

El Gato

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS GATOS HIGH SCHOOL

A.Northrop

Leadership hosts annual LGHS events

by Ainsley Northrop
Editor-in-Chief

Over the past month, the LGHS leadership students have been hard at work during one of their busiest times of the year. Coordinating Spirit Week, organizing the homecoming dance, planning the annual blood drive, and more, these students completed their extensive tasks with commitment and pride.

LGHS held its first Spirit Week of the year starting Oct. 21. However, leadership students began planning months in advance, selecting themes, brainstorming games, and designing class shirts. Senior ASB Spirit Representative **Faith Hatch** explained, “[Senior ASB Spirit Representative **Allie Wen**] and I planned games and assigned people to run them...[We] also picked the overarching theme and then the rest of the class voted on the one they liked best.” This year, the class decided on a theme of places around the world, with the freshman as Hawaii, sophomores as Los Angeles, juniors as the Wild West, and the seniors as New York City.

To prepare for Spirit Week, leadership students met the preceding Sunday to decorate the hallway. The spirit representatives from each class took charge of painting, construction, and more. Throughout the week, students ran lunchtime games on the front lawn and encouraged their peers to dress up.



DRESS TO IMPRESS: Seniors pose for a picture before the homecoming dance.



SPEEDY: LGHS students participate in lunchtime game during Spirit Week.

On Friday morning, the class decorated the bleachers and set up for the school-wide Spirit Rally. During the rally, Hatch and Wen MCed, announcing activities and declaring winners. Hatch added, “[Wen] and I had to write scripts and make sure that everything was functioning.” At the end, the seniors proved victorious, dominating in musical chairs, which they won unanimously with the final three students all being on their team.

On Oct. 26, leadership hosted the annual coronation dance. Junior **Alexis Dorn**, a leader of the dance commission, detailed, “We started working on the dance the third or fourth day of school...We had to book the DJ and get the decorations and the food and the water. It took a really long time, but it was really fun.” The commission decorated the front lawn with floating jellyfish and more, transporting their guests under the sea. The dance was a product of almost entirely student work as the commission designed, decorated, and ran the event, learning planning and budgeting skills along the way.

Most recently, leadership coordinated with the Stanford Blood Center to plan their annual fall semester blood drive. Held on Nov. 15, leadership students aided the center in collecting blood for those in need, checking in student donors, and providing them with snack bags to maintain healthy blood sugar levels. Like last year, leadership students offered an incentive for students to donate: donors receive one pint of ice cream when they donate a pint of blood. Additionally, students who donate twice in their high school career will receive a red cord for their graduation.

Stay tuned as LGHS’s leadership class diligently plans school events such as the upcoming swing night.

AP students travel to Catalina Island

by Aliya Koshaliev
Media Production Editor

On Nov. 1, Los Gatos High School students enrolled in AP Biology and AP Environmental Science embarked on the annual Catalina Island trip. They flew to Los Angeles and took a ferry to the Catalina Island Marine Science Institute (CIMI). The itinerary for the weekend included conducting marine biology research, doing island ecology-related labs, hiking, and snorkeling.



TWINNING: AP Bio and APES students pose in their identical blue wetsuits.

The trip started at 5 a.m. on Nov. 1 with the students meeting at the San Jose Mineta International Airport. After a flight and a bus ride to the Catalina Express port in Long Beach, the students endured a two-hour boat ride to Catalina Island. Senior **Yanis Malhotra** described the boat trip as “absolutely horrible,” saying, “I almost puked three times on the way there and then twice on the way back.”

Things improved considerably after landing at Toyon Bay and receiving a warm welcome by CIMI staff, students snorkeled and swam in the bay with their instructors. “Snorkeling was very fun. We saw a bunch of fish and sharks and kelp. It was really cold, though, and the wetsuits helped a lot,” said senior **Boden Ruvane**.

Later that evening, students dove back into the ocean for the famed night snorkel. “I saw some bioluminescence for the first time in my life and it was just a really fun experience. We all had flashlights, and I felt like I was in a spy movie in the water. So that was really cool,” said Malhotra.

The next day, students participated in lab rotations, half doing marine biology-related labs and the other half doing island ecology-related labs. “My favorite lab was probably the plankton lab because we got to look at the microscopes and see all the little plankton and bugs swimming around because they’re in little drops of water,” said Ruvane. “It’s crazy because if you think about it when you’re drinking seawater on accident while snorkeling, you just eat a bunch of bugs.”

After a round of labs and lunch, all students went on a two-mile hike to the top of one of the island’s mountains. Ruvane described the view as beautiful: “We got to echo and practice screaming. We yelled pumpkin, pretty loud, and then it would echo off the mountains.”

One of the highlights of the trip was the squid dissection. When asked about it, senior **Katherine Darbinyan** recounted, “The squid dissection? Where do I begin? They made us dissect the squid with our bare hands. We had no gloves and no utensils, just straight digging in them.” Darbinyan recounted.

To end the day, CIMI hosted a beachfront campfire. Malhotra said, “The campfire was also really fun. I had a fun time with my friends, I made new friends, and the s’mores were pretty good, too.”

Students did the other half of the labs on the last day before returning. To prevent motion sickness, some students ingested squid lenses from the squid dissection, and according to Malhotra, it worked.



HANDS-ON: A group of students observe some small sea creatures in a tank.

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California citizens decide on impactful propositions

by **Lucy Panicacci**

Editor-in-Chief

As part of the election on Nov. 5, Californians voted on ten new propositions to implement over the next few years. California citizens decided on issues including government spending for the climate and schools, approval of amendments to the state constitution, and punishment for crimes. According to the Associated Press (AP)'s counts, five out of the ten propositions passed.

YES on Prop 3: With 62.6 percent approval, Proposition 3, the right to marry, passed. The amendment to the California constitution repeals Prop 8, a measured passed in 2008 banning same-sex marriage. Prop 3 will remove the language defining marriage as only between a man and a woman. Supporters of the measure argue that the same-sex interpretation in California's constitution should match the US federal constitution's interpretation, enshrining the right to same-sex marriage in California. Governor Gavin Newsom as well as the California Democratic Party endorsed the prop.

YES on Prop 2: Proposition 2 authorized a ten billion dollar bond for the repairs and renovations of California K-12 schools and community colleges. After the last 15 billion dollar bond proposal failed to pass, state funding for school repairs ran low. Unlike wealthy school districts, low-income communities do not receive enough funding through property taxes. As a result, districts in which at least 35 percent of students are from low-income families need state support. The money will go towards ensuring

California schools meet the minimum safety standards, building facilities such as performing arts auditoriums and providing educational equipment.



GO VOTE: Lawn signs urge California voters to vote against Proposition 8.

YES on Prop 4: Prop 4 approved another ten billion dollar bond. This time, the money is meant for environmental and climate

projects. The state of California will spend the largest sum of money, 3.8 billion dollars, on water projects to improve water quality and prevent floods and droughts. Additionally, the state will allocate 1.95 billion for nature projects, 1.9 billion for coastal protection, and 1.2 billion for sustainable energy projects. Supporters, such as the National Wildlife Federation, believe it is urgent to provide funds for environmental and climate change projects, while opponents worry about the tax burden of repaying another ten billion dollar bond.

YES on Prop 35: Prop 35 relates to the tax money surrounding Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid health insurance for people with low-income and disabilities. The passing of this proposition ensures that the taxes paid for healthcare plans go towards Medi-Cal, increasing Medi-Cal's revenue to reimburse doctors and healthcare providers.

YES on Prop 36: Prop 36 allows misdemeanor charges for drug possession and thefts under 950 dollars to become felonies, if the defendant has two prior convictions. Under the new law, those charged with drug possession are required to complete drug treatment or serve up to three years in prison.

Too close to call, two props, Prop 34 and Prop 32, remain undecided as AP counts the remaining 25 percent of votes. Prop 34 requires providers to spend prescription drug revenue on patients, while Prop 32 proposes a minimum wage raise to 18 dollars. As AP decides the final results, keep in mind the impact these new props will have on California. (Sources: Cal Matters, NBC Los Angeles)

TOM: Kep amasses love from her students and family

by **Claudia Casal**

Culture Editor

Kerry Northern Keplinger, known by students and faculty as Ms. Kep, is beginning her sixth year at Los Gatos High School and continuing the school's legacy of excellence in math programs.

This year, Ms. Kep is teaching several math classes including Algebra Two Accelerated and Geometry. She explained, "Algebra Two Accelerated is really fun to teach because it's the first time a lot of students are challenged in math and we move really fast. I also love geometry and doing proofs, even if students don't like doing them." Her passion for teaching shines through as she is known for her kindness and helpfulness. Her classes are mixed grade; however, her favorite students to teach are sophomores, especially since she is the sophomore class advisor.

As the sophomore class advisor, she is very involved in Leadership, often helping with school events such as Spirit Week, rallies, and fundraising. She is not only the sophomore class advisor, but also the advisor for several clubs, such as the Arts and Crafts Club, where each meeting focuses on

seasonal crafts. She also advises the Students Interested in Medical Science (SIIMS) Club which encourages discussions about all things health related. Previously, Ms. Keplinger played a pivotal role in the robotics team, but recently, she stepped back to spend more time with her family.

A Bay Area native, Ms. Kep lived in Palo Alto during her childhood. As a high school student, she felt that "the whole world is in front of you, and you can do anything you want to do. That's just a really cool place to be." Ms. Keplinger ultimately decided to go to UC Santa Barbara for her undergraduate degree in math. She later returned to the Bay Area for her teaching credential and masters degree in STEM education at Santa Clara University.

When she is not at school, Ms. Kep enjoys going on harbor walks with her family and doing yoga. She frequents a harbor in her hometown, with a ship-themed playground for her kids and a cafe where she spends her afternoons. She is often seen at Los Gatos football games along with various other school sports games including volleyball. An avid music fan, she went to see New Kids on the Block, a boy band from Massachusetts, with the opener Paula Abdul at the Shoreline

Amphitheatre over the summer. Ms. Keplinger shares her love for music with her family, as she went to Kidz Bop with her seven-year-old daughter, Freya.

When asked for any advice she'd give to current high schoolers, Ms. Keplinger said, "No one asks you as an adult what grades you got in high school or where you went to college, so just enjoy your life."



SAY CHEESE: Ms. Keplinger and her family pose for a family picture.

LG celebrates Halloween

by **Megan Saul**

Culture Editor

Every year, the Los Gatos community comes together on Oct. 31 to celebrate Halloween. Even though the holiday fell on a Thursday night, families and students still dressed up and went trick-or-treating.



SPOOKY SEASON: Choir students pose in their costumes.

Starting the celebrations early, on Oct. 27, the Street Dog Coalition held the 2024 Halloween Kid and Pet PAWlooza in the Los Gatos Town Plaza Park. The Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored this event. Many stores and vendors in town participated by passing out treats for both people and their furry friends. The Pet PAWlooza parade was a success as the streets were filled with kids dressed as a variety of characters and different types of animals including dogs and bunnies.

On Oct. 31, many LGHS students dressed up for school to show their spirit. Popular costumes included onesies, inflatable cow suits, and scary masks. Notably, French teacher **Timothy Gaylord** dressed as a Roman gladiator. He remarked, "My favorite part about Halloween at school is when the kids dress up. I think it brings a fun energy to the class. Not many students dressed up for school this year though."

On Halloween night, many LGHS students went trick-or-treating on Johnson Avenue. Hundreds of people flooded the street from early afternoon until

past sunset. Sophomore **Stella Musser** shared, "I went treat or treating. The streets were filled with energy." Starting after school, people in this neighborhood could see many families and younger children. Other popular trick-or-treating spots included Tait Avenue and the Blossom Hill Manor neighborhood. Junior Ryan Sacco said, "My friends and I wore inflatable cow costumes and went trick-or-treating. I think almost everyone in town was really spirited with their decorations. It was really cool."

Although Johnson Avenue did not host their traditional and famed Haunted House which senior **Ashton Ross** normally plans along with a dedicated committee, many other houses went all out, becoming popular new attractions. Ross shared that he was unable to put together or run a haunted house this year due to his abundance of college applications. He said, "Even though we didn't have it, it was pretty funny because people just confidently walked into my backyard. Many were so confident that I thought they were people I knew, until I realized they were just people in my backyard." As Ross is graduating this year, the tradition of the haunted house is over, unless another student chooses to take it over. He shared, "If anyone's interested in continuing the tradition of the Haunt, let me know." This year's Halloween night was spirited and spooky, filled with lots of candy and unique costumes. Stay tuned for next year's celebrations!



ORDER: Teacher **Christie Pacheco** wears an RGB costume.

Tan organizes many clubs

by **Megan Saul**

Culture Editor

Clubs are a way that Los Gatos High School students can further their passions and share them with others. Junior **Maxwell Tan** has certainly done this by co-founding and helping run three clubs: the Finance and Economics Club, the Elpizo Foundation, and the Stock Market Club. All of these clubs help students learn useful skills and lessons.



ALL SMILES: Maxwell Tan grins for a solo snapshot.

The Finance and Economics Club — run by Tan, senior **James Xu**, and sophomore **Angie Lam** — studies economics-related subjects and competes in events throughout the year. Tan explained that he took the AP Economics class by self-studying a long time ago, which sparked his passion for the topic. He said, "I wanted to start this club because our school doesn't offer AP Macroeconomics or Microeconomics, so this is a really good way to teach other people about it. I just think it is really interesting because it relates to so much of the world, in politics especially. As we compete in a team, it is a really good time to get out there and show your interest." The Finance and Economics Club hopes to participate in the Wharton investment competition this year. This competition consists of students making a stock market portfolio for a potential client. As Tan also runs the Stock Market Club, the two will collaborate and work on this competition together.

The Finance and Economics Club meets every week, either by holding fun activities, intro-level lessons, or more competitive meetings to strategize for upcoming competitions. For example, the club

recently held a debate over economic policies and a roulette game to answer various questions. While all types of meetings are enjoyable, Tan added that the more intro-level activities are his favorite part because "there are a lot more members involved. It is really fun to see people who aren't professionals at economics getting into it and seeing it as a fun subject rather than something that is very hard and competitive." As this is the club's second year at LGHS, it has gained more members and is continuing to grow. This club is education-based and teaches the basics of finances and economics, allowing any person to join whether they have prior knowledge on the topic or not.

Tan's other club, the Elpizo Foundation, is an international 501c(3) nonprofit foundation founded by Tan, junior **William Han**, and junior **Dylan Tan**. The word elpizo means "hope" in Greek, and the club itself is a chapter-based organization for high school students with the goal of making community service more accessible and fun. Tan said, "We make community service easier for people so they don't recognize it as just arduous labor and tedious work. Instead, we try to make it so people can participate and have a lot of fun in the process." The Elpizo Foundation frequently holds cookouts in **Patricia Sutton's** room, room 100, where they make meals for the homeless. They also host fundraisers and book sales throughout the community. This club is a great opportunity for students to earn community service hours more enjoyably. All of these clubs run by Tan are very educational and aim to foster new passions within LGHS students. If you are interested in any topics mentioned, join these clubs!



SQUAD GOALS: Tan poses with other members of Elpizo.

Superintendent Sanderson resigns after two years of work

by Fuyu Banno
Graphics Editor

On Oct. 22, the Board of Trustees informed students and parents in the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District (LGSUHSD) that Superintendent Bill Sanderson is on leave and will resign on Jun. 30, 2025, due to personal reasons. Many speculate that the leave resulted from an accumulation of problems ranging from concerns about Sanderson's credentials to his leadership capabilities.

Sanderson began his position as LGSUHSD superintendent in July of 2022, tasked with negotiating the aftermath of Covid and its effects on both high schools. Before joining the district, Sanderson was the assistant superintendent at the San Francisco Unified School District. After approximately a year of Sanderson's leadership of LGSUHSD, his management style and his lack of communication with parent groups and faculty provoked criticism. More recently, parent groups began speaking out, questioning Sanderson's role as superintendent.

An investigation from the Los Gatos newspaper revealed that an eight percent raise that Sanderson was awarded back in September met with concerns from parents who have long questioned his leader-

ship. Amy Williams, Vice President of Saratoga High School (SHS) Sports Boosters, described her frustration with the program, telling San Jose Spotlight that "there has been an erosion in [extracurricular programs], but more importantly, a lack of communication and clarity around any changes that needed to take place."



SINCE 1893: The district office is near downtown Los Gatos.

In addition to the sports program, the SHS music program has faced similar challenges with Sanderson's decisions affecting fundraising activities and travel. According to the Los Gatos, Saratoga music director Jason Shuan asserted, "The lack of notice and transparency from the District on various issues has contributed to a 'competitive relationship' between the music community and the administration."

Fueled by issues surrounding Sanderson's policies, an open mic town hall meeting held on Oct. 14, led to many parents and staff members voicing their concerns about Sanderson's leadership in the district, particularly with regard to the cancellations of events and trips as well as the new fundraising regulations. Sanderson did not reply to requests to meet with school staff to come up with solutions.

With Sanderson's resignation, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Heath Rocha is now stepping in for Sanderson as the Acting Superintendent. Rocha articulated his commitment to LGSUHSD in a statement to El Gato; "Together, we can rebuild trust, ensure that staff, families, and students feel truly heard, and pave the way forward for our district. I am committed to fostering a col-

laborative and inclusive environment where every voice matters, and every student has the support they need to thrive."

(Sources: Los Gatos, San Jose Spotlight)



FOCUS: Sanderson is attentive at a board meeting.

Liccardo wins House seat

by Sahil Muthukrishnan
Sports Editor

On election night, Nov 5, 2024, Representative Elect Samuel Theodore Liccardo, the former Mayor of San Jose, defeated former Campbell mayor and Democratic Assemblymember Evan Low in the race for California District 16's House seat. This race was one of the most anticipated on the West Coast. Both candidates battled hard, making the race tenaciously competitive. Liccardo is replacing former Representative Anna Eshoo, who served in Congress from 1993 to 2023 before she announced she would not be running for reelection.



SPEECHES: Low speaks to attendees at a conference.

Liccardo, who served as the 65th mayor of San Jose from 2015 to 2023, is a Bay Area Democrat who grew up in Saratoga, California. In 2006 he won a seat on San Jose's District 3 council. Liccardo championed affordable housing and continued this policy as mayor. He campaigned on large-scale issues such as homelessness, crime, and the cost of living in the Representative race.

Evan Low, the mayor of Campbell from 2009 to 2014, is also a Democrat born in San Jose, California. He ran for city council in California's 28th District, winning in 2006. Low broke barriers as mayor of Campbell, becoming the youngest openly gay Asian American mayor in the US. As an Assemblymember and council member, Low advocated for greater acceptance of minorities. He supported many propositions that dealt with preventing discrimination and helping marginalized communities, such as AB-1887 and AB-57, which addressed public transportation and language respectively. Low campaigned on large-scale issues as well, including homelessness, gun safety, and healthcare.

The race looked tight coming up to Election Day; however, controversy over the Low campaign's fund use seemed to tip the scales in Liccardo's favor. Both campaigns ran an impressive number of advertisements for themselves and against their opponents. Liccardo raised upwards of 5.6 million dollars for his campaign while Low raised a still impressive 3.5 million. Notably, California Governor Gavin Newsom endorsed Low in the final days leading up to the election. The California Democratic Party also supported Low. The San Francisco Chronicle and San Jose Mercury News endorsed Liccardo. Both candidates also received support from numerous local and state officials. On Election Day, Liccardo defeated Low decisively, leading the vote by almost 60 percent. Liccardo soon issued a statement saying, "I am working to put a strong team of congressional staff in place to serve our district at home and in D.C. because our community deserves a representative who can hit the ground running." Low also issued a statement congratulating Liccardo on his victory and commenting, "Although the outcome of the election is not one we hoped for, I am proud of the people-first campaign that we ran, focusing on the very real issues that affect the daily lives of CD-16 voters. I got my start in local politics because I wanted to better the lives of everyday Americans, and I will remain committed to that mission."

(Sources: CBS News, Evan Low For Congress, Sam Liccardo For Congress, Wikipedia)



LISTEN UP: Liccardo addresses the public with a speech.

Students attend CCDA

by Owen Fugit
Editor-in-Chief

The Los Gatos High School Music Department took 17 students to the California Choral Directors Association (CCDA) Coastal Regional Honor Choir from Nov. 7 to Nov. 9. The event invited hundreds of the Bay Area's most talented choral singers to Santa Clara University for a weekend of music, community, and creativity.



POSE: Honor Choir students gather in front of the venue.

Singers began their Honor Choir journey in early September by auditioning at high schools and colleges around the Bay Area. Once accepted into the Honor Choir, judges sorted students into one of three choirs: a mixed voices choir featuring Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices (SATB), a lower-register choir featuring Tenor and Bass voices (TTBB), and an upper-register choir featuring Soprano and Alto voices (SSAA). Each choir had its own director and a unique repertoire that directors chose specifically to match the voices of their choirs. Singers received their music in early October and memorized their songs before the event began on Nov. 7. Before singers could begin rehearsing, they had to pass a final audition alongside seven other singers to show mastery of the music. Singers rehearsed all day for two days before a final performance in front of 700 people at Mission Santa Clara de Asis, located on the grounds of Santa Clara University.

After the concert, LGHS junior **Callan Robison** reflected on his first Honor Choir weekend. He said his favorite parts of the event were the "times when I was spending a lot of time with friends on a beautiful campus." Robison sang in the TTBB choir as a bass and said his favorite song was Loch Lomond, a Scottish folk song from the 18th century. For LGHS senior **Shaurya Banjara**, the best part of the weekend was the performance in the Mission. Banjara performed with the SATB choir, stating it was "the best one because it combines high and low voices." Banjara also noted his favorite song was Wheels of a Dream, saying, "That one's the best. There's a reason why it's the grand finale, and it's amazing."

Over the weekend, singers spent 30 hours over three days rigorously studying, learning, and rehearsing their songs, with each choir performing six pieces covering a wide range of genres and musical styles, from gospel-style pieces to folk songs to classical choral pieces in Latin. Performances also included vocal and instrumental soloists. During the weekend, singers had the option to be considered for the All State Honor Choir in January 2025, a much more difficult honor choir in which to be accepted.



LOOKING SHARP: Students show off their choir attire.

The LGHS choir department's next concert will be on Dec. 3. at the McAfee Center at Saratoga High School. Come support the LGHS choirs as they close out the year with a festive performance. The show is open to the public.

News-in-Brief: County teachers are awarded and more

Plane landing on Highway 85: On Monday, Nov. 4, a small plane made an emergency landing on Highway 85. The plane caused traffic delays for hours, closing off three lanes and leaving only the left-most lane open for morning commuters. According to the California Highway Patrol, the aircraft landed at around 7:00 AM due to low fuel. Luckily, there were no casualties. The Highway Patrol spent four hours dismantling the aircraft and removing it from the highway. The pilot and only person in the plane, Peter Conway, later confirmed he was flying from his hometown Carmel to Palo Alto. The Federal Aviation Administration is now investigating the incident.

(Sources: CBS, NBC)

- Claudia Casal, Culture Editor

CA approves plan to reduce emissions: On Nov. 8, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved a plan to increase California's emission reduction targets and finance the charging infrastructure for zero-emission vehicles. Although the program aims to reduce the emission of transportation fuels, environmental organizations have expressed concerns about the program's

focus on promoting biofuel production from sources like plants and animal waste. They believe the state should prioritize support for electric vehicle power instead. Critics argue that the proposal does not sufficiently tackle their concerns regarding biofuels and renewable energy. Similarly, the oil industry and state lawmakers have asserted that CARB has not been clear about how the program could lead to higher gas prices. Analysts predict that the program's adjustments to the state's low carbon fuel standard (LCFS) could increase the cost of gas by up to 65 cents per gallon.

(Source: CBS)

- Jordan Park, Sports Editor

Teacher Recognition Celebration takes place: The Santa Clara County Office of Education held its annual Teacher Recognition Celebration on Oct. 21 at the Campbell Heritage Theater. During the event, they honored Teachers of the Year from each of the county's 31 school districts. Additionally, several teachers received sponsored STEM and arts awards. Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District teachers Joel Tarbox and Mike Taylor

received an arts leadership award and the Teacher of the Year award, respectively. Preceding the official ceremony, teachers, family, and friends enjoyed catered snacks accompanied by a local middle school woodwind quartet.

- Ainsley Northrop, Editor-in-Chief



COME TOGETHER: The winning teachers convene for a celebratory picture.

