time PE T-shirt:** My teacher used to chase me around the track in her golf cart.



Graphics A. Koshaliev



most refined of individuals. I have no plans to give them back.

A piece of chipped paint: I borrowed the glow-in-the-dark stars to cover the incriminating patch of exposed drywall on my ceiling. Why is there a patch of exposed drywall on my ceiling? I taped my phone there to film a room-cleaning time lapse. Given the fact that I decided to throw the paint chip in the doom corner, I didn't do a very good job.

A different earring: A win is a win.
Gap kids tag (girls size 7 pink skinny jeans): I was proud to find out this patch of floor had not seen the light of day in over a decade.

3D Dino bookmark from the Scholastic Book Fair: Hell yeah.

The Lost Colony of Roanoke: Right next to an empty case of pencil lead, I caught a glimpse of something carved into the side of my dresser... "Croatoan?" Upon further investigation, I found all 115 inhabitants of the first English outpost in the New World. Move aside Sir Walter Raleigh, I beat you to it.

The Ark of the Covenant: I guess people were looking for this? My bad guys.

The three Alcatraz inmates from 1962: ... How did they get here! Ha ha!

El Dorado: The mythical city of gold was actually next to my copy of Because of Winn Dixie! Aside from the graham cracker, all of the aforementioned items have since found their way back into the corner.



DUVALL RANKS DIFFERENT LIP DUB PARTICIPANTS

by Emily Duvall
Opinion Editor

It was just that time of year again! The annual LGHS LipDub took place on Thursday, Mar. 23., involving tons of LGHS students who participate in numerous activities on campus. Our very own **Kyle Santoro** filmed this year's infamous lip-syncing video, capturing the spirit and fun. I must say, some organizations were a bit more put together than others, so today we are going to go through it and discuss how aesthetically pleasing some of these routines appeared on camera. To every sport, club, activity, and extracurricular at LGHS, I love you and think you are all amazing. However, we can't all be good at things like this.

Football: Bonus points for the multiple back to back backflips that went in a roll-off. There were not as many football players this year though, which took away some of the energy, but I would say the hop over another player in the beginning definitely made up for this. Great start to the video.

Band: Did the classic gallop backwards, which I have nothing against. I liked the flare of carrying the instruments and this was impressive because they look heavy! The exit dance just prior to the camera backing away was wonderful. Everyone was in sync and I was in awe.

Los Gatos Rowing Club: Dance was solid in front of the camera. Loving the handshake they have going on. Also, wearing the full unis is a serve because that day was quite chilly. Negative points though for the fog that got on the camera throughout your guys' section, and made Kyle Santoro have to wipe off the camera mid LipDub.

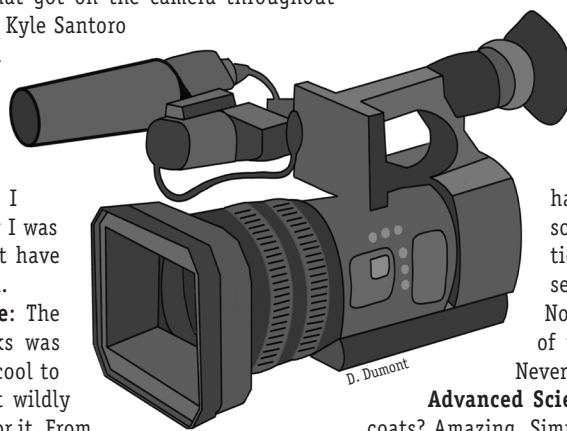
Swim & Dive/Girls' and Boys' Water Polo: Normally one of my favorites during the LipDub every year. May I just go out on a limb and say I was a bit disappointed we did not have everyone jumping in the pool.

Girls' and Boys' Lacrosse: The coordination with the sticks was awesome and it is always so cool to see everyone have them. Not wildly choreographed, but I'm here for it. From the boys, the multilayer piggy back rides paid rent when rent was due. Tons of enthusiasm from the two teams and definitely looked the part too.

Girls' and Boys' Basketball: Slam Dunk was a 10/10. We had shimmies. We had confetti. We had a powder gun thing. Tons of energy and their hard work paid off. One of the more put together sports out there, props to them for bringing a mini basketball hoop on the day this was filmed, probably was a bit embarrassing to carry around.

Girls' and Boys' Soccer: Not gonna lie here, this one was kinda rough. As someone who is a part of girls' soccer, I have legal rights to say this. The effort was so there, I know it was. I think the coordination and drive that we saw in the two sports seasons just didn't translate into the camera. Not to mention volleyball fully went in front of the mock penalty kick that was planned. Nevertheless, we can't always be winners.

Advanced Science Research (ASR): All wearing the lab coats? Amazing. Simple and easy with the dance in front of the camera, kept it short and sweet, but still did a good job. Everyone was kind of doing their own thing, but you guys looked like an absolute unit and I am impressed. Nice job ASR.



D. Dumont

Wang details robbery

by Linda Wang
Humor Editor

In such a wealthy and safe town as LG, the last thing you'd expect is for someone to viciously break into your house. But alas, that's precisely what I stumbled upon when returning home Friday—right after my ICE, no less. The last thing I remember after pushing open the door was a heavy blow to the back of my head. Coming to, I shuffled into my slippers and immediately began assessing the damage through a crippling headache and with black spots in my vision.

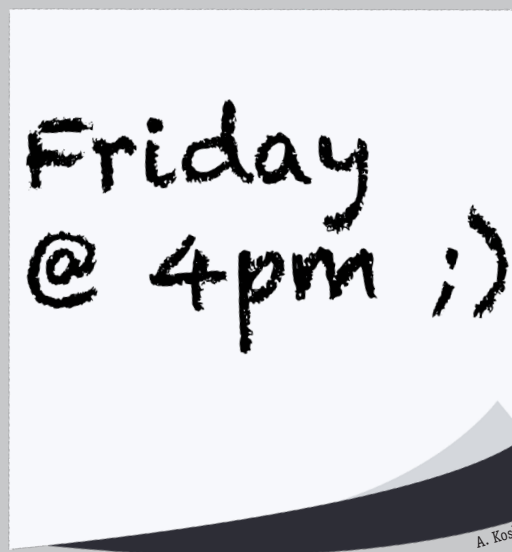
First stop had to be the bedroom. Strange. It seemed as though the intruder left most of my belongings untouched; naturally, the blankets were strewn all over the floor as a result of my poor sleeping habits. I lifted one to find my last worn hoodie and frantically rummaged through the pocket, feeling for my wallet. Miraculously, my fingers brushed a leather surface. Unzipping my wallet, I started pulling things out: my red envelope money, my driver's license, various cards, and an old Safeway coupon expired at least three years ago now. Had the intruder not even thought to look? No way.

I then made my way towards my study desk, squinting to check for inconsistencies. As my papers were already thrown all over in the first place, I noticed no inconsistencies. I lifted my lab handout to see my laptop still intact, including all the stickers: huh?? A search of my backpack revealed that not only had the intruder stolen none of my school supplies, they hadn't even touched my wireless earbuds or my headphones. My mental gymnastics were doing back flips at this point.

The only line of reasoning I could follow at this point was that my intruder was hungry and stole some food. Aha! The kitchen cabinets were wide open. The intruder must've been starving... is a thought I had to dismiss immediately because as I searched the cabinets, I realized that not a single food item was missing. The intruder showed no sign of having touched a single ramen packet, piece of old-and-still-uneaten Halloween candy, or even an old can of corn.

In frustration, I flung my arm across the counter and knocked a completely new box of toothpicks to the floor, sending them scattering. Ughhh. Completely enraged, I started picking them in handfuls... and that's when I realized. If that box had been new, why did the top come off? Shouldn't it have been sealed? I checked the label. "Toothpicks: 250 Count." I looked at the fistful of toothpicks in my hand, and something propelled me to start counting. 1, 2, 3... 248, 249. 249?

I shook the box incredulously, and a Post-it note flutters to the floor. Unfolding it reads: "Looks like you're missing something. Need it back? Friday at 4pm: let's get to know each other. 123-456-7890: call me ;)" Utterly bewildered, I pulled out my planner and wrote it down. Looks like I've got a date next Friday.



A. Koshaljeva

EL GATAN ADORES JOB

by Kate Gruetter
National/World Editor

I love my job. I love bagging popcorn, making popcorn, eating popcorn, smelling like popcorn, and cleaning up popcorn. Most people think that's all there is to working at a theater: popcorn and the occasional sale of a Sour Patch Kids bag. What they don't know about, however, are the strange interactions I brave every time I step foot inside the Los Gatos Theatre, badge in hand and dreams on hold. While I'm always more than happy to serve any guest who steps foot in the lobby, some leave me with more memories, and regrets, than others do.

