

New rally rules cause controversy among classes.

Reporters critique YouTuber Jake Paul's content.

Community members reflect on life with color blindness.



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THROUGH THE FLAMES

SCHOOL AIDS VICTIMS OF NORTH BAY WILDFIRES WITH DONATIONS

BY Anishi Patel & Ananya Vadlakonda

On the morning of Oct. 9, roughly 17 wildfires ripped across huge swaths of land in Sonoma, Napa, Lake, Solano, Butte and Mendocino counties, scorching over 213,000 acres of land and leaving at least 41 people dead.

Now recognized as one of the

worst wildfire outbreaks in state history, the North Bay fires have upended many lives. At least 5,700 structures have been burned to their foundations, and tens of thousands have been forced to evacuate

>> **WILDFIRE** on pg. 5



Courtesy of LA TIMES, PHOEBE WANG AND ALLISON HARTLEY

GRADUATION

Seniors now must buy — not rent — caps and gowns

BY Patrick Li & Jeffrey Xu

Starting this spring, seniors will have to buy their own cap and gown for the graduation ceremony instead of renting them.

The main reason for the change, activities secretary Anna Ybarra said, is that students have sometimes had problems returning gowns on time to the manufacturer, Herff Jones, following the ceremony. In addition, students and parents have had to ask for special permission to keep the gowns longer, making it necessary to make multiple shipments back to the company.

"After graduation I would ship back approximately 40 or so boxes of gowns to Herff Jones," Ybarra said. "But once they were shipped back, another handful of gowns would get turned in so I would have to do a second shipment back to the company."

The new system solves this problem,

Ybarra said. Also, most other schools in the area such as Lynbrook and Monta Vista have their seniors purchase their graduation gowns. She also thinks the gowns make for a nice keepsake at no additional cost.

According to Ybarra, the gowns cost \$34 for both rental and for purchase. The full uniform, including the cap, is \$47.

"The students would not need to return them immediately after the graduation ceremony and could keep them for photos or grad parties that happened after the event," assistant principal Kerry Mohnike said.

The reaction to the change has been positive, said class representative Lillian Zeng, adding that the new system comes with additional benefits such as tailoring and fitting to suit each student.

"The majority of the senior class is quite satisfied with the change and looks forward to keeping these memorable gowns from their high school graduation," she said. ♦

COLLEGE

Alumni's lives as minorities

BY Elicia Ye

When Class of 2016 alumna Jasmine Qin's Chinese immigrant father went to University of Minnesota to help her move in during Welcome Week last year, Qin's Caucasian roommate pointed out how her father speaks English with an accent.

"That's just not something you hear being discussed amongst friends in the Silicon Valley," Qin recalled. "We all know our parents have accents, but it wasn't anything new or something that was brought up to be talked about."

Since the demographic breakdown of Saratoga differs drastically from that of

most American high schools, many graduates notice a stark contrast when they attend college in other regions of the country whose demographics contrast with Bay Area.

With a 23.3 percent Asian and 23.5 percent Hispanic/Latino population as reported by the 2010 Census, the Bay Area is one of the most diverse regions in the nation. The census also shows that in Saratoga specifically, where 53.9 percent of the city's residents are Caucasian, the percentage of Asians is 41.4 while Saratoga High School reports its total minority enroll-

>> **MINORITIES** on pg. 3

LOCAL

Gene's Fine Foods closes

BY Connie Liang

Plastered on a locked glass door, a blank piece of paper stained with bolded letters scrawled in black permanent marker reads, "Gene's is now closed forever."

To the dismay of countless Saratoga residents and some who live beyond the city's border, the beloved, family-owned grocery store, Gene's Fine Foods, whose illustrious lifetime spanned 47 years, closed in early October as a result of owner Dick Giomi retiring and rising rent at its location in the El Quito Plaza on Cox Avenue.

Giomi was almost able to negotiate a deal with a major grocery chain as a potential buyer of Gene's but once Amazon announced its plan to buy Whole Foods, the entire grocery store community was affected and the deal fell through, according to The Mercury News.

Throughout the years, the store received praise for its fresh produce and savory meats, but, more importantly, it became a local favorite for its customer service and connection to the community.

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>> what's inside

SPORTS

Sports medicine

Students shadow athletic trainer, getting a glimpse at a potential future career. **pg. 21**

LIFESTYLES

Friday Night Lights

The Falcon takes a more in-depth look at how people spend their Friday nights. **pg. 12-13**



Speech and debate team attends tournament

On Sept. 16 and 17, the speech and debate team attended the Seventh Annual Robert Garcia Memorial Invitational tournament at St. Francis High in Mountain View. Since it was the team's first competition of the year, participants hope it set the tone for the remainder of the season.

The team sent three teams in Public Forum, two in Lincoln-Douglas and two in Policy.

One Public Forum team, seniors Ayush Aggarwal and Arun Ramakrishnan reached finals but lost on a 3-0 decision, placing second overall.

"It was a good warm-up for the rest of the season," Ramakrishnan said.

In policy debate, juniors David Koh and Satvik Narasimhan, made quarterfinals but lost on a 3-0 decision.

Separately, Koh won first place in speaking for the most individual points, which the judges award based on argumentation, style and presentation.

"We once again represented the same way the Falcons always represent," speech and debate coach Chris Harris said.

— Anna Novoselov

New 4-day October break promotes stress relief

This year, the Calendar Committee and administration decided to add a 4-day weekend in October to give students a chance to relax after the end of the fast-paced first grading period.

While some students used the extended weekend as a chance to unwind, others used the four days to study for standardized tests, or get ahead in college applications.

Senior Ayush Aggarwal finished his applications for Georgia Tech, UIUC and Johns Hopkins University over the break, and he even managed to mix in a little fun at The Weeknd's concert in the Oracle Arena.

On the other hand, junior Annie Xu spent the long weekend trying to "remember how to relax even when homework and PSAT prep were on the back of [my] mind."

In any case, students and staff seem to agree that the new October break was a welcome addition to the school year.

— Anishi Patel and Callia Yuan

Mock trial starts year with political murder case

The California mock trial's case for the 2017-2018 year is "People vs. Davidson," which follows a conservative, leader of fictional group Our America, and a liberal, leader of fictional group Equality For All, who verbally spar at rallies. The liberal leader, Casey Davidson, is accused of murdering the conservative leader, Alex Thompson, after an altercation at a political rally. The rally where Thompson was murdered mirrors the rally that took place Sept. 24 in protest of speaker Milo Yiannopoulos at UC Berkeley.

This year's officers are senior Stacey Chen as president, junior Ashley Feng and senior Katherine Zhou as lead attorneys, senior Michelle Vu as lead witness and junior Hugo Huang as secretary/treasurer. An informational meeting was held on Oct. 10. The club members were broken into prosecution and defense teams after auditions, which were held on Oct. 17.

— Katherine Zhou

>> falcononline



Top Story

Demographic contrasts perceivable outside the Bay Area on pg. 1

Top Picture

On Sept 29, the Homecoming court stands before the crowd during halftime at the football game.

FALCON // MUTHU PALANIAPPAN

Top Video

Senior Homecoming Quad Day 2017 Highlights

To use: cover the QR codes except for the one you would like to scan, then use a QR scanning app (i.e., Snapchat by long press).

>> picturethis



FALCON // OLIVIA LU

HEADS UP! >> Seniors Alvin Chung and Bradley Oh promote Social Justice Club at Club Fair on Oct. 5. "We worked really hard on the poster and we got a lot of people to sign up," Chung said.

CLASSES

Shark Tank added to Chen and Morelle's Gov/Econ curriculum

BY Jay Kim & Elaine Toh

After looking over feedback from her graduating students last year, Economics and AP Government teacher Hana Chen noticed that many of them wished there was at least one major project in the class. Taking this into account, Chen, as well as fellow Economics and AP Government teacher Margarita Morelle, decided to let their students participate in a "Shark Tank" project, a competition started in teacher Kirk Abe's classes in recent years.

"For kids that see business or entrepreneurship in their future, this is a good sort of real life taste of developing a plan start to finish," Chen said. "I thought it would be cool to get people from the outside business world to come in and be real with our students and tell them what was good or not so good."

The project is based on the hit ABC TV show "Shark Tank."

Students will mimic the show by coming up with a business idea or proposition, creating a full business plan from beginning to end and mock-presenting it to a group of "Sharks," who are parents or

"This is a good sort of real life taste of developing a plan start to finish."

TEACHER Hana Chen

other community members with experience in business leadership.

"The sharks who are coming to our class in December will decide whether they would, if [the proposition] was real, invest in these students," Chen said.

While other teachers, such as Abe, incorporate multiple projects into their curricula, Chen has typically shied away from doing so in

the past.

Since it is both Chen and Morelle's first year conducting the Shark Tank project, Abe walked them through the exact process of it, discussing the benefits from its broad range of creativity and responsibility for the students.

After their discussion, the teachers improved and clarified the deadlines for the project.

"We changed the timing of it, a little bit. It used to fall upon right around that December application deadline, and it was too stressful for kids," Chen said. "We pushed it back a bit and tried to build more structure, having due dates throughout the semester, so that kids didn't feel like they did the whole project the night before."

Along with the stronger structure, Morelle believes that Shark Tank will provide advantages to the curriculum.

"I think it's a great way to break up some of the more lecture-form and give kids an opportunity to apply everything," Morelle said. ♦

STUDENT LIFE

Students use Uber to and from school

BY Michelle Lee & Alex Wang

Sophomore Hayden Cranz remembered a recent Thursday evening when he could have been stuck at school because his mom was unable to pick him up following football practice

With loads of homework awaiting him and time running short, he used the Uber app on his phone to find the closest driver to take him home.

For Cranz, using Uber is the most practical way to get home. A one-way ride for him doesn't cost much — ranging between \$5 and \$10.

"I live past Pierce Road, which is pretty far away from the school," Cranz said. "I feel like Uber is more reliable than other ride-sharing services."

Uber has seen increased popularity among students who need rides due to its convenience and accessibility, even in a suburb of 30,000 people like Saratoga. The

one exception to the trend seems to be lunchtime: Students still find it easier to grab a ride with friends or just stay on campus.

Cranz has had mostly positive experiences with Uber, although occasionally he does have problems with late-arriving drivers or with drivers who have a hard time accessing more the remote areas in Saratoga, especially up winding mountain roads.

"The Uber drivers are really interesting to talk to," Cranz said. "One of my drivers held the record for longest Uber ride ever—he had to take a guy to a different state and it took 16 hours of driving."

Junior Kitty Huang was also an Uber patron last year before she got her driver's license. While she lives relatively close to the school, her house is approximately 20 minutes walking distance from the school.

"Uber is more costly than Lyft, but Uber seems to be more safe and established," Huang said. "In Saratoga, it takes a little more

than 10 minutes for an Uber to come, so if I have to leave at 3:30 after basketball practice, I'll check at 3:10 to see if there are drivers around."