- Donald Trump secures presidency
- Wildfires devastate the East Coast

Former President Donald Trump wins second term

By Margo Rawlings

Editor-in-Chief

After Vice President Kamala Harris replaced President Biden at the top of the presidential ticket in July for the Democratic Party's candidate, Democrats hoped that a younger candidate with a fresh perspective might create some momentum among undecided voters throughout the country. Democrats used significant resources to appeal to younger voters, specifically through social media campaigns that gained large followings, to increase Harris's support.

CNN predicted Trump's victory following his triumph in Wisconsin early Nov. 6, pushing him past the 270 vote threshold needed to win the presidency. The president-elect surpassed his performance four years ago, winning Georgia, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina, all states the Democratic party focused their campaign on. More so, the Republican party flipped key swing states Arizona, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Nevada red, which proved crucial to Trump's victory. In these battleground states, Trump specifically improved his numbers with Latino men; nationally, his numbers jumped from 36 percent to 54 percent. Additionally, he gained significant shares of votes from Americans without college degrees, Black voters, and first-time voters.

Trump's campaign strategy focused on highlighting issues with the American economy and immigration. In doing so, he diverted attention away from abortion bans that his administration passed and his mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic. His campaign team worked to appeal to male voters and held the same margins of female votes that he obtained in 2020. When discussing abortion, Trump emphasized that the issue was now left to the states, aiding his effort to secure votes from undecided female voters.

Following his victory, the president-elect swiftly began naming new members of his administration. Trump appointed Susie Wiles as his future chief of staff. Wiles served as his campaign manager in this past election as well as working on Ronald Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign. Her appointment marks the first time an administration has selected a woman to serve as the US chief of staff. In conjunction, Stephen Miller is set to serve as Trump's deputy chief of staff for policy; Miller has been a longtime advisor to the President-elect, helping him create various policies as a senior advisor during Trump's previous term. On Nov. 10, Trump used TruthSocial to announce Tom Homan's new position as the "border czar" in Trump's administration. Homan served in the 2016 Trump administration as the acting US Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director.

On Nov. 6, just a day after the election, Harris conceded to Trump in a speech at Howard University. States have yet to complete the official counts; current Secretary of State, Antony J. Blinken, plans to certify the results of the election on Dec. 13.

(Sources: AP News, BBC, CNN, Time Magazine)



SMILE: Donald Trump poses for a photo after winning the 2024 election.

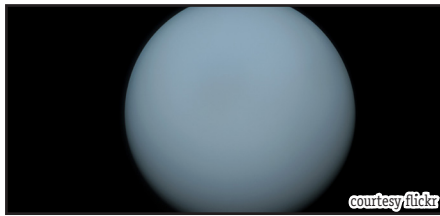
Uranus mystery solved

By Isabella Langner

People Editor

In 1986, 38 years ago, Voyager 2 flew past Uranus and collected data that helped shape scientists' understanding of the seventh planet. The spacecraft spent five hours 50,000 miles above the space giant, gathering the only information astronomers know about Uranus so far. During this visit, scientists discovered Uranus's numerous differences from other planets. Unlike other planets, its magnetosphere, the protective magnetic field, is void of plasma. The Voyager 2 measured unexpectedly intense radiation belts, but with no source of energized particles to field the belts, Uranus defied radiation belt theory. This data caused experts to determine Uranus as an outlier. However, recent discoveries revealed that unusual space weather affected the magnetosphere, misdirecting understanding of Uranus for almost 40 years.

Dr. Jamie Jasinski, a space plasma physicist at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), published a paper claiming that Voyager 2 flew by Uranus during increased solar activity, which led to the shrinking of the planet's magnetosphere. According to Jasinski, Uranus was experiencing a co-rotating interaction region. The sun's surface demonstrated a burst of activity that sent streams of plasma into the solar system. Increased activity affected solar wind and its pressure, compressing the magnetosphere by 20 times the usual amount. This impact likely temporarily dispersed all plasma from



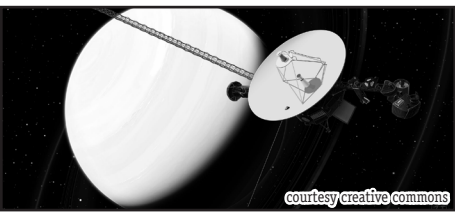
SNIPED: Researchers capture a photo of planet Uranus.

the magnetosphere. Astronomers have previously seen this phenomenon affecting Saturn before, but never Uranus.

Jasinski theorized, "If we had arrived a week earlier, we would have had a completely different picture of Uranus." Dr. Fran Bagenal, an astrophysics and planetary scientist at the University of Colorado at Boulder, shared her thoughts after attending Jasinski's conference. She said, "Why didn't we see this? I was kicking myself. It was completely out of the blue." This newfound information will now encourage scientists at NASA to support a return to Uranus to gather more accurate information and data. They hope to launch a spacecraft to orbit Uranus by 2032 and send a probe into the atmosphere.

By studying Uranus, scientists can understand similar atmospheres of distant stars. Dr. Heidi Hammel, astronomer and planetary scientist at the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, shared, "The reason we care so much about Uranus and Neptune...is because the most populous class of exoplanets are super-earths and sub-neptunes." Scientists are also enthusiastic about understanding why Uranus rotates on its side, where it formed, how its atmosphere works, and if its moons hide oceans. This discovery is just another example of how the solar system has infinite mysteries and information to uncover and understand.

(Sources: NASA, NY Times)



DISCOVERY: Voyager 2 approaches Uranus for data study.

US faces an IV shortage

By Kloe Adams

Editorial Editor

Following the hit of Hurricane Helene on the Southeastern United States in September, hospitals are facing a detrimental shortage of intravenous fluids (IV). Intravenous therapy, a medical technique that administers medications and nutrients directly into a person's veins, relies on bagged fluids, which manufacturers supply across the country. Before Hurricane Helene, many common IV fluids were already in short supply in the US. According to the Food and Drug Administration's drug shortage database, saline solution has been in shortage since 2018 and sterile water since 2021.

Hospitals mainly use IVs to provide hydration and nutrients for patients who rely on a feeding tube to survive. The IV fluid market is primarily sustained by four manufacturers: Baxter International, which makes up about 60 percent of the market, B. Braun Medical, which makes up about 23 percent of the market, followed by ICU Medical and Fresenius Kabi. Hurricane Helene shutdown Baxter, the largest manufacturer, when flooding coursed through western North Carolina. Although the country faced shortages before, the Baxter plant provides specialty fluids, such as a concentration of dextrose solution, an electrolyte solution, and peritoneal dialysis for patients with kidney failure.

While Hurricane Helene is a major contributor to the shortages, other factors, including profit, are also responsible. Erin Fox, a senior pharmacy director at the University of Utah Health, substantiated this fact: "These are life-saving products, but at the same time these are absolutely treated as kind of commodities, ultimately not bringing in a lot of money for manufacturers." Fox continued, adding that the time and cost required to meet the regulatory requirements for setting up a manufacturing facility means drugmakers are

not motivated to jump into the market. Michael Ganio, a senior director at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, emphasized the time required to produce IVs: "Making sure that everything is completely sterile and particle-free and really safe to give inside someone's vein is a lot of work." Endotoxins, harmful substances found in bacteria, can cause strong immune reactions in the body, including fever and inflammation. Unfortunately, they are highly resistant to sterilization, requiring manufacturers to continuously monitor for their presence.

Accounting for the IV shortages, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it invoked the Defense Production Act, a wartime power that will help Baxter obtain materials to clean and rebuild its facility. Under this law, the Baxter facility will acquire priority access to certain materials, even if there are shortages or supply disruptions, and access to funding to increase production. The FDA also temporarily allowed Baxter to import products from its plants in Canada, China, Ireland, and the UK. A spokesperson for HHS said the efforts had led to a 50 percent increase in available IV fluid products compared to shortly after the Baxter plant closed.

(Sources: NBC, NY Times)



CRISIS: Nurses utilize the scarce IVs remaining in US.

Trump rally sparks controversy due to speaker comments

By Chloe Wilson

Humor Editor

On Oct. 27, Donald Trump hosted a rally at Madison Square Garden. His closing remarks prior to the presidential election included taunts that critics perceived as harsh and racist. During the rally, one speaker, Tony Hinchcliffe, claimed that Puerto Rico was a "floating island of garbage." This stand-up comedian's set also consisted of crude comments toward Latinos, Jews, and Black people. He additionally called out a Black man in the audience, referencing to a watermelon; "He had a Halloween party last night. We had fun. We carved watermelons together."

Others also made offensive comments. Speaker David Rem called Trump's opponent, Kamala Harris, "the devil" and "the Antichrist." The Trump campaign quickly distanced itself from Hinchcliffe and other speakers remark. Senior advisor Danielle Alvarez explained, "This joke does not reflect the views of President Trump or the campaign."

This particular rally was a bizarre exhibition of different characters including former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, House Speaker Mike Johnson, Representatives Byron Donalds and Elise Stefanik, Hulk Hogan, and TV psychologist Dr. Phil McGraw. After Trump took the stage, running two hours behind, he repeated the same question to the crowd that he stated at the start of all the recent rallies: "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" with the crowd responding, "No!"



SPEAKING UP: Elon Musk advocates for the MAGA campaign during the rally

Trump announced a new tax credit for caregivers to catch the attention of older voters and blue-collar workers. This announcement added to his list of tax cuts. He proposed this after Harris laid out a plan of federal funding to cover home care costs for older Americans. After hearing Trump speak for over an hour about his plans and proposals, the number of spectators had dwindled. Not long after, Elon Musk, the Tesla CEO, came on stage with his four-year-old son, X Æ A-Xii. Musk acted as a vital part of Trump's closing message. He acknowledged Trump's recent proposal of allowing him to form a government efficiency commission to audit the entire federal government. Musk informed the crowd, "I'm dark gothic MAGA," before promising he could eliminate over a million dollars from the federal budget.

Another surprising aspect of this rally included Melania Trump's public speech. After Musk introduced Melania, she proclaimed, "Envision a wonderful America where the seeds of security, prosperity, and health are sown once again for the benefit of our families." Following her statement, she introduced Trump as he proceeded onto the stage with God Bless America blasting in the background. Overall, this rally at Madison Square Garden shocked viewers as various speakers made harsh and crude insults in the guise of championing Donald Trump as the next president of the United States.

(Sources: ABC News, Daily Mail, NY Times)



SUPPORT: Trump supporters congregate at Madison Square Garden rally.

Court convicts Richart Allen for 2017 Delphi murders

by Julia Valencia
People Editor

On Nov. 11, a man from Indiana was charged with the double homicides of two teenage girls in 2017. The five-year-long case made national news and drew attention from True Crime podcast creators and consumers.



NOT FORGOTTEN: Allen killed German and Williams at this trail.

On Feb. 13, 2017, 14-year-old Liberty German and 13-year-old Abby Williams went for a hike in Delphi, Indiana, and they were both found dead on Feb. 14. The girls were on the last day of their middle school’s winter break, so they decided to go on a hike. They were dropped off at a local trail near Monon High Bridge.

Richard Allen, 52, was found guilty of two counts of murder along with two counts of murder while committing or attempt-

ing to commit kidnapping. These charges combined mean that Allen could face up to 130 years in prison. Allen is currently scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 20, but considering the previous delays in this case, changes to the sentencing date may occur.

It took five years for the police to resolve the case as the trial faced multiple delays with Allen’s public defenders pulling out of the case and a leak of evidence. Indiana police arrested Allen in Oct. 2022 after old evidence resurfaced, containing a testimony of Allen’s. The testimony confirmed that he had been hiking on the same trail the afternoon Abby and Liberty went missing.

During the trial, prosecutors revealed that Allen had cut the girls with a box cutter and planned to rape them. Allen’s defenders were quick to pose suspicion on these claims as their client spent a long time in solitary confinement, causing him to suffer mentally. As a result, his defendants claim that his mental state swayed his response from the truth.

Video evidence taken on one of the girl’s phones shows the two being followed by a man in jeans and a dark jacket. Multiple witnesses who were on the trail on Feb. 13 stated that they saw someone who fits the description of the man in the video. One even said that his clothes appeared to be bloody and covered in mud.

Allen confessed to their murders multiple times in numerous ways. Prosecutor Nicolous McLeland played an audio clip of Richard Allen admitting to the girl’s murders, saying, “I did it. I killed Abby and Libby.”

Investigators found an unused ammunition round near the girls’ bodies, matching the same gun found in Allen’s home. When asked about the bullets at the crime scene, Allen denied their involvement

in the murders of the two girls and could not explain their appearance at the scene.

After the judge found Allen guilty, viewers in the courtroom recounted to journalists that he seemed not to react and kept a neutral expression. The only sign of emotion that Allen showed was his looking back at his family once. Outside the courthouse, streetside spectators began to celebrate the verdict of the trial, relieved to finally be closing the door to the protracted case. (Sources: AP, NPR, NY Times)

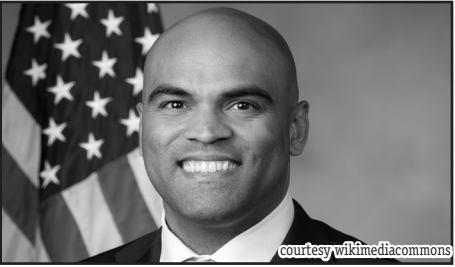


WELCOME IN: A Delphi, Indiana sign welcomes visitors to the town.

Senator Cruz defeats Allred

by Sahil Muthukrishnan
Sports Editor

On election night, Nov. 5, Republican Senator Rafael Edward Cruz, known as Ted Cruz, defeated Democrat Representative Colin Allred in the race for one of Texas’s Senate seats. Gathering anticipation, the race marked the second closest Texas has come to becoming Democratic since 1994. Hard fought on both sides, the race seemed to parallel the presidential election, having a Democratic underdog who seemed to be successfully bridging the gap. Cruz was fighting for reelection, while Allred was battling for his first taste of the US Senate.



SMILE BRIGHT: Allred smiles broadly for the camera.

Cruz, who has served as a senator of Texas since this election in 2012 and his narrow reelection over Beto O’Rourke in 2018, was born in Calgary, Canada. Cruz had one of his first forays into politics as a policy advisor for the Bush Administration. He became the Solicitor General of Texas in 2003 and held that position until 2008. He became Texas’s first Hispanic senator upon his election. Additionally, he was a strong candidate for the Republican nomination for president in 2016 before Donald Trump defeated him. In this Senate race, Cruz pushed to reestablish the status quo, coining the phrase “Keep Texas, Texas.” Cruz fought for harsher border control, abortion restrictions, increased gun rights, and more.

Allred, a Texas Representative since 2019 and former NFL player, is a fourth-generation Texan, born in Dallas. A Democrat, Allred maintained positions in the Obama administration after his NFL career, first at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and later at the Executive Office for United States Attorneys. Allred defeated 11-term incumbent Pete Sessions in 2018 to gain his congressional seat in Texas’s District 32. Allred did not run for reelection. Democratic colleague Julie Johnson will replace his seat in Congress. In his Senate race, Allred campaigned on greater reproduction and abortion rights, more widely available healthcare, and gun violence prevention.

The race seemed close in the days leading up to Election Day. Both candidates had robust campaign funds, raising about 80 million dollars each. Some poles released days before had the candidates tied or even Allred leading by a point. Republican Liz Cheney endorsed Allred, helping him market himself as more of a moderate candidate. In addition, he kept his liberal colleagues at arm’s length, most notably presidential candidate Kamala Harris. Cruz, on the other hand, is a strong and vocal supporter of President-elect Donald Trump, who endorsed his third term. Cruz defeated Allred with 53 percent of the vote, ensuring his third term and officially keeping Texas Republican for 30 years. (Sources: Colin Allred, Texas Tribune, Wikipedia)



WINNER: Senator Cruz defeats Allred in the election.

Virginia wins voter poll case

by Atharava Pandey
National/World Editor

On Oct. 30, the Supreme Court allowed Virginia to continue allowing their state officials to remove suspected noncitizens from its voter registration polls. Three of the judges ruled against this motion, while six of the judges ruled for it.

Although the case only concerns a relatively small number of voters in a state that was not considered crucial in this election, the case promotes the narrative that the Biden-Harris administration displays imprudence. The Texas Attorney General supported the decision, saying, “The Biden-Harris administration’s legal meddling was irresponsible, reckless, and political. States have a constitutional duty to prevent noncitizens from voting. The Supreme Court did the right thing.”

Others thought that this decision was unconstitutional. According to Harris campaign spokesperson Charles Lutvak, “Every eligible voter has a right to cast their ballot and have their vote counted.” Many legal experts criticized the lack of information regarding the case as the Supreme Court did not go into detail regarding their ruling.

Virginia reports that 1,600 voter registrations came from self-identified non-citizens. Non-citizens are not allowed to vote in elections, which Trump and other Republicans utilized in 2020 to explain his defeat.

The case began when Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin signed an order requiring election officials to take stricter measures in order to match residents who identified as non-citizens. After hearing about the Supreme Court’s order, Youngkin described it as a “victory for common sense and election fairness.” He also assured that voters “can cast their ballots on Election Day knowing that Virginia’s

elections are fair, secure, and free from politically motivated interference.”

On the other hand, voting and immigrant rights groups thought that the Supreme Court’s decision was disgraceful. Campaign Legal Center member Danielle Lang said, “The Supreme Court allowing Virginia to engage in a last-minute purge that includes many known eligible citizens in the final days before an election is outrageous. But the voters will decide this election, not the courts.



VOTER REGISTRATION: A Virginia courthouse stands tall.

Eligible Virginia voters should know that regardless of this purge, they can register to vote on Election Day and cast their ballots.”

A Justice Department spokesperson stated that the Biden administration disagreed with the order. Many lower courts expected Virginia to lose this case, yet they managed to win. Overall, many citizens believe this Supreme Court decision indicates that the Court is leaning right and becoming more conservative. (Source: CNN)

East Coast continues to face and fight catastrophic wildfires

by Jordan Park
Sports Editor

Wildfires continue to blaze along the East Coast due to an unseasonably dry autumn. Multiple fires remain relatively uncontained, spreading rapidly.

As of early October, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service (NJFFS) responded to 537 wildfires across the state, approximately 500 more than last year, according to NJFFS Chief Bill Donnelly. He noted that some of these fires have been ongoing since the summer. Firefighters in New Jersey and New York continue to contain the latest of several regional fires that border both states. Fueled by strong winds, the fire has spread across over 3,000 acres in Passaic County, N.J., and Orange County, N.Y., situated roughly an hour northwest of New York City. As of Nov. 10, the NJFFS reported that the fire remains only ten percent contained. Donnelly explained that the fire is spreading above-ground and through decaying root systems, adding to the difficulty of its containment.

Although the forecast predicted rainfall in the following days, Donnelly remained unoptimistic, explaining at a recent news conference, “Make no mistake, though precipitation is forecasted, that’s not going to solve the problem we have here with this wildfire. It’s inevitable that this fire is going to continue to burn up until it reaches our control line.” The fire took the life of an 18-year-old employee, later

identified as Daniel Vazquez, and threatened several structures in the vicinity, including eight located in Long Pond Ironworks State Park in New Jersey, a historic 175-acre village home to iron production during the Revolutionary War.



LOOK OUT: Smoke in the air chokes the East Coast amid the wildfires.

Other fires ravaged the areas in prior days, including a bushfire in Brooklyn and others across the state of New Jersey. On Nov. 8, officials dispatched around 100 firefighters to extinguish a two-acre brush fire in a densely wooded area of Prospect Park in Brooklyn. Firefighters put out the fire in around three hours, and while there were no casualties, one firefighter was taken to a hospital for a minor injury. The cause of the fire is unknown and under investigation. In Connecticut, authorities responded to 12 new fires across the state and categorized the danger level as extreme. On Nov. 8, authorities charged a man in New Jersey

with arson after he allegedly used illegal ammunition at a shooting range, which ignited a wildfire in Jackson Township. Officials reported that the fire, which erupted on Nov. 6, burned through 350 acres and took nearly two days to contain, leading to the evacuation of 15 homes.

New York City is also experiencing its first drought watch in over 20 years. If the city’s reservoirs fail to reach normal levels, it may escalate into a warning and potentially an emergency. A drought emergency could result in the city implementing mandatory water usage restrictions. The dry land and scarcity of water may lead to the outbreak of new fires across the coast and make them more challenging to control and extinguish. (Sources: ABC, BBC, NY Times)



TENSIONS HIGH: Firefighter runs to put wildfire out on East Coast.

- Trump threatens to cut Ukraine aid
- UK teen charged with murder

President-elect Trump threatens to cut off aid for Ukraine

by **Emery Curtis**

Graphics Editor

Following the election of Republican Donald Trump, Ukraine faces changes in the US on Oct. 30 to discuss the funding for Ukraine. On Nov. 2, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said that Biden's top message remains his commitment to ensuring a peaceful power transfer. Biden will also talk to Trump about what is happening in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. "President Biden will have the opportunity over the next 70 days to make the case to Congress and to the incoming administration that the United States should not walk away from Ukraine, that walking away from Ukraine means more instability in Europe," Sullivan told CBS News.



MAN OF THE HOUR: Trump acknowledges the public after becoming president.

When asked if Biden would ask Congress to pass legislation to authorize more funding for Ukraine, Sullivan deferred, "I'm not here to put forward a specific legislative proposal. President Biden will make the case that we need ongoing resources for Ukraine beyond the end of his term." Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February of 2022, the US has provided tens of billions of dollars worth of US military and economic aid to Ukraine. Trump has repeatedly criticized and rallied against this funding with other Republican lawmakers.

Congress appropriated over 174 billion dollars to Ukraine under Biden. The pace of the aid will likely drop under Trump as Republicans take control of the US Senate with a 52-seat majority. Control of the U.S. House of Representatives in the next Congress has gone to the Republicans. Since Republicans won both chambers, the majority of Trump's agenda will have a significantly easier time passing through Congress.

Trump insisted last year that Putin never would have invaded Ukraine if he had been in the White House at the time. He claimed that Ukraine may have to cede territory to reach a peace agreement, something the Ukrainians rejected. Zelenskyy said that he was not aware of any details of Trump's plan to end the Ukraine war quickly and that he was convinced a rapid end would entail major concessions for Kyiv. Republican Senator and ally of Trump, Bill Hagerty



DISCUSSION TIME: Trump and Biden try to resolve the Ukraine issue.

stated, "The American people want sovereignty protected here in America before we spend our funds and resources protecting the sovereignty of another nation." Moscow's forces occupy around a fifth of Ukraine. Kyiv demands all of its territory back, a request that Western allies support. However, Russia insists the war cannot end until its claimed annexations are recognized. (Sources: CBS, The Guardian, Washington Post)

Haiti's council fires its president

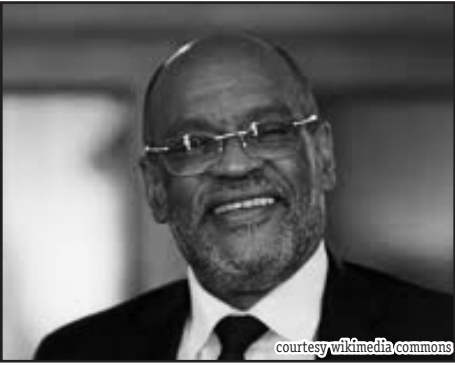
by **Aliya Koshaliova**

Media Production Editor

On Nov. 8, Haiti's Transitional Presidential Council, a body of nine people appointed to fulfill presidential duties, fired Garry Conille, the interim prime minister. Conille, a medical doctor who used to run UNICEF's Latin American regional office, became interim prime minister of Haiti after political power struggles and a string of kidnappings and killings in September 2021.

His term lasted 166 days, with Haitians describing it as miserable. In June, one month after he was sworn in, 400 Kenyan police officers, part of a UN-authorized security force, arrived to end the violence in the country. Unfortunately, the force made little difference since deaths related to gang violence only increased since they arrived. Earlier this year, gangs from the nation's capital, Port-au-Prince, forced the prior prime minister out of office, attacking police stations, prisons, and hospitals.

While Haiti deals with enormous waves of violence, it also has to address constitutional issues. Haiti has not had a president since President Jovenel Moïse's assassination in July 2021.



NEW ERA: New Haitian president celebrates his victory.

Following Moïse's death, Haiti has not held any elections. Normally, only the Parliament could remove a prime minister, but since every parliamentary seat has been vacant since January 2023, the Haitian Transitional Presidential Council now has the power to remove a prime minister.

A previous prime minister, Ariel Henry, stepped down in April due to the influx of violence forcing people to stay in their homes and his inability to return home from a trip overseas.