First up: kids. I love kids. They're great. However, they're not so great when their greedy eyes and sticky hands prod the candy case under the counter, leaving foggy prints for me to scrub off later. They're even less great when they prove how truly underdeveloped their brains are; oftentimes I have to reconfigure entire orders because they change their mind about popcorn or bon bons halfway through their mom's anxious ordering.

Now, it's time to name the specific individuals who permanently altered the trajectory of my life, beginning with Little French woman. My Little French Woman first sauntered into the theater, I immediately fell in love with her accent, and when she asked which movies we were playing, it took everything in me not to let a "oui" slip out. She was so poised, so elegant, and when I tapped the showtime screen, I was horrified to learn our next showing was Magic Mike: The Last Dance. I tried not

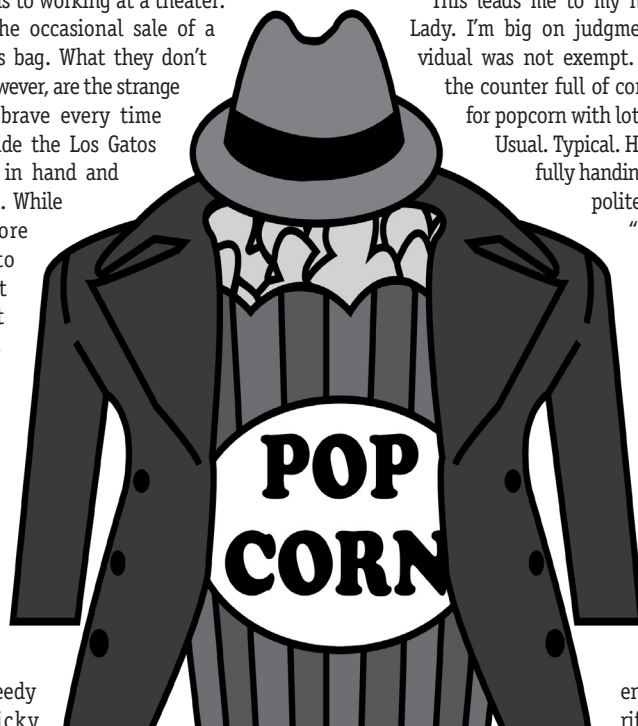
to cringe as I shared this knowledge with the regaleine before me. I watched confusion overtake her face, and as she thanked me, walking out the doors, I accidentally whispered a "oui" under my breath. I still want to die when I think about it.

This leads me to my next victim: Butter Lady. I'm big on judgment, and this individual was not exempt. She walked up to the counter full of confidence and asked for popcorn with lots of butter. Normal. Usual. Typical. However, after gracefully handing her her snack, she politely made a request.

"Could I get a cup of butter too?" I desired so deeply to say no. (Edit: Butter Lady did return to request another cup of butter this weekend). Believe it or not, Butter Lady was not the most unbelievable being I've braved at work. This third encounter isn't terrifying, per se, just slightly unnerving. One

lazy Saturday, I was helping a couple scan tickets for the upcoming showing and asked if they were excited to see the movie. Completely deadpan, the husband replied, "Yeah. I mean we used to be detectives, so it's nice to go on dates away from dead bodies." Assuming he was making a joke, I attempted to brush the comment off with a chuckle. "You think I'm joking, but I'm not," he countered, leaving me stunned as he walked off with his wife.

I'm not trying to convince you I have the most exciting job because, trust me, I know I don't. MY uniform is ugly and my shift bleak. However, I feel a civic duty to share these gems of tales with others, in the hopes they would give others a fraction of the entertainment they granted me.



A. Koshaljeva

EVANS REVEALS WHAT YOUR COFFEE ORDER MEANS

by Alex Evans
Editor-in-Chief

As a barista, I get a lot of strange, bland, and generally telling orders. It's especially easy to roast you according to some of these picks, but please note, I am more than happy to make any drink, but this is just what your pick says about you.

Decaf soy latte: Any variation of this drink — small, large, mocha, anything — does not matter. I still know that you are old and likely lactose intolerant. As soy used to be the only lactose-free milk option, you likely hopped on this bandwagon 15 years ago and stuck with it. We have options now... almond, oat, Lactaid. You can mix it up. Soy milk on its own: fine. Soy and decaf? So out-dated.

Small-Iced-Nonfat-Sugar-Free-Vanilla-Latte: You are a LG mom on your way to get your platinum blonde hairdo touched up. This little latte will sit in your cup holder as you ruthlessly cut people off on Main Street and refuse to make eye contact with pedestrians as you blow through crosswalks. Note: intentionally hyphenated to accurately portray the tone in which this drink is ordered.

Large spiced cider: What had to go wrong in your life that led you to this action: ordering a cider, let alone a LARGE. This is more than enough cinnamon-apple goodness to last

you the rest of the year, and possibly the rest of your life. I just do not enjoy this drink and cannot comprehend why anyone would do this to themselves.

Americano: You are the perfect human. Single, double, triple, does not matter. You are good to your barista and you know it — no steamed milk, no specializations, just good old espresso and water. Until I barista-ed, I did not understand the simple perfection that is equal parts espresso and water, and potentially a splash of milk from the bar.

Iced oat milk honey lavender latte: You are so hipster it hurts, but I respect the grind. It's good, what can you say? The nutty oat milk, the

sweetness of the honey, and the flowery lavender complement each other after all. The most unfaltering detail: the ice. A true hipster does not back down from the frigid storms and weather — you always, always order this drink iced.

Extra hot large mocha with extra whip cream: You are a coffee shop loyalist, a motorcyclist. For some reason the local coffee shop and biker population is heavily correlated, and I really do not mind. Bikers automatically get bonus points for the cool jackets, so enjoy your ride and your mocha.

Honorable mention: Anyone asking for lids, straws, and water cups, you can just look around for half a second before asking this question. Chances are you can find this item within five feet of you! Your barista is busy working on a tag with a large rose latte with almond milk, a dirty chai with soy milk, and a double nonfat cappuccino. They have enough on their plate.



D. Dumont

- Hammer takes over the artistic world
- Bianchi shows off his skills in three sports

PEOPLE

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Niemeyer leaves her mark on ASR as a woman in STEM

by Ainsley Northrop
People Editor

Aspiring scientist sophomore **Sara Niemeyer** is making her time at Los Gatos High School worthwhile. With her various activities including Advanced Science Research (ASR) and choir, Niemeyer is a true master of multitasking.

Among Niemeyer's never-ending plethora of activities is LGHS' ASR class. Joining the class for the first time this year, she was thrilled to see what it had to offer. She explained her initial interest in signing up, saying: "I thought it'd be really interesting if I could research a project that the school didn't force me to research. I wanted to do something on my own, learning wise."

For her year-long project, Niemeyer decided to research ways to lessen the symptoms of diabetes, while focusing on cheaper and accessible solutions to lowering body fat levels in relation to the disease. Niemeyer chose to research this particular topic because she witnessed people she knows suffer as a result of insulin price increases, unavailability, and overall symptoms from the disease. In short, her project process has consisted of "testing the effects of caffeine and scopolamine on body fat in *C. elegans* [microscopic worms that model humans in research projects]." She added, "I decided to use caffeine

because it has been proven to have metabolic effects...However, if I were to give caffeine out to people...they could develop a tolerance, so it would no longer work [to decrease their body fat]...so my whole project was trying to find a chemical that would make caffeine's effects last longer." Throughout her trials, Niemeyer put in countless hours of work making solutions, observing worms under a fluorescence microscope, and examining the body fat of those worms.

Outside of ASR, Niemeyer enjoys many other activities such as choir — which she has participated in since kindergarten. She recalled her favorite memory with the LGHS choral department as the Anaheim Disneyland trip last April, and thoroughly enjoyed the Carnegie Hall trip this spring break. Niemeyer also challenges herself through her course load, which includes AP European History and Trig PreCalc Honors. She particularly enjoys her Honors English class, and shared: "we have a lot of good discussions because I'm in seventh period. I feel like we're a lot closer than other English classes [because of that]." Currently, Niemeyer is working on her Plato Project for her English class, for which she is creating a cinematic documentation of events in her everyday life. In the scarce free time that she gets, Niemeyer enjoys listening to music, and spending time with her cats Pinky Pie Princess (a name given by young Niemeyer) and Artemis.



courtesy S. Niemeyer

In the future, she hopes to go into the science field, and is particularly interested in astrophysics.

Whether she is making scientific discoveries, singing in choir, or doing one of her many other commitments, Niemeyer is always a supporter of all those around her.