Huang likes using Uber not only for its practicality but also for the interactions with drivers.

"One of my drivers was a journalist who worked at the Los Gatos newspaper," Huang said. "His daughter got into Cooper Union, so he was super excited and we talked for a while about publications. Another driver had a journal for all this passengers to write on, which was really cute."

Whether it be for a reliable mode of transport, fun conversations with would-be strangers, or both, Uber seems to be getting five-star ratings from the students who subscribe to it and use its services to get to and from school.

"I really recommend people to use Uber, especially if they can't drive," Cranz said. "It's actually really safe and a very easy app to navigate through." ♦

MINORITIES

continued from pg. 1

ment at 72 percent.

Qin, who grew up in San Jose and attended Saratoga High for her senior year, experienced a sort of culture shock during her first year in the Twin Cities.

"Leaving the Silicon Valley will make you realize how diverse California is compared to anywhere else in the U.S.," Qin said. "For me, it made me appreciate California so much more."

While Qin said she never felt self-conscious about her racial background in the Bay Area, she almost instantly noticed how she stood out in Minnesota, where the percentage of Asians is 4.9 in 2016, according to the census. In fact, the overall Asian percentage in the U.S. is 5.6 percent, not that far off from the proportion in Minnesota.

Qin found herself in an even more awkward place when Donald Trump was elected president in November 2016. Although Minnesota is by and large a liberal state, it is surrounded by red states that many of its students call home, and Trump supporters are everywhere.

"It takes some time to adjust, but after a while you start getting used to it and learn not to take it personally, unless they are racially attacking you," she said.

Another issue Qin has noticed regarding her Asian American identity was that unlike second generation Asian Americans in the Bay Area, most Asians in Minnesota are

international students who were born and raised outside the United States. Since there are not many Asian Americans like Qin in the Midwest, she found it difficult to fit in.

"People may take a look at you and automatically assume you're also an international student because you're not white," she said. "The feeling of fitting in is hard and can feel really lonely and odd."

Class of 2017 alumnus Eric Sze, a former Falcon staff member, said he has also experienced culture shock earlier this semester when he first stepped foot on the Washington University at St. Louis campus in Missouri, where he initially found difficult to click with many people there.

Although people who live on his floor are "super nice" and greet him with "Hey, what's up?" and "How are you doing?" conversation hardly goes beyond surface level. After moving to the Midwest, Sze experienced a whole new demographic of people that made him "miss the belonging factor" he had felt here.

"Being a lost freshman, I had no one to latch onto when I got here — barely even one friend because I found it so hard to identify with many of the people here," Sze said.

The shock lessened as Sze started joining clubs and meeting people he clicked and became close friends with during Welcome Week and at Asian American Association events.

"The student groups made me feel like I actually belong to this school and have an identity here, which was something I didn't

feel like I had when I first got here," he said.

But outside the university and the "WashU bubble," St. Louis is even diverse place, with a 46.8 percent white and 47.2 percent black population, as shown on the census.

When Sze went off campus to a bowling alley for a club's executive board bonding, he experienced more than just cultural shock when a group of white men yelled at him, "Run back to where you came from!" Similar incidents have occurred three more times so far when he went to Asian food places and grocery stores in St. Louis.

"Although this isn't a bad thing per-se, it's definitely something I rarely experienced in Saratoga," Sze said in a Facebook message. "For me, it's good to get out of California and somewhere I never thought I would ever live because it has helped me grow so much."

Vermont school's inclusive environment

"I haven't come across racism here," class of 2017 alumnus Andre Xiao said, now a student at Middlebury College in Vermont. "Everyone here at Midd has made me feel comfortable, and I don't feel any prejudice or racism toward me."

Xiao's experience parallels those of students from colleges with a racial composition similar to Saratoga's.

Class of 2017 alumna Nicole Lin, for example, found herself at home at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where the student population is 18 percent Asian and 41 percent white.

From cultural-professional clubs including engineering and business to cultural-dance groups like Bhanga and dragon dancing, Cornell also facilitates appreciation for cultural diversity through different clubs and organizations. Nonetheless, even with the multitude of cultures present and celebrated, racism has stained the Cornell campus recently.

At the beginning of the semester, a member of the fraternity Psi Upsilon allegedly attacked an African American student, which authorities categorized as a possible hate crime.

According to the Associated Press, Cornell President Martha Pollack said the University would shut down the fraternity's chapter at Cornell, revoking its recognition for violating its code of conduct. In her statement to the Cornell community on Sept. 17, Pollack said the leadership team was working "to develop and implement steps to be a more equitable, inclusive and welcoming university."

Class of 2016 alumna Nandita Mohan, now a Cornell sophomore, said the recent incidents have raised tension around campus. She hadn't realized how "backwards" someone of her peers could be, even when she herself was surrounded by allies who would stand up for their rights.

"Especially in these pretty dark political times is when you most expect people to stand up for you and be caring," Mohan said. "But unfortunately, a lot of people also feel empowered to show what they truly think without facing any consequences." ♦



GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA LU

Alumni express mixed feelings about Greek life

BY Rahu Vadlakonda

Two months ago, during a hazing ritual, students at the Beta Theta Pi fraternity at Pennsylvania State University dropped an unconscious fraternity member down a flight of basement stairs, causing him massive head trauma and killing him.

The death of Penn State student Timothy Piazza put yet another stain Greek life's tattered reputation.

Despite such episodes, thousands of college students continue to join fraternities and sororities each year, including many alumni, while others reject these groups as outdated, elitist or dangerous.

Class of 2014 alumnus Kevin Jiang, who attends the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, joined a fraternity during rush week his freshman year.

He remembers new members, or "rushees" participating in activities such as basketball, pool and so-called personal sessions to see if the new members were a match for this lifestyle and with other members.

Each fall, college freshmen "rush" fraternities and sororities, hoping to make it through the often difficult selection process.

Jiang said that he joined his fraternity to try out something unfamiliar. Fraternities and sororities can come in all shapes and sizes. Jiang, who is a part of a smaller fraternity called Lambda Phi Epsilon, said his feels more like a brotherhood.

Another type of group known as professional fraternities has other advantages, such as resources members may use for jobs and connections. Class of 2016 alumna Alice He, who now attends Johns Hopkins University and is part of the co-ed

business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi, said that even though she is a pre-med major, she "wanted to see what business was like."

"I feel like I would not have found the deeper connection that I have with all of the friends I have now," she said.

Class of 2016 alumnus Aditya Vempaty, who attends University of Southern California, offered a different perspective. Like the 26 percent of undergraduate men and 27 percent of USC's students who are involved with Greek life, according to US News, Vempaty sought to join a fraternity, only to leave the next day. He said he did this because he saw that members had to "completely set aside ego and accept a scripted social hierarchy."

Vempaty added that many people opt to skip Greek life because they don't like the atmosphere frequently associated with it.

Guidance counselor Eileen Allen, who was a part of Greek life while attending Cal Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, said that the institution is one that serves to be a platform that she said "can be a great way to get involved and make new friends."

Although Greek life worked in her case, Allen acknowledged the more negative sides that sometimes crop up. She said some chapters taint the overall reputation of the Greek life and need to be reined in at the regional or national level.

In Jiang's view, though he knows of the horrific events that have happened in some chapters, there is far more to Greek life than the few but highly publicized incidents suggest.

"[The controversial events] do not represent the Greek [life] community as a whole," he said. ♦

Graduates inspired to work in social justice, advocacy

BY Krithi Sankar & Alex Wang

Class of 1995 alumnus Chip Yamada still remembers an incident from his time at SHS. He witnessed a group of students pushing a peer with Down Syndrome into a puddle of water. Disgusted by their behavior, Yamada confronted them. To Yamada's surprise, his method worked. The aggressors left both Yamada and the student alone.

"These moments in my early life gave me a lot to think about over the years," Yamada said. "I realized that people who are abusive or misguided are often expressing some sense of powerlessness in their own lives. I still don't know how to make abusers repent, but I continue to believe we are obligated to step in when we can."

Yamada, who now works in the entertainment industry, continues his efforts to speak up for others who may lack a voice through his advocacy in directing.

His most notable work is "Hands Up, Don't Shoot," a music video for the hip hop group N.A.S.A. where clips of people are shown protesting police brutality toward African Americans.

Yamada has also worked with other artists and companies involved with social justice, including Asian American comedian and LGBTQ rights activist Margaret Cho, performing artist and political satirist Amanda Palmer and a local vegan shoe company called Nicora Shoes.

Yamada is only one of many alumni who is involved in advocacy.

For class of 2017 alumna Karissa Dong, acts of advocacy have been often far more personal. Dong attended the San Francis-

co Women's March on Jan. 21 to voice her rights.

Dong, who participated with other 2017 alumnae Amy Chiang, Alisha Luo and Jessy Liu while the four were still seniors, said she used the protest as a way "to express how she was not going to let Trump's sexist and patronizing comments be normalized."

For Dong, now a freshman at Stanford University, marching through San Francisco's streets and holding posters that she and her friends had hand-made was mainly about solidarity.

Class of 1998 alumna Carly Hasbrook, who is now a stay at home mother of two children, is also a strong advocate of social justice.

Along with attending the Women's March in San Jose, she has also attended the March for Science to protest climate change deniers, and participated in a vigil for Heather Heyer, a counter-protester who was murdered by neo-Nazis in Charlottesville, Va., at San Jose City Hall.

Above all, she is a champion of voter registration. After the 2016 election, she felt compelled to help others recognize their right to elect their representatives and has been fighting for this cause ever since.

Hasbrook continues to promote her views by working with two grassroots organizations called Indivisible and Swing Left. Indivisible focuses on civic engagement for resistance to President Trump's agenda whereas Swing Left is an online community dedicated to working to flipping congressional seats in swing districts from Republican to Democrat.

"I feel boundless gratitude for the wonderful life I have and I want to pass it on," Hasbrook said. "My love for fellow human beings inspires me to fight." ♦



Dong

EDUCATION

Middle College offers more independence

By ConnieLiang & ElaineSun

As junior Alyssa Whitman sprinted on to Gunn High School's pool deck, hair flying behind her, she furtively glanced at the poolside clock and muttered under her breath. She was late to her away water polo game because her Middle College professor at West Valley College held the class in for a little longer than usual.

Middle College is a program offered by community colleges that allows students to attend college courses and learn in a more independent environment. According to Registrar Robert Wise, nine SHS students currently attend Middle College: four seniors and five juniors.

Whitman is making the choice to attend Middle College because of the flexibility of its schedule, ability to gain college credits and unique learning environment.

Whitman is also on the varsity water polo team, a commitment that often clashes with her classes.

"I have to make pretty tough decisions on whether or not to make it to time on games or skipping portions of class, and you're considered a college student and it's pretty bad when you skip a class," she said.

At West Valley, students are exposed to more freedom, but it is up to them to make the right decisions, Whitman said.