On Nov. 8, the UN announced that gang members and unstable conditions forced 700,000 Haitians, half of them children, suffering from "pockets of famine-like conditions." Half of the country is facing "acute food insecurity." Haitian refugees attempt to cross the border to the Dominican Republic, but the country deports thousands of Haitians each week.

The Council and Conille were supposed to secure the country's vote for the 2025 election. The Council allegedly fired Conille for failing to keep council members happy following their strained relationship since May. In October, Haiti's anti-corruption body accused three members of soliciting bribes; in response, Prime Minister Conille lobbied for their removal, even though the members denied the charges. The accused members, Smith Augustin, Emmanuel Vertilaire, and Louis Gérald Gilles, remain on the Council that fired Conille.

The Council appointed Alix Didier Fils-Aimé, the owner of a dry cleaner chain and former member of Haiti's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to take over Conille's position. Conille wrote an open letter in response, saying, "[My ouster] weakens our country and seriously compromises our chances of overcoming the crisis." (Sources: The Economist, The New York Times, The Washington Post)

Dangerous floods wreck Spain

by **Jordan Park**

Sports Editor

Regions across Spain experienced some of the deadliest flooding the country has seen in years, destroying infrastructures and leaving thousands without power.

The floods began on Oct. 29, after a year's worth of rainfall fell within a single day. The rain continued during the following days, resulting in flash flooding across several regions. The overflow of water collapsed bridges, washed away roads, uprooted trees, and left multiple areas completely submerged. Excessive rainfall and strong winds also caused damage to telecommunications and power infrastructure in the city of Valencia on the eastern coast of Spain. The energy provider, Iberdrola, reported that around 155,000 customers lost power and noted that their workers faced challenges restoring services. Many major roads in the region remained inaccessible, leaving some residents without access to clean drinking water.

As the death toll continues to rise and the aftermath of the storm unfolds, residents question the country's unpreparedness for the disaster. Days before the storm's height, Spain's meteorological agency started issuing weather warnings and continued to do so when the rains were heaviest. The regional government in Valencia only released an alert well into the evening the same day the floodwaters were already rising. The late communication led to anger and frustration with local authorities. The irritation continued on Nov. 3, when a group of leaders visited the town of Paiporta, where at least 60 people died. In the streets, protestors yelled offensive remarks and threw mud at King Felipe VI, Queen Letizia, Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, and Carlos Mazón, the regional president. On Nov. 9, a larger protest totaling thousands of residents stormed Valencia

and demanded the resignation of Mazón for his inadequate emergency response to the tragic floods. They vandalized and smeared mud on the Valencia City Hall and, near the end of their demonstrations, clashed with the police.

The intensity of the flooding and storms is likely the result of a sudden cold drop called a Dana phenomenon, also known in Spanish as a "gota fría." As cold air sweeps across the warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea, it causes the warmer, moist air near the surface to rise rapidly, leading to the formation of strong rain clouds. The storm system then carries these moisture-rich clouds toward Spain. The warming of the Mediterranean due to climate change is making the violent rainfall more frequent. The meteorological agency also noted that the phenomenon was more geographically spread and hit cities further inland, such as Madrid, where it is highly unusual to receive this type of rainfall.

Although the restoration of some areas has begun, the flooding displaced thousands of individuals from their homes, and many streets remain blanketed in mud and debris. (Sources: AP News, BBC, NY Times)



STAY SAFE: The streets flood with water across Spain.

18-year-old faces murder charges in the United Kingdom

by **Britt Melinauskas**

Sports Editor

18-year-old Axel Rudakubana faced charges after murdering three girls in a dance studio and stabbing ten other individuals earlier in July. In Southport, England, a Taylor Swift-themed dance class confronted extreme violence after the deaths of nine-year-old Alice Dasilva Aguiar, seven-year old Elsie Dot Stancombe, and six-year-old Bebe King. Alongside the three children's deaths, eight children and two adults were also in critical condition.

The individual who led the class, Leanne Lucas, and a nearby businessman, John Hayes, both ran to help, and the police credited them for trying to protect the children. The killings occurred during a Taylor Swift yoga and dance class at Hart Space, a community center that hosts everything from pregnancy workshops to women's boot camps.

According to Merseyside Police, the criminal report stated, "[Rudakubana] produced the deadly poison ricin that was later found in his home and a computer file manual titled: 'Military Studies in the Jihad Against the Tyrants: The Al-Qaeda Training Manual.'" Rudakubana now allegedly faces charges for forming an illegal biological toxin



WE WANT JUSTICE: People protest the UK murders.

along with possessing information that links to an act of terrorism. Rudakubana derived the biological toxin ricin from the castor bean plant and has no known antidote. When ricin, a toxin, comes into contact, it kills cells by shielding the protein process, therefore killing the recipient.

Based on Merseyside Police's recent statement, Rudakubana was previously charged with ten charges of attempted murder, three counts of

murder, and one charge of possession of a knife. Along with the charges of the recent stabbing, the July stabbing spree in Southport enhanced the charges, beginning an even more significant case.

After ambulances rushed the impacted individuals to various hospitals, the North West Ambulance Service stated the victims were submitted to pediatric facilities. The Alder Hey Children's Hospital declared the motion a significant incident. Riots and protests broke out, its participants demanding to imprison Rudakubana because of the harm he had inflicted on families. Within hours of a somber community vigil to mourn the Southport victims the day after the stabbings, an unruly mob attacked a mosque near the dance studio, tossed bricks and beer bottles at law enforcement officers, and set fire to a police van. The police arrested more than 1,200 people and jailed hundreds for the disorder, and hundreds have been jailed.

On Nov. 13, Axel Rudakubana appeared in Westminster Magistrates' Court with the top of his gray sweatshirt pulled over his nose and wouldn't confirm his name or respond to other questions. A history of mental health issues led Rudakubana to remain silent at previous hearings as well.

Thousands of families mourn the deaths of the children as well as those injured in the mass stabbing, and they now hope for justice. (Sources: ABC News, CBS News, USA Today)



HUGE PROTESTS: UK citizens riot after the murders.

- LGHS students need to educate themselves politically

El Gato urges students to engage in politics

by Katie Nelson, Kat Littfin, and Nelson Kramer
Center, News, and Humor Editors

Most high school students are not politically educated. The majority of us can't vote, so why would we need to be? The simple answer is that students need political education to inform their beliefs particularly in such a divided and confusing political climate. Numerous issues, ranging from the environment to human rights, deeply polarize society. Those with both political power and influence exploit complicated topics on social media that need careful research, making it hard for anyone to differentiate fact from fiction. Above all else, politics has become a combative space, and it is often discouraging for many to initiate a conversation about it. Even though many high school students cannot vote yet, current political topics we hear about influence their future. Therefore, students should educate themselves on the politics of this country because it affects their education, future opportunities, and rights. Political understanding is no longer an option for students but a responsibility. Students must increase their awareness of political matters, as this not only allows them to form their own opinions and determine where their morals lie but also fundamentally shapes our future democracy.

Students may feel as though they cannot contribute to politics because of their inability to vote, yet they still have a responsibility and the capability to make a difference. Politics may seem like an irrelevant and incendiary subject to many students, but the impact of political decisions on young people's everyday lives is more than they realize. Many laws and controversial issues directly affect students, including climate change, abortion, affirmative action, and legacy admissions for college applicants. Even if students cannot directly participate and have a voice in the vote, knowing what is on the table is crucial for students to further understand the world around them and to make future decisions. US History teacher **Tyler McGlashan** argues that, when it comes to politics, "Kids have the most at stake because you guys are going to be here the longest." McGlashan described the direct political impact students had on the Los Gatos campus, stating, "I had a student, [Sam Ross], run for Congress from my classroom. He got on the ballot. He got 800 votes here." Though running for Congress may feel like a distant achievement for most students,

McGlashan outlined other smaller actions students can take to be politically involved: "Several times on this campus we had big rallies when there was a school shooting. There were about 600 kids out there, all holding up signs and everything...I've also seen students set up registering to vote tables." Though politics can seem somewhat intimidating, there are many ways students can get involved.

However, students must be politically educated before taking action. Going beyond surface-level information encourages independent thought which is critical in promoting change. LGHS AP Government and Ethnic Studies teacher **Christie Pacheco** addressed the concept of knowledge fallacy and promoted digging deeper and fact-checking candidates: "I'm always questioning 'Where's this coming from, or what's the motivation?' And I think that's really important because I don't think you should really believe everything a politician says, regardless of if they're Democrat or Republican." Unbiased media is essential when it comes to students staying politically informed. By engaging with news outlets, reading articles on current topics, and following reliable sources, students can stay updated on critical issues that affect the entire country, including themselves. These actions play a pivotal role in helping students develop their own informed opinions. Websites such as Open Secrets, which looks at where funding for

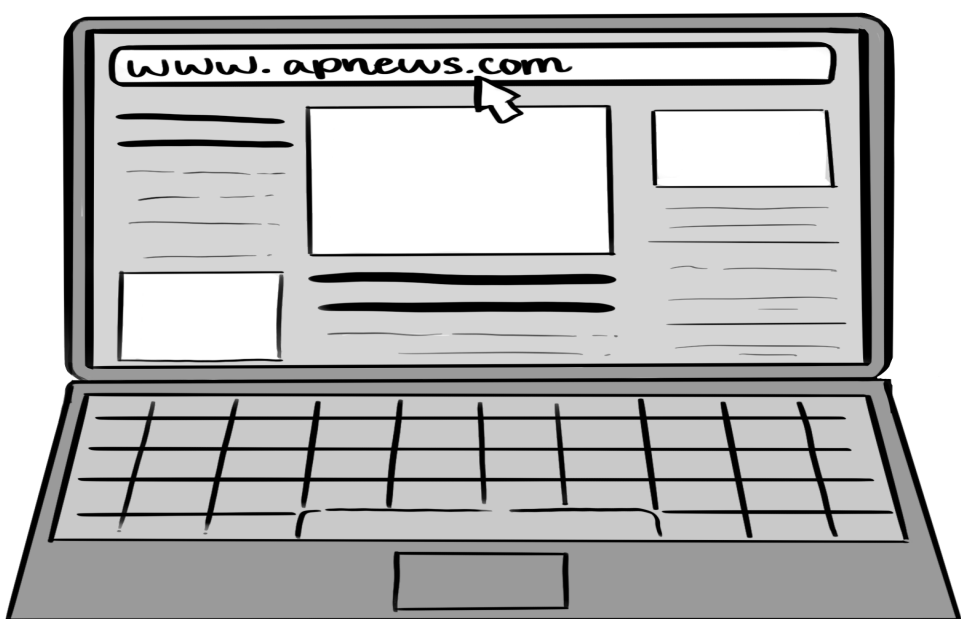
candidates is coming from; On The Issues, which looks at the voting record of candidates; Snopes, a fact-checking and reference source; and neutral news sites like the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) are great resources that can help students find reliable information and encourage independent thinking. "The extra research is long and painstaking, but I especially think that if you're going to vote, you have to do these things right. You have to be an informed voter," Pacheco explained. Research creates a healthier environment to discuss politics by allowing for a mutual sense of awareness. Pacheco emphasized the need for students to remove themselves from their ideological bubbles and become more open-minded to achieve civil political discourse. She believes discussion is much easier when you recognize the reasoning behind other people's opinions. The only way America will become less politically polarized is if people are more educated on both sides of the issue and have a destigmatized view on political discussion.

Social media also offers a platform where students can express themselves and stand up for what they believe in. Pacheco noted, "In a democracy, the whole point is for people to be engaged, and if you're not engaged, it doesn't work. So democracy will not continue if we don't push ourselves out of our comfort zones and try to talk to people about

issues that are difficult." However, users should regard social media with caution because of the prevalence of inaccurate information. McGlashan stated, "I am very worried about what social media is doing to our politics." McGlashan believes that misinformation spread by social media can cause a plethora of misconceptions about many voting and social issues.

Aside from media misinformation, students can find it difficult to construct their own opinions on political issues because of closer spheres of influence. The behavior of parents, teachers, and peers may sway students' beliefs and willingness to participate in political discourse and education. Teachers should encourage students to participate in political conversations both in and outside of the classroom, especially if it is relative to the curriculum, particularly in English and History classes. Teachers should set an example for students by not belittling them for stating opinions contrary to their own and give positive feedback when students discuss opposing opinions. Similarly, parents should encourage their children to develop their own opinions while guiding them to ensure they're not misled. McGlashan confirmed that high school is "a perfect place for students to bounce their ideas off of other kids, off their teachers, and start talking to their parents about their political beliefs."

Political education is critical to all Americans, not only those who can vote. We all influence each other, making the creation of environments that promote healthy political discussion key. We as young adults must see the necessity of finding information from resources beyond what is easily accessible through social media, school, or parents. By doing so, we achieve an in-depth understanding of the policies that will shape our lives in the future and develop good habits for finding news. Teachers, parents, and peers should encourage using multiple, reliable resources that provide insightful data, as well as healthy political discussions, to promote activism for students in our high school. While involvement in politics may seem overwhelming, believing that the problems are too large to fix and stepping away from the entire topic is the wrong approach. Participation is essential to promote change. Pacheco concluded, "Even though you can't fix these systemic problems on a large scale, [you can ask] 'what are the small things I can do in my community?' Vote. Show up. That's what I would say."



Y P I E D C D E S R R S T P G

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V E W E U A J T X Y N U A D I

Words

Acorn

Autumn

Bonfire

Chill

Cider

Cornucopia

Cranberry

Foliage

Gourd

Harvest

Leaves

Moon

Smores

Pinecone

Pumpkin

Sweater

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Scarecrow

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- Minimum wage should increase
- Theaters should sell bottled water

Wadhwa encourages an increase in minimum wage

by Dylan Wadhwa
Opinion Editor



Set at \$7.25 an hour, the federal minimum wage has not seen an increase since 2009, leaving many workers trapped in a cycle of poverty. As inflation continues to increase and the cost of living escalated following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government needs to implement a minimum wage change.

A decade ago, \$7.25 an hour may have provided a livable income in some regions, but today, that wage hardly makes a dent in covering basic necessities like housing, healthcare, and food. According to the Economic Policy Institute, a worker earning the current minimum wage brings home just over \$15,000 a year. For many, that's not enough to secure stable housing, and even less to be safe for emergencies, let alone retirement.

While progressive states like California and New York have taken steps to ensure a livable wage for their residents through increasing the statewide minimum wage, vast portions of the country remain stuck at the federal minimum. These measures have created a web of wage laws that disadvantages

people living in states with overall less economic output, such as Georgia or Wyoming, both of which abide by the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. A fast-food worker in Alabama does the same job as one in New York, yet their paychecks allow them to both live completely different realities.

Many counterarguments to increasing the federal minimum argue that increasing wages will result in job losses due to economic inflation and lack of efficient production standards. Yet, empirical data from states that have already raised their minimum wages suggest otherwise. In states like Washington, where the minimum wage is now over \$16, employment rates have remained steady.

However, perhaps the most compelling argument for a federal minimum wage increase is the ethical one. No one

working full time should have to live in poverty, much less never have the savings to even consider retirement. According to the Pew Research Center, income inequality in the United States is at its highest level in over 50 years, with the wealth gap widening to alarming proportions, especially after the 2020 pandemic. A full-time worker, dedicating 40 or more hours each week to their job, should not be forced to rely on government assistance or multiple jobs just to make ends meet.

The question we must ask ourselves as a nation is not whether we can afford to raise the federal minimum wage, but whether we can afford not to.

Rather than focusing on corporate benefits and interest rate hikes to fuel economic progression, I strongly believe the US should implement a minimum wage increase and allow economic growth to naturally power itself. A full time worker should not be assigned to a life of constant financial insecurity. (Sources; NPR, NBC, NYT, Pew, Economic policy Institute)



A. Pan

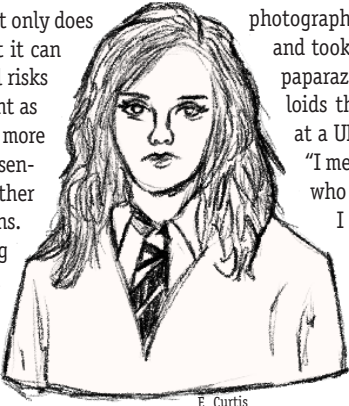
Stop sexualizing children

by Kloe Adams
Editorial Editor



In a world where media permeates most aspects of our lives, the representation of minors has come under scrutiny for its increasingly sexual nature. From TV shows where directors sexualize minors to portray a role, to TikTok edits using suggestive music to display child actors, media often promotes provocative and alluring representations of minors despite their young age. Not only does this skew the image of youth, but it can also pose significant psychological risks for the young actors. It is important as consumers of media to advocate for more accurate and age-appropriate representations that work to empower rather than objectify younger generations.

One prominent example of a young actor having to portray mature and sexual roles is Sasha Pieterse's role as Alison DiLaurentis in the popular TV show *Pretty Little Liars*. Alison, who is supposed to be 16 years old in the show, is perceived throughout the show as an edgy and promiscuous girl who is always looking for a good time. Pieterse, however, is only 12 years old in the pilot and 13 years old in the first season. To put into perspective the significance of Pieterse's young age, her co-stars Lucy Hale, Ashley Benson, Shay Mitchell, and Troian Bellisario were in their early twenties while filming the first season. Consequently, while Pieterse's co-stars were showing off their sexy halloween costumes and delivering suggestive dialogues with love interests, so



E. Curtis

was Pieterse at 13 years old. Playing sexual roles at a young age can contribute to the public's perspective of young actors, leading to unwanted attention and objectification.

Emma Watson, known for her iconic roles as Hermione Granger in the movie franchise *Harry Potter* and Belle in the live action *Beauty and the Beast* faced copious experiences of violating behavior from the media. Watson, a feminist activist, commented on growing up in the spotlight saying, "At 14 I started being sexualized by certain elements of the press." Media never physically violated Watson until her eighteenth birthday, when photographers laid down on the pavement and took photographs up her skirt, which paparazzi published on the front of tabloids the next morning. While speaking at a UN conference, Watson commented "I mean, I was obviously a child actress who is still making a transition, and I remember I woke up the next day and felt completely violated by it all." The devastating fact about Watson's birthday is that the press would have done something earlier, however, the law prevented them from doing so. The second Watson became an adult, crude fans suddenly deemed her fair game, without respect to her autonomy.

Pieterse and Watson are just two examples of the many youths in the media who get violated everyday. It is important as media consumers to be aware of this disgusting behavior and advocate against it in order to obtain positive and healthy environments for the minors and to produce empowering perceptions of kids rather than sexual ones. (Sources: Tyla and UN Women)

Strahs calls for not driving

by Hayley Strahs
News Editor



Every morning, hundreds of cars pull up to LGHS: some drop students off, some park in the senior lot, and some attempt to park in surrounding areas. It's time to open Google Maps and rethink: is your commute practical, or is it cool to tell others that you drive to school?

Adults often present walking and biking to school as a choice to kids early on. Whether it's to save the planet or save a parent the trip to and from school, non-car transportation is nothing new, and most people have walked to school at some point in their lives. In high school, the question isn't why kids shouldn't drive to school; it's why they still do, despite many living within walking distance. It goes without saying that kids who live in the mountains, multiple miles away, are mostly exempt from this conversation. Yet for countless other students, it can take longer to drive to school than to walk, bike, or take the bus.

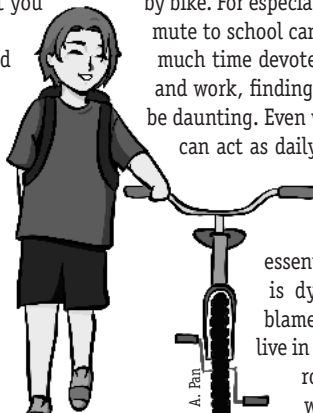
Parking at LGHS is objectively awful. The senior lot has little space between parking spots, which is not optimal for new drivers, especially because it's completely full every day. For underclassmen, or those unable to find a space at school, nearby parking can be tight and

often fills up before 8:00 AM. On the other hand, the bike racks rarely fill up.

Even if you live within walking distance of LGHS, walking for half an hour or sweating on a bike doesn't always seem enticing because walking takes the same amount of time, if not longer, than driving, it can feel like a waste of precious study or social time. If time is your number one concern, consider that bikes do not have to sit in traffic. Thirty minutes by car or on foot during rush hour on Los Gatos Boulevard can often take ten minutes or less by bike. For especially busy students, the daily commute to school can double as daily cardio. With so much time devoted to studying, extracurriculars, and work, finding 20-60 minutes to work out can be daunting. Even walking, while not as strenuous, can act as daily movement and provide similar mental and physical benefits as a structured workout.

Every day, news outlets report essentially the same thing: the planet is dying and cars are partially to blame. Without counting those who live in the mountains, I'll estimate that roughly 1800 LGHS students live within a 2 mile radius from the school. If each of those students drove to and from LGHS for all 180 school days, LGHS alone would produce 388,800,000 grams of carbon dioxide per year. Choosing to walk, bike, or take the bus can save 216,000 grams of carbon dioxide per student per year.

While it might seem more convenient to drive to school, difficult parking, early departure times, a lack of physical activity, and injuries to the environment say otherwise. The next time you need to touch grass, the weather is nice, or you feel like saving the planet, consider walking or biking to school.



A. Pan

Western society needs to advocate for Afghan women

by Jane Wilde
Public Relations Manager



Women in Afghanistan are actively being silenced, objectified, and disrespected under the Taliban's rule. As of this August, the Taliban issued a new law called "vice and virtue." It bans women from raising their voices, reciting the Quran in public, and looking at men other than their husbands or relatives.

It also requires women to cover the lower half of their faces in addition to the head covering they are already mandated to wear. Additionally, under this law, women in Afghanistan can no longer raise their voices in public under any condition. If heard, the Taliban beats them and even threatens them to death by stoning. The Taliban insists the treatment is rooted in Sharia, a teaching of Islamic religion. However, these laws imposed on women do not reflect the values of Islamic religion or the Sharia's teaching, and they need to be recognized as brutal violations of human rights, not as righteous adherence to religious beliefs.

Afghan women and girls have suffered tremendously under the Taliban's authoritarian rule. BBC News talked to female activists around affected parts of Afghanistan. One

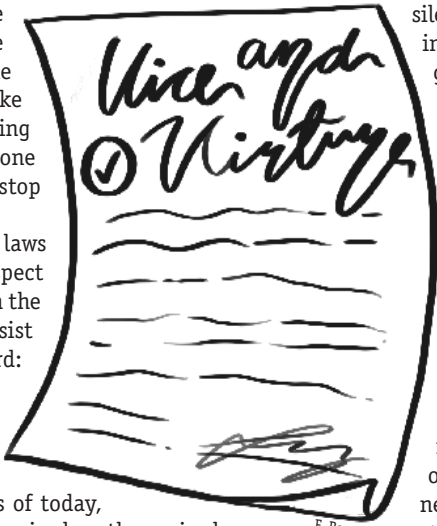
activist named Nausheen told them, "Every moment you feel like you're in a prison. Even breathing has become difficult here...they don't see women as human beings, just

as tools whose only place is inside the home." Another activist said, "When we go out, we're scared. When we're on the bus, we're scared. We don't dare to take down our masks. We even avoid speaking among ourselves, thinking that if someone from the Taliban hears us they could stop and question us."

As disturbing as these morally corrupt laws are, they are all behind the facade of respect for religion. All of these women believe in the Islamic religion, so why would they resist these laws? The answer is straightforward: the laws do not reflect Islamic religion.

Throughout time, interpretations of Sharia have been misconstrued into a religion that disrespects and objectifies women. To put it in perspective, as of today, Afghan women have fewer rights than a squirrel, as the squirrel can roam freely in a park, and Afghan women must be covered and accompanied by a man.