Future Trojan Zoe Hammer expresses her passion in all things art

by Sarah Gouldrup
Humor Editor

A 21st century Picasso, lover of spray paint and hot glue, and retired Drawn2art mentor, senior **Zoe Hammer** puts the "art" in artist. While she is an aspiring art student, Hammer's schedule this year is filled to the brim with AP classes, including AP Government/Economics Honors, AP Literature, AP Psychology, AP Calculus AB, and AP Environmental Science. Despite the rigorous, academic course load, she finds ways to incorporate her passion for art into every spare moment.

Hammer first discovered her love for art when she was a little kid. She reminisced about her early start to the hobby, noting that her "dad has a whole bin full of glittered crayon creations stacked up somewhere in our attic." She explained how, during middle school, she began to experiment with art more: "That was the time in my life when I would just make whatever I wanted, whether it was with spray paint, hot glue, or paper-mache. I became a lot more serious about art once I got to high school after my dad basically forced me to take Art 1." Hammer's participation in the art classes offered at the high school helped her discover her own voice as an artist, as well as develop a creative style. As of right now, she is in Art 4 Honors and taking AP Drawing outside of school.

As a seasoned member of the class, Hammer recounted her experience in the art program at the high school through the years. She described how she started out with the basics of art, such as shading and blending, in the beginning of Art 1, then moved on to more personal pieces as she progressed into Art 3. She expressed how the resources at LGHS helped her create pieces she was proud of that were "a lot more open ended." She explained, "[I could] utilize my time in class to work on pieces that conveyed my deeper truths that I couldn't express verbally."



courtesy Z. Hammer

In Art 4, her focus shifted entirely. Responsible for making a 16-piece cohesive portfolio by May 5, Hammer is currently working on creating pieces that tell her story about growing up with anxiety and her experiences with mental health through her life, which is her sustained concentration. Hammer admitted that this year has definitely been the busiest year yet but remarked: "I have had amazing support from my teacher and extremely talented classmates!"

Outside of school, Hammer has entered numerous art contests, including one for the health program, "To Be Honest" where she won in the drawing category and had her work displayed in the San Jose Community Center. However, Hammer explained how submitting a vulnerable piece can be incredibly terrifying, and "it's just important to remember that everyone interprets art differently and that sometimes it's okay if your intended message doesn't resonate with certain audiences."

Hammer's dedication to her passions extend outside of art, as she is currently a member of Reality Check and has interned on the first-ever NUMU museum teen council. In addition, she also volunteers for the American Cancer Society in downtown Los Gatos. Furthermore, she worked at Drawn2Art studios for over a year where she taught recreational art classes to younger kids. Hammer is continuing her art career at the University of Southern California this fall, where she is studying art at their Roski School of Art and Design!

KURDI BALANCES BOTH TRACK AND DEBATE

by Ashir Rao
Public Relations manager

From running to public speaking to philosophical literature, junior **Deniz Kurdi** is a man of many interests. Give him a question, and you'll be sure to get an amusing answer. When asked about himself, Kurdi answered with a quote by English writer and philosopher Alan Watts: "Trying to define yourself is like trying to bite your own teeth." Certainly well-read, Kurdi's interests and hobbies tend towards the arts, such as literature, opera, and painting.

At LGHS, Kurdi is on the track and field team and participates in the pole vaulting event. He explained that he joined as he "liked running in freshman year during COVID" and because of friends. A man open to and interested in diverse activities, Kurdi participates in the pole vault, simply because it "seemed fun" when he saw other pole vaulters.

Alongside his athletic pursuits, Kurdi is also on the Speech and Debate team, and competes in the debate and congress events. At club meetings, they practice debating "several pressing issues," such as the SAT or desalination plants. Within debate, Kurdi focuses on the Lincoln-Douglas debate format. Lincoln-Douglas is one of the standard forms of debate, with each speaker getting 13 minutes of speaking time and 3 minutes of question time. While there aren't any debate events left in the year, Kurdi fondly recalled some of his tournaments



photos courtesy D. Kurdi

this year: "We debated global politics, such as whether China should prioritize economic growth or environmental protection." Kurdi keeps up to date with news and world affairs, and he likes to use his vast general knowledge while debating. He enjoys finding solutions to problems and coming up with creative responses to opposing arguments. Kurdi will be on the debate team next year as well.

Kurdi also finds solace in literature. His favorite authors are John Steinbeck, for his immortal works of literature such as *The Grapes of Wrath*; Hunter S. Thompson, an investigative journalist; and Yukio Mishima, considered one of the most influential Japanese-language writers of the 20th century. His favorite quote from Mishima is "No x who pans for gold can expect to dig up any gold or even attempt to. He must blindly scoop the sand from a river bottom. He doesn't have the privilege of finding out in advance whether he will succeed." Kurdi says that he tries to apply the quote to his life, saying: "I tend to think of myself as being more open to experiences which is exactly like the quote...I think that the quote is a very good quote for... life in general."

Whether he's buried in a book or debating the future of the world, when you meet him, he will make an impression on you. He is anything but forgettable.



Cross excels with her musical talents

by Esha Bagora
Public Relations manager

Freshman **Kaylee Cross** is paving her way for a long and successful time at Los Gatos High School. Having taught herself nearly five instruments, as well as having spent over eight years playing softball, Cross is a woman of many talents.

Cross began her musical journey with the flute in fifth grade. She explained, "We had to pick instruments to start playing in elementary school, and I went with the flute." Then, she picked up the ukulele, transitioned to the guitar, moved to the bass, started dabbling with the drums, and is now teaching herself how to play piano. "I'm pretty much self-taught on all my instruments except the flute. I love teaching myself new music and learning at my own pace. I like to just go online and look up sheet music and then try to play it myself." Cross has been furthering her musical expertise at LGHS by taking the Intro to Music Theory class. She mentioned, "I love the class...because I'm getting to understand why certain things work and why other things don't." Soon, Cross hopes to expand her skills even further by adding another instrument: "For my next instrument, I want to switch it up, and maybe I'll try out the sax."

Alongside her musical talents, Cross takes command of the softball field. As a freshman on the school's junior varsity team, she plays multiple positions and has held onto the number four batting spot on the roster. Cross detailed her softball journey, saying "I've been playing since I was eight years old. I took a break for a year, but my first season back was in the fall so I could practice for my first high school season." She leads the team in batting average and on-base percentage,

with a .688 and .762 respectively. On the field, Cross pitches and plays first base. She added, "I've been pitching the longest, and I started pitching when I started playing softball. I started pitching at

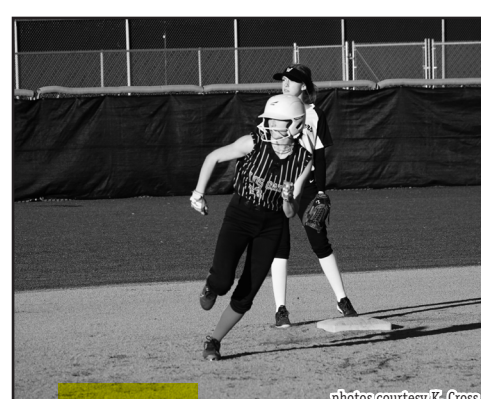


first when I was like ten or twelve, and sometimes I also play in the outfield."

Cross also mentioned that "getting to know different people on all of my teams and getting to play with my friends has been really fun. I love how on the high school team, I get to play with new people and I think it's really cool."

Coupled with her athletic and melodic flair, Cross has also mastered the academic realm. While she's taking tough classes like Algebra 2 Accelerated as a freshman, Cross's heart lies in the English classroom. Professing her love for the subject, she remarked, "I love writing, and I really like how creative I can get."

In the coming years, Cross plans to continue expanding her various talents and challenging herself with difficult classes. Whether she is expanding her instrument collection, dominating the softball field, or excelling in academics, Cross is sure to continue stretching her creativity at Los Gatos High School.



photos courtesy K. Cross

MATTHEWS EXCELS IN STEM, PILOTING, AND MORE

by **Jordan Chan and Ashir Rao**
Editor-in-Chief and Public Relations Manager

Whether he's soaring through the skies while solo piloting an airplane or helping the LGHS robotics team — Iron Claw 972 — make it to the World Championships as the Mechanical Pit Executive and Electrical and Pneumatics Lead, senior **Joshua Matthews** sets a standard of excellence.

From a young age, Matthews has gravitated towards STEM subjects, especially engineering, leading him to join LGHS robotics. To Matthews, one of the most appealing aspects of the robotics program was the opportunity for teamwork and mentorship. In his managerial role this year, he focuses on effective communication with others. "You want to hear [other members'] perspectives as much as you want to share your own," he conveyed.