Increased freedom also means increased opportunities, some of which appear in the form of course selection. Whitman current-

ly takes an Introduction to Environmental and Architecture Design class, which suits her current ambitions for the future.

"There's different things that SHS offers, but when you go to Middle College, you have more opportunities to do something that you want to do in the future," Whitman said. "Now, I have a choice of figuring out what I want to do before I go to college."

As for the social aspect, Whitman said she does feel somewhat as if she is missing out on the traditional high school experience, but she makes sure to stay in touch with her friends.

"I still participate and show up to the football games," she said. "I still talk to my friends and it doesn't really make that much of a difference." ◆

Senior Julie Weber, who started attending the program as a junior, said it allows students to customize their schedules more so than high school. Weber also enjoys that she can get a head start on college.

"With all the college units that I have earned from being part of the program, I can now hypothetically earn a bachelor's degree in three years after high school without feeling rushed," Weber said.

Weber also senses more connections among her classmates. The Middle College program is very tight-knit, so she knows every one of her classmates there.

"In Saratoga High, you're in a bit of a bubble where the most important thing in life are grades and extracurriculars," Weber said. "At West Valley, you're in real life." ◆

Counselors assist in senior application process

By MathewLuo & AlexWang

Each fall, seniors scramble to finish their college applications, the final step toward the next step in their lives. They stay up late to work on essays, ask teachers to write letters of recommendation and check off the colleges that they intend to apply to one-by-one.

Supporting them every step of the way are administrators, guidance counselors and office staff.

Beginning in the spring of junior year, counselors meet with students to explain how to use Naviance, a site for college resources, put together college lists and request recommendation letters. They prompt students to start thinking about colleges and have parents provide their input.

Naviance has greatly benefited students, assistant principal Brian Safine said. Since the school started using Naviance, students have applied to twice as many colleges as they used to.

Throughout the summer and the beginning of senior year, students narrow their

college lists. At this point, counselor Eileen Allen said, counselors check in with students again and give their opinion and suggestions based on their experience with applications in previous years.

At the same time, Safine oversees the guidance department and secretarial staff, who are responsible for organizing speakers from colleges and submitting application materials for teachers. He is also responsible for Parent Night, which is when the administration communicates to parents their philosophy on how to approach college applications and the logistics of the applications themselves.

By October and November, students will have finished the bulk of their early applications. Counselors play a big role in the application process at this point, since they meet with parents and students to review essays for content and write recommendation letters.

"I have close to 50 letter recommenda-

tion requests for Nov. 1 or earlier deadlines, so letter writing is a big part of what we do to support students in those applications," Allen said.

As students finish their essays and get their letters of recommendations, they will submit their applications. After this, all they can do is wait for the colleges' decisions.

Office staff say they notice some trends regarding college applications in recent years. The first is that more students are being more adventurous by applying to out-of-state schools. Allen said that this results from the growing competitiveness of UCs and CSUs, prompting students to look elsewhere for a better chance of acceptance.

Many students will apply to private schools and public colleges in other states, but some students will look even further for colleges to apply to. In the past, students have attended schools out of the country in Europe, Canada and Japan, Allen said. The application processes for these schools are

drastically different than schools in the U.S. The counselors try to do their best to help students apply to these colleges.

"For international schools, we help students research," Allen said. "We may have no idea, but we can get on the phone and figure out what they need to apply to an out of country school, but the process varies quite a lot."

The other prominent trend is students applying for far more schools early action and early decision. According to Allen, the main reason for this is that colleges have embraced early action and early decision because it helps them have a better grasp on what their yield of students is going to be, giving applicants who apply early advantages.

At the end of the day, Allen said, it comes down to the student themselves.

"Our philosophy is to support students in every way we can so we can find the right college fit for them," Safine said. "It's not about finding something that's one rank higher than another college; it's about finding criteria that suits the student as a young adult." ◆



FALCON FOCUS

Registrar left job in tech to pursue job in education

By SandhyaSundaram & AnanyaVadlakonda

Having worked in various high-tech companies for more than 25 years in engineering, marketing and management, new registrar Robert Wise had a change of heart halfway through his career and decided that he wanted a job in education.

Wise, after receiving an engineering degree from Princeton University and working in the tech industry for more than two decades, got his teaching credentials and began working as a substitute teacher.

However, he found that it was challenging to completely shift his career and become a teacher after so many years of working in a completely different field.

Wise asked himself, "What's the next best thing I could do?"

That decision eventually led him to becoming the school's new registrar, replacing the retired Jeanne Jamieson. He said he has since found it much more rewarding than any job he could have had in the high-tech industry.

Before coming to this school, Wise worked at various jobs in the Campbell Union School District and the Los Gatos Saratoga High School District.

When attendance secretary Mandy Armes was on maternity leave, Wise stepped in to assist for most of the year and found that he enjoyed his position.

"I got to know almost all of the students that year and I just fell in love with the campus and students and people here in the office," Wise said. "It's a lot of fun."

However, Wise has run into minor challenges in the couple of months that he's been the registrar. For example, he is still in the process of adjusting to the different system of managing information than he is used to, along with the abundant requests for data, which he did not deal with a lot in previous positions. Additionally, he is faced with the tedious task of maintaining every single file in both a physical and electronic form.

"Learning the nuances of each of those things is really quite a bit to pick up," Wise said. "But I'm enjoying it."

Guidance counselor Monique Young said that she has enjoyed her experience working with Wise when he was a substitute for Armes and that he did an excellent job in that position.

"He's so detail oriented, has really good computer skills, people skills, and he's so great with the kids here," Young said. "I knew he was going to be a good fit." ◆



Wise

MEDIA

Senior and alumnae films played in Times Square

By ElaineSun

Short films made by senior Stacey Chen and alumni Kate Smalls and Kanika Vora were shown in the AMC Empire 25 theaters in Times Square for the All American High School Film Festival on Oct. 4-7.

While the films were played in the Times Square local, they were created here at school.

Chen produced her experimental short film entitled "I Once Tried to Store Away the Past" for her final project for English 11 Honors.

The film starts with her playing a VHS tape. Then, it depicts her painting a mural outside of room 002.

"The idea I was trying to reveal was the plight of an individual trying to escape past memories," Chen said about the mural. "It was a common theme found in our English 11 curriculum."

Since this is her first experimental film, she said it is about "using different mediums of art for self-expression."

It was Chen's second time going to New York City. One of her films was selected for the festival last year as well.

The process of making the film was very spontaneous, making a shot list and filming random snippets. Chen wanted an original soundtrack, so she played the

piano music herself.

Her partner in the film, senior JR Im, helped her film the piano scenes. According to Chen, the film "showed how art can help people escape the past." While Chen's film focuses on freedom of expression, Kate Smalls's and Kanika Vora's film focuses on how mental disabilities affect people's lives.

Their documentary, "The Olympic Spirit," which was made for their Media Arts Program senior project, is about Special Olympics competitors and married couple Lindsay Mibach and Ryan Epidendio, who have Down Syndrome. It explains how they met through the Special Olympics and how participating in the games has helped them in their lives.

"It's about how the Special Olympics gives intellectually disabled people a chance to play sports and grow mentally, physically and socially," Vora said. The most difficult part of their process was choosing the subjects. After deciding on the pair, they filmed practices and tournaments for the sports they participated in.

Although none of them ended up winning, they all agree that it was a great experience and gave their films more exposure.

"We were really proud of the film, and we had faced a lot of challenges along the way in producing it, so it was nice to have it all come to fruition," Smalls said. ◆

WILDFIRE

continued from pg. 1

their homes.

To help the evacuees, the Leadership class held a donation drive on Oct. 11-12. The goal was to collect as many basic necessities as possible, such as clothing, canned foods, water, toiletries, blankets and school supplies.

Donations were received from not only SHS families, but other members of the Saratoga community as well.

The donated items were enough to pack a 1,960-cubic-foot truck to the ceiling, and then some, he said.

In fact, there were so many supplies to sort through and pack that English teacher Natasha Ritchie brought her whole English 11 Honors class down to help load the truck.

"I grew up in the Napa Valley so it's near and dear to my heart," Ritchie said. "I figured many hands make light work."

On Oct. 10, Torrens drove the first truckload of supplies to a staging ground at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, where relief agencies were collecting donations for evacuation centers in Santa Rosa.

The next day, members of the Leadership class delivered the remaining items to another staging ground in Redwood City, where the items were then transferred to an evacuation center at Napa Valley College.

Volunteers at the Sonoma County evacuation center were shocked at the full truckload of supplies from SHS because the fires had begun barely two days earlier. They asked, "Where did all this come from?"

Torrens' response of "Saratoga High School" was received by puzzled faces, but after learning of SHS's location, the volunteers told Torrens, "We'll never forget."

This disaster has hit home here at the school, too. Several Saratoga residents or staff members have family or friends who have been affected by the fires. Journalism teacher Mike Tyler said his in-laws and brother- and sister-in-law all own houses in Sonoma County that were affected.

Tyler's brother- and sister-in-law, like many others affected by the fires, had only minutes to evacuate after the first fire warning at 2 a.m. on Oct. 9. When they returned later that day, they found that their house was one of dozens of homes that had burned

to the ground by the Tubbs fire that swept through their neighborhood in Santa Rosa. Tyler's mother- and father-in-law were out of town at the time of the fires, but were certain that their house had burned down following the release of maps showing the path of the Nuns fire.

After waiting five long days for any information, the family finally received details about their house on Oct. 13.

The fire had destroyed dozens of homes near their 7-acre rural property in the Kenwood hills, but their own house was left miraculously untouched, even though it burned much of the vegetation right up to their house.

"The odds weren't good; it was a long shot that the house was going to survive given [how close] the fire was," Tyler said. "It was truly a miracle."

Although the fires are taking place up in the North Bay, residents all over the Bay Area have been able to observe its effects. A layer of ash and smog blew into Saratoga in the days following the North Bay fires, blanketing the school and city in a gray haze—all outdoor sports practices were canceled for three days.

The varsity football team had a game at Los Altos planned for Oct. 13, which was later rescheduled for Nov. 9. The JV football team also had a game against Los Altos scheduled for Oct. 13, but the JV game was canceled.

"The JV team's bummed because we were really looking forward to this game," sophomore Nakul Nagaraj said. "It was supposed to be an easy win for us."

Sports teams will be working hard to make up for lost time. Other teams, like girls' volleyball and girls' and boys' water polo, have also missed games and practices due to the air pollution.

In spite of the amount of air pollution in and around Saratoga, it is hard to imagine the catastrophic conditions the North Bay is dealing with.

"You take my family situation and you multiply it by thousands and you have some idea of what's happening in the North Bay," Tyler said. "For Santa Rosa and Sonoma County and Napa County, it will be life before the fire and life after the fire. The press will leave and the cameras will go away eventually, but people up there are going to be dealing with this for years." ◆

GENE'S

continued from pg. 1

was affected and the deal fell through, according to The Mercury News.