Taliban leaders claim their misogynistic policies are rooted in religion and tradition. However, nowhere in the scriptures of Sharia does it say that women should be silenced or deprived of their rights. In fact, in the early teachings of Sharia, women were granted rights in terms of education, work, inheritance, and even political participation—something that was groundbreaking at that time. But today, the Taliban robs Afghan women of education, employment, and freedom of speech, all supposedly under the Islamic "rule." In order for Afghanistan to become a safe place for women, the western world needs to keep having conversations and make an effort towards the eradication of brutality towards Afghan women and stop warranting religion as an excuse. This includes more media exposure on Afghan women in order to share their stories and raise awareness in the US. It could be as much as a news article or as little as a conversation with a friend, everything counts. (Sources: CBS, New York Times, The Washington Post)



F. Banno

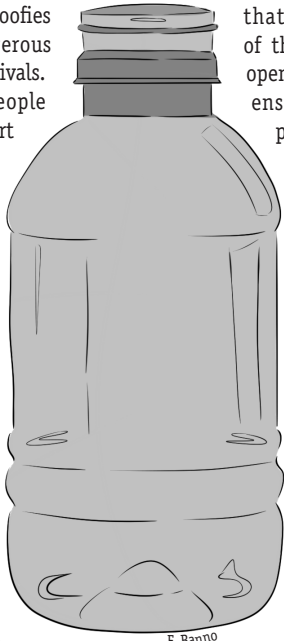
Venues should sell bottled water

by Samantha Gruetter
Opinion Editor



After recently attending a series of concerts, I noticed the primary water that venues provide is Liquid Death, a brand of water that comes in a can, as opposed to a plastic bottle. Additionally, many venues pre-opened the cans of water in order to avoid buyers reselling the water during the show. However, these cans of water have a fatal flaw: they are not resealable. Liquid Death’s inadequate covering makes it vulnerable to people slipping roofies in the water, a prevalent and dangerous occurrence at many concerts and festivals. Therefore, due to the danger of people spiking concert attendee’s drinks, concert venues should exclusively sell bottled, resealable water.

According to Time Magazine, “more than 6,000 students at three U.S. universities, 7.8 percent, self-reported that they’d been drugged before.” Similarly, three percent of drink spiking takes place at festivals and 11 percent takes place in other settings, such as colleges and universities, at work, or at a concert. Switching from bottled water to cans reduces the potential for toxins to be slipped into beverages. Drink spiking occurs when people leave their drinks unattended. The consumers neglect their drinks and the aggressor slips a drug—most commonly Rohypnol, GHB, or ketamine due to their lack of odor, color, and taste — into their victim’s drink. These date rape drugs cause their consumers to feel disoriented and experience hallucinations or dizzines, putting them in a position where they can be taken advantage of. The same Time’s



F. Banno

study reported that “of those who reported having been drugged, 12.1% reported being the victims of “unwanted sexual touching” and 5.4% stated what study authors term “forced sexual intercourse.” Most commonly, people spike their victim’s drink with the intent of taking advantage of them later on, showing the true danger and duplicity behind this action.

The totality of drinks that are spiked are done without the drink owner’s knowledge, whether the drink is left unattended or not. Bottled water that can be resealed with a cap provides a greater protection against this, as the aggressor would have to unscrew the lid in order to put a drug inside, something that would alert the owner of the drink. Venues can still open the bottles for the buyers, ensuring no reselling takes place, while still providing the cap to ensure buyer safety. However, cans, such as the ones Liquid Death packages the water in, provide no such protection, meaning if people don’t leave these drinks under a watchful eye, the chance that they will be unknowingly spiked greatly increases. Consuming an unknowingly spiked beverage can pose foreseen and catastrophic consequences, putting the consumers’ safety and health at risk.

In order to avoid this as much as possible and exercise the responsibility to protect their patrons, concert venues should switch from canned to bottled water. (Sources: American Addiction Centers, Public Health Sudbury and Districts, Time Magazine)

End the stigma against vegans

by Siyona Singhal
News Editor



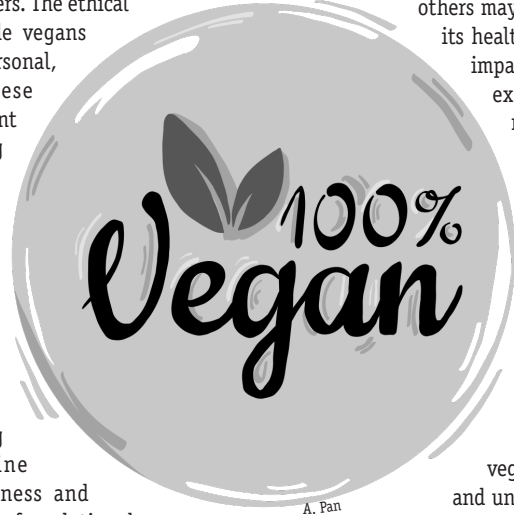
Veganism has increased significantly over the past few years; however, vegans often face ridicule and criticism from others. This is due to stereotypes, misunderstandings, and biases. To end this cycle of vegan hate, we must start by acknowledging reasons for veganism, letting go of biases, and staying open-minded.

One key reason for negative perceptions of vegans is a lack of understanding about why people choose a vegan lifestyle. Many go vegan because they feel it is morally wrong to harm animals, while environmental concerns or health reasons motivate others. The ethical principles that guide vegans are often deeply personal, and respecting these values is an important part of promoting a more inclusive society. When people criticize or dismiss veganism without taking the time to understand these underlying motivations, they not only encourage misunderstanding but also undermine the values of kindness and compassion that are foundational to any community.

The media often labels vegans as “self-righteous,” “extreme,” or “difficult to deal with.” These labels create a stigma that can isolate vegans and make their choices appear abnormal or extreme. While some people may act in such a manner, it is unfair to label a whole group of people based on a few extreme

members. For example, a major stereotype against vegans is that they are pushy about their lifestyle. The internet and social media often portray vegans as individuals who aggressively criticize anyone who consumes animal products. This image, though, is misleading. Many vegans adopt their lifestyle quietly and without the need to confront or challenge others. They might advocate for their beliefs, but this is not inherently different from anyone sharing something they feel passionately about.

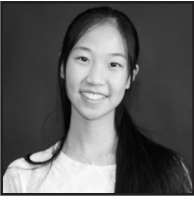
Another pervasive stereotype is that veganism is radical or extreme. Some people see vegans as individuals who have gone to unnecessary or even crazy lengths to avoid animal products. However, a closer look reveals that veganism, like any other lifestyle, includes a range of practices and beliefs. While some vegans avoid all animal products, including honey or clothing made from wool, others may choose veganism simply for its health benefits or environmental impacts, and they may still make exceptions occasionally. The notion that veganism is all-or-nothing and extreme is often rooted in a misunderstanding about why people make this choice in the first place. For many, veganism is simply a way to reduce harm and align their daily choices with their food consumption. Ending the stigma against veganism begins with empathy and understanding. By moving past stereotypes, acknowledging the diversity within the vegan community, and respecting the deeply personal reasons people have for choosing veganism, we can create a more compassionate society. The world needs unity and understanding more than ever. Choosing to respect the choices of others, even if we don’t fully agree with them, is a meaningful step toward achieving that goal.



A. Pan

Pan argues for increased language diversity in schools

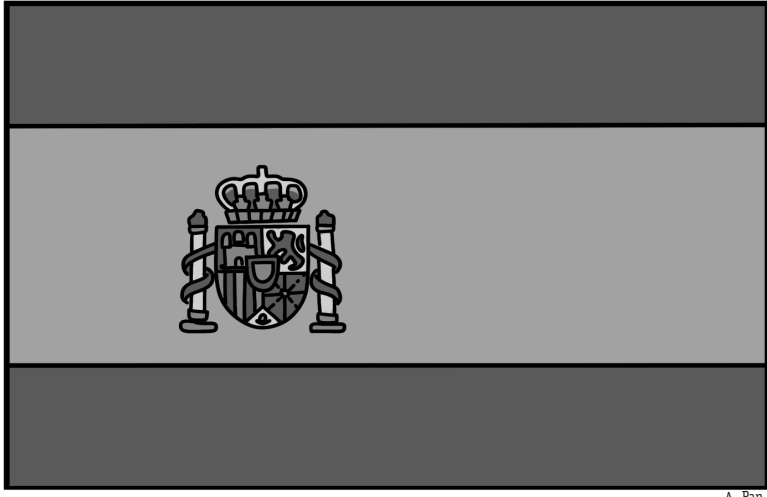
by Annabelle Pan
Graphics Editor



Los Gatos High School offers four world language classes: Spanish, French, Chinese, and Japanese. All of these classes have honors classes available in their fourth or third year and AP classes later on. Last year was the first year that the school offered an AP Chinese class, and they opened the AP test to students who had not taken the class at school. This was an excellent step forward in increasing the options for students. However, there are still some changes related to the language classes that LGHS should implement to benefit students, like adding new languages, condensing the French and Spanish classes, and spreading more information.

One change the school should make is expanding the selection of language classes. LGHS currently has four language classes out of the eight AP language tests the College Board offers. The four missing language classes are German Language and Culture, Italian Language and Culture, Latin, and Spanish Literature and Culture. Latin is a particularly important class to include because the English language borrows many words from Latin, so learning this

language can improve students’ understanding of English. Although adding the four missing AP classes would be valuable for students, there are many barriers in actually implementing this change. One such barrier is that the school would need to find a teacher familiar with the subject. Since the four missing language classes are less common than the ones already implemented in the school curriculum, it would be harder to find teachers.



A. Pan

Another change LGHS should make is condensing the current Spanish and French classes so the honors class would be offered in the third year and AP in the fourth. Currently, in level 2, much of the first semester is a review of level 1, and the beginning of level 3 is also a review of the previous year’s content. If teachers condensed the review and used worksheets or homework instead of class time to review, level 2 would have more content from level 3. However, since that shortened timeline would be more difficult for certain students, the school could instead implement an accelerated course option. Students could choose to take Spanish or French 2 accelerated, which would combine level 2 and level 3 so students could take the honors class the following year. This way, students who did not take a language class in middle school can still enroll in Spanish or French 5 if they take that language all four years of high school.

The third change LGHS should make is spreading more information about the language classes. A lot of students are unaware that they can switch language classes from year to year; students should not feel forced to take the same language if they do not like it. The school should also announce that the AP language tests are available to students who do not take the course at LGHS. Many do not know they can sign up for the test and instead end up paying more money registering for the test elsewhere. These changes would greatly benefit students at LGHS when they choose their language classes. (Source: College Board)

Zeman condemns the electoral college voting landscape

by Rory Zeman
Media Production Editor



Imagine living in a place that pretends to be a democracy. A democracy is exactly what the United States of America calls itself, championing equality based on representation. However, you may be asking why America merely pretends to be the many things that it claims to be. Well, the truth is that it is built upon a lie: a fabrication of equal power among all citizens created by a constitutional add-on. This superfluous addition to the election process only introduces bias and inequity into our electoral system, making America a superficial democracy. The perpetrator behind this centuries-old lie is the Electoral College, which no longer has a place in modern America as it opposes the will of the people, creates disparities between votes from different states, and decreases voter turnout.

The Electoral College infringes on the majority rules doctrine, the very basis of America’s governance. With the Electoral College instead of a popular vote determining who wins the presidency, it is more than possible for a candidate to win without actually having the majority of Americans wanting them in office. In just the 21st century alone this has happened twice; with George Bush

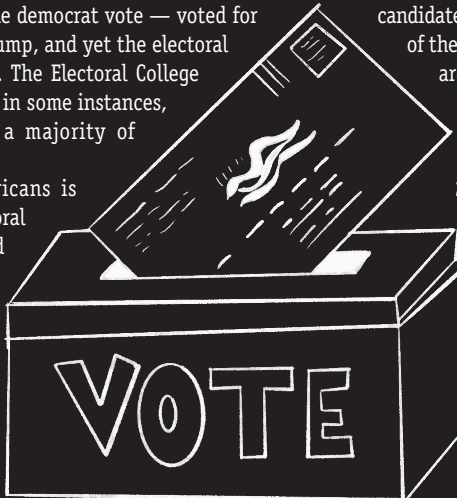
winning the 2000 election even though 500,000 more Americans voted for Al Gore, his opponent. Even more shocking is how 3 million more Americans — five percent of the democrat vote — voted for Hilary Clinton rather than Donald Trump, and yet the electoral votes showed a landslide for Trump. The Electoral College takes away from American voters by, in some instances, allowing candidates to win with a majority of Americans voting against them.

Equal representation for Americans is also impossible as long as the Electoral College remains intact. A free and fair election of the nation’s leader is a value that Americans cherish; however, to what extent has the “fair” aspect of the elections been upheld? For instance, a vote for president in Wyoming is worth over three times as much as one from California because of electoral vote disparities. Why should a rancher in Wyoming hold greater democratic power than a vineyard worker in California’s Central Valley? Consequently, the Electoral College has blockaded majority opinion on numerous occasions. Although some may argue that it is necessary

to have greater representation for the smaller states, I ask: why?

If the majority of people vote for a candidate, that particular candidate should win, as it will thereby align with the beliefs of the majority of Americans, rendering the smaller state argument useless.

Finally, the Electoral College decreases voter turnout of the minority party because of its all-or-nothing nature. For example, in the 2020 election, California had around 22 million registered voters, with roughly 45 percent of them being Democrats and 50 percent being either Independents or Republicans; however, California’s votes bore 11 million votes for Joe Biden in comparison to just 6 million votes for Trump, despite a much more even registration. This disparity highlights the Electoral College’s ability to dissuade voters from casting a ballot because they know it will be meaningless in a state where they are a minority voice. Ultimately, the Electoral College attacks Americans’ participation in democracy. The Electoral College is the greatest threat to American democracy and has no place in contemporary American politics and elections. (Sources: Census.gov, CNN, PPIC, NY Times, Washington Post)



E. Curtis

What are you most grateful for?

START HERE... 

Where are you in the house?

The kitchen cooking!!

The living room watching TV

On Thanksgiving, my family is...

The best part of the holiday!

Always arguing and I can't stand it!

On the Friday before Thanksgiving

Going to the mall

By the end of the week, I...

Wish there was more time to spend with family

Have felt full for a few days

Spent way too much money

Black Friday

If your favorite Thanksgiving tradition is shopping, you're a person who finds satisfaction in getting the best deal. You probably bought your final TV in Best Buy last year. You plan ahead in advance so that you can get the excitement of the sale. You're always amazed by how much you can get for so little. Black Friday is your favorite time of the year.

Based on your answers, you are most thankful for your family and friends. A compassionate and caring person, you always prioritize relationships over material goods. After a busy start to the year, you cannot wait to socialize and catch up with your loved ones. You are excited for a weekend full of board games, cooking, and happy conversations. When the inevitable dinner table disagreement inevitably rears its ugly head, you are the type to step in as a peacemaker. No matter what, you are determined to spend quality time with your loved ones.

Ainsley Northrop, Editor-in-Chief

Family

Food

If you love to feast, you are most thankful for Thanksgiving food! It does not matter if it is your family's traditional meal or a store-bought banquet, the biggest meal of the year. Whether you're eating turkey or digging into the mashed potatoes, you love the amazing atmosphere and camaraderie that a meal with friends creates. The best part is the dessert pumpkin pie with cream, and more! You love how everybody brings something to the table. Hands down, the food is the best part of Thanksgiving.

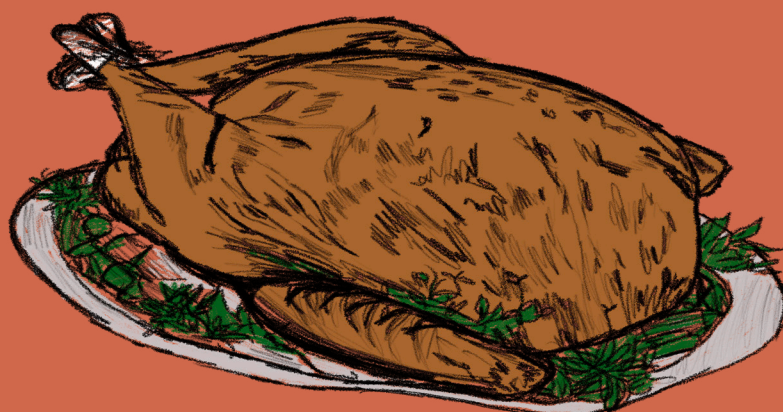
Sahil Muthukrishnan, Sports Editor

ful for this Thanksgiving?

house during Thanksgiving?

e family room
ing football and
parades!

In my room relaxing!



day after Thanksgiving
I'll be...

Eating leftovers

Taking some alone-
time

Are you going to be doing any
work this break?

No way!

Are you kidding?
This is my chance to
catch up!

ack Friday

avorite part of the Thanksgiving season is Black Friday,
who never backs down from a challenge. You love the
etting that last pair of shoes or beating fathers to the
uy. You may even have your strategy planned months
t you're prepared. You're an adrenaline junkie and love
being the first one to jump on any bargain. People are
your creative and timely gifts; no one has to know that
k Friday is your biggest Christmas secret!

Siyona Singhal, News Editor

Based on your responses, you are most grateful for the free time
that Thanksgiving break brings. Whether you are a freshman or a senior,
either starting the biosphere write-up that was due weeks ago, or trudging
through the college application process desperately trying to get it done,
you are just praying you can enjoy some of your break. Maybe you are a
sophomore or junior who plans to sleep through the entire week and only
wake up once for Thanksgiving dinner. In any case, you'll still regret every
wasted minute when Sunday night hits like a brick!

Nelson Kramer, Humor Editor

Free Time

all of the incredible
mily's home cooking
ar is enough for you.
shed potatoes, you
meal with family and
a pie, pecan pie, ice
ething to the table.
anksgiving!

litor



graphics A. Pan, E. Curtis, F. Banno

- Panicacci reviews We Live in Time
- Victoria’s Secret revives tradition

TYLER, THE CREATOR RELEASES CHROMAKOPIA

by Megan Hastings

Public Relations Manager

On Oct. 28, Grammy-winning American rapper and producer Tyler, the Creator released his seventh studio album, Chromakopia. Arriving three years after his previous album, Call Me If You Get Lost, Chromakopia features tributes to the rapper’s various eras. With his nostalgic composition and timeless production, the album serves as a reflection of his decade-long career. Tyler wrote, produced, and arranged Chromakopia himself, revealing that the album was originally about him growing up in Hawthorne, Inglewood in California. During this 14-track journey, Tyler enlists artists such as Daniel Caesar, DoeChii, Sexyy Red, and other friends to craft a project that speaks to his consuming paranoia, angsty upbringing, and desire for family. Music critics described Chromokopia as an early midlife crisis album that centers on common struggles with newly discovered adulthood. The first track introduces the titular main character, St. Chroma. Tyler boasts in the song Rah Tah Tah that he is the biggest rapper in Los Angeles after Kendrick Lamar. Conversely, Noid delves into his concerns over parasocial relationships and celebrity culture.

In Darling, I, which features vocals by Teezo Touchdown, Tyler reflects on his artistic ambition and the practice of monogamy. Sticky, a standout track with the aforementioned Sexyy Red, Glorilla, and Lil Wayne, is the chaotic, unpredictable eighth track that pushes listeners far out of their comfort zone and into the world of Tyler, the Creator. For the same reasons mainstream listeners might dislike this track, those same qualities make it a compelling highlight of the album. Some of the other noteworthy songs include his collaborations with Canadian singer-songwriter, Ashton Simmonds, also known as Daniel Caesar. Caesar worked with Tyler on St. Chroma and track nine, Take Your Mask Off, the latter of which showcases Tyler’s knack for storytelling. Take Your Mask Off sees Tyler call out different characters for leading false lives, including an affluent but miserable housewife and a homophobe who turns out to be a closet homosexual before



F. Banno

shifting the focus on himself: "You talk a lot of sh*t to not even be number one." Tyler uses this song to offer upbeat praise to those who feel the need to conceal themselves behind personae and repress their uniqueness. Consequently, this aligns well with Chromakopia's theme of self-discovery amidst fame. Driven by piano and synths from the 1980s, the song surely resonates with fans of his 2017 album, Flower Boy. Chromokopia shows Tyler attached to his rap roots but on a more expansive plane of music, utilizing more obscure and hidden samples scattered throughout the tracks. This attention to musical detail works strongly in his favor, which shouldn’t come as a surprise for those who stuck around throughout Tyler’s unapologetic, creative growth over the past few years. The Guardian accurately described Chromakopia as “an album that began with its author denying its existence, [it] ultimately seems to manifest a state of confusion, in which everything is in flux and nothing is quite as it initially seems. It achieves that to an enthralling and exhausting effect.” (Sources: AP News, NPR, NY Times)

Singer-songwriter Liam Payne passes away

by Jane Wilde

Public Relations Manager

On Oct. 16, former One Direction member and solo pop artist Liam Payne tragically passed away in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The singer reportedly fell from the third story of a hotel. According to the Security Ministry of Buenos Aires, Payne “jumped from the balcony of his room.” However, authorities soon after his death, discovered that he was only semi-conscious when he fell from the third story of the hotel. A Buenos Aires news station confirmed, “It’s not that he jumped deliberately. Although Payne suffered several serious injuries, the autopsy declared the singer died of polytrauma and internal and external bleeding.”

Just minutes prior to Payne’s death, the police were directed to the hotel by a 911 call reporting an aggressive man under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The hotel desk manager who made the call said that a guest seemed as if he had consumed excessive amounts of drugs and alcohol and was “breaking everything in the room.” The manager immediately requested help because he knew Payne’s room included a balcony and was “afraid he could do something that puts his life at risk.” Several parts of his room were damaged, including a shattered TV, which led investigators to believe that he was suffering from an overdose moments before his death. In a later autopsy, they found many sub-



A. Pan

stances in his body including traces of a party drug called pink cocaine.

The 31-year-old rose to fame as a beloved member of One Direction, a boy band formed in 2010 by record producer Simon Cowell on X-Factor. Payne auditioned two years prior to the making of One Direction, but Cowell rejected Payne twice after Payne made it to the final round. However, he didn’t stop there; he came back on two years later and earned a yes from Cowell. Payne sang alongside Harry Styles, Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, and Louis Tomlinson. With a fan base consisting of hundreds of millions, they were deemed one of the most influential boy bands of all time.

Millions of fans are mourning around the world, many of which gathered around the hotel in Buenos Aires and sang his songs as they held a memorial. However, the fans aren’t the only ones mourning this tragedy. Former One Direction members went to Instagram to make their public statements regarding the death of Payne, collectively stating, “We’re completely devastated by the news of Liam’s passing...we will take some time to grieve and process the loss of our brother, who we loved dearly.” Their prayers go out to his friends, fans, and family, including his 7-year-old son Bear.

(Sources: AP News, BBC, CNN, NPR, NY Times)

Valencia details new DWTS season

by Julia Valencia

People Editor

What do a felon, two US Olympians, and the Bachelor all have in common? Dancing With the Stars (DWTS)’s 33rd season celebrities have caused the show’s views to skyrocket.

The hit series that premiered in 2005 takes professionally trained ballroom dancers and pairs them with celebrities to compete in themed dances with single elimination rounds after each episode. This season’s judges, Derek Hough, Bruno Tonioli, and Carrie Ann Inaba, are all returning from previous seasons.

Partners score out of 30, on a scale of one to ten per judge. On certain weeks, surprise judges appear on the show which temporarily shifts the total score to be out of 40 instead of 30. Additionally, live viewers can send in votes for their favorite couple, which can help save the partners if they have a subpar dance and score poorly.

Not one, but two US Olympians have made the roster for season 33 of DWTS. Ilona Maher, bronze medal winner in rugby at the 2024 Olympics, has Alan Bersten, DWTS veteran, as her partner. The other Olympian, Stephen Nedoroscik, also known as the “Pommel Horse Guy,” won two bronze medals for the US men’s gymnastic team at the Paris Olympics. Rylee Arnold is Stephen’s partner for season 33. Both pairs are dynamic duos on the show, making for an electric performance when either of them steps on to the stage.

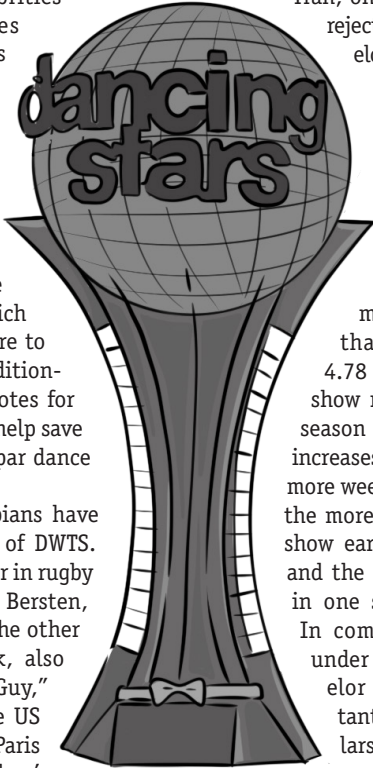
Anna “Delvey” Sorokin is yet another interesting celebrity who made her dancing debut on DWTS. Anna, a convicted con artist who spent four years in prison, is the first felon to

ever compete on DWTS. She remains on house arrest after being released in October of 2022, so her bedazzled ankle monitor quickly drew eyes to her and her dance partner, Ezra Sosa.