A self-proclaimed "aviation geek," Matthews has spent over 100 hours flying Cessnas — a type of aircraft — around California. Matthews has always been interested in obtaining a private pilot's license; he recounted that during his childhood in England, "Every day at school, under the flight path for Heathrow, there would always be planes flying right over my head...That sort of influenced me because I

would see this amazing piece of engineering, and I would think "Wow, that's really cool." He explained, "[Flying is] similar to robotics in that it sort of combines so many different aspects of engineering."

With his affinity for flight, it's no wonder that Matthews enjoys traveling. He moved to the US from England

when he was eight years old, but he has never felt as though he fits in "100 percent." In fact, he mentioned, "I don't see myself as just being in one place. I like to experience new things, travel to different places." One of Matthews' favorite trips was to Switzerland due in part to the beautiful landscapes filled with various mountains and lakes.

Matthews also enjoys creating music and playing soccer. Though he isn't currently playing

in an orchestra or band, Matthews is proficient in three instruments: violin, drums, and piano. He explained that, "It's just another thing I like to do...It's just soothing." He also

played soccer competitively as a kid, though now it's simply a fun pastime.

Some of Matthews' favorite past and current courses apart from robotics include AP Physics C, as well as linear algebra and multivariable calculus — both of which he took at community college. Matthews appreciates the fact that Physics C "ties in with robotics [where] you have to apply a lot of these physics concepts." He enjoyed the challenge of taking external math classes as well: "After taking Calc BC, I was sort of left wanting more. I wanted to keep learning about [math]."

In the future, Matthews hopes to study aerospace and electrical engineering and eventually promote sustainability within the engineering fields throughout his career. "I equally love engineering and nature. I kind of want to bring them together in harmony," he stated. Matthews will likely study at Imperial College London, where he has a conditional acceptance, although multiple other institutions in both the US and UK have accepted him. Wherever he goes, Matthews will certainly reach incredible heights — whether he's in an aircraft or not.



photos courtesy J. Matthews

PURDY SHARES HER CREATIVE PERSONALITY

by **Kate Gruetter and Macy Dennon**
National/World and News Editors

When asked to describe herself in three words, junior **Nessa Purdy** called herself curious, adventurous, and Irish. New to LGHS this year, Purdy lived in Ireland and Boston prior to her move to Los Gatos, which has given her loads of stories, as well as an awesome accent. A former swimmer, future El Gatan, and Steinbeck fan, Purdy is making the most out of her limited time in Los Gatos.

When she first moved here in August, Purdy admitted that she was nervous about acclimating to a new school, sharing, "It's difficult, but you get used to it after a while." However, Purdy also highlighted that, in the end, the transition to life in Los Gatos wasn't that bad because "people were very welcoming." In fact, Purdy noted that the LGHS student body stands apart from other schools she has attended, explaining, "At my old school it was just very clique-y, and I find it here people are a lot more open to new friendships."

Now that she's settled, Purdy has explored and fallen back into various interests, most stemming from her love of literature and the outdoors. "I have the taste of an old man when it comes to the books I read," Purdy laughed, "I love discussing Hemingway, and I love Steinbeck." When she's not reading literature, she's at home, writing it.

"I like writing short stories," Purdy elaborated, "My granddad used to write books and he was a historian...So I think he kind of inspired me a little bit." Purdy also loves spending time exploring nature, mostly in nearby Santa Cruz. "I love to hang out in Santa Cruz and watch surf competitions with my friends," she remarked, adding, "and I like to drink a lot of coffee."

As far as getting out of America goes, Purdy cannot wait. To hasten the escape, Purdy will volunteer in Croatia for a marine biology program for two weeks this summer. Even though she is going alone, Purdy could not be more excited for the program and the experiences she will gain. After her time in high school, Purdy hopes to "go to college in either the UK or in Dublin." As her interests include reading and writing, she noted, "If I wasn't going to study English Lit or journalism...I would probably be doing biology." Travel is also another important aspect of Purdy's hopes, as she dreams of traveling to southern Greece or Italy.

Being a seasoned mover, Purdy is the best person to ask for advice. Her main takeaway is: "do not force [friendships]...you just have to let people find you organically, and you will find the right friends." With only a year in the States, Purdy has already spread her love for Ireland and developed her presence in the community.

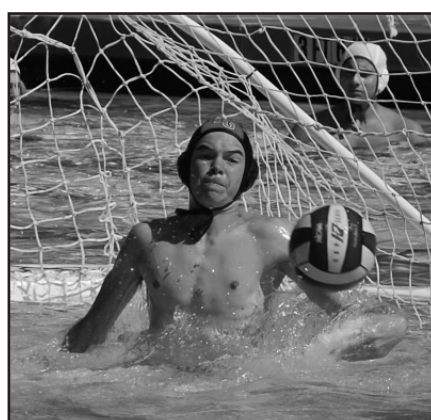


photos courtesy N. Purdy

BIANCHI THRIVES IN THREE SPORTS

by **Michaela Thimot and Saya Alvares**
People and Sports Editors

A self-proclaimed outgoing leader, freshman **Nico Bianchi** is already making his mark at Los Gatos High School. Bianchi, a member of three different sports teams at school, and one outside of school, shines both inside and outside of the pool. He enjoys playing water polo in the fall, soccer in the winter, and swimming in the spring. While his athletic endeavors are impressive to say the least, Bianchi thrives in the classroom as well.



Starting off strong, Bianchi began his water polo journey at LGHS at the end of eighth grade with summer conditioning. The Boys' Junior Varsity and Varsity teams start conditioning before the season starts in the fall, and their workouts are not for the faint of heart. Bianchi described the experience saying: "Especially as a goalie, the training was really difficult on the legs. One of the exercises was emptying a water jug while treading, which progressively got easier throughout the summer, but was very hard to start with." Even though this is his first year playing water polo, the coach pulled Bianchi up to varsity for the Central Coast Section (CCS) playoffs.

Once water polo season reached its end, Bianchi jumped right into his first year of high school soccer. Since his days with Kidz Love Soccer, one of Bianchi's biggest passions continues to be the sport. Growing up playing throughout summers in Spain, Bianchi has always loved being goalie. After going back and forth between a few soccer clubs, he settled with Los Gatos United's 2008 boys team, and still plays with the club. Bianchi explained that he sticks with soccer because of "how much [he] loves being a part of a team" and because of his family's tradition of watching professional soccer together whenever they can.

Similar to water polo, this is Bianchi's first year swimming, other than swim team back when he was eight. As a member of the Junior Varsity team, Bianchi mainly swims freestyle, but will occasionally do backstroke and breaststroke as well. The atmosphere of the team mirrors that of water polo, and Bianchi loves how close both teams get throughout the season.

Even when his sports are not in season, Bianchi fills his time with enticing pastimes. Whether it's skiing in Bear Valley — the only place he's ever skied — or surfing in Spain, the adventures never end. Catch Bianchi in the pool after school, and make sure to ask him to "get sturdy" and you'll definitely witness some great dance moves, and easily have a new friend. Watch out for Bianchi because if the beginning of freshman year means anything, he is going far.



photos courtesy N. Bianchi

IDEMOTO CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY IN LOS GATOS

by **Esha Bagora**
Public Relations Manager

Always on his grind, sophomore **Ryan Idemoto** is an integral part of the Los Gatos High School Leadership team, as well as involving himself in political initiatives around town. From working on the E-Bike town ordinance to advocating against AAPI hate, Idemoto hopes to pursue a career in politics to better the world around him.

Idemoto began his leadership journey in middle school by joining the Leadership flex class. As the current sophomore class president, Idemoto describes his role as "setting up for dances and planning different events. But, specifically for my role as class president, I work with the vice president [sophomore] **Ava Thompson** and we plan fundraisers for our class that spotlight different local businesses like Sharetea, Nina's [Taqueria], Pizza my Heart, and Great Bear." He explained that the fundraisers "help us out with our funds and raise money for junior prom and other events."

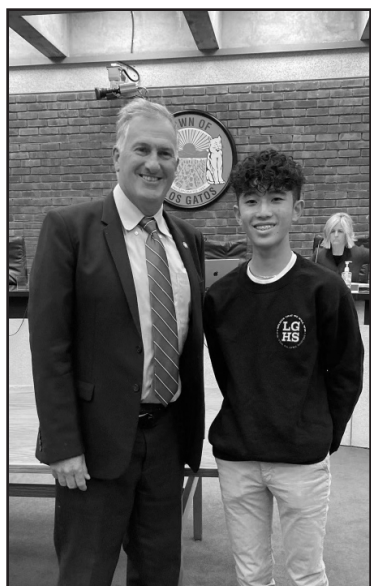
Idemoto described another highlight of his accomplishments as president, saying, "Last semester, we put on Kindness Week to ease students into finals week, which was a really big thing." Idemoto also considers his role as sophomore class president akin to being a representative for his class and added, "One thing I

didn't expect is how I started representing the student body. [The sophomore] class is very diverse, and the sophomores in Leadership reflect that and come together to form a community. I love how everyone's always trying to lift each other up and help each other out."