Throughout the years, the store received praise for its fresh produce and meats, but, more importantly, it became a local favorite for its customer service and connection to the community.

While some community members discovered the news of the store's closing through The Mercury News, others such as Sandra Vick, a math tutor for several Saratoga High students, found out when they walked up to the dimly lit store and saw the makeshift sign and empty shelves. Recalling memories as a child when she would browse Gene's alongside her mother, Vick said that it had become her go-to store ever since.

"I'm very sad," Vick said. "It's my ritual to come here on Sundays to get a special meal and make a special Sunday dinner. Now I'll have to go somewhere else to get it."

Aside from her Sunday meals, Vick said she will also miss the familiar faces who worked at the store, some of whom she remembers from her childhood. Even shoppers who haven't been life-long patrons of Gene's agree that the employees themselves proved to be as essential a component to the shopping experience as the food itself, if not more.

"They're all so wonderful. They help [shoppers] out with the groceries and have a lot of fun among themselves," said a Saratoga resident named Phyllis, who declined to give her last name. Phyllis has shopped at Gene's for about a year, noting that the store ran like a "family affair" in which all contributed. The loving atmosphere within the store is a factor that prompted 70-year-old Julie Tomlin, now a resident of the Monterey Peninsula, to make her way to Gene's whenever she happened to be in the area. Before, she was a resident here for 31 years.

"The store was family owned and something they took pride in," Tomlin said. "It was the customer service that they valued that [customers] could really sense, and

CLUBS

English teacher revives poetry club on campus

By SherrieShen

When English teacher Amy Keys first stepped onto campus seven years ago, she revealed in the poems adorning the school in celebration of National Poetry Month.

From the paper tacked to redwood trees to the words featured on hallway walls, Keys knew she had found the school that shared her passion for the written word.

While she was a teacher at a high school in her home town of Madison, Wis., Keys advised the poetry club. She hoped to do the same here someday too, recognizing that while students excel in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, fewer opportunities are available for those interested in the humanities—especially poetry.

"Poetry is not a competitive zero-sum game of winner takes all," Keys said. "It's an experience where people together make and understand meaning from the text."

Through her English 11 Honors class, Keys realized that although most students were originally afraid of poetry, they grew to love its unique expression of language later.

As a result, Keys decided to create the Poetry Club with the help of English teachers Suzanne Herzman, the Poetry Club adviser of a previous school, and Natasha Ritchie, the former adviser of Saratoga High's Spoken Word/Slam Poetry Club.

While the school used to have both a poetry course and two poetry clubs, both died out soon after the retirement of long-time poetry teacher Judith Sutton.

To fill this vacuum, Keys has been trying to coordinate with Poetry Out Loud, a national poetry recitation contest.

The Poetry Club plans to hold the school competition for Poetry Out Loud

sometime in January.

The contest will also have regional, state and national levels.

For now, the three English teachers are organizing club meetings befitting three different categories: reading, writing and analyzing poetry; preparation for Poetry Out Loud; and slam poetry, in which students write the poems they perform.

"The experience of having to memorize a poem is so important," Keys said. "I think everyone should be doing more memorizations: it's good for your brain, it's good for your confidence."

The club's first meeting was held on Sept. 12 in Keys's room 006, and the interested members volunteered for officer positions. Senior Varun Viswanath and junior Victor Liu will serve as co-presidents, junior Elaine Fan as vice president, senior Michelle Low and junior Esha Lakhotia as secretaries and senior Andrea Su as treasurer. Poetry Club joined 20 other academic clubs on the first day of Club Fair, Oct. 3 and attracted a fair amount of attention.

"I was expecting many students to gravitate towards the more STEM-oriented clubs such as Math Club, but we were actually able to fill two entire pages with a list of emails and names," Liu said. The club already has plans to raise awareness of poetry during National Poetry Month, April, by decorating campus with poems and holding other events to incorporate language and poetry into daily school life.

"Poetry is the highest order of literature because it is the most distilled essence and the most intense pithy form of language, creating effects, conveying meaning and resonating with people at so many levels," Keys said. "It's exciting; it's a puzzle to be solved." ◆



Keys

now we have no place to go for [that kind of] service."

Once she heard about the closing, Tomlin, armed with her trusty cooler to store meat and produce, made the journey to

"It's my ritual to come here on Sundays to get a special meal and make a special Sunday dinner."

RESIDENT Sandra Vick

Saratoga for a final goodbye to the store and its employees, only to find it already closed.

"They're cleaning out the store. The inventory is off the shelves. It's very, very sad. It's just tragic," Tomlin said as she stood outside Gene's on a recent afternoon.

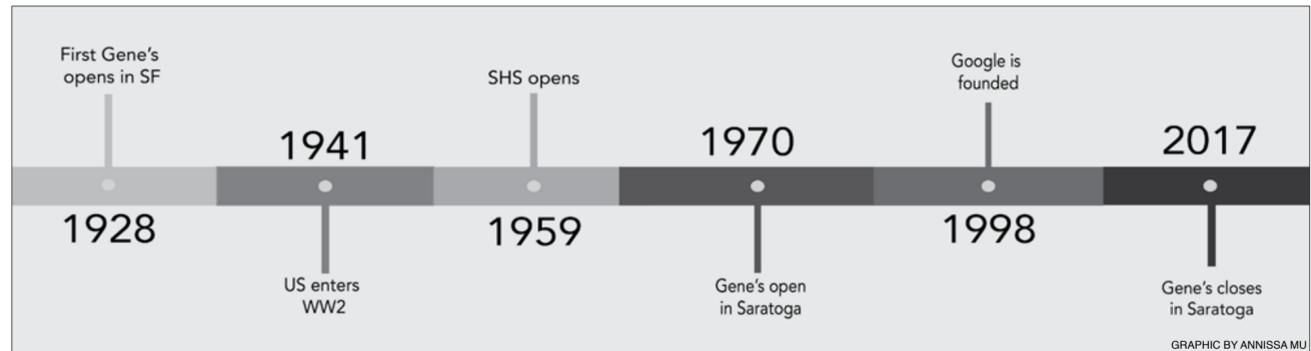
After moving to the other side of the hill, one of the biggest challenges Tomlin faced

was the shortage of quality grocery stores. She has tried shopping at several grocery stores in the area only to find that they still didn't compare to the quality and caliber of Gene's. Tomlin attributes the increasing trend of closing mom-and-pop grocery stores to the rise in people who choose convenience over quality. Shoppers who opt out of cooking healthy meals with nutritious ingredients and choose the produce offered at large chain grocery stores have led to the decline in these generational, privately held grocery stores.

"I think people are cooking less," Tomlin said. "People are not willing to cook wholesome foods into meals, because they'd rather buy something online, pre-made, microwaveable or delivered to their door since there's no time for cooking."

She believes the closing of Gene's is symbolic of this trend.

"Times are changing and it's [saddening] to think of how some of these things that are real quality and have some value [can't stay forever]," Tomlin said. "It runs much deeper than a grocery store." ◆



CAFETERIA

Students find appetite for lunchtime work

BY HowardTang

Freshman Cameron King works for a free lunch.

King is one of five students who are working as cashiers in the cafeteria, receiving a free lunch on the days they work. He learned about the opportunity from his sister, class of 2017 alumna Cassandra, who also worked in the cafeteria.

"She recommended to me that I should do this because I could get free lunch, and it was a great way to pass time," King said.

On his first day, he worked alongside cafeteria manager Pam Carlino, who showed him how to work the cashier stand, memorize food prices and have good etiquette.

Now, after being more comfortable with

directing the line of lunch traffic and having more experience, King said he is grateful that he followed his sister's advice.

One benefit was that it allowed him to see people he knows or hasn't seen in a while, and also meeting new people.

Sophomore Alex Pan, who learned about the job after talking with 2017 alumna Sarah Jin, has also enjoyed his brief time there.

"Working in the cafeteria is fun because I get to interact with the students," Pan said. "The lunch line helped me meet a lot more people and make new friends."

Along with interacting with more students, the job has also helped the student

volunteers get to know the cafeteria staff.

Carlino said the four student helpers who graduated last spring had become "like family."

Because the cafeteria doesn't have the budget to hire as many paid employees as Carlino would like, they have been trying to recruit more student volunteers. Besides King, sophomore Alvin Liu, freshman Hermione Bosselina and freshman Shannon Ji are also picking up shifts.

"We like to recruit them through our current student employees," Carlino said. "Cassie King was recommended by Andy Fang, who graduated four years ago. Now Cassie has graduated

and recruited her brother."

In addition to increasing social connections, working in the cafeteria enhances their college applications to see that they've volunteered for years in the cafeteria, Carlino said.

Class of 2015 alumna Jade Bisht said the job is far from easy, though.

"The occasional student who remarked that I should 'hurry up!' further increased my exploding levels of stress," Bisht said.

For King, however, a free lunch compensates for some of the inconveniences that come with the job.

His advice: "Do everything you do with passion and don't be afraid to embarrass yourself by working or not getting to hang out with your friends." ♦



King

COMMUNITY

Local pumpkin patch welcomes people of all ages

BY KayleneMorrison & ElaineSun

For more than 20 years, Queen's Pumpkin Patch on Saratoga Avenue has been supplying the community with pumpkins for the Halloween season. The patch opens every year on Oct. 1 and closes halfway through the day on Halloween.

In addition to selling pumpkins, the patch offers a variety of activities, such as hamster ball game, train rides, hayrides, mazes and a petting zoo.

According to manager Brenda May, all the pumpkins and straw are grown on a farm just 25 miles south of Saratoga. Each

year, nearly all of the pumpkins are sold, but the few that are left over are either eaten or put to use in creative ways. May, for example, has learned how to make a snowman out of pumpkins.

The patch also offers tours for preschoolers, kindergarteners and first graders, where they can learn about the life cycle and different types of pumpkins, as well as recipes that make use of edible pumpkins.

"Everybody can look at the different types of pumpkins and what they were originally used for, and what people use them for now," May said.

The patch sells 12 different varieties of pumpkins, from small, baseball sized ones

to warty squashes, to the typically-sized round pumpkins used for jack-o-lanterns. According to May, these pumpkins have odd nicknames. The typical, smooth skinned orange pumpkin, for example, is known as a "Fat Jack," and the round, flat, multicolored pumpkins are the "Cinderellas."

May is pleased that the employees there are energetic and friendly, and says that she looks for people with good personalities to work at the patch.

"I just want someone that has their pants pulled up to their waist," May said. "I don't want anybody who has saggy drawers."

Nelly Cabrera, who is also a manager, does "a little bit of everything." She runs the

petting zoo, trailer ride, tours, and works in the office.

Customer Janice Roberts and mother of two Saratoga High alumni comes to the patch every year to pick out pumpkins to decorate her house. The nice thing about Halloween, she said, is that all generations are able to enjoy the holiday.

"I think that Halloween is the best holiday," Roberts said. "I think that autumn is the best time of year here, and I just think all of these pumpkins are so interesting."