Joey Graziadei, the runner-up on season 20 of The Bachelorette and star of The Bachelor in season 28, is also on DWTS, paired with professional dancer Jenna Johnson. Jenn Tran, one of the bachelorettes Joey rejected in season 28 of The Bachelor and the main Bachelorette in season 21, is also on this season of DWTS. Jenn’s partner is Sasha Farber.

The show gained significant traction this season, bringing in 4.97 million viewers across NBC and Disney+ for the season premiere, four percent higher than last season’s views, at 4.78 million. Contestants on the show make a base salary for the season starting at \$125,000 which increases the longer they last, so the more weeks they appear on the show the more they earn. Winners of the show earn an extra 50,000 dollars, and the most a contestant can win in one season is 360,000 dollars. In comparison, Olympians make under 40,000 dollars and Bachelor and Bachelorette contestants make about 100,000 dollars, so DWTS most definitely provides a higher payment to its dancers.

The show has over 400 episodes and has been a staple in reality television shows for over two decades. DWTS is a phenomenal, entertaining show; it can be put on in the background or be the focus of the night: with both ways of consuming the show provide enjoyment.



F. Banno

PANICACCI RECAPS NEW A24 FILM WE LIVE IN TIME

by Lucy Panicacci

Editor-in-Chief

Warning: spoilers ahead for We Live In Time

The A24 film We Live in Time left my face soaked in tears. A heartfelt love story, the movie follows the relationship between the characters Almut (Florence Pugh) and Tobias (Andrew Garfield). The couple meets in an unexpected way: Almut hits Tobias with her car. Despite the rough start, Almut and Tobias share undeniable chemistry — both unafraid to express how much they care for each other. The nonlinear storytelling of the film takes snapshots from their life, showing how they fall in love, have a family, and confront the life-altering news: Almut’s diagnosis with ovarian cancer. We Live in Time broke my heart for these three reasons.

1) We learn about Almut’s fate from the start. In the first scene of the film, the doctor diagnoses Almut with Stage 3 ovarian cancer for the second time. After going through the process of beating cancer once before, Almut confronts the real possibility that she will not be able

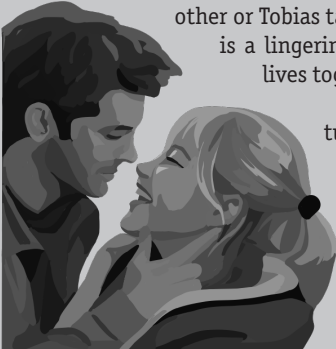
to beat it again. She admits to Tobias that she would rather have “six amazing, fantastic, proactive months than 12 really, really passive ones.” By starting the film knowing that Almut’s life might likely end, the rest of the movie shines through a melancholy lens. As we watch Almut and Tobias become enamored with each other or Tobias taking care of Almut as she is pregnant, there is a lingering twinge of sadness — a vision that their lives together are not going to turn out as expected.

2) Tobias displays pure love for Almut, accentuating this sadness. A symbol for Tobias’s love is his notebook. When Almut is pregnant, he writes down the doctor’s explanations and keeps track of all the minutes between contractions; when Almut goes through her first cancer diagnosis, he copies down each step of treatment. When Tobias doesn’t know how to respond, he takes the time to process his thoughts and writes detailed descriptions of them to her. Dedicating his notebook to Almut, Tobias understands that “to be loved is to be known.”

3) Almut struggles with the idea of her demise. Upon learning of the reemergence of her cancer, Almut joins the

prestigious Bocuse d’Or culinary competition. Even if the rigor of competition sacrifices the effectiveness of the cancer treatments, she can’t bear the idea of dying without one last achievement. Almut confesses to Tobias that she doesn’t want her daughter to remember only her declining health. This heart-breaking moment devastated me to watch as Almut exhausts herself, hoping her daughter will not forget her. She had planned to watch her daughter grow up, but now she only gets to see the beginning. The nail in the coffin is the end of the film, following Almut’s death. Tobias shows their daughter how to crack an egg the best way — the way Almut showed him — carrying on Almut’s spirit. This simple act of remembrance honestly made me sob.

I can’t say We Live in Time is a revolutionary film. Has it been done before? Was it a bit cheesy? Could anyone have predicted the ending? Yes to all three. Yet, I loved it nonetheless. The film We Live in Time is a reminder to appreciate those around you. Act in the present and dedicate yourself to those who matter in your life.



A. Pan

Victoria's Secret revives runway tradition

by Quinn Hathaway and Isabella Langner
National/World and People Editors

After a six years hiatus, the iconic Victoria's Secret show is back. On Oct. 15, Victoria's Secret debuted their rebrand at the Brooklyn Navy Yard's Duggal Greenhouse. It featured a diverse cast, all female musicians, and lingerie that included leggings and sheer cover ups: all of which have never before been seen at a Victoria's Secret show.

Lisa, a member of the K-pop group Blackpink, began the show by singing Rockstar and Moonlit Floor. Gigi Hadid opened wearing an all pink outfit and enormous pink angel wings. Other famous models made appearances, such as Adrianna Lima, Bella Hadid, and Alex Consani. Kate Moss made her Victoria's Secret debut alongside her daughter Lila Moss. Other performers included Cher, who performed Believe and Strong Enough, and Tyla, who recently gained popularity. Ashley Graham, a plus size model, dressed in a black lace bodysuit, sheer robe, and wings. To close the show, Tyra Banks returned in a black form-fitting outfit, leggings, and silver cape. Overall, the show included a diverse cast of women of different colors, shapes, sizes, and ages.

The cause of this rebrand was the brand's downfall in the late 2010s. The public accused Victoria's Secret of sexism, ageism, and for

supporting unhealthy beauty standards. In 2019, Victoria's Secret canceled the show indefinitely. Now, as a publicly traded company, Vic-toria's Secret has made many attempts to rebrand. Their documentary, Victoria's Secret: The Tour, spot-lighted four collections from various designers in order to showcase creators from around the world and display their work to a larger audience. They also replaced angels, a role with negative connotations, with ambassadors. They gave these roles to women such as United States Women's National Soccer Team star Megan Rapinoe and actor Priyanka Chopra Jonas.

Several other key changes debuted in October's show as well, many of which aimed to expand the diversity in the models present. The recent show included many unique body types and a wider age range of models, both of which aim to help combat the negative comments recently surround-

ing Victoria's Secret. Paloma Elsesser, a staple plus-size model on the Fashion Week runway, posi-tively commented on the changes, stating, "[The October show] feels like [celebrating] different stages of their ...different bodies."

and creative officer Janie Schaffer also agrees with the positivity of the changes, shar-ing that Victoria's Secret evolved based on feedback from their cus-tomers. Regarding the recent fash-ion show, Sarah Sylvester, executive vice president of marketing, said the show recognized "the parts of our DNA that we love and that are important to us, and realizing that we also are able to evolve and be more modern and more inclusive."

This fashion show welcomed a new era of Victo-ria's Secret, one that includes inclusivity and new values of 2024.

(Sources: Vogue, CNN)



The season of UGGs begins

by Katie Borders
National/World Editor

It's officially deep into fall; the leaves are changing from shades of green to yellow and orange, and the seasonal spirit has shifted away from flip flops and sunshine to welcome the return of a certain sheep-skin boot into the daily wear mix. UGGs are officially back! This stylish, iconic footwear has taken the masses by storm since the early 2000s, with Gen Z maintaining the UGG craze that has been a beloved autumn staple for decades.

First launched in 1978 by Australian surfer Brian Smith and Doug Jensen in Santa Monica, California, UGG Australia steadily grew in popularity and gained international attention when the U.S. Olympic team in the 1994 Winter Olympics wore the sheepskin boots. In 1995 when Decker Brands bought UGG Australia from Smith, they rebranded the company to solely "UGG" and expanded it fur-ther into an international brand. Sales took off from there at an astonishing rate; there were over \$1 billion reported sales by 2012.

The UGG brand net sales have increased by 16.1 percent in 2024 compared to sales in the previous year. Released last year, the UGG mini platform captured the public's attention after celebrity Bella Hadid sported the viral mini UGG boots in public. Numerous other celebrities have also added UGGs to their choice of foot-wear to promote the brand to the public eye, including Beyonce, Paris Hilton,

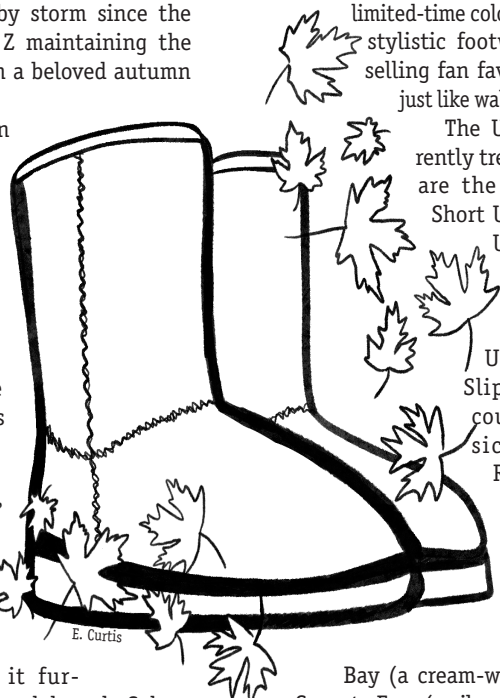
Blake Lively, Kate Hudson, Jennifer Lopez, and Justin Bieber.

The designers built the original UGG boots primarily around the idea of extreme comfort for after surfing; initially viewed as a strange design and idea, UGGs have now become a trademark staple of fall fashion and have found a prominent place in the fashion industry. Releasing new designs and limited-time colors, this bold and stylistic footwear is a best-selling fan favorite that feels just like walking on a cloud.

The UGG styles currently trending the most are the iconic Classic Short Ugg Boots, Mini Ugg Boots, Ugg Tazz Slippers, Ugg Tasman Slippers, Ugg Coquette Slippers, and, of course, the Clas-sic Ugg Boots. Ranging from shades of sand to chestnut to black, and the occasional unique exclusive colors like Little Bay (a cream-white color) and Seventy Four (a vibrant green shade), it's no wonder that this cozy footwear has caught consumers' attention.

Although the brand has been subjected to criticism by the animal liberation move-ment since 2000 for its usage of sheepskin to manufacture its shoe products, UGG has announced its first vegan boots this year in an effort to phase out excessive use of sheepskin. These vegan boots will be made using sugarcane and various other materials as substitution for sheepskin.

(Sources: Decker Brands, FashionUnited, Houser Shoes, Vogue, Wikipedia)



NEW TERRIFIER MOVIE DEBUTS

By Rory Zeman and Megan Hastings
Media Production Editor and Public Relation Manager

Terrifier 3, the third installment in the cult-classic gore slasher movie series, released thea-trically in the United States on Oct. 11, takes place five years after the events of the second film. Final girl Sienna Shaw, played by Lauren LaVera, is trying to rebuild her life after multiple stays in a mental hospital, now living with her aunt and her family. As the holiday season unfolds, her life seems to become more bright and cheerful—until Art the Clown returns with a new demonic friend, Victoria.

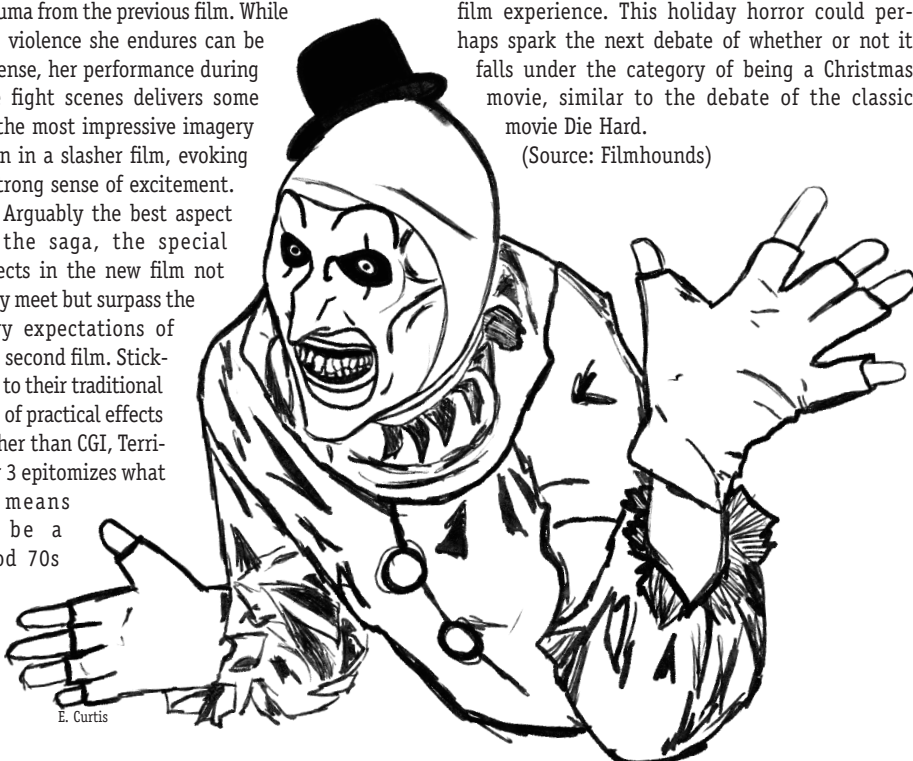
Reprising his role as Art the Clown, David Howard Thorton adds a chaotic and humorous relief to contrast the gore and horror. Thorton's acting makes Art the Clown one of the greatest horror icons in cinematic history, a notable achievement in today's modern horror landscape. LaVera also shines in the film, seamlessly stepping back into the role of Sienna Shaw despite the character's trauma from the previous film. While the violence she endures can be intense, her performance during the fight scenes delivers some of the most impressive imagery seen in a slasher film, evoking a strong sense of excitement.

Arguably the best aspect of the saga, the special effects in the new film not only meet but surpass the gory expectations of the second film. Stick-ing to their traditional use of practical effects rather than CGI, Terri-fier 3 epitomizes what it means to be a good 70s

slasher film. With numerous mass murder scenes, the film used up to 25 gallons of blood as a major part of its minuscule two-million-dollar budget. Furthermore, the effects of the new movie are more refined than the previous two films. The movie producer Phil Falcone commented on how the upgrades coincided with the fact that "on Terrifier, we had six people in our crew I believe, and Terrifier 2 was around 11 people. On Terrifier 3, I think the crew is about 40. Plus we brought in an effects team."

With such advanced effects, reports have circulated of people getting physical senses of nausea and malaise from the film's gruesome illusions, with many people leaving the film after the first scene due to its obscene nature. The film also takes the genre to new heights when it comes to being macabre, as child death is a new, frequent occur-rence in the film. Additionally, the new effects team along with the Christmas-themed lights and set designs throughout the film creates a unique film experience. This holiday horror could per-haps spark the next debate of whether or not it falls under the category of being a Christmas movie, similar to the debate of the classic movie Die Hard.

(Source: Filmhounds)



El Gato Recommends: Megan Moroney. Cobra Kai & more

Whether you are looking for country or romance songs, Megan Moroney is the perfect artist to listen to. This up-and-coming country music singer-songwriter has upbeat and slower songs to match a vari-ety of situations, many of which are unique takes on commonplace scenarios, as seen in her songs Hair Salon, Sleep on My Side, and No Caller ID. So far, Moroney has released two albums titled Lucky and Am I Okay? On Oct. 4, she released the deluxe version of the latter album, Am I Okay? (I'll Be Fine), which features three additional songs. Moroney also recently announced her upcoming tour across the United States. On Oct. 31, Moroney released a Holiday EP named Blue Christmas...duh. Moroney's unique songwriting style and raspy voice make her music worth listening to.

-Megan Saul, Culture Editor

Finding a hearty, quick, and healthy meal that doesn't break the bank is no easy feat. However, the Whole Foods hot bar provides just that. The bar is completely customizable and allows its consumers to select the kinds and portions of food they want. From salad ingredients to a range of hot foods, including roasted veggies, cilantro lime rice, and chicken tikka masala, the bar poses endless options. Finally, the bar does not charge you an arm and a leg for a simple meal; instead, you weigh your meal at checkout and Whole Foods charges you based on

the quantity of food. Next time you are craving a fulfilling meal, check out the Whole Foods hot bar!

-Sam Gruetter, Opinion Editor

APT. is a song by Blackpink member Rosé featuring Bruno Mars. The single released on Oct. 18 has captivated audiences due to its energetic and pop rock style. The catchy tune has caught the attention of social media through its repeating lyrics of "apateu" in the rhythmic chorus. Alongside the lyrics and style, the music video adds another dimension of fun and energy as Bruno Mars and Rose play around with drums and dance along to the song. Before you know it, you may vibe along to the song in front of a mirror, holding a hairbrush as your fake microphone.

-Fuyu Banno, Graphics Editor

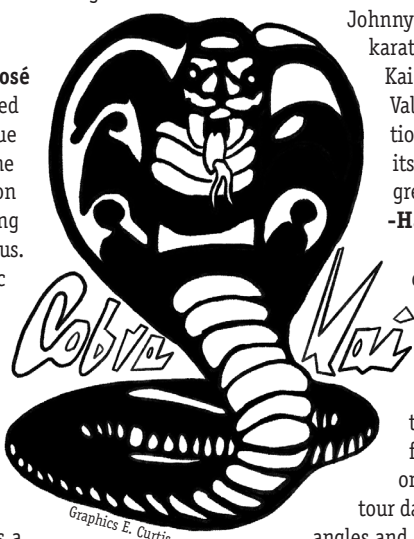
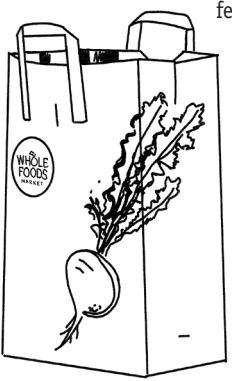
The Karate Kid, starring Ralph Maccio, is a hallmark film of the eighties. Whether you grew up with the movie and its questionable sequels or not, spin-off Cobra Kai is a must-watch. Cobra Kai simultaneously follows Johnny Lawrence and Miguel Diaz: the washed-up high school bully from the Karate

Kid movies and his nerdy, asthmatic teenage neighbor. After Johnny drunkenly beats up Miguel's bullies with his karate skills, Johnny decides to reopen the Cobra Kai dojo, sparking tension across the San Fernando Valley. With its violent brawls, emotional confronta-tions, and often-idiotic humor, Cobra Kai, including its recently released sixth season, packs a punch great enough to keep any viewer hooked for life.

-Hayley Strahs, News Editor

Singer Olivia Rodrigo just added a 2024 concert film to her resume of accomplishments. Rodrigo's career catapulted with the release of her first two studio albums, SOUR and GUTS, dropped in 2021 and 2023 respectively. The release of the album GUTS prompted Netflix to adapt the sold-out GUTS tour into a film. The film, Olivia Rodrigo: GUTS World Tour, premiered on Oct. 29, 2024 as an adaptation of her August tour dates in Los Angeles. The film captures exceptional angles and raw footage of the singer with a total collection of twenty-four songs from GUTS and SOUR. If you are a Rodrigo fan who cannot make it to one of her concerts, the film is an excellent substitute and is available exclusively on Netflix.

-Quinn Hathaway, National/World Editor



- Wilson argues for Youtube Challenges
- Littfin describes Moodeng vs. Pesto

HUMOR

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Pandey ranks a variety of Thanksgiving activities

Atharava Pandey
National/World Editor

With Thanksgiving almost upon us, I have heard many people say that it is the perfect holiday. Some people go as far as to say the holiday is better than Christmas. Listening to these outlandish takes, I feel responsible to set the record straight on this beloved holiday and determine if the hype around it is justified.

One of the main things that comes to mind when first thinking about the holiday is the turkey. Turkey is a necessity for a proper dinner on Thanksgiving. However, turkey may just be the most overrated meat. It is almost impossible to cook right and is almost always dry. It takes hours of roasting and refining to make it somewhat acceptable to eat yet is still somehow the pinnacle of Thanksgiving. Overall, turkey is just not worth the hype and always disappoints.

Even though turkey may be overrated, Thanksgiving dinner is always a fun event. It includes having

your uncles question your intelligence and playing video games with your cousins. There is also always a variety of food items to choose from. Overall, dinner is a great time to catch up with friends and family and discuss how their favorite football team is in complete shambles.

Spending time with family is obviously a crucial part of the holiday. It gives you time to strengthen your bonds and deepen your relationships. To enjoy this part, you have to move past your aunts questioning your grades and look at the bright side of things. Although not the best part, in my opinion, spending time with your family is still very important.

Thanksgiving has meaning and an interesting backstory, considering how people believe the Pilgrims landed near Plymouth Rock and made peace with the Native Americans over a feast. It

encompasses an important message: be grateful for all you have and always remain thankful. This shows that the holiday has a valuable message.

The break is undoubtedly the most important attribute of Thanksgiving. For this holiday, you get an entire week off to rest up for the remainder of the year. It also signals the start of the holiday season, which means more breaks!

One crucial element that screams Thanksgiving is the fall decorations. Warm colors signal the arrival of fall and pumpkins and candles decorating the table creating cozy ambiance.

If I were in charge of the holiday, I would swap out the turkey and extend the holiday over the entire month of November (the more holidays, the better). However, I would say that Thanksgiving is slightly overrated, a 7/10: it's not as good as Christmas and not as bad as St. Patrick's Day.

All right, it's time to get serious. Thanksgiving may be a fun time to relax but also a great time to reflect on your year so far and lock in to finish it off strong. Even if you have been screwing around until this point of the year, you have one last chance to redeem yourself. I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving vacation and a successful end of the year!



Strahs and Banno rethink AI Pan argues for a longer summer

by Hayley Strahs and Fuyu Banno
News and Graphics Editors

As both a tech bro's dream come true and a teacher's worst nightmare, artificial intelligence (AI) has the world in a chokehold. If The Matrix taught us anything, we should fear the omnipotent ChatGPT and be wary of its eventual takeover. Alas, it seems that artificial intelligence isn't leaving any time soon, so it's time rip off the bandaid and embrace some of AI's niche capabilities.

Stupid song covers: Meow meow meow meow? What was (A) I made for? Why, singing, of course! Even Billie Eilish herself performed the AI cat version of her song, What Was I Made For, at a recent concert. If you've ever wanted to hear a politician sing CupcakKe or bird squawk along to Phoebe Bridgers, you are in luck because while AI may not have the voice of an angel, it can imitate any famous person near-perfectly.

Planning out your day: Why spend an unproductive day when you could follow a step-by-step itinerary crafted by ChatGPT? Ask the AI tool for everything from what to wear to where to eat for dinner. Before you know it, ChatGPT may be telling you to dress in all tweed for a McDonald's dinner.

Therapy: It's 2024, and who isn't depressed? Whether you're short on money to hire a real therapist or not really into the talk-your-feelings-out-in-front-of-a-stranger vibe, ChatGPT is there for you 24/7. Enter full paragraphs describing your feelings or rant about any recent drama you

have been entangled with, ChatGPT will give you a response along the lines of "I'm sorry you feel this way, I'm here to help."

Relationship advice: As heart-wrenching as it is to parasocially watch your favorite couple break up, it's nothing short of terrifying knowing that you and your pookie could be next. To avoid a massive fallout, consult your wise, unbiased, level-headed best friend: AI. Finding your special someone has never been easier. With

AI-generated pickup lines, you'll never fumble again. From snapping a ten-out-of-ten baddie to drafting an ambiguously blaming break-up text, AI's vast love knowledge can circumvent potentially awkward uncomfortable situations.

Horoscopes: Many individuals may not be sure what direction their life is currently taking, and some may think today is the day they embarrass themselves in front of the entire school. Never fear, for AI is here! If you think spiritual forces are controlling whether you're either going

to fail or pass a Calculus BC test, just ask ChatGPT. "Hey, I'm an Aquarius, what are the chances I'm going to pass a test I didn't study for?" May your chakras be aligned.

Don't let AI's tech-bro takeover fool you: sites like ChatGPT are more than just fancy search engines. Under a boring assortment of productivity tools, a world of unlicensed therapists, remarkable psychics, and musical prodigies awaits.

by Annabelle Pan
Graphics Editor

The best part of the year for most students is summer break. No school, no homework, no tests. You get nine weeks to recover from the busy school year to relax, play games, attend summer camps, explore hobbies, travel, etc. But is there any way for students to hypothetically make the summer longer?