Recently, Idemoto has taken his leadership skills to the town level by serving as a youth commissioner. He is a liaison to the Town of Los Gatos Library Board, and says he likes to "give my perspective on the library as a youth. I help them out in any way I can." Furthermore, Idemoto has been instrumental in the passage of the E-Bike Ordinance, recently passed by the Los Gatos Town Council. He noted that the bill "creates regulations for E-Bike safety so that the overall town can be a lot safer while still being able to utilize E-Bikes."

Additionally, Idemoto's passion for political change has pulled him to work with the Stop AAPI Hate organization on the youth campaign for the last two years. He said, "as an intern, the youth campaign is kind of a youth initiative for the Stop AAPI hate effort and we try our best to help lead it for youth through Instagram posts and creating data analytics and studies."

In the future, Idemoto wants to pursue a major in Asian American Studies to garner a change. He stated, "I've taken a few college courses at DeAnza and I'm working towards a Certificate of Achievement in Asian American



Studies. I'm also interested in learning more about my identity and what factors have contributed to that, and what we can do to talk about these different things that have happened to try and do better in the future." Look out for Idemoto leaving his mark as he improves LGHS, and the greater community, for the better.



photos courtesy R. Idemoto

- LSU defeats Iowa in March Madness
- POM: Sophie Tau commits to Berkeley

Medvedev, Kvitova, and Cirstea excel at the Miami Open

by Nadia Liu
Public Relations Manager

Following the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, the Miami Open ran from Mar. 19 to Apr. 2. These two events are the largest non-Grand Slam tournaments in tennis played on hard courts.

Daniil Medvedev beat Jannik Sinner 7-5, 6-3, to win a maiden Miami Open title, securing his fourth ATP title this year. The Russian called it “the best start to a season he’s ever had,” winning 24 of his past 25 matches. The fiery match lasted an hour and thirty-four minutes, with Sinner running out of steam after the first set. Medvedev broke Sinner at 6-5, and from there the match was easy sailing for the Russian hard court specialist. In the previous round, Sinner beat his rival Carlos Alcaraz, tying up their head-to-head record at 3-3. However, that three hour triumph took a toll on the 21-year-old Italian.

Acknowledging the supportive crowd at the post-match ceremony, Sinner said, “Woke up this morning

not at my best, a little bit sick. Thanks for the support. You gave me a lot of energy. Unfortunately, I couldn’t play at my best.” Fighting his way to the final, Medvedev beat a fellow Russian, Karen Khachanov 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-3, in a grueling three-set match. Another Sinner-Alcaraz matchup fuelled what could be considered the current greatest rivalry in tennis, with Sinner upsetting the 19-year-old world No. 1 to get to the final. Medvedev’s only loss this year was to Alcaraz, who previously defeated the Russian to win the title at Indian Wells.

In another upset, 33-year-old Petra Kvitova defeated 23-year-old Kazakh Elena Rybakina in a 7-6 (14), 6-2 victory. In an insane 22-minute, 14-point tiebreaker, both players remained strong both mentally and physically. However, after the debilitating first set, the world No. 7 just could not keep up with Kvitova’s brutal pace. To reach the finals, Kvitova triumphed over Romanian player Sorana Cirstea while Rybakina defeated American Jessica Pegula, who is ranked 3rd in the world.

In a massive upset, Cirstea, ranked 41st, defeated Aryna Sabalenka, ranked 2nd, in the quarter finals. Cirstea played a relatively clean game with only nine unforced errors, compared to the Belorussian’s six double faults and 21 unforced errors. In an unfortunate turn of events, Canada’s Bianca Andreescu left the court in a wheelchair due to a lower leg injury in her match against 18th-seeded Ekaterina Alexandrova. The broadcast picked up the injured player saying, “I’ve never felt this kind of pain before.” In an Instagram post, Andreescu wrote, “I’m going to take it day by day, and I am optimistic that with the right work, rehab, and preparation, I’ll be back on court soon.”

Playing their first Miami main draw as a team, the all-American duo of Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff defeated Leylah Fernandez and Taylor Townsend to win their third WTA 1000 title. Mexico’s Santiago Gonzalez and France’s Edouard Roger-Vasselin edged out Austin Krajicek and Nicolas Mahut 7-6 (4), 7-5 to claim their second trophy this season.

After playing in sunny Miami, the players begin their clay circuit in tournaments set primarily in Europe.



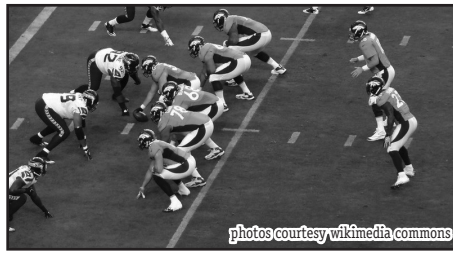
VICTORIOUS: Kvitova waves to the crowd after her win.

Police arrest Broncos’ player

by Ainsley Northrop
People Editor

On Saturday, Apr. 1, Florida police arrested football player Faion Hicks on three charges. The Denver Broncos originally drafted Hicks as a cornerback in the seventh round of the 2021 NFL draft. Although he played a relatively small amount this past season, Hicks has been a seasoned football icon of many years. Before the Broncos drafted him, Hicks played football at Flanagan High School. During this time, he captained the Flanagan team for three years, and helped lead his team to victory in Florida’s 2015 Class 8A championship game. For college, Hicks attended the University of Wisconsin, where he started 39 of the 44 games that he played for the Badgers, as well as earned an All-Big Ten honorable mention in both 2020 and 2021.

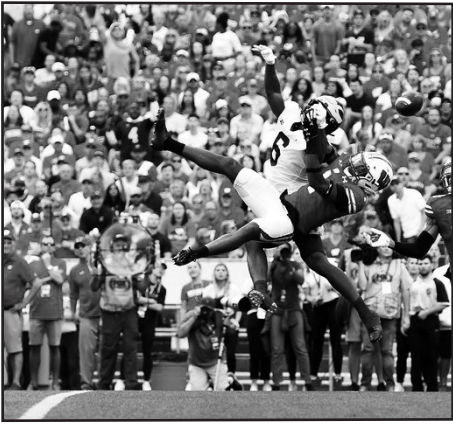
car, during which they uncovered marijuana, as well as a firearm concealed underneath the driver’s seat. Upon further investigation, the officer discovered Hicks’ driver’s license was roughly four-months expired.



LETS GO: The Broncos and Seahawks line up before the snap.

Police then arrested Hicks, and upon his arrest, the Broward County records listed his three charges as disobeying a stop sign, driving with an expired driver’s license, and carrying a concealed firearm. Since his arrest, the county has reportedly released him on bail, and according to Fox News, he posted his 2,000 dollar bond on Sunday, Apr. 2. At this time, the Denver Broncos have declined to make a statement in regards to their plan for dealing with the situation, and Hicks’ future on the team remains up in the air.

As a result of the situation, fans have been speculating as to Hicks’ status as a player for the Broncos. Due to the team’s relatively weak cornerback depth, many suppose that the team needs Hicks, and that he may play a crucial role in improving the Broncos’ record next year. In addition, the Broncos are under the new management of head coach Sean Payton, which leaves fans wondering how Payton feels about keeping Hicks on the team. With the 2023 NFL draft beginning later this month, fans hypothesize that the team will attempt to look for more cornerback support to combat the situation, as well as strengthen the team in general. (Sources: Denver Broncos, Fox News, NY Times)



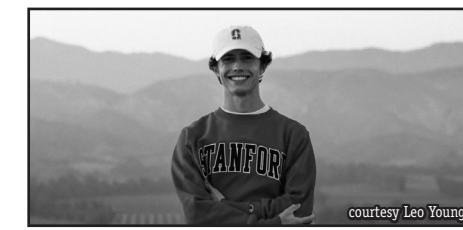
WATCH OUT: Hicks makes an impressive catch in Madison.

The Broward County police originally pulled over Hicks — along with two passengers — for ignoring a stop sign in Hallandale, Florida, which took place at around 7:30 PM. Upon pulling him over, the officer reportedly smelled marijuana. But, when the officer brought this up, Hicks denied any possession. This led to a police search of the

College prospects shine in HS

by Dana Hathaway
Editorial Editor

Professional athletes are world famous. People like Tom Brady and Lionel Messi are household names for good reason — they are some of the best at what they do. But what about in high school athletics? For many teenage athletes, sports are not just for fun. From world championships to record-breaking accomplishments that could qualify them for the Olympics, many individuals across the US find themselves competing at an elite level with a teenage social life. Here are some of the most impressive athletes of 2023 who have yet to enter college.