One reason for the patch's popularity is its positive atmosphere.

"You know people are really having a good time," Roberts said. ♦

opinion

saratogafalcon.org/opinion

THIRD PERIOD

STAFF POLICY

The Saratoga Falcon is published 12 times per year by the Advanced Journalism classes of Saratoga High School, 20300 Herriman Ave., Saratoga, CA 95070.

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The staff of The Saratoga Falcon is committed to objectively and accurately representing the diverse talents, cultures and viewpoints of the Saratoga High School community.

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ASB's mandatory minimums for club membership need to change

Another 16 new clubs have been approved by ASB this school year, adding to the 42 carried over from last year.

But this approval is conditional — each club must have at least 11 members at every meeting to avoid getting cut.

The 11-member figure is one less than the 12 required members clubs needed last year, but it's still not ideal.

To be fair, the club member quota policy was enacted with good intentions: It's a tangible way for ASB to monitor which clubs are making a concrete impact on campus.

However, while the member quota can measure a club's appeal to students, it doesn't truly assess the magnitude of a club's impact.

Through these mandatory minimums, ASB can potentially axe clubs that appeal to smaller niche groups of passionate, committed audiences.

If, say, only 10 students on campus are American history buffs and want to create a club for their interests, ASB would have no other option than to

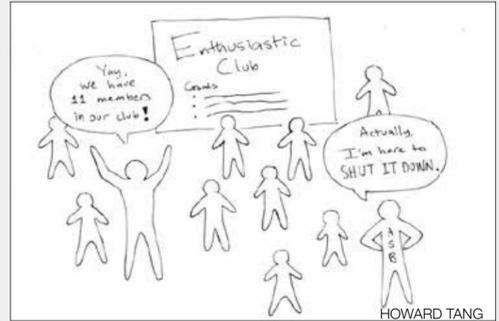
shut it down if it follows its stated rules, no matter how enthusiastic the 10 members are about the subject.

So how can ASB fix this problem? For one thing, they shouldn't completely retract the member quota policy — it does a fairly good job maintaining club legitimacy by preventing club officers from hosting terrible, unappealing meetings.

But instead of universally enforcing club quotas, ASB should balance it with another club requirement that gauges member enthusiasm instead of member attendance.

The ASB claims that throughout the year, they will randomly drop in during club meetings to evaluate a club's performance. If they are already monitoring clubs through unannounced visits to check on student turnout, they can surely determine whether a club is delivering on its club mission during meetings as well.

Are members talking about topics related to the club? Are they just hanging out and eat-



HOWARD TANG

ing lunch? Does each meeting have a real purpose?

In addition to the meeting minutes club secretaries must fill out every time a club meets, they should also complete a

form that describes the club members' enthusiasm for the club's activities in more detail.

That way, ASB won't shut down small clubs that can have a big impact on students. ♦

Opinion of the Falcon Editorial Board

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The Falcon staff voted 21-6 in support of this article.

Juniors, please don't park in the senior lot

BY KatherineZhou

It was a typical Tuesday, and it was the first time this year I enjoyed the luxury of having a free second period by leaving my house at 9:30 am. I felt relaxed and glad that I didn't have to wait in a long line to pull into the school parking lot.

I calmly drove into the senior lot, but as I was driving, I was shocked to see that every single spot was taken. I circled through the lot multiple times to be sure, but alas not a single spot was open.

My frustration turned to fury I noticed that multiple cars belonging to juniors occupied the spots

that I rightfully deserved. Some of these juniors even had the audacity to park in the coveted front row of the senior parking lot, as if they were seniors themselves.

I calmly drove into the senior lot, but as I was driving, I was shocked to see that every single spot was taken.

I realized that I would have to park in the farthest left lot, not-so-endearingly nicknamed "Africa"

by students because of how "far" it is from the school's entrance. Although parking in the lot was only a 2-second walk farther from school, I was angry at being forced to be separated from my senior peers. It was the principle of it.

Usually when I drive to school, it slightly irks me when juniors park in the senior lot, but there are almost always open spots. One girl even cut me off, sped into the parking lot, and took a perfect spot in the front row. But I never felt more outraged than when I was stripped of my privilege of parking in the senior lot.

As a senior who has suffered through one more year of high

school than my junior counterparts, I should be able to park in the front lot of school. Or, more bluntly, I deserve this privilege. The administration can give different parking permits for seniors or mark the lot with a sign that says, "seniors only," in order to defend this privilege.

Juniors, you can wait your turn for the senior lot and use your lot in the meantime. The exercise you get from walking farther will help relieve some of the stress of junior year. Plus, I don't want to worry about an inexperienced, more reckless junior driver rear-ending me in the senior lot. Please stay in your own lane. Literally. ♦

New rally line rule: a step in the wrong direction

BY KrithiSankar & JayneZhou

"And the winners are ... The freshmen!" the rally commissioners announced as many in the crowd boomed in dismay at the Homecoming rally on Sept. 29. Several seniors even left the gym early in protest, and eventually sophomores and juniors followed.

Amidst the confusion, one question rang out: "How did the freshmen win?"

As it turned out, their victory came because of a new point system and new rule that no students can cross a gray line on the gym floor without losing 100 points.

The freshmen ended up winning 200 points for their decorations and losing no points for line crossing. However, the seniors, rally commissioners said the seniors lost between 100-200 points because of the new line rule and failed to achieve their traditional place atop the podium.

Initially, this rule was implemented in response to fighting that broke out between a few seniors and juniors during the first rally of the year. While the new rule is well intentioned, we think it is an over-reaction to the actual issue.

After all, fights during rallies are rare — almost unheard of.

The exact dynamics of who made the new rule and under what circumstances aren't totally clear. The rally commission handles almost all decisions regarding rallies, according to activities director Matt Torrens, but they clearly felt pressure to avoid incidents such as fights when they made the now widely hated line rule.

In general, there needs to be discussion between the administration and rally commission to balance safety with common sense.

Additionally, rally commissioners need to make sure there's clear communication with the teachers who serve as judges about how

and when to add or remove points.

Because teacher judges vary per rally, they should not bear responsibility for taking off points. This confusion contributed to the outrage at the Homecoming rally, when seniors were angered by the freshmen class win even though they were the class with the highest points before deductions.

Torrens explained how the creation of new teacher judges caused confusion during the second rally.

"I think the second rally had a lack of communication and the rally commission is doing a lot right now to try to address that," Torrens said. "They're going to talk to the judges sooner, they're going to identify who's the one who's taking points off and who they can talk to [for any problems]."

Another major problem: Rallyes exist for students to show class and school spirit. However, due to the new line rule, classes were unable to show as much spirit and felt restricted, because there wasn't

enough space to cheer on their peers at rally games.

With the rule, students have a mere 33 inches of space between the bleachers and the line, meaning they can no longer rush to congratulate their fellow classmates without risking a penalty.

The new line rule especially affects larger classes, such as the sophomores, and it is a downer for seniors who are trying to celebrate their last year of high school with all-out enthusiasm.

Our suggestion is to dispose of the new line rule entirely and communicate with the teacher judges about how to best award points. Which class has the best spirit shouldn't hinge on who can stay behind an arbitrarily drawn line.

Regardless of who wins the rallies, it has no impact in the real world; they're just for fun. No one will remember who won a rally 10 years from now, so students shouldn't make a big deal about them, no matter who wins. ♦

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U.S. has ignored Puerto Rico for far too long

By Amith Calivanche & Phoebe Wang

Following the impact of Hurricane Maria on the Caribbean in late September, Puerto Rico, an island of U.S. territory in the Caribbean, experienced massive power outages, food shortages and water contamination in addition to property destruction and loss of human life. At best, the Trump administration's response to this situation has been lacking and verges on cruelty. The organization's relief efforts appear questionable and shallow, such as his odd dedication of the Presidents Cup golf trophy to hurricane victims and throwing paper towel rolls into a crowd during a state visit to Puerto Rico.

Puerto Ricans may be full citizens under U.S. law, but federal efforts, or lack thereof, have demonstrated that Puerto Ricans are not being treated as equal citizens. Hurricane Maria is just one recent example of how residents of the island are not treated as full Americans.

Just like the residents of other U.S. territories, Puerto Ricans are not allowed to vote in presidential elections and lack rep-

resentation in Congress. Nevertheless, what they have gotten back in the form of aid has hardly been worth the money they're paying into the system.

Puerto Rico's main issue in recent years has been a debt that exceeds \$70 billion. Puerto Rico can't file for traditional bankruptcy under Title III of the PROMESA law passed in 2016, which makes it harder for Puerto Rico to pay off its debt. Even though poor decisions by Puerto Rican leaders led to this debt, the U.S. is still responsible for doing what it can to restore solvency — and ensure it won't happen again.

Another reason to support Puerto Rican statehood is its high rate of military participation.

In fact, when the U.S. entered World War I, less than 20 years after Puerto Rico was ceded to the U.S., 236,000 Puerto Ricans registered for the draft and over 20,000 ended up serving. Since then, countless more from the island have put their lives on the line in every major conflict the U.S. has participated in.

In terms of civic activity, despite only being allowed to participate in the primaries

for presidential elections, Puerto Rico's voter turnout rate is only slightly lower than the national average (52.8 percent, compared to 60 percent nationally).

Additionally, in a 2016 referendum, 97 percent voted in support of full statehood for Puerto Rico. The current governor of Puerto Rico even affiliates himself politically with the New Progressive party, a political party dedicated to achieving statehood for Puerto Rico.

The only thing standing between Puerto Rico and its statehood is politics in Congress. Adding Puerto Rico as a state in the union would disadvantage Republicans by adding millions of Democratic-leaning voters to the electorate.

It is clear that Puerto Ricans, by and large, consider themselves to be Americans, as shown by their impressive rate of military service to the U.S. and overwhelming support for full statehood. Unfortunately, the mainland, both government and population, has not reciprocated in full.

This may be because that politicians do not see the value in helping Puerto Ricans — Puerto Rican votes don't influence elec-

tion as greatly as votes from citizens who live in places with full statehood. They are also seen as not fully American by many since Spanish is Puerto Rico's primary language.

It is well established that the federal government denies Puerto Ricans the same rights as their fellow Americans, but, according to a recent poll of 2,200 adults by Morning Consult, only 54 percent of Americans know that Puerto Rican-born persons are American citizens. Luckily, due to the efforts of celebrities such as Lady Gaga and Lin-Manuel Miranda to raise awareness, more and more Americans are now advocating for Puerto Rico's rights.

Puerto Ricans have contributed to the U.S. economy, they have risked their lives to defend their country, and they have even represented the U.S. at the Olympics, despite having the option to represent Puerto Rico alone.

The bottom line: Puerto Ricans are Americans too. And they need to be treated as such by a country that has, for far too long, ignored their role in the American story. ♦

Affirmative action is an effective equalizer

By Siva Sambasivam

In his article "The Case for Reparations," Ta-Nehisi Coates, a best-selling author and correspondent for the Atlantic, argues that the harms of past oppression have continued to limit minorities' social mobility in the present.