Imagine having summer break from the end of April to the middle of August. You would have enough time to visit every place on your travel bucket list, sleep twelve hours a day, read all the books on your wishlist, and try out all the activities you never had time for. This is the summer you would have if you took out one day from the weekend and had Saturday school instead. With a total of 42 Saturdays in the school year, this adds six weeks to your summer. You have less time to relax every week, but your summer is extended to 15 weeks long. To take it one step further, you can take out the entire weekend. That makes your summer break 21 weeks, or five months. With that much time in the break, you could go on a road trip through the continental US, read half of the Oxford English Dictionary, or reenact every scene and battle you learned about in your history class.

If you want a summer even longer than 21 weeks, you can make the tough decision to also take out the breaks and staff development days during the school year. Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break, February

Break, and Spring Break are all gone. That makes your summer almost 26 weeks long. However, with this new addition, you won't be excited for Friday anymore because there is no weekend to look forward to. After the first finals week, there's no two-week-long Winter Break to relax. Half a year of stressful school every day and half a year of relaxing breaks every day. Would you be able to drag yourself out of bed every morning and survive five and a half months of daily school?

Another way to get a 26-week-long summer is by merging two school days into one and having twelve hours of school a day. That means you have both your odd

and even classes every day, and you have to do six or even seven hours of homework in one night. But remember, the school day is twelve hours so school ends at 8:30 PM. Your entire schedule would be school, homework, sleep, repeat. You would lose hours of sleep, but at least the summer would be long.

To get the longest possible summer, you can make each school day twelve hours long with no breaks and no weekends. With no weekends or breaks, your school year becomes 26 weeks long, and by doubling the school hours from six to twelve, your school year halves to only thirteen weeks. 91 days of twelve-hour school days in a row would be extremely taxing, but you would have nine months of summer break to rest...if you can make it to break without going crazy from the extended school hours. Would you do it if you had the option?

August

E. Curtis						
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YOUTUBERS SHOULD BRING BACK CHALLENGES

by Chloe Wilson
Humor Editor

If you were online anytime from 2016 to 2020, you remember the many challenges on YouTube. Whether you participated in the 24-hour Target challenge or tried to fit as many marshmallows in your mouth as you could while saying "chubby bunny," I hope you agree that these random yet genius challenges should make a comeback. While some of these notorious challenges were not the smartest, like downing spoonfuls of cinnamon or eating saltine crackers without water, we should nevertheless bring some back.

I would say the 24-hour challenges were the best of all. I mean, what's smarter than waiting for a store or "abandoned" waterpark to close and then creating a fort consisting of toilet paper and cardboard for shelter? Also, what happened to YouTubers putting their

freedom on the line for their viewers? From a quick Google search, I found multiple arrests such as a couple being charged with conspiracy and third-degree criminal trespassing.

Moving on, let's discuss the many food challenges. Having already mentioned the chubby-bunny and cinnamon challenge, why not discuss the baby food challenge?

What's better than a couple of adults rating food meant for babies who can't eat solids yet? Oh! And, what about the pause challenge? Taking a remote control around and pointing it at strangers expecting them to pause whatever they are doing is a spectacular idea. Even better, let's pause people on moving treadmills! Honestly, this is one of the better schemes YouTubers have orchestrated.

Now for a more wholesome trend, the pancake art challenge. If you watched the famous pancake artist "Collins



Key," you most likely know what I mean. Let's see who can intricately draw Spongebob the quickest for 1000 dollars! There were also some challenges that went to good causes; for example, the Ice Bucket Challenge raised 115 million dollars for ALS.

You see, a lot of old YouTubers made positive impacts, but this seems to have gone downhill. The present-day trends are nothing short of problematic. Who decided to steal soap dispensers from bathrooms and harass staff on school campuses while calling it the Devious Lick Challenge? Where's the creativity in that? Let's bring back the most innovative trends of them all: the Mannequin Challenge where people literally just stood still during a TikTok video. Or, the Charlie Charlie Challenge, which consisted of crossing two pencils on a piece of paper with four squares, two saying "yes" and two saying "no." While asking questions, you wait for the pencils to point to one side. This level of witchcraft practiced on YouTube couldn't just be the wind-no, of course, it's the spirit of Charlie (whoever that is), coming back to haunt you. There were some appalling challenges, too; don't get me wrong. Whoever came up with the Tide Pod Challenge could not resist the urge to consume laundry detergent and projected this urge onto everyone else on the internet.

Overall, my point is that though some challenges were highly questionable and even dangerous, YouTubers should bring back other fun and randomly creative crazes.

NORTHROP DISCUSSES CHILDHOOD STARDOM

by **Ainsley Northrop**
Editor-in-Chief

Back in the day, my younger sister and I were stars. Performing magic, holding concerts, and debuting on the big screen (an old iPad), our names were in lights wherever we went – at least we thought so. Now a senior in high school, I am here to revisit some of our shining moments. So sit back, relax, and prepare to hear about our rise to stardom.

The Star Pig Concert: Inspired by our Kelly Clarkson DVD, my third grade self and my first grade sister designed an elaborate concert. Performing for our parents in our cluttered living room, we assembled a ten-song set list, complete with hand-decorated programs and at least five costume changes. My sister's stage name was, of course, Star Pig, and I acted as her manager and backup dancer. Looking back, I am appalled at the memory of our improvised, incoherent songs screamed into the hollow, pink plastic microphone. Not only did we put on a terrifying show, but we thought it was the best concert of the century. Now, I only feel pain for our parents as they sat clapping for each song, gently asking when the finale was.

The Magic Shows: When my sister was in third grade, she got a magical gift for her birthday. Literally. This magician starter kit gave way to a new performance series filled with pizzazz and illusion. Immediately, the two of us got to work crafting the perfect act for our parents' entertainment. All was well with our mediocre card tricks and object-generating hat (which had a conveniently placed hidden pocket inside). Now, it was time for the most mesmerizing trick of all: the disappearing red ball. The kit gave us a rotatable compartment that allowed us to press the ball against its wall and conceal it. Holding the red sphere with pride, my sister placed it inside, only to turn the compartment in the wrong direction, revealing the trick's secret and launching the ball to the ground. Then, during clean-up we proceeded to knock over our "crystal ball," which was really an old nutcracker-themed snow globe, shattering it to pieces. To the inexperienced eye, this may seem like a flop.

Although we may have been faulty magicians, the real magic was in our hearts. And that is what matters.

The iMovie Films: Brace yourself for the most iconic achievement of my childhood. You guessed it: iMovie short films! Director, producer, cameraman, editor, and occasional actress, my elementary school self created a plethora of high-quality masterpieces using my sister as lead actress. Among the most notable is *The Evil Avocado*. This two-minute gem follows a malicious avocado (played by my sister's stuffed avocado) as it attacks people. A chilling, top-notch production, this film was robbed of its Oscar, and it is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. After all, who knows where the evil avocado could be lurking at this very moment? A second film of note is *Annabelle*, which features a girl as she runs away from home, only to mysteriously turn evil, grow as big as Godzilla, and destroy everything around her. *Annabelle*, played by my sister wearing a frizzy Merida wig and yellow sweater, does not hesitate to attack the civilians (American Girl dolls) around her, leaving the audience with a chill down their spine. Although our films may have had similar themes, rest assured that the production value and acting quality was outstanding, at least to us.

I hope you enjoyed learning the origins of the world's two next biggest stars. Find our names on the Hollywood Walk of Fame!



F. Banno

PESTO AND MOO DENG BATTLE

Fugit proposes travel destinations

by **Kat Littfin**
News Editor

A core memory of my elementary school experience is reading the *Who Would Win?* series. This series of books pits animals of somewhat even size and strength against each other in an epic illustrated battle. The books narrate a hypothetical fight between the animals, aiming to educate young readers on animal facts in a digestible, interesting manner. Though the objects of the books were generally ferocious beasts, recently, my sights have been set on the recent media phenomena Pesto the penguin and Moo Deng the pygmy hippopotamus. Far from ferocious, this pair would be a delightful match. So between the hot-headed hippo and the pudgy penguin, who would win?

Pesto the Penguin is a household name, gaining recognition this year for his abnormal plumpness. Standing at 35 inches and weighing in at 50 pounds, Pesto packs quite the punch. Though big, Pesto is abnormally cute, as his fluffy exterior and clumsiness contribute to his endearing personality. Pesto realistically has a physical advantage over Moo Deng due to his size and his sharp beak that could be used to slay the baby hippo, but he has yet to exhibit ferocious intent.

Overnight sensation and seeming underdog, Moo Deng gained fame from several videos showing the Thai hippo stumbling around and biting at his handlers. Though there is no recent record of Moo Deng's measurements, she weighed in at a measly 11 pounds. Moo Deng has been continuously praised for her appearance, as her skin is flawless (a 15-step skincare routine is no match for her glow), and she has single-handedly boosted the number of visitors at Thailand's Khao Kheow Open Zoo. To her advantage, Moo Deng has quite a fierce spirit, as park goers often record her biting and nipping at her handlers. However, Moo Deng is not yet at her projected final weight (around 300 pounds), so Pesto is a formidable opponent indeed.

The fight begins. Zoo handlers place both beasts in a ring. The beasts confusedly eye one another before giving each other stone-cold stares. Moo Deng makes the first move, using her shiny skin as a weapon and beaming light into Pesto's eyes. Pesto, aggravated, strikes back, half-heartedly pecking at Moo Deng in hopes of deterring her attacks. Moo Deng's tough yet well-moisturized skin is unscathed by her counterpart's pecks, and she decides to nip at his ankles. Pesto tries to use his mass to his advantage by attempting to sit on Moo Deng, but unfortunately, his inability to fly stops his advances, and he falls, becoming incapacitated. Moo Deng's crazed supporters cheer from the stands, and Moo Deng is crowned victor. Moo Deng would win against Pesto because she possesses a winning attitude that Pesto simply does not have. Although Pesto poses as a physically bigger threat, Moo Deng displays a diva-like quality that will push her to the end.

by **Owen Fugit**
Editor-in-Chief

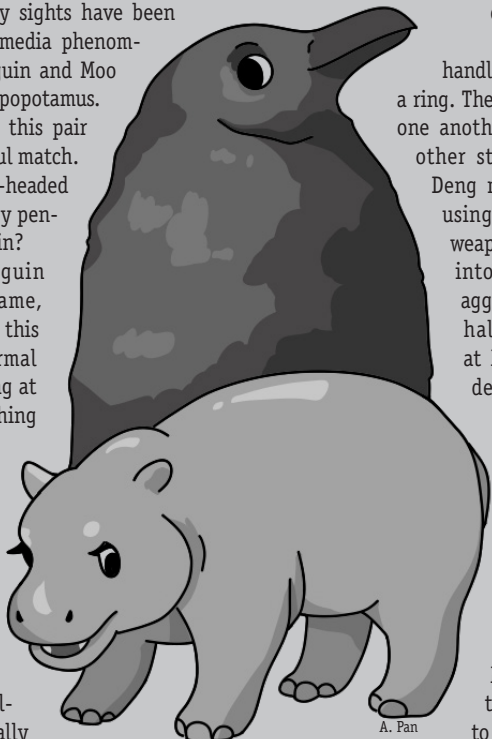
With the holiday season drawing ever nearer, many people are planning trips across the country and the globe. Most people will travel to the typical spots like Hawaii, Mexico, or Europe or visit family on the East Coast. But these vacations offer minimal potential for impressive Instagram stories, which is why I have gathered a list of the best places to visit this holiday season to maximize your social media reach and help you win the internet.

The Outback: Many people may venture to Australia this year. However, you can be one of a select handful to camp through the Australian Outback. Hop across the vast, arid plains like a kangaroo and maybe hang out with a koala. Be warned, however, as the Outback gets very hot at this time of year, with temperatures often above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. In that case, you may want to bring some water. Also, pack a fire extinguisher. The Outback may spontaneously combust every now and then. The good far outweighs the bad, though. The Australian Outback is home to the world's biggest rock and the world's longest fence. Truly, this collection of modern wonders of the world will have you coming back for second helpings of Vegemite all day long.

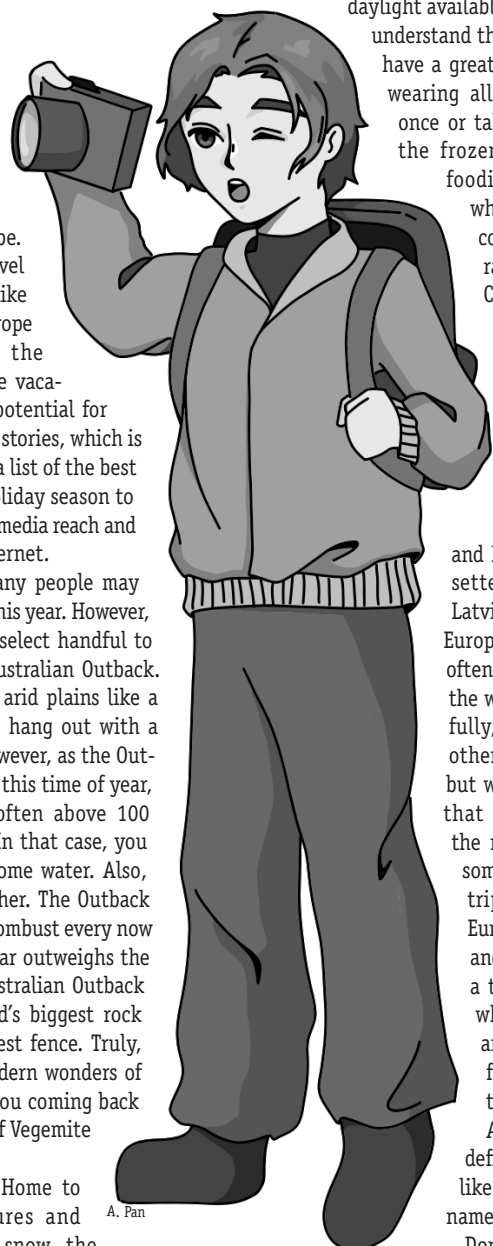
The Far North: Home to freezing temperatures and year-round ice and snow, the Far North is a perfect winter wonderland! You can venture to the Far North by taking a short flight to Alaska. While there may only be three hours of daylight available during the winter, Alaskans understand that you don't need daylight to have a great trip. You could have a blast wearing all your cold weather gear at once or taking a dog sled trip through the frozen tundra. Also, if you're a foodie, you will love Fairbanks, which boasts one of the highest concentrations of Thai restaurants of any city in the US. Come visit the Far North this winter and experience the glory of hiking in 18 layers and riding in freezing-cold cars.

Latvia: While all of your friends might venture to the tried and true parts of Europe like France and England, you can be a trendsetter and visit up-and-coming Latvia. When it comes to selecting European nations to visit, it can often be hard to choose between the wide selection offered. Thankfully, Latvia has everything the other countries in Europe have, but with even fewer tourists! Like that poet guy once said: "Take the road nobody travels on," (or something like that). Start your trip in Riga, Latvia, a classic European city with old buildings and lots of unique history. Take a tour through Rundale Palace, which is moderately decorated and has little history; it's perfect for people who scored a three on their AP Euro exam. Also, the cuisine in Latvia is definitely there, with delicacies like Gray Peas and Rye Bread, to name only a few.

Don't let peer pressure force you to vacation somewhere boring this year. I want to see more interesting Instagram stories, so please vacation somewhere cool. Safe travels!



A. Pan



A. Pan

BORDERS BASHES THE PRAISE AROUND TURKEY AT THANKSGIVING

by **Katie Borders**
National/World Editor

Fall is here, cheerful Thanksgiving spirit is in the air, and it's almost time for the turkey craze to set in across the nation. In my opinion, turkey is one of the most overrated Thanksgiving dishes, yet unfortunately it's normally the star of the show at a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. I've never quite enjoyed turkey meat, but I could always count on that one time of year, when I gaslit myself into believing that I liked the meat up until I had that first bite of it at the dinner table.

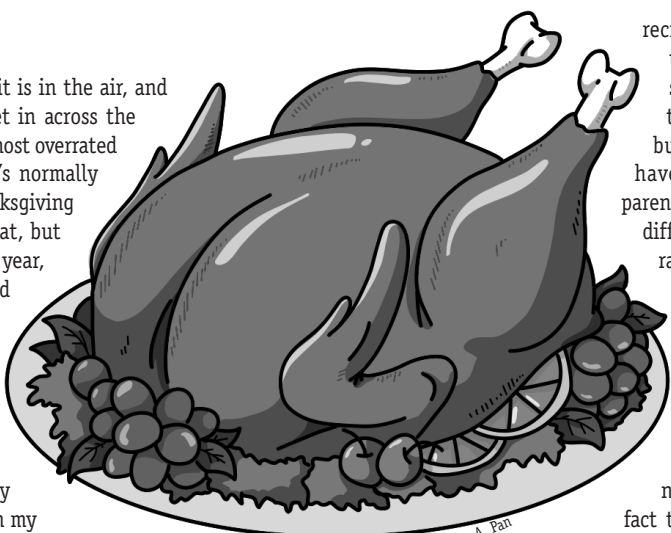
Now, 17 years old and having had my fair share of turkey at Thanksgiving dinners, I cannot convince myself that turkey is good or even pleasant. Thanksgiving is always a fun time to spend with family and reflect on what I'm most grateful for in my life, but preparing these annual dinners has also led me to the conclusion that turkey, whether covered in gravy or marinated in sauces for hours on end, will never be good.

I have given up on trying to figure out that "perfect" way to cook turkey. My family and I have attempted using multiple types of recipes, varying temperatures, baking times, and seasonings to try to find the right way to cook it, but none of the results have been promising. My parents annually try to find different ways to incorporate the leftover turkey into our diets, making dishes such as turkey soup or turkey sandwiches. My conclusion after 17 years: No matter how you cook a turkey, there's no way to get around the fact that without the gravy, turkey meat is as dry as the Sahara Desert – it's just a plain fact! Although it's an American favorite when it comes to the celebratory season, the dry meat sure puts a damper on the meal, as you try to finish more than a few bites of it. Even with its traditional sides, like cranberry sauce,

stuffing, and an assortment of seasoning, turkey remains infamously tasteless and bone-dry.

Watching my parents attempt to convince themselves into the idea that they like turkey on Thanksgiving is always humorous. It only takes a couple of bites of turkey to whip them out of the turkey craze and come to the inarguable conclusion that turkey is not very good. "Next year, no turkey" is what they always claim after the third day of painful leftovers; however, somehow a turkey always winds up on our dinner table every year.

As turkey is normally the crowning dish at a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, it's amusing to me to see all of the ways my family attempts to make turkey taste good: marinating it in sauces, carefully cooking it to "perfection," following the recipe "to a T," and pouring gravy or cranberry sauce on top. Although turkey for Thanksgiving may be a standing tradition in American culture, I cannot say that turkey is either delicious or moist. It is always flavorless and difficult to eat more than a couple bites of it, and — without fail — it is always dry as a bone. Personally, I believe that we should shift away from turkey on Thanksgiving; let these poor animals who don't even taste good live. Keep them off the chopping block and find a better-tasting alternative for the annual tradition. Although I fondly enjoy Thanksgiving celebrations, I believe that the turkey craze has got to go and we should keep turkey off the dinner table permanently.



A. Pan

- Grewal finds success in cross country
- Purcell shines in LGHS flag football

PEOPLE

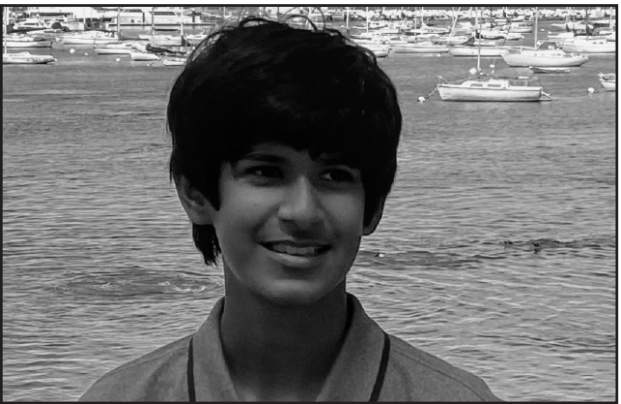
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Habib showcases his talent in math and debate

by Hayley Strahs and Dylan Wadhwa
News and Opinion Editors

Whether he's deciphering a problem for a math competition or spending hours with Leadership preparing for Spirit Week, freshman **Ivan Habib** does it all.

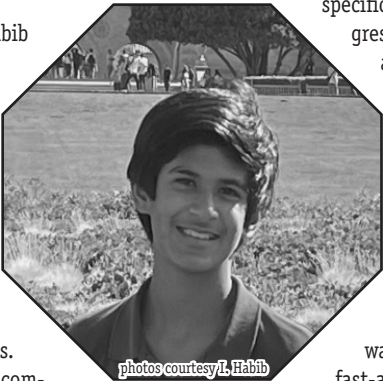
Although it's early in his high school journey, he is already taking on a challenging course load. Habib mentioned, "I'm taking Pre-Calculus Honors, French 2, Leadership, and English 9 Honors." Furthermore,



when asked if he had a favorite class, Habib replied, "I enjoy Honors Biology a lot." Despite his enjoyment of biology and conducting labs, Habib is unsure if he will pursue a future in the subject, expressing that he had not yet made a decision regarding his future major.

In addition to his academic classes, Habib is an active member of the LGHS Leadership team. He explained, "This is my first year in leadership. I didn't do it in middle school." He is involved in planning schoolwide events like Spirit Week. He mentioned that the preparation required significant commitment during October. According to Habib, it took all 13 freshmen over 20 hours to prepare their decorations, set up the designs, and learn how to manage their lunchtime games.

Math is one of Habib's passions. He has competed in math competitions since middle school and is currently part of LGHS's Math club. He said, "I'm part of the Math club because I've been doing competition math since sixth grade, and it's something I really enjoy." Currently, Habib is preparing to take the American Math Competition 10 in hopes of qualifying for the American



photos courtesy of Habib

Invitational Mathematics Examination this year. Although he missed qualifying last year by just six points, Habib remains optimistic that he will improve his score this November.

Habib joined the LGHS Speech and Debate Club this year, more specifically, its Congressional Debate, or Congress, team. In Congress tournaments, students mimic the process of debating and passing mock legislation. On Oct. 27, Habib and other LGHS Speech and Debate members participated in the first California Forensics League Congress tournament of the academic year. According to Habib, many of this tournament's student-drafted bills incorporate a lot of foreign policy, including "a bill to reduce tariffs on Chinese EVs from 100 percent to 25 percent [and a bill] to increase funding for [Power Africa]." Outside of school, Habib enjoys playing badminton. "I've been playing since I was nine," Habib shared, "but it was just with my family." With LGHS Badminton tryouts fast-approaching, Habib hopes to make the team this year.

From complex math to elaborate Leadership events to fast-moving badminton, Habib has a lot on his plate. Despite this, Habib's commitment to putting in maximum effort never falters. When it comes to staying motivated, he commented, "What you do will reward you if you try hard."

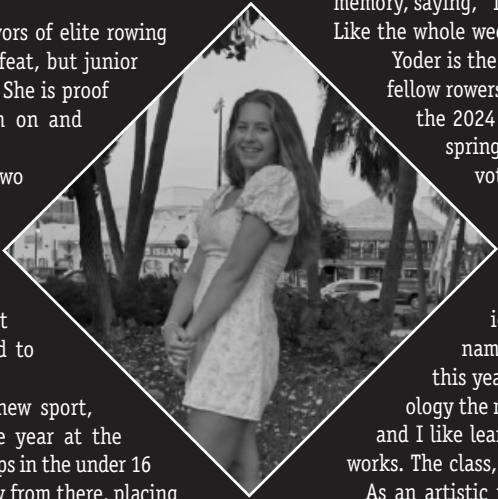
Yoder dominates rowing races across the country

by Julia Valencia
People Editor

Balancing the intense endeavors of elite rowing and academic success is no easy feat, but junior **Jenna Yoder** makes it look easy. She is proof that excellence can thrive both on and off the water.

Yoder has been rowing for two and a half years. She tried out the sport because her older sister, **Hailey Yoder**, joined the team first. Yoder shared, "I was still looking for a sport that suited me, and so I decided to try rowing out."

She quickly adapted to the new sport, earning eighth place her novice year at the 2023 Youth National Championships in the under 16 coxed quad. Her success only grew from there, placing fourth at the 2024 Youth National Championships in a under 17 straight quad. Additionally, she recently placed first in a youth quad at one of the largest regattas in the world, Head of



the Charles, located in Boston. Yoder recalled her favorite rowing memory, saying, "There's so many, but definitely nationals last year. Like the whole week was so fun."