POSE: Leo Young announces his commitment to Stanford.

Alyssa Thompson: This California-raised forward initially committed to Stanford University for soccer at age 15, but she later decommitted to enter the 2023 National Women’s Soccer League draft. At just 18 years old, she made her first appearance on the national stage with Angel City Football Club on Mar. 26 and scored a goal 11 minutes in. Coaches pulled Thompson up to the senior United States Women’s National Team in 2022, and she has made two appearances. Her sister, Gisele, plays soccer for the U17 National Team. Alyssa and Gisele became the first high school athletes to sign a name, image, and likeness deal with Nike.

Lex and Leo Young: Likely the most social-media savvy runners, these identical twins will grace the track one last time for their senior year before heading off to Stanford University in the fall. In

2022, Leo ran a sub-four minute mile (3:59.32). Not to be outdone, Lex clinched the California cross country title, with Leo finishing second. Both brothers have around 45 thousand Instagram followers each, and they co-run a Youtube channel called L&L that documents their high school racing experience and everyday lives.

Isaiah Collier: This Wheeler High School point guard is widely regarded as one of the top recruits of the class of 2023. The 6’ 3” athlete averaged 18 points, 7 rebounds, 7 assists, and 2 steals per game as a junior. After receiving offers from the University of Michigan, Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, Tennessee, and Cincinnati, Collier decided to fight on with the USC Trojans.

Max Clark: Recently named to the US U18 baseball team, Clark is a top prospect for the 2023 MLB draft. He is currently committed to Vanderbilt University. The Indiana teen throws a fastball at a whopping 92 mph, and Prep Baseball named him their 2022 Player of the Year. At 6’1” and 198 lbs, his 60 yd time of 6.47 seconds is astounding and places him well below the average of 6.9 seconds for an 18-year-old.

Keep an eye out for these rising teenage stars! (Sources: US Soccer, 24/7 Sports, MaxPreps, SportsAlizer, Prep Baseball Report, MileSplit, Scorebook Live)



BATTER UP: Max Clark celebrates after a successful play.

Moore recaps 2023 Mens’ March Madness Tournament

by Brendan Moore
Sports Editor

Basketball fans across the nation were glued to their TVs witnessing absolute madness. The 2023 NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, dubbed March Madness, started with the 68-team tournament field revealed on Mar. 12. The men’s tournament featured Alabama University receiving the number one overall seed, joined by Houston University, Kansas University, and Purdue University as the other number one seeds. A tournament filled with multiple mind-boggling upsets highlighted by the impossible as Fairleigh Dickinson University, a 16-seed, upset Purdue in the opening round. This marks the second occurrence ever where a 16-seed has upset a 1-seed. Similarly, 15-seed Princeton University knocked out 2-seed Arizona University, immediately followed by another unbelievable win against 7-seed Missouri in the second round.

Other astounding results included 13-seed Furman University attaining their first tournament win since 1974 in a first round upset against 4-seed Virginia University. Furman player JP Pegues scored a three-point shot with two seconds left to push Furman ahead by one point. Defending champion Kansas University unfortunately suffered a loss at

the hands of 8-seed Arkansas University in the second round, ending Kansas’ hopes of back-to-back championships.



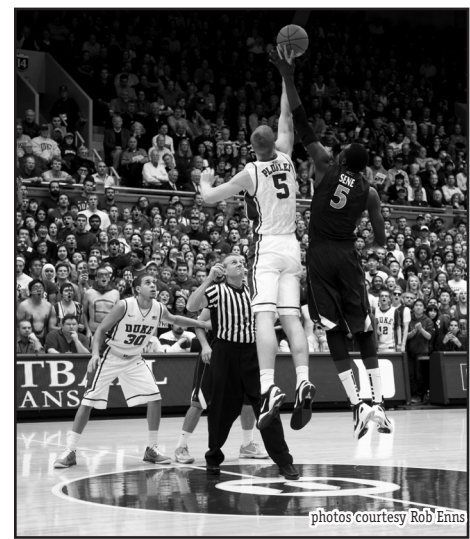
GO HUSKIES: UConn’s Coach Dan Hurley celebrates his win.

The 2023 Men’s Final Four was arguably the most bizarre in the history of college basketball. With the exception of Connecticut University (UConn),

the three other schools played in their first Final Four ever. Additionally, the incredible upsets of the tournament plagued all 1-seeds as none advanced past the regional semifinals, dubbed the Sweet 16, this year. The early round shocks of the tournament were an early indicator of what would happen in Houston, the site of the 2023 Final Four. The Final Four began on Apr. 1 with 9-seed Florida Atlantic University suffering a heartbreaking defeat to 5-seed San Diego State University (SDSU). SDSU player Lamont Butler made a mid-range jump shot as time expired to push SDSU ahead by one, 72-71. The Aztecs survived a 14-point second half deficit and secured a spot in the team’s first National Championship in school history.

The second game of the Final Four featured 5-seed Miami Florida University against 4-seed UConn. UConn’s size and athleticism proved to be too much for Miami and the Huskies crushed their opponent by 13. UConn advanced to their fifth National Championship in school history and were undefeated in their four previous appearances. The National Championship occurred on Apr. 3. SDSU and UConn battled for a national title, but UConn’s defense and stellar shooting quickly put them ahead by 12 at halftime. SDSU mounted a small comeback

in the second half and cut the lead to five points, but the Huskies prevailed in the end thanks to 19 points and ten rebounds from guard Tristen Newton; the final score was 76-59. (Sources: ESPN, Forbes)



REACH: Virginia and Duke players reach for the jump ball.

Australian GP thrills crowd

by Owen Fugit

Media Production Editor

For Formula 1 (F1) fans around the world, few races were as exciting as the most recent Australian Grand Prix on Mar. 2. It was a beautiful, warm day in Melbourne, Australia, and everything seemed set for a typical race, but rarely is there ever a “normal” F1 race. On lap one, viewers got a taste of what was to come when Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc spun out in the first corner, logging another “did not finish” (DNF) for Ferrari. The 3.3-mile course is twisty and difficult to master, besting many of the drivers who raced it that day.



FORZA FERRARI: Charles Leclerc tackles the Australian track.

Right out of turn one, Mercedes' George Russell took the lead, followed by teammate Lewis Hamilton. This success was short-lived; when Leclerc spun out, race officials deployed the safety car, slowing the race down. Some drivers changed tires while others stayed on the track. Moments later on lap seven, Williams' Alex Albon spun out, also coming out of a turn. Albon's car lost grip and slid across the track, hitting a barrier and breaking a portion of the front

wing — prompting race officials to issue a red flag. In F1, a red flag requires all drivers to return to the pits and wait. While there, teams get a free tire change if their cars require it.

Russell took a blow from this red flag losing a position by pitting during Albon's yellow flag before it turned red. This was not the end of Russell's troubles, however. Coming around the final corner on lap 18, Russell's power unit malfunctioned, causing his exhaust to spew fire, thus killing the engine and Russell's hopes of finishing the race in the top ten. Around lap 50, the race started heating up again, as McLaren's Lando Norris battled with Haas' Nico Hulkenburg. Three laps later, Kevin Magnussen's Haas clipped a barrier that completely removed his back right tire, forcing him out of the race. After a brief yellow flag and deployment of the safety car, race officials stopped the race again with a red flag.

The drivers started back on the grid after the track was clear. Going into turn one, chaos ensued: Sergio Perez of Red Bull went wide out of turn one, followed by Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin hitting a wall but sustaining little damage. Alpine's Esteban Ocon crashed into a barrier after his teammate hit his rear bumper, taking Alpine out of the race on the second-to-last lap. A few corners later, Lance Stroll of Aston Martin came flying out of the pack into the gravel around a turn. This frenzy also took out Alpha Tauri's Yuki Tsunoda. Six drivers were knocked out of the race after this restart, conjuring an instant red flag.

In the end, Max Verstappen of Red Bull won first place, followed by Lewis Hamilton, and then Fernando Alonso. The next race on the F1 calendar is the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, held in the capital city of Baku, slated for April 30, 2023; for now, fans wait in anticipation.