To remedy these past wrongs, he argues, the U.S. government must take steps to provide reparations to groups such as African Americans.

One of these steps is to give ethnic minority groups an equal opportunity to receive as good an education as their Caucasian peers. These attempts are known today as affirmative action, a term coined by president John F. Kennedy.

This policy is sometimes implemented by the U.S. government through mandated government outreach efforts, training programs and laws requiring colleges to remain fair to ethnic minorities — but has always been the most controversial when it comes to college admissions.

Since its implementation, affirmative action has had more or less achieved its intended purpose, providing countless benefits to the minority groups that might not have had great educational opportunities otherwise.

For example, contrary to popular belief, collegiate institutions don't just admit anyone because of affirmative action — they admit only those minorities who are qualified and they feel have the best opportunity to succeed at their school. A 2013 study by Matthew Chingos of Princeton University discovered that students, regardless of race, gender, wealth or previous education, succeeded most when they attended the most selective institution that would admit them.

And because of the selective process of affirmative action applications to the top-tier American schools, the elite echelon of minority students are given the best opportunity to succeed both at the collegiate level and beyond. This allows only the premier students of minority backgrounds to gain admission into these schools, and thus maintains the integrity and competitiveness of the institutions.

Additionally, affirmative action has had great success from a purely statistical standpoint. In 1965, shortly after the implementation of the policy, only 5 percent of undergraduate students, 1 percent of law students and 2 percent of medical students were minorities. The constant push con-

tinued affirmative action has created a huge increase in these numbers, with Caucasian students accounting for only about 58 percent of all undergraduate and postgraduate students at universities.

This is because minorities are given more opportunities to succeed at the collegiate level with affirmative action. Additionally, minorities now know that they have a place in the best possible schools in the country, which incentivizes many more to try their best and know they have a place. Furthermore, The New York Times found that in states that have outlawed affirmative action, there have been devastating impacts on minority enrollment. For example, California, Texas, Florida, Michigan and Washington have all seen significant drops in minority enrollment compared to collegiate-aged residents of those states.

At UC Berkeley, there was a 38 percent drop in Hispanic enrollment and a 7 percent drop for African-Americans after the practice was banned in 1996. Although private colleges like Pomona are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to attract minority students to their universities and bolster their numbers, in the end, it is a necessary cost to achieve equality in our great nation — and atone for many past wrongs when minorities were systematically excluded from places and positions of power.

Despite all the criticism and hyperbole affirmative action provides minorities the best possible tools to get into a premier college and succeed later in life. Contrary to the usual rhetoric, affirmative action does not prevent colleges from remaining competitive — it keeps the admission process selective by only admitting the top-tier applicants and gives them the boost up to succeed that their ancestors were denied. ♦

Selective recruitment is the wrong approach

By Kaylene Morrison

In the fall of 2016, Pomona College, an elite liberal arts school in Southern California, recruited Elvis Kahoro, an African American student from a working class family, according to a recent story in The New York Times.

Kahoro had an impressive application with 13 AP classes and over 1,000 hours of community service; he was more than qualified for an elite institution like Pomona.

Beyond granting him admission, however, Pomona also gave him nearly the full cost of the \$49,000 per year tuition, as well as the \$15,000 cost of boarding, \$900 for textbooks, his flights to campus during the end of senior year and even provided money for trips to visit family. This case and others like it raise many questions. How far should affirmative action go? Should schools be going to such lengths to recruit minorities? While this roughly \$65,000 spent by Pomona allowed Kahoro to attend the college of his dreams, it may have deprived others of theirs. According to USA Today, many students fit into a category of people whose families' annual income is too high to qualify for federal financial aid, but too low to cover the cost of one or more college educations.

In order to finance their tuition, these students must extract a "cocktail of loans," which have to be painstakingly paid off later. Instead of using an excessively large amount of money to recruit one person as if he were a star player on a sports team, this money could be more evenly spread to several applicants.

Although affirmative action was undeniably put into motion with good intentions, schools have employed it unethically in the past. For instance, in 1978, Allan Bakke was denied admission to UC Davis Medical School even though his achievements showed that he was more qualified than many of the minority applicants that were accepted.

The school had established a quota which reserved 16 out of every 100 spots for students of minority ethnicities, and as a result, discriminated against Caucasian students, violating the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. This well-known case, Bakke v. Regents of the University of California, established that there was, in fact, a way for affirmative action to be unconstitutional. What's to say that ex-

travagant spending on one desired student isn't one of these instances?

One proposition to combat this inequality would be to provide more support for low-income students during the middle school and high school stages of their education in order to reach the root of the problem. The need for this type of action is evident. Back in 2014, some California students sued the state over teacher tenure, according to youthradio.org. Nine student plaintiffs testified that teacher tenure harmed students, as many tenured teachers were negligent and racist. Students stated there was "one [teacher] that let kids smoke pot and another who called Latino students 'housecleaners' and 'cholos'."

In order to counteract these horrendous learning environments, universities like Pomona could use their money to support students with programs paralleling the UC's Early Academic Outreach Program. The EAOP's goal is to provide low-income students with the same resources received by those from affluent families. Free PSAT and SAT prep, help filling out applications and financial aid forms, individualized college counseling, and enrichment classes on Saturdays are just a few of the resources offered by the EAOP. Though taking this course of action is just a matter of ethics for private institutions like Pomona, for public colleges, it is essential. Public colleges simply do not have the budget to dedicate so much of their finances to persuade appli-

How far should affirmative action go? Should schools be going to such lengths to recruit minorities?

cants into attending their schools. Additionally, though Kahoro is an exception, affirmative action often sets up students to fail. According to "A 'Dubious Expediency': How Race-Preferential Admissions Policies on Campus Hurt Minority Students," minority students admitted to schools that they otherwise should have been denied acceptance from had it not been for affirmative action on average do worse than those admitted based purely on merit. It is apparent that the target spending in some affirmative action cases improve the lives of a few selective applicants in order to serve as "poster children" of underrepresented ethnicities. While these students may receive an ideal education, it is unethical to deny the opportunity to other equally or more deserving applicants.

The better solution would be for affluent schools to either distribute money more evenly among applicants or to make educational resources readily available in areas where poor and minority students don't have the chance at decent educations. ♦



GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE ZHOU

Fearmongering may be an ethical political tactic

By Anna Novoselov & Sherrie Shen

Natural disasters have become increasingly frequent and severe as climate change transforms Earth's environment and weather patterns. As demonstrated by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, which made landfall on mainland U.S., the Caribbean and Puerto Rico throughout late August and September, natural weather patterns are becoming increasingly destructive.

The three hurricanes have claimed almost 200 lives. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency expects repair costs of up to \$347 billion.

In past few weeks, news organizations have flooded the internet with dramatic, jarring reports and photographs of the destruction. These stories have the effect of inducing fears about a world in which these storms happen all the time.

Most scientists believe the underlying cause to be climate change, caused by human interference to Earth's natural environment.

Projected models of climate change align with real-time environmental occurrences, making it a smart decision for the media to warn the public about the effects of their destructive habits rather than soft pedaling the issue.

Others, however — especially oil and fuel company owners that benefit from looser climate change restrictions — argue that this practice is unethical.

One such example is the conservative, billionaire Koch brothers, two main opponents of climate change science. As the owners of Koch Industries, which deals in minerals, natural gas, petroleum and other fuels, the brothers spend millions each year trying to discredit climate change science, since tougher environmental regulations will result in less profit and more restrictions for their company.

But because warnings illustrated by news organizations are based upon factual evidence and scientific research, the act of inducing fear is by no means unethical, and it is the only tactic that will shift the

opinions of individuals who do not see the extent of their wrongdoings and the detriment they inflict on Earth.

Scientific research from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Environmental Defense Fund, United States Environmental Protection Agency and many other organizations has proven the staggering effects human activities such as burning fossil fuels and using coal power plants.

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are reaching record-breaking highs, trapping more heat — most of which is then directed at the oceans.

Despite the empirical evidence, climate change disbelievers (including our own president) are still a force to be reckoned with. And of the people who do believe in

Chip and Dan Heath point out, "knowing something isn't enough to cause change. Make people feel something."

climate change, too many do nothing to fix their destructive habits.

As authors of the novel "Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard," Chip and Dan Heath point out, "knowing something isn't enough to cause change. Make people feel something."

And Donald Trump did make us feel something when he announced his intention to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Accord this June — disappointment in his leadership, anger about his beliefs and fear for our future.

Now, it's our turn to make him and other climate change disbelievers to realize the effects of their inaction through stories of catastrophes exacerbated by climate change.

It is the media's job to highlight the actual facts of what is happening and bring awareness to the perilous path our planet is on. ♦

Earthquake preparation requires seismic shifts

By Anishi Patel & Callia Yuan

The city of Saratoga is located right in between two major fault lines — the San Andreas and the Hayward faults. Both faults are overdue for a high-magnitude earthquake.

Caltch seismologist Egill Hauksson told the Los Angeles Times that the San Andreas is also smoother than other faults, making it easier for an earthquake to keep plowing ahead into a longer, more powerful rupture, rather than ending as a smaller event.

In fact, on Oct. 9, a minor 4.1 magnitude earthquake struck near San Jose, and was felt as far away as San Francisco.

Events like these bring about the question of whether a school like ours is prepared for a high-magnitude earthquake. Considering the lack of earthquake safety procedures at this school, our guess is: probably not. Not a single teacher in our classes has discussed earthquake procedures or even basic survival instructions, both of which are necessary information in our earthquake-prone location.

We do know that single-story buildings withstand earthquakes far better than taller ones do, and with the majority of buildings on campus having only one story, we should be safer than some schools where multi-story structures are common.

The only problem is that most buildings on campus were built in the late '50s, when structural safety standards weren't as rigorous as they are today.

Forty years ago, an international set of standards for building construction, called the Uniform Building Code, was created to better fortify buildings, but this code did not exist when most of Saratoga High was built. Since it's not feasible for buildings

to be rebuilt before the next major quake, what can realistically be done to ensure everyone's safety?

Well, we all remember doing earthquake drills in middle and elementary school — those long minutes spent cramped under a desk, breathing the same stuffy air as the three other kids in your table group, inspecting the gum stuck under your seat.

So we know the basics — duck and cover, right? But it's a little alarming that all we have to rely on are basic safety procedures learned when we were still adding double-digit numbers and using sticks to pick tan-bark out of our shoes.

The reality of survival tips is that they only apply in specific situations. The best course of action can't be decided until you're actually in that situation.

It's impossible to know if you should duck under a table or run out of the building until you know exactly how far you are from the exit. Of course, all of these are split-second decisions, but they're decisions that can be practiced and thought about in advance.