Yoder is the definition of a team player, being chosen by her fellow rowers as one of the Varsity Women's team captains for the 2024 to 2025 season. Additionally, at the end of last spring season, she won the Rower's Rower award — voted on solely by rowers on the team and given to someone who exemplifies all the best qualities of a teammate.

On top of all her rowing success, Yoder is an academic force, taking Anatomy and Physiology, AP US History, and Pre-Calculus, just to name a few. When asked what her favorite course is this year, she said that she enjoyed Anatomy and Physiology the most: "It's something I'm genuinely interested in, and I like learning about. I've wanted to know how the body works. The class, it's just so fun. It's perfect for me."

As an artistic person, Yoder is also taking Ceramics this year. She took Fashion and Design both freshman and sophomore years, but says that she particularly enjoys the creative freedom that Ceramics offers.

Yoder is looking to continue her rowing career past high school, stating, "I'm just trying to keep my options open. I would love to row in college, and I'm in the process of recruiting right now." Though she is undecided on where she would like to go for school, she does know her academic area of focus. She explained, "I would like to major in kinesiology. It's like the study of the body and its movement."

Outside of classes and rowing, Yoder enjoys hanging out with her family and relaxing in her room during her free time. Jenna shows that it is possible to excel in all aspects of a student-athlete's life, inspiring other high schoolers to reach for the stars.



photos courtesy of Yoder

Grewal sprints to success

by Owen Fugit
Editor-in-Chief

No matter the activity, senior **Madan Grewal** always works his hardest. From being a star mechanic for a local racing team to an excellent photographer and videographer to an exceptional athlete, Grewal aims to succeed. This year, he is taking five classes, with a free sixth, so he can film and edit a professional podcast for the local media station, KCAT. After school, Grewal runs in the LGHS Boys' Cross Country Team. In his free time, he is a dedicated Formula 1 fan, waking up at 3:00 AM on Sundays to catch races live.

Of his five classes, Grewal's favorite is his English Social Justice class. "The reading can be a little annoying," he said, "but getting in discussions with your fellow classmates is nice and [Tiffany Hamm] is a really nice teacher." Grewal explained that his favorite learning style is discussion and participation-based work, which is why he greatly enjoys Social Justice. When it came to taking an unscheduled sixth, Grewal said many factors were at play. "I knew I didn't want to take six classes this year. And my buddy came up to me last year, and he said, 'Hey, are you taking a free sixth? I have this podcast I want to record.'" Grewal enjoys photography and making videos, so scrapping his sixth period to film a podcast with friends was an easy decision to make.

For Grewal, getting into multimedia was natural, and "growing up in this era where it's been easier and easier to get into video making and photos and everything, that passion has always kind of been there." However, his passion for photography took off when he combined it with his love for motorsports, taking pictures of the cars he worked on

at AccelRaceTek, a local race car company. When he joined the cross country team at LGHS, the videos made by former students inspired him to pick up multimedia. He now uses those skills to film and broadcast all Los Gatos Town Council and Planning Commission meetings for KCAT as well as for editing and filming the 3rd 'n Long podcast.

While Grewal has a strong interest in film and motorsport, he also spends a lot of time running and practicing for cross country and track and field. Grewal originally took up cross-country because his father had run a lot during his childhood, so he felt a special connection to running. For Grewal, the real joy in running comes from the exploration cross country facilitates and the team bonding at meets. During the spring, he runs the 1600-meter and the 3200-meter in track and field and Steeplechase in collegiate all-comer meets. Last year, Grewal had to cut his seasons in cross country and track and field down due to an injury. However, he strived to remedy that this year, saying, "this year was all about coming off of that subpar season and trying to push. And I think I've done that."

For Grewal, track and field represents his best memory from high school. "In track season, [my brother and I] were pretty even, and one of our seniors said his prediction was that **Taran [Grewal]** would break five minutes in the mile first, and I would break 11 minutes in the two-mile first," said Grewal. Grewal explained that this prediction did come true when he broke 11 minutes at a dual meet at Milpitas.

It is clear to see that Madan Grewal is a high achiever. Whether he is working on multimedia projects or running across the finishing line at Baylands Park, he always gives it his all.



courtesy of Grewal

Moreira values hard work in all ventures

by Ainsley Northrop
Editor-in-Chief

With unwavering compassion and diligence, sophomore **Zammantha Moreira** puts full effort into all of her endeavors. As a dedicated volleyball player, committed student, and caring friend, this down-to-earth sophomore leaves those around her with a smile on their face.

Moreira took up volleyball for the first time in sixth grade because someone "brought a ball one day" and she and her friends "just started playing." In seventh grade, she moved to CT English Middle School, where she joined the volleyball team. Even outside of team practice, Moreira built her skills, practicing after school and during lunch breaks. Through hard work and dedication, Moreira became a key player on the team.

Currently, Moreira is a member of the LGHS Girls' JV Volleyball Team. She described the current season: "It's fun to now support the freshmen... [and] I have a lot of my past teammates from my freshman year and my best friend [sophomore **Nadia Wilk**]." She continued, "On JV, you get to play a lot more because you're focused on going to the next level." Moreira particularly enjoys getting kills and blocks during games, but above all, she emphasized her love for the supportive team environment and admiration for the older varsity girls. Beyond LGHS volleyball, Moreira plays for Main Beach Volleyball Club.

One of Moreira's key values is "to stay focused in school, so later in life, you can appreciate it." This year, Moreira's favorite class is Social Entrepreneurship because, unlike most courses, "you really get to interact with other people." Looking

ahead on her high school career, Moreira expressed interest in AP Spanish and math courses.

In the future, Moreira hopes to become a real estate agent. Explaining this ambition, she reasoned, "[My dad] is a real estate agent and he also has his own business...seeing what he does, that kind of made me want to be like him." Moreira added, "[He is] one of my biggest supporters and someone I greatly look up to because of his persistence. What he does inspires me to want to do great things in my life." Among Moreira's talents is Mexican folklórico, which she danced from two-and-a-half years old until the end of middle school. Despite switching to volleyball, folklórico remains important to her: "At my quinceanera I honored it by dancing with my mom, by myself, and dancing another song with one of my friends who I danced with for many years."

When she is not at school or on the court, Moreira enjoys spending time with loved ones and listening to music. Moreira cherishes her summer visits with her grandparents in Mexico, especially getting to listen to her grandfather. She explained, "He tells a lot of stories because he used to be a teacher there. He has stories from his parents and his grandparents, so it's nice to hear about them in history." Moreira cited her parents as her biggest mentors, describing her mother as a "really hard working person." Beyond immediate family and friends, Moreira enjoys spending time with her two guinea pigs, Claude and Ginger, as well as her mother's dog, Ayah, who has an Instagram page.

Be sure to say hello to this kind-hearted sophomore as she continues high school. Stop by one of her volleyball games or ask her about her latest interests; you will not regret it!



courtesy of Moreira

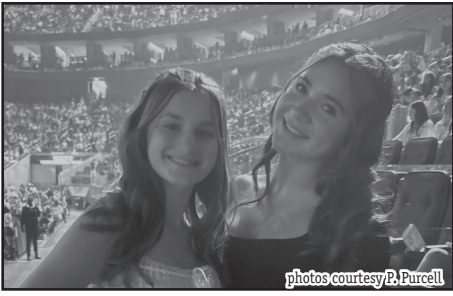
Purcell excels at football

by Isabella Langner and Sam Gruetter
People and Opinion Editors

Starting on flag football, freshman **Paige Purcell** is making headlines for her series of athletic achievements in only her first year of high school. This fall, Purcell joined the first Girls' Flag Football team at LGHS, making varsity as a freshman, and has ambitions to do the same with soccer. She shared, "I'm really happy to have been brought up to varsity because I've made so many good friends in other grades. It brought me closer with people that I haven't and probably would have never met." She was part of the starting lineup for offense and defense, playing a major role in the success of the team. Flag football ended their outstanding season on Oct. 23 with a record of 22-2 and tied for league champions. Purcell expressed, "I'm really sad to see all of the seniors go. They're probably my best friends on the team." Her inspiration to play came from her dad, **Chad Purcell**, who played football in high school and is currently a LGHS football coach, as well as her coach **Jaye Reinman**. Purcell plans to continue playing flag football throughout the rest of high school and is excited for the 2025-2026 season. Another one of Purcell's passions is soccer. She currently plays for Los Gatos United and plans to join the LGHS Girls' Soccer team this winter. She is excited for the upcoming season and said, "I'm looking forward to playing with my friends from my club team. I've also been thinking about being on the LGHS team throughout elementary and middle school. It's just something I've always looked forward to." If the flag football team's success is not a testament to Purcell's athleticism, her club soccer team certainly is. Her club team achieved the



Girls Academy title, one of the highest levels in girls' soccer and a program that works to empower women's soccer across the country. The title means that the team will play additional games against other clubs that have also qualified for Girls Academy status, a more competitive pool of teams. She explained her motivation for staying committed to her teammates, saying, "I'm a big part of my team. Me missing out on practices and games affects everyone else."



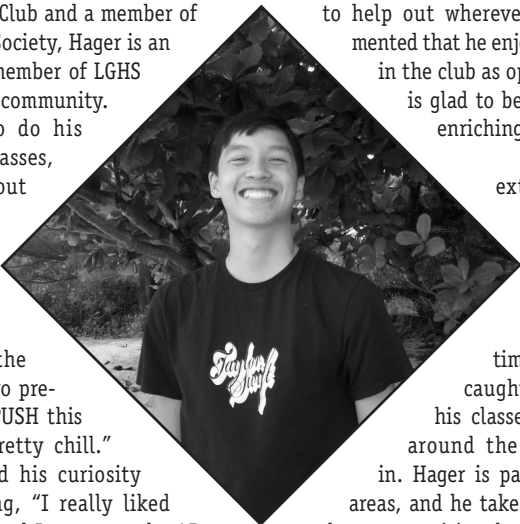
In addition to her series of athletic accolades, Purcell has many hobbies and ambitions outside of soccer. Among them is walking her dog, spending time with her family, and sleeping. Responding to her dream vacation, Purcell expressed that she wants to travel to Charleston, South Carolina, where she hopes to see Megan Moroney, the country singer. In addition to Charleston, Purcell hopes to visit idealistic Bora Bora with her family, remarking about how beautiful the water and weather are. Whether it's catching footballs in a previously male-dominated sport or playing soccer, Paige Purcell is just getting started on her LGHS year journey.

HAGER SERVES THE LG COMMUNITY

by Sahil Muthukrishnan and Nelson Kramer
Sports and Humor Editors

From doing community service to hitting the books, junior **Bradley Hager** is making every minute of high school count. As vice president of the Los Gatos Key Club and a member of the Japanese Honor Society, Hager is an active and engaged member of LGHS as well as the town's community. Hager strives to do his best in all of his classes, but when asked about his favorite, he was quick to mention his knack for APUSH. He outlined one of the reasons he enjoys the overall class: "AP Euro prepared me well for APUSH this year. It's fun and pretty chill." Hager also expressed his curiosity for chemistry, noting, "I really liked chemistry last year, and I want to take AP Chem next year, so hopefully I still have the same interest." As a STEM-oriented person, he remarked on the possibility of incorporating chemistry into his future. Although Hager prefers to keep in the present moment, he still thinks about college. He predicts he will want to go to a California university by the time he starts applying to schools. Hager is an active community service member, frequently participating in trash clean-ups and more. Hager does most of his service as vice president of the Los Gatos Key Club. Key Club is a Division 12 West organization run by LGHS students, helping organize community service. Key Club also works closely with the Kiwanis Club of Los Gatos, where they "[help with] all the events they put on." Key Club is an important part of the high school because of its connection to the

larger Los Gatos community. Hager shared that "every month [Key club] do[es] a trail clean up down by...the Los Gatos trail." He enjoys giving back to those around him through these pickups. Hager appreciates that Key Club allows students to help out wherever they can. He commented that he enjoyed having more sway in the club as opposed to last year. He is glad to be part of something as enriching as Key Club. In addition to these extracurriculars, Hager enjoys shopping at Costco, playing video games, and hanging out with friends in his free time. Though he is often caught up with work from his classes, he enjoys relaxing around the house and sleeping in. Hager is passionate in numerous areas, and he takes full advantage of all the opportunities that come his way. Living studiously and giving back at every opportunity, Hager lifts up the people around him. Bradley Hager aims to play an important part at LGHS and in his community.



Sophomore Gavin Massa propels himself to success

by Claudia Casal
Culture Editor

Instead of getting his driver's license, plane aficionado **Gavin Massa** has begun his journey to becoming a pilot. The sophomore is on track to become a certified plane pilot at 17 all while balancing both academics and extracurriculars. Massa is currently keeping busy with various classes, his favorite class being choir. "Choir is just a fun class," he said. "We get to stand up and sing, and there's a lot of activity. Although, it is tough memorizing all of the music before the performance." This summer, Massa went to Europe along with the school choir to perform in all kinds of venues, such as St. Stephen's Cathedral. Traveling from Prague to Vienna, Massa has not only been sharing his enthusiasm for singing, but also his passion for aviation. Massa's interest in planes began in seventh grade when his best friend introduced him to the world of aviation. Presently, Massa takes weekend trips to Los Angeles so that he can take dynamic pictures of military aircrafts. He has begun his journey as a student pilot and is currently ten months into flight school. Massa hopes to fly solo by his seventeenth birthday. In



his first year of flight school, Massa has been learning about basic meteorology and manual plane flight. In the next step of his two-year journey, he is excited to learn how to do new types of landings, experiment with autopilot, and fly longer distances. Massa is also an avid photographer and contributes to the Los Gatos High School Photography Club. Not only is Massa an active member of the photography club, but he also plans on reinitiating the Aviation Club. He envisions the club as a space to discuss planes with other aircraft fanatics. The club would mostly consist of answering any questions people have about aviation and, as Massa added, "just have a bunch of fun talking about planes." Recently, Massa went to Los Angeles to spend a Friday waiting to capture photos of Air Force planes flying through the canyons of Death Valley, which is a portion of the Sidewinder training route and has become a popular spot for avid plane photographers to take pictures of rare aircrafts. Massa spent eight hours waiting for the Air Force planes because there wasn't a schedule for when the planes fly through, so he never knew when the next plane was coming. The trip ended up being a success, according to Massa: "The average number of

planes to see is about one per hour, and we saw ten. So yeah, we were lucky." After graduating from Los Gatos High School, Massa envisions himself going to college for atmospheric or meteorological science. After college, he plans on putting his aviation training to use by becoming a commercial pilot. He stated, "I'm hoping that I'll start out at Southwest Airlines and move on to United to become a captain there." When asked about his life motto, Massa said, "Find something you love, stick with it and try your hardest to achieve it." There is no better example of this than Massa as he continues to pursue the things for which he is most passionate.

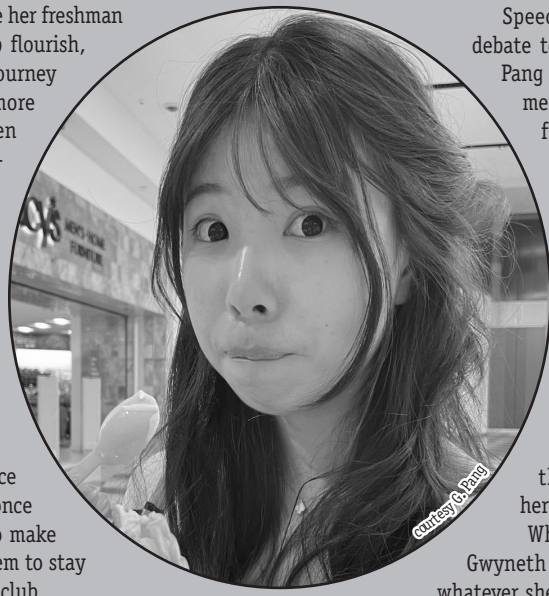


SENIOR GWYNETH PANG LEADS IN SPEECH AND DEBATE

by Siyona Singhal
News Editor

LGHS senior **Gwyneth Pang** can truly do it all. Excelling in her classes, in the courtroom, and in her community, Pang is an outstanding individual. Pang is taking many rigorous classes this year, with one of her favorites being Economics, describing it as a class where "it's not very assignment based, it's just really fun to talk about." In addition to these classes, Pang is also taking two electives: Graphic Design 2 and Psychology. As a senior, Pang is swamped with college applications, aspiring to get into Carnegie Mellon University. Pang explained, "I want to study design [and] they have a very good design program." Pang has been doing art for most of her life and decided she wanted to be in the creative field, figuring that design was a more practical application of her passion. She wants to create a career in experience design, a newer area of the design field that includes creating physical experiences for people and virtual reality designing. Furthermore, this year, Pang earned herself the title of president of the Speech and Debate club at LGHS. Pang has been doing Speech and Debate outside of school since sixth grade and has been

involved with the LGHS club since her freshman year. Pang has watched the club flourish, saying, "It's been quite a big journey because the club used to be more discussion-based, but since then with the help of previous presidents, we were able to make a lot of improvements." Pang became captain in her junior year and is now president of the club, describing it as "stressful, but also really rewarding." To Pang, a key part of being a leader is making sure students are engaged in her club. She tries to "keep activities very casual and a fun experience for everyone." She believes that once people join the club and start to make friends, it is easy to convince them to stay and feel more committed to the club.



Speech and Debate participates in multiple debate tournaments over the course of the year. Pang explained her favorite part of the tournaments: "You get to meet a bunch of people from other schools who are also interested in doing what you do, and it's just a great way to see other people's perspective on the same current events and bills that we debate about." Outside of school, Pang is also a part of the LGHS Youth Commission. She commented, "It's fun. We get to plan a lot of events for the town." She loves art and often goes to art studios to paint. In her free time, you can find her rewatching her favorite movie, Leon the Professional, and eating chestnuts, her favorite food. Whether she's making art or an argument, Gwyneth Pang puts passion and hard work into whatever she does.

Nadal announces retirement, shocking fans around the globe

by Kayla Mitchell
Media Production Editor

On Oct. 10, Spain’s famed tennis star Rafael Nadal announced his retirement from professional tennis. In a video posted on X, Nadal revealed to his fans that the last tournament of his career will be the Davis Cup starting on Nov. 19 in his home country. With Roger Federer’s retirement in 2022 and Nadal’s recent announcement, the era of the “Big Three” of tennis is coming to an end.

Nadal, born in Manacor, Spain, began his professional tennis career in 2001 at the young age of 15. Early in his career, Nadal quickly became one of the most successful teenagers in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour’s history, winning 16 titles before age 20, including a French Open title. The Spaniard is the world’s most famous clay court tennis player, earning himself the title of “King of Clay” in 2005 when he won eight clay court titles in a single year and had an amazing 81 consecutive match win streak. Nadal is one of the sport’s most successful players of all time, winning 22 Grand Slam titles, 14 of which are from his beloved French Open. He holds many records, including most consecutive weeks as world number one with 209 weeks, most French Open titles, first teenage winner of a Grand

Slam tournament, and countless others. Nadal is also one of only three professional players to complete the Golden Slam in singles, winning every Grand Slam tournament and the Olympic gold medal during his career. Alongside Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal is known as a member of the “Big Three” of tennis, a trio that has dominated the ATP tour for the past 20 years.

While Nadal’s career was highly successful, it has recently been plagued by injuries preventing the Spaniard from competing. Earlier this year, Nadal suffered a tear in his hip muscle, forcing him to withdraw from the Australian Open in January and delaying his return to tournaments. In the emotional video posted on Nadal’s X account, he stated, “It is obviously a difficult decision, one that has taken me some time to make, but in this life, everything has a beginning and an end.” Nadal, alongside current world number three Carlos Alcaraz, will compete for the Spanish team in the Davis Cup against the Netherlands this November. In his video, Nadal explains his joy that his last professional showing will be at the Davis Cup, a full circle since one of his first great moments as a professional player occurred at the same tournament in 2004. Currently, the Spaniard has not announced which draws of the tournament he will be competing in. Fans anticipate a Nadal-Alcaraz

doubles team, but a run in the singles division looks considerably less certain. Nadal has reported that he will not compete in the singles draw unless he is 100 percent healthy and ready to win his match. As one of the most beloved players in the game, tennis fans around the world will mourn the ATP Tour’s loss of the charismatic, competitive, and resilient Rafael Nadal.

(Sources: TP Tour, Tennis.com)



FAREWELL OF A LEGEND: Rafael Nadal waves goodbye to his fans after a match.

LA Dodgers win World Series

by Atharava Pandey
National/World Editor

The Los Angeles Dodgers triumphed against the New York Yankees in the 2024 World Series, clinching the best-of-seven series 4-1. The Dodgers secured their eighth title in franchise history, their first in a regular season since 1988.

Game One of the Dodgers and Yankees series was close. The game ended when Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman hit a walk-off slam in the tenth inning to top the Yankees 6-3 at home. The second game of the series was low-scoring. The Dodgers took a narrow lead and did not relinquish it for the rest of the game, beating the Yankees 4-2 and taking a 2-0 series lead. The Dodgers had won two crucial games at home.



NEW YORK NEW YORK: Yankee players celebrate in outfield.

The series moved to New York for Game Three. The Dodgers dominated for the entirety of the game, winning 4-2 and taking a monumental 3-0 lead, giving the Yankees a difficult task. A 3-0 comeback had only happened once before in the history of the MLB and had never happened before in the World Series. The Yankees came out guns blazing, destroying the Dodgers 11-4 in game four. The Yankees had managed to win a game and began their climb to even out the scoreboard with a 3-1 series.

The Yankees entered Game Five with a chance to send the series back to Los Angeles. The Yankees seemed about to force a Game Six, jumping out to a 5-0 lead. However, the resilient Dodgers overcame this deficit, winning their fourth game of the series 7-6 in thrilling fashion.

Freddie Freeman dominated the series After winning the World Series MVP, Freeman said, “It seems like we hit every speed bump possible over the course of this year and to overcome what we did as a group of guys, it’s special.” On the night the Dodgers clinched their division, Freeman sprained his ankle but fought through hours of treatment to get back on the field.

The Dodgers suffered many injuries to key players throughout the season, including one to their star player, Shohei Ohtani. However, they managed to overcome it all and win the World Series.

“One thing is that we just kept going,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “Even in the postseason, I don’t think anyone had us picked. I don’t think they had us picked to get out of the first series. For us to go out there and fight and scratch and claw and win 11 games in October, that’s a credit to our guys.”

The Dodgers have suffered many heartbreaking losses over the past years, including the 2017 World Series and their elimination in the divisional round the past two years to the Padres and Diamondbacks. They responded by spending over a billion dollars in the offseason, adding critical pieces that ultimately resulted in a World Series title.

The Dodgers overcame their grueling season’s adversity to win the World Series. No matter what happened, they never lost their focus. As Friedman said, “Winning is always the No. 1 goal.”

(Source: ESPN)



WORLD CHAMPS: Dodgers pitcher Graterol gears up to throw.

Teen scales highest peaks

by Britt Melinauskas
Sports Editor

An 18-year-old Nepalese man named Nima Rinji Sherpa has become the youngest to summit all 14 of the world’s highest mountain peaks. Rinji began climbing in September 2022 when he summited Nepal’s 26,781-foot (8,163-meter) Manaslu. Following the climb that started his journey, he climbed all mountains above 26,246 feet in the following two years, including the notorious Mount Everest (29,028 feet) and K2 (28,251 feet). On his final encounter, Rinji reached Shishapangma (26,335 feet) alongside Pasang Nurbu Sherpa. Shishapangma was his final “eight-thousander” climb of the 14 peaks recognized by the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation.

Climbs such as Annapurna (26,545 feet) have been his most cherished because Rinji finished the climbs in quick timing and felt invincible. His completion of Everest and Lhotse (8,516m) were on the same day, just ten hours apart.

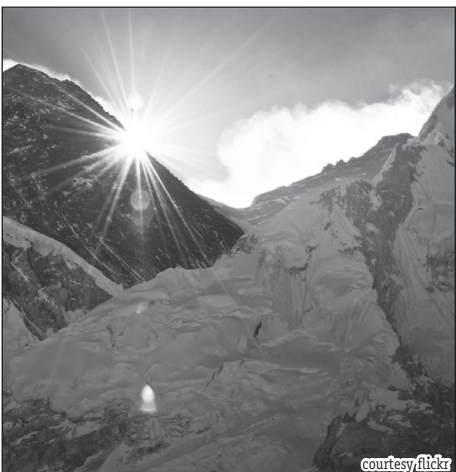
Rinji is moving toward his ultimate challenge, currently preparing to climb the world’s eighth-highest mountain, Manaslu, this winter. Italian mountaineer Simone Moro told CNN that both will climb “[The] 8,000-meter mountain in winter... There are no fixed ropes for us, there is no (supplemental) oxygen for us, and there is no support for us. So, it’s like pure human endurance. It has never been done in the history of mountaineering.”