(Sources: ESPN, Formula 1)

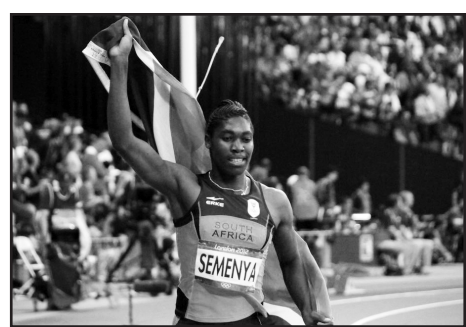
WA Council creates trans ban

by Margo Rawlings

News Editor

On Mar. 23, the World Athletics (WA) Council announced its decision to ban transgender individuals from competing in track and field internationally and created new restrictions for athletes with differences in sex development. Following in the footsteps of World Aquatics, starting Mar. 31, all transgender women who transitioned after going through male puberty will no longer be allowed to compete against other women. Additionally, any female athletes with differences in sex development will have to maintain their testosterone at a maximum of 2.5 nanomoles per liter of blood — half of what the requirement was in 2018. Sebastian Coe, the president of the WA council, explained, “Decisions are always difficult when they involve conflicting needs and rights between different groups, but we continue to take the view that we must maintain fairness for female athletes above all other considerations.” The council plans to create a group including transgender athletes to promote transgender inclusivity in the coming years.

The WA Council justified their decision, citing that they had administered research over the last decade, which led them to conclude that transgender women have advantages over biological women, impacting overall performance. In the past, the WA council criticized athletes like Caster Semanya, a South African Olympic Gold medalist in the 800-meter sprint with sex development differences. According to 2018 World Athletics regulations, to suppress her naturally high testosterone levels, she would have been required to use birth control pills, hormone shots, or undergo surgery. Semanya refused to continue these treatments, explaining that “It made me sick, made me gain weight, [have] panic attacks. I didn't know if I was going



GLITTERING GOLD: Caster Semanya wins gold at the Olympics.

to have a heart attack,” and she has since been unable to compete in international track and field.

Similarly, last June the Fédération Internationale de Natation (FINA) — swimming's world governing council now known as World Aquatics — implemented new restrictions for transgender athletes. All transgender female swimmers are now required to prove they have not undergone male puberty past the Tanner Stage two or after age 12 in order to compete in the women's category. World Aquatics's president, Husain Al-Musallam, explained the reasoning behind the council's decision: “We have to protect the rights of our athletes to compete, but we also have to protect competitive fairness at our events, especially the women's category at FINA competitions.” Al-Musallam continued, “FINA will always welcome every athlete. The creation of an open category will mean that everybody has the opportunity to compete at an elite level.” Although there are no transgender women currently competing in these sports, both of these policies will affect any transgender athletes who wish to compete internationally in track and field or swimming in the future. (Sources: AP News, CNN, NPR, People Magazine, The Wall Street Journal)

LSU defeats Iowa to win Women's March Madness

by Lucy Panicacci

Culture Editor

On Apr. 2, the Louisiana State University (LSU) Tigers defeated the Iowa Hawkeyes 102-85 in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Women's National Championship in Dallas, Texas. The tournament was a monumental event, setting numerous records and achievements. The game awarded LSU their first NCAA championship win and head coach Kim Mulkey with her fourth national championship win. The teams scored the most points in a women's basketball NCAA championship, as well



HEATED: LSU's Angel Reese goes head-to-head with Caitlin Clark.

as most points scored in one half in a women's championship: 59. After the game, Mulkey told ESPN, “Coaches coach a lifetime and this is the fourth time I've been blessed.”

A star player throughout the March Madness tournament was Iowa's Caitlin Clark. Although she could not secure the win for her team, the 21-year-old junior scored an impressive 30 points in the championship game. Throughout the tournament, she broke many records, such as the first player to have consecutive 40-point games, the most made three-pointers in an NCAA championship game (8), and the most points scored in the NCAA tournament (191). After Iowa's defeat in the championship game, a grateful Clark said, “I want my legacy to be the impact that I can have on young kids and the people in the state of Iowa, and I hope I brought them a lot of joy this season. I hope this team brought them a lot of joy.”

Clark led Iowa to an unbelievable 77-73 win against top seed South Carolina in the Final Four, achieving a 41-point triple double. The shifty guard was an unstoppable threat, driv-

ing through screens for layups, pulling up for threes in her defenders' faces, and displaying her elite passing ability. The game ended in an unexpected series of events. In the last 30 seconds, Clark missed a 3-pointer. Despite their rebounding advantage, South Carolina failed to get the rebound. Instead, Iowa's McKenna Warnock grabbed the ball. With 21 seconds left, South Carolina fouled, ending the game 77-73. Iowa's win robbed South Carolina of their undefeated 36-0 record, stunning viewers.

Another major player was LSU's Angel Reese. The 20-year-old sophomore led a fantastic game in the Final Four against the Virginia Tech Hokies, getting crafty under the basket and spinning past defenders. Reese contributed 24 points and 12 rebounds in their 79-72 triumph. Throughout the tournament, she averaged 21.3 points and 15.2 rebounds. Additionally, she holds the most double-doubles in a season with 34. Following the championship win, the NCAA awarded her Most Outstanding Player.

The 2023 March Madness brought in masses of viewers for women's basketball. The final



LOCKED IN: Caitlin Clark of Iowa looks to shoot against UMich.

averaged 9.92 million viewers, peaking at 12.6 million viewers, making it the most watched women's basketball game in history. This number blew the previous record of 5.7 million, which occurred during the 2002 Connecticut vs. Oklahoma final, out of the water. Overall, the 2023 Women's March Madness was a spectacular feat for women's basketball. (Sources: Bleacher Report, CNN, ESPN)

Major League Baseball kicks off their spring season

by Brendan Moore

Sports Editor

Mar. 30 marked the Opening Day of the 2023 Major League Baseball (MLB). Following a wild offseason full of countless signings and trades, all 30 teams set out to claim World Series Champion. The defending champions, the Houston Astros, began their journey to defend their title, alongside World Series runner-ups Philadelphia Phillies who actively addressed their weaknesses in the offseason and bolstered their roster talent with the signing of star shortstop Trea Turner.

To recap the 2023 offseason, All-Star shortstop Carlos Correa opted out of contract agreements with both the San Francisco Giants and New York Mets and agreed to a six-year, 200-million-dollar contract

with his former team, the Minnesota Twins. Boston Red Sox's third baseman Rafael Devers returned on an 11-year, 331-million-dollar extension. The biggest decision of the offseason resulted in outfielder Aaron Judge remaining with the New York Yankees on a nine-year, 360-million-dollar contract.

The Los Angeles Dodgers began Opening Day with the best odds to win the 2023 World Series, followed by the Toronto Blue Jays. The Astros suffered their first loss since the World Series in a 3-2 defeat by the Chicago White Sox. Meanwhile, the reigning National League (NL) champion Phillies started the season very sluggishly. Through their first six games, the Phillies lost five, plummeting them to the bottom of the NL standings.

Newly introduced rule changes made an instant impact on the game. The shift rule change requires all four infielders to be in correct positioning with two infielders on each side of second base.

However, no rule change has been more impactful than the pitch clock. When runners are on base, the pitchers must throw their next pitch within 20 seconds of their previous pitch. Pitchers must throw their next pitch within 15 seconds of their previous when no runners are on base. Batters must respect the pitchers' rest time and step into the batter's box with at least eight seconds remaining on the pitch clock.

The impact of this rule shortens games and advantages the batter instead of the pitcher. Increased action has transformed baseball into more appealing entertainment for sports fans. Not only can pitchers violate the new pitch clock rule, but batters can be penalized with a strike for violating the rule as well.

Recently, San Diego Padres' third baseman Manny Machado struck out via an infraction of the pitch clock. Machado attempted to call a timeout, but the umpire refused, resulting in an automatic strike, Machado's third of the at-bat. Machado continued to argue his case and eventually got ejected from the game. This marked the league's first strikeout and ejection as a result of the pitch clock.

As the season approaches full swing in the summer, sports fans will surely be glued to baseball for its revolutionary changes and open race for the World Series.



RISKY RULES: Padres' player Manny Machado violates new pitch count rule.



DEADLY DODGERS: The LA Dodgers have the best odds to win the World Series.



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Varsity Dance Team impresses at Spring Spirit Rally

by Sarah Gouldrup
Humor Editor

For their last hurrah of the 2022-2023 school year, the LGHS Varsity Dance Team performed at the spirit rally on Apr. 7 in front of their fellow Wildcats. After practicing for nearly two months, the girls performed their three minute routine to a variety of popular songs including No Hands by Waka Flocka, Family Ties by Kendrick Lamar, Say My Name by Beyoncé, and Disco Inferno by 50 Cent.

In order to prepare for the spring rally, the team practiced twice a week and added in extra morning rehearsals during the months leading up to the performance. Each practice consisted of different areas of focus: choreographing, blocking formations, and cleaning the pieces till they were performed in unison. However, the process sounds easier than the reality. Team members, including graduating senior **Samantha Schmidt**, began creating 45-60 second routines prior to rally rehearsals that featured classic hip hop moves and transitions to keep the crowd pumped up. She commented on her thought process for the choreography, noting that "Choreographing rally is always so much fun because it is so different from what we do at football and basketball games! I always try to make the rally a bit more fun and less serious so that it's enjoyable not only for us dancers, but also for the crowd."