There are also easily fixed issues in some classrooms that need to be addressed, like large windows, free-standing cabinets or large equipment that students need to avoid or secure during a potential earthquake. One good thing is that most classrooms are equipped with emergency safety kits that include blankets, radios and snacks. However, most students aren't aware of their location or how they're to be used, rendering the safety kits ineffective in an emergency situation where no teacher is in the room or is otherwise unavailable.

Here at SHS, we have fire drills. We have intruder-on-campus drills. But we don't have earthquake drills. So what are we supposed to do when the inevitable big one does hit? Find a table and brace yourselves; it's time to start preparing. ♦



GRAPHIC BY ELICIA YE



GRAPHIC BY ELICIA YE



GRAPHIC BY ELICIA YE



GRAPHIC BY COLLEEN FENG

WATER YOU DOING IN THE FOUNTAINS

BY Sandhya Sundaram



Never have I ever seen a clean water fountain in our school hallways. People always plaster wads of chewing gum on the basins of water fountains and spit on the taps. This makes drinking water a disgusting experience because no one wants to hydrate themselves millimeters away from a nasty,

wrinkly, chewed up piece of old gum (or worse). I can't even fathom why people would spit in water fountains. They are called drinking fountains for a reason — you drink the water. You aren't supposed to wash your mouth and gargle in it. Just stick to the original purpose of the fountain. Don't ruin it for everyone else. ♦

STOP CAMPING OUT AT THE COMPUTERS

BY Krithi Sankar

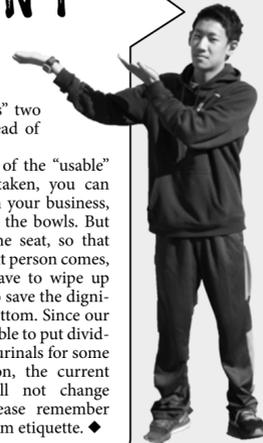


After procrastinating on my English short story until the night before it was due recently, I rushed to one place where I knew could use a computer to hastily type up and print my story: the library. As I entered, though, I was surrounded by people sitting at the limited number

of computer spots using their graphing calculators to solve logarithms or furiously annotating U.S. History packets assigned two weeks earlier. Although I should have completed my English homework before, I couldn't help but become annoyed at the indecency of people who decided to do physical homework at a designated computer spot. ♦

YOUR BATHROOM ETIQUETTE DOESN'T HAVE TO STINK

BY Howard Tang



Going to the bathroom can make some people feel a bit insecure. There are no dividers in between the urinals (except for the one near the track), so please follow these guidelines to make bathroom trips less nerve-racking. Don't take the urinal right next to someone if another one is open, and a urinal between two guys is no man's land — use a stall or wait awhile. Also, don't go to urinals that are two apart (unless there are four total),

for it "wastes" two urinals, instead of one. When all of the "usable" urinals are taken, you can proceed with your business, preferably in the bowls. But please, lift the seat, so that when the next person comes, they don't have to wipe up your urine to save the dignity of their bottom. Since our school is unable to put dividers between urinals for some absurd reason, the current situation will not change soon, so please remember your bathroom etiquette. ♦

PLEASE WALK, NOT SLOWLY CRAWL, THROUGH THE HALL

BY Connie Liang



It's no mystery that my legs are relatively short compared to my longer torso. What IS a mystery, however, is that I seem to walk faster than 78 percent of the school. It's possible that I'm simply a naturally speedy walker. Or, maybe other people

are just walking far too slowly. If you're in the hallway and feel a hot breath closing in on the nape of your neck or hear a weird sort of sigh unusually close behind, pick up the pace and move out of the way. Please. For the sake of everyone, or maybe just for the non-snails, walk faster. Thanks. ♦

I SEE YOU ROLLIN' AND I BE HATIN'

BY Rahul Vadlakonda



When I walk the hallways during passings or tutorial, I always steer clear of roller backpacks. As space becomes limited in the hallways during passings or breaks, the chance of a roller backpack running over my toes increases exponentially. Not only are roller back-

packs the bane of open-toed shoes and White Vans, they make quite a ruckus as well. Just last week, my nice, quiet studying in the quad was perturbed by the sound of wheels rolling on concrete, triggering an intense emotional association with the rough streets of India. I respect your roller backpacks; all I ask is that you respect my shoes. ♦

IT'S A HALLWAY, NOT A STALLWAY

BY Elaine Toh



I try to be considerate of all students, younger and upperclassmen alike, during the school day. However, when they block the hallways that lead to my next class or my short-lived freedom during lunchtime, please understand my irritation. After listening to hour-long lectures or obnoxious alarm clocks, the last thing people want is to walk sev-

eral more feet around a hallway, especially when they could have walked just two steps to their lunch area or classroom. It's these clusters of students who choose to converse in the smallest, busiest pathways on campus that cause so much trouble for others. If you want to chat with your friends, do it in the quad. I promise your conversations can handle the slight detour. ♦

ALL PHOTOS BY LAIRA BHURJI AND OLIVIA LU

Sophomore visits Disney's 'Guardians of the Galaxy' ride

toh-tally elai-ted

Elaine Toh



"Now show me those hands, people!" yelled Rocket Raccoon, a character from the popular "Guardians of the Galaxy" series. Accompanied with classic rock music, the gantry lift zoomed upward, then suddenly dropped and opened to a screen of the cast, replacing my initial screams with hysterical laughing. Disneyland's long-anticipated California Adventure ride, Mission: BREAKOUT!, based on the "Guardians of the Galaxy" movies, opened on May 17, bringing forth hundreds of Disney fanatics. Many of the fans were eager to test out the new ride, wondering how it would compare to its popular predecessor, "The Twilight Zone" Tower of Terror, which closed down in January. Though the drop tower aspect remains, the renovated tower's appearance and preshow have received some drastic changes. Compared to Twilight Tower Of Terror's eerie hotel exterior and haunting storytelling, the new ride illustrates a sci-fi adventure with its bright exterior and

humorous script. Eager to experience it for ourselves, my two older sisters (Allison, class of 2012, and Eileen, class of 2017) and I went on a trip to Anaheim in early August. On our previous trips to Disneyland, I avoided any spine-chilling rides with sudden drops. Instead, I spent most of my time lazily riding the tranquil Fantasyland rides and "It's a Small World," abstaining from my crying sequences as 4-year-olds judged me. But in order to get over my fear of roller coasters, I allowed my sisters to drag me to every attraction they pleased this time. I was most anxious about the renovated drop tower, one of the many rides I had always been too afraid to ride before. The memory of both my sisters being afraid of our hotel's elevator after riding Tower of Terror haunted me as I anxiously waited through the long line. While my heart was beating crazily, my sisters took Snapchat videos or "instagram-worthy" photos of the ride's vibrant red, orange and blue exterior and its fictional plants and artifacts, including a dog dressed in astronaut attire. Once we finally boarded, I was relieved to see that we were being seated in the last row of chairs. Based on which rock song plays at the beginning, the ride can be one of six different versions, each with its own set of six different scenes of the cast.



Courtesy of ELAINE TOH

Sophomore Elaine Toh (bottom right) screams as the 'Guardians of the Galaxy' ride drops.

I probably screamed my lungs out as the lift raced upwards, but ironically, as the ride dropped 130 feet, my body felt calm and weightless. When we got off, my sisters expressed their disappointment, saying that the ride "wasn't as scary as before" and that it "didn't shake as much" as the Tower of Terror; but they still wanted to ride it again. I, on the other hand, was glad to have overcome my fear of thrill rides. While the new ride may not have compared to the Tower of Terror and still has frustrating hour-long waits, it managed to provide an exhilarating experience without making me bawl my eyes out. If you are a first-time rider or are usually afraid of thrill rides like me, Mission: BREAKOUT! could be the start of your wild roller coaster journey. ♦

Eyebrow-raising fashion trends of 2017 gain mixed reactions

BY Anissa Mu & Phoebe Wang

This year, trend-setters are pushing the limits of fashion, perhaps even more than ever before. Not surprisingly, there has been a mix of mostly negative reactions. One recent new style that has been trending since August is wavy eyebrows, in which eyebrows are shaped into waves using glue and concealer. Beauty blogger Promise Tamang is credited with starting this trend when she first posted the eye-catching look on her Instagram account. Many students have shown disdain for this look, including sophomore Sejal Sripadanna, who described the look as "weird" and "creepy." However, there are some students who are less critical of wavy eyebrows. For example, sophomore Caroline Lee believes that wavy eyebrows are acceptable for situations such as photoshoots, but that "the rest of the makeup should be just as exotic in order for [the look] to be cohesive." Even well-known beauty corporates such as MAC cosmetics, pioneered bizarre beauty trends this year, including the lolipop lips, which was first seen at the Preen by Thornton Bregazzi London Fashion Week show last March. This trend involves smearing red or pink lipstick on the area around the lips, much like a young child's mouth after eating a red cherry lollipop. Junior Ria Jobalia said that this results in a look that not only seems impractical, but one that gives the person a distasteful and disorderly look. "It seems like the people who do this don't really know what they are doing," Jobalia said. "Maybe they were in the car

while putting [lipstick] on and they hit a bump." In September, the hairy selfie nails trend started. The first appearance of this trend can be traced to visual illusion artist Dain Yoon's Instagram page, which now has a couple of posts showcasing different self-portraits of herself painted onto her fingernails. She even glued black hair around her cuticles, not only achieving a more realistic look, but also a very different look from all other portrait nails. The hairy selfie nails has sparked mixed reactions from the public. In twitter, some found it "cute" and "impressive," while others said it looked "disgusting." For her part, sophomore Angelina Yang, a personal nail artist, had a more neutral reaction. "Personally, I don't like how it looks very much," Yang said, "but I do appreciate how creative it is. Most people wouldn't think of combining nailart and hair together!" Fortunately, not all of this year's beauty trends have caused so much negative reaction.