Rinji’s father, Tashi Lakpa Sherpa, and uncle, Mingma Sherpa, are Rinji’s greatest inspirations. His father climbed Everest nine times at age 19 without bottled oxygen. His uncle also participated in the sport of climbing and became the first South Asian climber to summit the 14 peaks in 2011. The generations of the Sherpa family originating from Nepal’s high-altitude Himalayan Mountains passed down the traditions among the many generations following Rinji today. The people have served as guides and porters, but the name

has become synonymous with mountaineering. Rinji used the slogan #SherpaPower online to dedicate his world record to all generations of the Sherpa family that ventured beyond traditional boundaries and tested their abilities in mountaineering. As Rinji explained, “Through #SherpaPower, I want to show the younger generation of Sherpas that they can rise above the stereotype of being only support climbers and embrace their potential as top-tier athletes, adventurers, and creators. We are not just guides; we are trailblazers. Let this be a call to every Sherpa to see the dignity in our work, the power in our heritage, and the limitless possibilities in our future.”

Rinji and his partner Pasang Nurbu have little to no fear of climbing, as both were caught in numerous avalanches during their climbs. Keeping their bodies healthy while on the peaks is a priority since the prolonged time above 8,000 meters can deprive the brain and lungs of oxygen, sometimes causing hypoxia, a lack of oxygen in the tissues that can cause serious bodily damage.

(Sources: CNN, BBC, AP News)



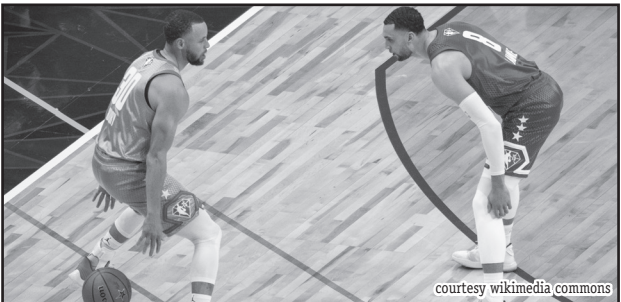
SUNRISE: Mount Everest is the tallest mountain peak in the world.

NBA season continues with impressive upsets and success stories

by Rory Zeman
Media Production Editor

On Oct. 22, the Los Angeles Lakers faced the Minnesota Timberwolves, kicking off the 78th NBA season. Since the start of the season, irregularities in teams’ performances have contradicted fans’ expectations. Some teams started off the season practically flawless while other seemingly championship-bound teams found themselves at the bottom of their conference.

To start, the highly competitive Western Conference has a multitude of championship-contending teams, unlike the Eastern Conference, which only has a handful of legitimate contenders. Leading the West and being the youngest team in the league, the Oklahoma City Thunder have not disappointed, shaping up to lead the conference for the



KILLER CROSSOVER: Golden State Warriors All-Star guard Curry pulls shifty move.

second year in a row. The Phoenix Suns and the Golden State Warriors are trailing close behind, despite both teams’ struggles to achieve playoff success. Led by seasoned veterans Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry, respectively, the Suns and the Warriors currently occupy the second and third seed and could make a jump in the highly competitive Western Conference from their underwhelming performances in recent years. In addition, the Memphis Grizzlies are currently in the sixth seed, a position that would grant them a playoff spot. After being the 13th seed last season and having the vast majority of their roster out due to injuries, the team is looking for a comeback season with their star players, Ja Morant, Jaren Jackson Junior, and Desmond Bane, fully recovered. The most disappointing performance so far has been that of the Dallas Mavericks, who are currently sitting at the 11th seed after making it to the 2024 NBA finals.

Although significantly less competitive than the West, the Eastern Conference still has a handful of superteam-caliber squads. By far, the best performance of any team this season is the Cleveland Cavaliers, who have yet to lose a game and have a strong hold over the first seed in the East. The team’s dominant frontcourt, led by Jarrett Allen and Evan Mobley, is a principal reason for the team’s early season success, giving them the number-one defensive rating in the entire league. Following a championship run from last season, the Boston Celtics retain the second seed, yet they are ahead of the third seed by a considerable margin. Despite early season injuries from their center, Kristaps Porzingis, the team has been fairly successful, with Jayson Tatum averaging over 30 points per game. Although two teams

overshadow the rest of the Eastern Conference, others have shifted from pre-season expectations. Namely, the Milwaukee Bucks, led by superstars Giannis Antetokounmpo and Damian Lillard, are in the 14th seed after consistently being a top team for years and having a championship run in 2021.

This NBA season is off to a surprising yet exciting start. With the NBA Cup around the corner, fans will get a preview of which teams have the best chances of prevailing in the 2025 playoffs.

(Sources: CNN, NBA)



GREEK FREAK: Giannis Antetokounmpo celebrates after dunking tough bucket.

LGHS Girls' Field Hockey comes to an astounding close

by Margo Rawlings
Editor-in-Chief

Following months of practices and games, Los Gatos Varsity Field Hockey concluded its fall season on Nov. 9.

LGFH finished their league play ranked third in the DeAnza Division of the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League (SCVAL). Their season saw various highs and lows, with the team producing several decisive victories. On Oct. 1, Los Gatos beat St. Ignatius, coming back in the second half after trailing 0-1 for the first two quarters of the game. Tying the game in the first few minutes of the third quarter, the Cats quickly gained momentum, adding two more ticks to the board, which resulted in a 3-1 victory. Later in the month, Los Gatos faced



SHORT CORNER: Los Gatos senior captain **Alice Anckarman** completes a pass.

Saint Francis at home. Having lost 4-1 early in the season, the Cats were eager to prove themselves. The game remained close, with Saint Francis scoring early. The Cats did not falter, tying the game from a short corner play. In the fourth quarter, LG secured their 2-1 victory, scoring their second short corner goal of the game.

The following week, the Cats matched up against the Archbishop Mitty Monarchs. The game remained tight, with the scoreboard reading 0-0 for the first three quarters of the match. LG used a play that they found success with in their game against Saint Francis to produce the first goal of the match. The Monarchs quickly re-tied the game after scoring on a short corner. With a few minutes left of regular time, Los Gatos received a series of short corners, but they couldn't score. As time expired, the Cats played through their short corner, creating a foul that granted them another opportunity to surpass the Monarchs with yet another short corner. As Mitty defended the short corner, the umpire rewarded Los Gatos with a stroke. Junior **Leaya Cleary** took the stroke; her shot deflected off the Monarch's goalie and continued into the cage, securing the Cats' victory.

Los Gatos entered the Central Coast Section (CCS) playoffs seated third, giving them two byes. The Cats entered the playoffs in the quarter-finals against the Willow Glen Rams. The first quarter saw equal competition, with both teams creating strong opportunities to score, but LG dominated the second half of the game. Conceding two short corners during the first quarter and then blocking Willow

Glen's offense for the remainder of the game, Los Gatos produced 21 short corners to the Rams's five. The game remained scoreless for all four quarters, with Los Gatos applying constant pressure to the Rams's defense. The fourth quarter saw more than ten short corners, but Los Gatos could not score. Following the conclusion of regular time, the teams moved on to sudden victory overtime, where Willow Glen secured a short corner, allowing them to score on a deflection.

Although the Wildcats' season did not end as they hoped, the team will begin to rebuild during off season in order to remain a fierce competitor in next year's league.



SHOOT: Cleary strikes the ball during a short corner against the Rams.

LGHS hockey flourishes

by Siyona Singhal
News Editor

The LGHS hockey team kicked off its season with high hopes and big goals, being more motivated than ever, setting its sights on making a solid mark in its league.

Sophomore **Ashley Young**, a player on the junior varsity A and junior varsity B teams, expressed her love for hockey, saying, "I like being able to go fast and I like the places we get to travel to for tournaments." Young plays defense on the junior varsity B team but is a center when playing for the junior varsity A team. She prefers playing defense because "you feel more in control when you know that you're there to back up your goalie." Young started her hockey career after seeing her older brother play and has been on the ice for seven years. She has not yet found her favorite moment of this season, but reminisced about last year's season when "we went to state, so we went to LA for the weekend and we got second."

Junior **Bridget Moore** is the only girl on the varsity team. She plays the center position, explaining, "I've always played center my whole life, growing up, and I'm good at face-offs." Her father's family is from the East Coast, which is why Moore has been playing hockey since she was five or six years old. Her favorite part about the sport is "definitely the

relationships I've created on my club team. Those are all my best friends and I love hanging out with them and it just makes me want to go to practice even more." To aspiring players, Moore admired that



ON ICE: LG players prepare for match in the hockey rink.

"some people are good at skating, some people are good at stick handling, and some people are good at shooting. You just have to find what you're good at." Moore enjoys being on the team despite being the only female, expressing that "I love playing with them and it's a good dynamic. They all lift me up and it's really good."

Senior **Storm Evans** is also a player on varsity. His father played hockey and inspired Evans to do the same. Evans plays on the wing, choosing this position because "I've just played it my whole life. It's easier than defense and you get to score more." Evans explained that his favorite part about playing hockey is "getting competitive and playing with my team and just feeling the satisfaction of winning a close game." His advice to beginners in the sport is to "just go 100 percent every time you're on the ice."

The varsity hockey team is currently second in their league, five points behind Palo Alto. The junior varsity A team is currently fourth in their league, only three points behind first. Junior varsity B is third in their league and also three points behind first place. Be sure to go cheer on these teams at their upcoming games this week!



BLOCKED: LGHS senior goalie **Brayden Robinson** stops a shot.

LGHS football advances to CCS quarter finals

by Lucy Panicacci
Editor-in-Chief

The Los Gatos High School Varsity Football team finished second in league with a record of 4-1 after a 44-6 win against Palo Alto on Nov. 8. Junior **Grayson Doslak** displayed a strong performance in the game, scoring LG's first three touchdowns. The Wildcats ended the second quarter up a staggering 34-0, following an 18-yard pass to senior **Owen Panu** for a touchdown and a 31-yard rushing touchdown by senior **Scotty Brennan**. Until the final quarter, LG held Palo Alto to zero points. LG football now stands at an overall record of 8-2.

LG held their homecoming game against the Menlo School Knights on Oct. 25. As part of the pink-out theme supporting breast cancer awareness, LG football came decked out in neon pink socks. The Wildcats achieved a shut-out win against Menlo. During this game, junior **Beau Musser** excelled on the field, ending with 123 receiving yards and two touchdowns. In the third quarter, Musser zoomed down the field for an impressive 69-yard pass from junior **Callum Schweitzer**. Senior **Henry Masters** also had a solid defensive performance with six total blocks and one pick against Menlo. LG finished with a score of 38-0 versus Menlo School.

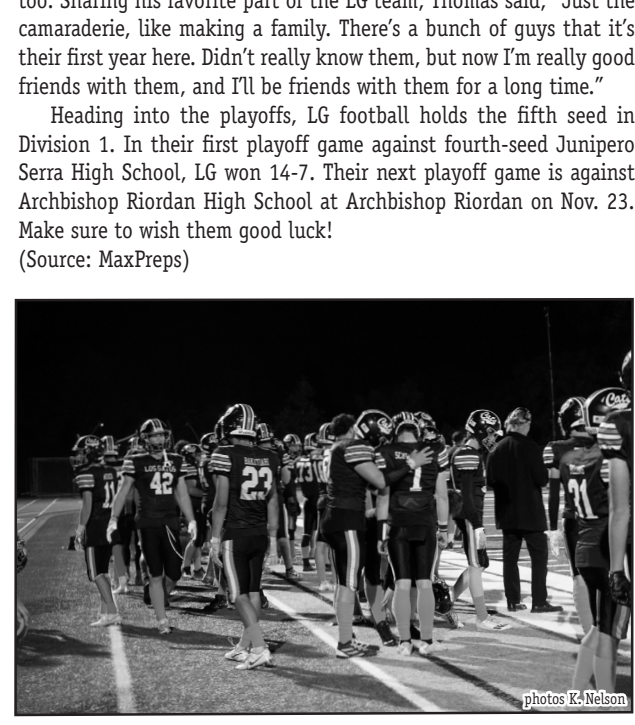
Coming off four league wins, LG competed for the league title against Wilcox on Nov. 8. LG also hosted their senior night, holding a ceremony to honor their seniors before the game. For their most challenging league opponent, LG got ready for Wilcox's strong offense and defense. Senior and captain **Matt Ludeman** stated, "We were focused on prepping for their offense because they kind of run a different offense than a lot of other teams. And on the offensive line, we were focusing on their different schemes up front." LG and Wilcox remained in close competition throughout the whole game, yet LG ultimately lost 14-19.

The community created throughout the season remains a favorite aspect of being on the team. Fostering this supportive culture, Ludeman shared the belief he leads by: "Pick [teammates] up when they're down." Musser experienced this uplifting support during the Wilcox game, stating, "One thing that stuck out to me is when I fumbled at the beginning of the first half, all my teammates picked me up, and I was able to play better after. It really helped me with all my teammates coming to my side, and I felt the support from them, and was able

to pick myself up." Junior **Max Thomas** emphasized the community, too. Sharing his favorite part of the LG team, Thomas said, "Just the camaraderie, like making a family. There's a bunch of guys that it's their first year here. Didn't really know them, but now I'm really good friends with them, and I'll be friends with them for a long time."

Heading into the playoffs, LG football holds the fifth seed in Division 1. In their first playoff game against fourth-seed Junipero Serra High School, LG won 14-7. Their next playoff game is against Archbishop Riordan High School at Archbishop Riordan on Nov. 23. Make sure to wish them good luck!

(Source: MaxPreps)



ALL TOGETHER: LGHS players huddle on the sideline to discuss the game.



LGHS water polo teams wrap up impressive season

by **Katie Nelson and Ainsley Northrop**
Center Editor and Editor-in-Chief

The LG Girls' Water Polo team wrapped up their 2024 season after a CCS championship loss on Nov. 9 against Leigh High School. They were 5th in their League after going 7-7 in the regular season and seeded 5th in the Division 1 CCS playoffs. Although the ending was sad, junior



IN-ACTION: Senior water polo player **Tripp Thomas** prepares for a shot on goal.

Brooke Cannan reflected, "[The water polo season] is probably my favorite part of the year and I'm really proud of every single one of us...I love this team." Despite the team facing many adversities throughout the season, such as losing two starters to injuries on an already small team, the girls endured and managed to narrowly beat Castilleja in a 13-10 overtime victory in the first round of the league tournament. They then faced losses to Palo Alto and Harker. Even though these losses eliminated their chances at a League Championship, junior **Jaz Charnaw** explained, "Although we were a small team, we played like we were double our size. We didn't show tiredness, we didn't make excuses, we did what we needed to do every game [and] practice." One of the most memorable moments of the season was the senior night on Oct. 24, where the team honored seniors **Daisy Tuckfield, Regina Suarez-Caballero, Katie Nelson, Eva Jacobson, and Julia Ernsting** with flowers and heartfelt speeches after the game. Ernsting sentimentally added that she is "truly thankful that this was my last team with Los Gatos."

The Boys' Varsity Water Polo Team also held its senior night on Oct. 24. After playing Harker, the team gave the audience free pizza, and younger teammates gave speeches about their senior friends. Junior **Sean Yukler** detailed his feelings on saying goodbye to his older teammates: "It was pretty tough. We have some great seniors. I did

Luca Difu's senior speech. He's been a huge support for me throughout the entire water polo career...[The seniors are] a huge inspiration." At the end of the night, families took photos with their seniors under a balloon archway and celebrated the seniors' final home game.

The boys team finished their league season with an impressive 11-1 record. After losing to Harker in overtime at the championships, LGHS and Harker gained the title of co-champions because while Harker won the final game, the Wildcats won the overall season. Senior **Thien Mai** explained the loss: "It was definitely heartbreaking because we put so much effort into it...We were up by two with 28 seconds left on the clock." He continued, "Mistakes were made but it was overall a very good game...I definitely do think that we've learned a lot."

To prepare for CCS, the team put in extensive work. Yukler explained, "We [had] three hour practices with [film] and then right to the pool and then conditioning." Mai added, "We looked at the mistakes we've made and how to improve ourselves, but also at how to best prepare against St. Francis." On Nov. 9, the boys' season ended after losing to St. Francis High School in a CCS game in Palo Alto.

Despite the LGHS water polo season's conclusion, both teams enjoyed impressive seasons filled with victories and improvement. Watch for these Wildcats as they begin club water polo season and prepare for next year.

POM: Tre Golino commits to UC Berkeley baseball

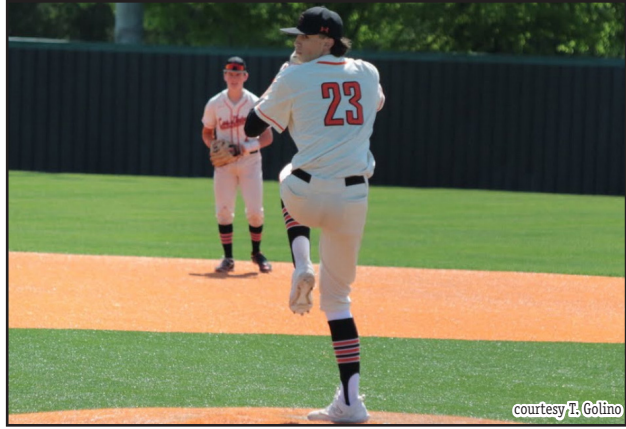
by **Britt Melinauskas**
Sports Editor

Senior **Tre Golino**, an accomplished and dedicated athlete, will further his academic and athletic careers with the University of California Berkeley Baseball program this coming fall. Recognized for his exceptional skill, tireless work ethic, and strong leadership, Golino has excelled throughout his athletic journey. At Los Gatos, he significantly impacts the baseball program, playing a crucial role in the team's success through his strategic play and ability to elevate his teammates' performances. As he prepares to join the University of California Berkeley program, Golino is eager to bring with him the same discipline and commitment that has defined his baseball career so far.

Playing for the LG baseball team has been a transformative experience for Golino, shaping him into the athlete and person he is today. The program has instilled in him a deep sense of resilience; he added, "**Coach Minkel** and **Coach Mull** have taught me always to be level-headed. There will be a lot of highs and lows in this game, but always keep focus and not give to either side."

His years at Los Gatos have seen many key milestones, but his most significant achievement was making CCS playoffs last year, a moment that symbolized the hard work and dedication of the entire team. Outside of Los Gatos High Baseball, Golino has played

for Cal Club Baseball Elite for the past four years. His journey with the team has been a process of continued improvement, with various tournaments testing his abilities.



STRIKE: Golino winds up to throw a pitch against an opposing batter.

Reflecting on his career, Golino shared that his most cherished Los Gatos baseball memory was when the team spent a week in

Tennessee, with the opportunity to compete against various Tennessee teams. "I had a great experience," Golino recalled, "I loved bonding with my teammates and seeing a different perspective of life in another state."

Golino's reasons for committing to the University of California Berkeley were the facilities and the competitive atmosphere: since the school recently moved from the Pacific-12 Conference to the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Alongside the athletics, Golino knows that he will face academic challenges, as the school is one of the best in the nation. Golino explained, "Since I first stepped on the campus, I felt belonging and appreciated. The coaches and players are dedicated to winning and providing me and my teammates with that environment."

On and off the field, Golino's mother has been his most significant influence and role model. "Throughout my 13-year baseball career, she has always taken me to my lessons and games and always wanted the best for me. As a single mother, she has shown me hard work and to be mentally strong, which I take to heart. She is my idol because she perseveres through challenges and shows me anything is possible if you put your mind to it."

Tre Golino's presence in Los Gatos High School baseball will leave a lasting impression, and his new experiences at the University of California, Berkeley, will prove his drive and diligence.

Girls' volleyball finishes LG Dance Team shines

by **Isabella Langner**
People Editor

Los Gatos Girls' Volleyball's stellar season came to a close on Nov. 14. The team went 10-2 in their league, finished second, qualified for the highest level of CCS playoffs, and made it to the quarterfinals of Division One CIF playoffs. The players made unforgettable memories on and off the court.

LGHS Freshman Girls' Volleyball finished 6-4 in league play. They lost to Wilcox, then won against Milpitas and Gunn. Despite losing to Palo Alto and Santa Clara, the players cherished their first experience on the team. Freshman **Adrienne Bader** said, "We all learned so much and got the chance to get better." The junior varsity team ended their season with a 6-6 record. Their match against Los Altos ended with a clean 2-0 victory for Los Gatos. JV volleyball unfortunately lost to Homestead but returned with a 2-0 win against Gunn. Matches against Palo Alto and Monta Vista ended in defeat for the Wildcats, but JV volleyball remains proud of their amazing season.

On Oct. 9, the varsity team added another win to their five-game win streak when they beat Los Altos in three quick sets. Their next two games against Mountain View and Homestead both ended in a 3-1 victory for the Cats. Girls' Varsity volleyball then successfully defeated Gunn 3-0. The following match was challenging and prolonged, going all the way to five sets and concluding with a 2-3 loss to Palo Alto. However, Los Gatos returned undeterred by the loss and scored a 3-1 victory against Monta Vista to close out their regular season.

Varsity Girls' Volleyball ended league play with an impressive record of 10-2. This rewarded them with second place in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic

League (SCVAL) De Anza League and a bid into the open division of CCS. Los Gatos started CCS playoffs with a tough game against Saint Ignatius College Preparatory. After putting up an impressive fight, the Cats lost, concluding their CCS playoffs run. However, this did not mark the end of their season, as all teams in the CCS open division are guaranteed entrance into CIF State playoffs.

As the 2024 season ends, these Wildcats will never forget the memories they made. Junior **Ammie Vo-Robinson** shared, "We do this thing called morph before every game where we run around scream-singing with a loudspeaker. It helps us get hyped and ready for the match."

LGHS was seeded 15th in CIF Division One playoffs with their first game against Clovis West, seeded second, on Nov. 12. The Cats won 3-1 in a massive upset versus a team ranked thirteen places higher. This momentum led Los Gatos into the quarterfinals against Campolindo. After making it through five challenging sets, LGHS lost 11-15 in one of the closest matches they played all season. Despite the loss, these scores proved to be impressive accomplishments for the team, and they will look back on this season with pride and joy.



SET POINT: LG volleyball players celebrate winning a point.

by **Emery Curtis**
Graphics Editor

Friday night lights are over. This year saw another thrilling season with stands full of fans excited to see another crushing game by Los Gatos and an amazing performance from LGHS's dance team. The team performed at home games, supporting the football team and keeping the student section full for the halftime show. This group of talented performers is a mix of girls from every grade with years of experience competing or performing in dance. They bring strong energy and effort to the dance floor. They perfect their routine with intense practice multiple hours a week, after school Monday, early morning Wednesday, and quick reviews before the game. During rehearsal, the team starts by stretching, followed by learning new choreography or reviewing already-known moves.

Senior **Halle Benjamin**, who joined the team three years ago and "instantly fell in love with it," described how rewarding performing is, "especially after all of the work and hours we put into the routines." The team being very close also helps; Benjamin pointed out, "I think most of the enjoyment comes from the fact that we are all friends doing an activity together that we love." Because of this, being on the team does not feel like a chore for the girls. They are always ready and enthusiastic to go out and give their all. Senior **Kiana Behnami** has been on the dance team since freshman year, and she enjoys every aspect of dancing and would love to major in dance in college. Behnami even uses her skills to teach choreography to younger kids at a local dance studio. She revealed that NBA choreogra-



GO CATS: The dance team cheers during a football game.

phers or former dance members do LGHS's complex routines out on the football field, which explains how impressive the performances are. The dance team performs at every home game, typically on a biweekly basis. Behnami explained that even with all that pressure, she doesn't get nervous: "I like to go out there and have fun, the hard work was already done during the week so there is no point to stress about it more on game day!"

The dedication and spirit of the team are truly inspiring. Whether they are performing a high-energy routine to pump up the crowd or showcasing their graceful moves during halftime, the team manages to captivate the audience every time. This consistency and passion have made them one of the most beloved aspects of the home games. You can find them and their practice routines on Instagram if you missed any of the team's exciting performances. There, they post about game night and behind-the-scenes of the girls learning and practicing dances. With the football season over, fans can catch the dance team on the basketball sidelines next, continuing to light up the court and share their passion for dance with the Los Gatos community.