On the day of the rally, the team left class early in order to do a couple final run throughs with the leadership class. Despite the nerves surrounding their final performance of the year, the team excitedly went through their number with facial expressions and never-ending energy. Junior **Taylor Ford** described the feeling of those final run throughs: "It was stressful, but everyone worked really hard in getting the dance to look good. I was mostly just looking forward to later when I could perform in front of my class." After the practice, the team headed to the fieldhouse where they did final touches to hair and makeup and quickly reviewed corrections before heading onto the field in their uniforms — black leggings, uniform white sneakers, and their class T-shirt.

When it came time to perform, the routine went perfectly. Students cheered the girls on as they started the dance off with a bang, completing two backflips in the first ten seconds. From there, the student sections only cheered louder as the team performed various headsprings, kip ups, and other tricks that wowed the crowd. Even the freshmen on the team shook off their nerves as the student body applauded their hard work. Freshman **Mina Hilao** expressed that at first, "I was scared to perform at first since it's still one of my first few rallies, but the rest of the team had an encouraging energy so it ended

up being great". While the season is over for these Wildcats, they are hosting tryouts for next year's team on May 15th.



JUST DANCE: Los Gatos dancers from various grades show off their dancing skills.

POM: Track star Sophie Tau takes talents to Berkeley

by Dana Hathaway
Editorial Editor

With numerous first place medals and just three seconds separating her from the LGHS 3200m record, it came as no surprise to anyone when senior **Sophie Tau** committed to University of California Berkeley after a lengthy recruitment process. In addition to track and cross country, Tau is anything but slow when it comes to academics as she plans to pursue electrical engineering and computer science (EECS) at the top public university in the United States.

Tau recalled that she began her running career in "sixth grade at Fisher Middle School. I tried a bunch of other sports, but I always liked running. So then I tried that at Fisher, and I was good at it, so I kept going." When she first ran with the LGHS team as a freshman, she was put on varsity. Throughout her time at LGHS, Tau competed with the cross country team in the fall, building a cardiovascular base for her distance events — the 3200m and 1600m — during outdoor track season. Her training is intense: the athlete states she trains "six days a week, which usually ends up being about 40 miles."

All of the practice paid off when Tau dropped her 3200m time from 12:42 to 11:55 between her freshman and sophomore year. However, she noted, "I never considered running in college until my junior year — that was kind of my breakout season." During



RUNNING STRONG: Tau pictured left, sprints to finish ahead of her opponents.

that season, her "main goal was to break five in the mile." Just five days later, she achieved the mile(stone) in the Central Coast Section (CCS) Top Eight race with a 4:59 — 24 seconds lower than her season opener.

After her spectacular cross country and track seasons, Tau "visited a bunch of schools on the East Coast the summer before [her] junior year." In October, she committed to Northeastern University, and thought she was done with recruiting. But when

Berkeley reached out, she couldn't say no. During her official visit, the team, athlete resources, and academics wowed Tau. She explained, "I felt with my academic goals and major it was a really good fit...The [training] facilities are also really cool and the team is super nice. I really like the coach; she's super young and it feels like she would be a teammate." An extremely competitive school both academically and athletically, Berkeley's Division I sports resources include tutors and priority class choice. Tau mentioned, "They have a lot of advisors so if you're struggling or anything, they really do a lot to help you."

It's clear Tau has the athletics aspect of college down, but she will also navigate academics with ease. Four out of five of her classes are Advanced Placement (AP) classes, including the notoriously difficult AP Physics C and AP Calculus BC classes. Her AP Physics C and former AP Computer Science teacher, **Matthew Holm**, stated, "This is a human who I've been a fan of for four years and to see the continual improvement and the dedication and the drive that fires her up is so impressive. And I'm so excited for her current and for her future."

In the future, Tau aims to one day qualify for the famous Boston Marathon. This spring, she's looking forward to finishing off a successful track season with her team for four years — and hopefully setting a new school record while she's at it. (Source: AthleticNet)

Baseball & Softball dazzle

by Kate Gruetter
National/World Editor

As the spring sports season progresses, Los Gatos High School's baseball and softball teams have continued to perform brilliantly, with both the girls' and boys' teams racking up wins in their current season. Despite multiple cancellations due to the abnormal weather conditions, the teams have continued practicing and playing their hardest, competing impressively in every game they play.

The Varsity Baseball team boasts an impressive first place in league standings, going 6-0 regarding strictly league games as of Apr. 11. "We've had tough losses to some quality teams, but overall we got a lot of talent, a lot of room to grow," said Junior **Theo Greenland** in reference to his team's current season. Because a lot of the team members have played together since Little League, the group members are pretty familiar with each other, which benefits the team dynamic. "Our defense has been

playing pretty well," added Greenland, who hopes that the team will continue to build team chemistry throughout the season to "hopefully make a run at playoffs." And, given the team's statistics, they seem close to their goal.

The Varsity Softball team is third in league standings, reporting a win in their Apr. 4 game against Mountain View. Despite a few losses in the past couple games, the team is still optimistic about their season and looking forward to upcoming games against Los Altos and Milpitas. Sophomore **Clare Torres** has high hopes continuing through the season, explaining that they "have a lot of room to improve since we're such a young team...right now it feels like the team chemistry is lacking, but I know we'll get there." Torres notes the team's age as a big obstacle this season. "It's really difficult to play against all of these other teams because they've all been playing together for three years, and this is some of our first years playing with each other." Despite this barrier, the team is sure to power through in the coming weeks.

Both the baseball and softball junior varsity teams are having impressive seasons, with the junior varsity softball team reporting an undefeated season. The two junior varsity teams are not afraid to rack up points either, considering that the Junior Varsity Baseball team went 16-1 in their recent game against Mountain View.

If the baseball and softball season continues to be as exciting as it has been, it is sure to be an impressive and notable year for both teams. So, make sure to find your way down to the pitch to watch both of these teams and support LGHS. (Source: MaxPreps)



WINDING UP: LG Softball pitcher begins her throwing motion.

Track & Field dominate

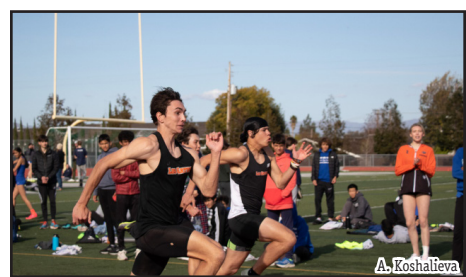
by Aliya Koshaliev
Graphics Editor

With less than five meets left in the season, Los Gatos High School's track and field team is dominating the track. With victories ranging from wins against schools to success in invitational meets, it is safe to say the team is on fire. The hardworking team took time out of their Friday evenings and weekends to compete at the Stanford Invitational hosted by Stanford University on Mar. 31 and Apr 1. Los Gatos' teams competed against invited high school teams from every corner of the bay — as well as a couple of high schools from across the nation — and watched collegiate athletes run.

In the finals of the Boys 400-meter run, two Los Gatos seniors made the leaderboard; **Levi Romero**'s time of 48.99 seconds earned him second place, **Wil Brennan** came in fifth with his time of 49.47 seconds, and **Brady Kamali** placed tenth with a time of 50:37 seconds, a personal record. Sophomore **Aydon Stefanopoulos** was the sole runner from Los Gatos in the finals of the 800-meter run. Nevertheless, he placed fifth with his



LEADING THE PACK: Runners compete for top times.



RACE TO THE FINISH: Kamali sprints to the finish line.

new personal record of 1:56:16. Stefanopoulos took third in the 1600-meter final with a time of 4:12:41, setting a new personal record, as well as beating the forty-two-year-old standing school record previously held by LGHS' **Paul Cox** with a time of 4:13:34. Stefanopoulos' time ranks him second amongst the sophomores in the nation. The boys' 4x400 relay team, consisting of Romero, **Jake Bohane**, Kamali, and Brennan, took first place with their 3:21:08 time. **Jack Fan**, Kamali, and **Ben Klarich** took eighth in the DMR 1200-400-800-1600 M run, with a joint time of 10:51:80. On the track, Kamali took fifth place in the High Jump final with a mark of 1.83m.

In the girls' competition, senior **Sophie Tau** placed tenth, with a time of 5:03:99 in the 1600-meter finals, which is her new season record. She placed ninth in the 3200-meter final, finishing with 10:50:79, a personal record for Tau. Senior **Abigail Lo** set a new personal record and took home first for her 11.15m mark in the finals of the Triple Jump. With a month and a half left in the season, the track team is hard at work. They will compete in against Gunn High School before CCS Championships in May.