GRAPHIC BY JAYNE ZHOU

In February, glitter tears became the look of the season. Shimmery, colorful eyeshadow and chunky glitter is applied under the eye, creating a look similar to tears. It was well received by the public and had many positive responses. Freshman Jui Patel said that glitter tears are a great way to beautify the eye area because the glitter draws less attention to dark eye bags. Although many of 2017's beauty trends remain questionable at best, fashion trends like glitter tears were well received. "Overall, it wasn't all that bad," sophomore Elodie Torres said. "In general I find most beauty trends to be not worth my time, but 2017 actually had some decent [trends] like the glitter freckles and dewy foundation makeup." ♦

There ain't enough soul in the Bay for my southern cravings

indecisive monkey

Austin Wang



No matter how much pho, tacos and In-N-Out Burgers I eat, my craving for greasy diners and fried chicken is something that Silicon Valley just can't satisfy. Although its food scene offers everything from authentic taco trucks to pretentious high-end sushi, Silicon Valley lacks one thing: soul food. My debate tournament trips to the American Midwest and South have opened my eyes to the patriotic glory of fried okra, chicken-fried steak and cheesy grits. There is a dearth of quality southern food, or any southern food really, across Silicon Valley. And no, as good as KFC and Popeyes are, they aren't the authentic Southern food that I could find in states like Arizona and Kentucky. California as a whole state lacks a true American classic and one of my favorite restaurants: Waffle House. Every time I travel to another U.S. state, I find myself enjoying a hearty pre-tournament breakfast of chocolate chip waffles with "Smothered, Covered and Topped Hashbrowns" (hashbrowns with cheese, chili and sauteed onions) at Waffle House. Best of all, the huge portions at Waffle House are also far cheaper than the pretentious kinds of breakfast options we have in Saratoga (I'm looking at you, Bell Tower). Take, for example, Waffle House's All-Star Special: two eggs; two buttered slices of toast; four strips of bacon, ham or sausage; hash browns; and a waffle bigger than my face; this 945-calorie monstrosity

only sets you back \$6-\$7.50. Meanwhile, restaurants around here charge \$10 for a mediocre omelette that you could probably make at home. Waffle House is as close as a restaurant may ever be to the physical embodiment of the "American Dream." Yet to get the full American experience, one has to go deeper, deeper south. When I went to Kentucky the week before AP testing last year, I was able to drown out my stress with hot, delicious grease. Before long, I learned that Kentucky fried chicken is far better as a noun than it is as a proper noun. Eating chicken-fried chicken — literally an enormous chunk of fried chicken smothered in white gravy — with mac-and-cheese, green beans and cornbread at Cracker Barrel made me feel like strapping on cowboy boots, wrapping myself in an American flag and yodeling the national anthem on horseback. That's what southern food is to me — a connection to my inner patriotic American. And don't even get me started on chicken and waffles. Crispy fried hot chicken with maple syrup over fluffy, sugary waffles is the closest thing to heaven I have ever experienced on Earth. After completing a plate of chicken waffles from Joella's Hot Chicken in Kentucky, pure grease, syrup and euphoria ran through my veins. The sheer dopamine levels I experienced there are simply unreachable with any food I have found in the Bay Area. While I may not move to rural America or a Republican stronghold anytime soon, I will still hold Waffle House, gravy and fried chicken deep within my heart for years to come. I will continue praying that Waffle House comes to California, but until then, I will be crying as I eat KFC. ♦



Fried chicken and sides.

October 20, 2017

Friday Night Lights

HOW DO STUDENTS AT SHS
SPEND THEIR FRIDAY NIGHTS?

Football players: Clear eyes, full hearts

BY Siva **Sambasivam**
& Alex **Wang**

Before senior captain Robert Scott rushed and caught passes under the bright lights of the Benny Pierce Field on Sept. 15 against Leigh High School, he came to school proudly wearing his red No. 1 jersey, a time-honored tradition for all football players, varsity and JV alike.

Game day for Scott is entirely about what happens between the lines from 7 until after 10 p.m. He is especially conscious about what he eats and admits to not being able to pay much attention during class. Instead, he has an earbud in and focuses on what he needs to do in the game.

That day, he and senior captain Allie Liddle reserved their tutorials and lunches for last-minute film study and key matchup discussions. They pointed

out defensive formations and talked about offensive schemes.

An hour before the game, the Falcon roster of nearly 30 players met in the team room in full gear, blasting rap music to get pumped up.

As the team then warmed up before the game, the songs played by the marching band added further inspiration for the players.

"The band is the signal that it's on," Scott said. "When you hear them warming up at dusk as the lights are turning on, it's really fun and exciting."

Finally, it was game time. The players had prepared for this all week. Scott, who starts at running back, said he always has the butterflies as the opening whistle blows.

"Until I get the ball, I'm extremely nervous. After my first play, I get comfortable and then I go," he said.

The result of the varsity game dictate

how the rest of the night went for the varsity players.

If the team won, the entire squad would have gone out to Jake's Pizza to celebrate, recounting the game's successes over dinner. In the end, it was a crushing 28-20 loss in a game they felt they should have won because they had a lead into the fourth quarter.

Instead, there was no pizza. They went their separate ways.

"When we lose, we don't usually go out with the entire team, especially because everyone is down and gloomy," Scott said.

After the tough loss to Leigh, players went out in small groups to a fast food restaurant, such as Jack in the Box and McDonald's, to dissect the turning points in the game and what they could have done differently, while others went straight home, hoping for happier outcomes in future Friday nights. ♦



Senior quarterback Niko Rositano surveys receivers before throwing a pass.

Band rehearsals pay off

BY Sanjana **Melkote**

The drum majors take their positions and as their hands fly up, the marching band and Color Guard, groups consisting of about 230 students, step onto the football field at the same time.

Every person's hands constantly move, fingers waltzing between notes, ears listen to make sure their individual sound blends with the ensemble, feet move forward, to the side, diagonally, and even backward, and eyes frantically watching the space in front of them to referencing the three drum majors' hands, all to achieve a stellar performance.

The marching band, using the choir as a featured element this year, has been performing parts of their competition show titled "Find Your Voice" during the halftime of games to practice for their competition season in October. The band's performance looks seamless on the field, but it's the result of dozens of hours of work each fall.

On the night of a football game, members come to school at 5:30 p.m., and getting ready not only includes

changing into a marching band uniform, but also a variety of separate warm-ups.

The band then sits in the home section of the bleachers, farthest from the main entrance, and performs pop songs like "Don't Stop Believing" and "Animal" as a standstill ensemble to help "pep up" the crowd.

When they're not playing, band members enjoy encouraging their peers in various programs and talking to their friends and relaxing after a busy week.

For junior flautist Deyshna Pai, performing at football games isn't as stressful as a competition, but is another way to be socially involved at SHS.

"I think while my favorite part is playing music in general, I also look forward to watching our football team play and our dance team dance during half-time," Pai said. "It's another way of supporting my other friends who are in different activities."

After the first two quarters of the game, the band, Color Guard and choir meet up by the end zone and join together as one marching band as their drum majors' hands fly up. ♦

Busy with night shifts

BY Colleen **Feng**
& Lina **Kim**

The final school bell on Fridays means one thing to junior Kick Poelmann: It's time to go to work.

In his case, it's as a lifeguard at Saratoga's Brookside Club. He is working there to have additional spending money.

"Besides me, there is one other lifeguard that works all the time," Poelmann said. "Usually what we do is just watch over the kids and make sure they stay safe."

Poelmann usually stays till 7 or 8 during Friday nights, and earns a salary of \$10.50 an hour.

Although Poelmann sometimes finds it depressing and sometimes wishes he could hang out with his friends on Friday nights, he said there is one consolation: "When you come home with an envelope of money, it's not too bad."

Also leaving to work on Friday nights is senior Anya Srivats, who works a four-hour shift at the local

downtown Starbucks. Usually during her shift, she finds herself ringing up customers, making their drinks and doing other work like restocking, washing dishes and sweeping the floor. She gets a 10- to 15-minute break every two hours and earns \$12.50 an hour, plus tips.

Despite the relatively good pay, her job is not always routine or easy. Srivats recalls a Friday night when a whip cream can exploded all over her 10 minutes before her closing shift, delaying her plans to attend the football game that night as she found herself having to go home to wash out whip cream from her clothes and hair.

Despite such moments, Srivats said she loves her job, because she gets benefits and experience she can't get elsewhere.

"I get to meet really cool people when I'm working there because there are people who don't take the walk of life that we normally see here," Srivats said. ♦

Cheer gives 110 percent on the sidelines

BY Sophia **Zivanic**



Freshman Maya Banta stands in a "clean" as she watches the football game on Sept. 15.

Yells and laughter surround me as I stared straight ahead, arms tight at my sides in a "clean." I feel a rush when looking at all of the people in the stands staring at me. Because I perform the entire time I am on the sidelines, I have to stand still and not fidget while watching the football players tackle one another.

Halftime performances are the most fun because we work extremely hard for them and when we finally perform and nail all of our stunts, we grow closer as a team.

The team doubled in size this year, welcoming a new coach, Martina Davis, six

new freshmen and seven new sophomores. The increase of people has allowed us to perform much more complicated stunts than last year.

Junior Mia Luu, sophomore Emily Lubyantsky and freshman Ava McKenzie are starting their first year as flyers. As flyers, they must learn to tighten every muscle in their body and have the mental ability to allow themselves to trust others to catch their fall.

During the Sept. 15 football game, the team performed a new halftime routine consisting of a pyramid that we had just learned two practices prior.

As the game progressed, senior Evelyn Ha successfully flew high into the air in a basket

toss, hyping up the crowd. Then each stunt group held their flyer in a half (this is where the flyer is held at the bases' shoulder level) and shouted the cheer "G-O, Go Falcons Go."

After pumping up the crowd and leading cheers like "Hey Toga," my limbs were weak — everyone had lost their voice by the end of the game.

"The girls work together really hard and when things go wrong everyone supports each other and lifts each other back up," senior cheer captain Jaclyn Magner said.

Blood, sweat and tears went into practicing these stunts. And though it had been a rough and exhausting week, the team's hard work paid off. ♦

Guard shows its colors at halftime

BY Anna **Novoselov**
& Callia **Yuan**

Stepping onto the football field during halftime on Sept. 15, freshman Nikita Kadambi cradled her yellow flag and scanned the bleachers packed with enthusiastic parents and students. This was her first high school Color Guard performance and she couldn't have been more anxious.

As a previous captain of the Redwood Middle School Guard, Kadambi assumed she was in a

good spot entering high school Guard. But even that experience wasn't enough to prepare her for the tougher routines and stricter schedule.

"I didn't realize how much work it took until actually starting," Kadambi said. "Practices are much harder because of new techniques and complicated choreography."

Before the show, the team members warmed up together, stretching and reviewing choreography. After making their way to the field in two

uniform lines, they gathered into a circle near the end zone to exchange words of advice and encouragement and calm their nervous energy.

Kadambi said that she was able to calm down about halfway through the routine and perform the rest confidently, enjoying showcasing the choreography that the team had worked so hard on.

"I'm so stoked for the rest of the season," Kadambi said. "I can't wait to do a better performance for my mom to record." ♦

Not missing out on other lights

BY Michelle **Lee**
& Katherine **Zhou**

On Friday, Sept. 8, while most Saratoga students were cheering on the home football team against Santa Teresa, senior Tyler Wu was surrounded by hundreds of Archbishop Mitty High School students, cheering on the Monarchs.

With a student leadership section on the lower half of the stands enthusiastically encouraging the crowd with cheers, Wu could feel the

fans' energy. Even he was rooting for the Monarchs to win. Most students were dressed in colorful sports jerseys to show their spirit.

"At [Saratoga] games are more quiet, and everyone is sitting down," Wu said. "Everyone at Mitty games is crazy and super [hyped up] and enthusiastic about everything."

Wu is used to going to neighboring high schools on Friday nights, absorbing the different cultures and spirit of schools while watching football

games with his friends.

Unlike at Saratoga where most students attend football games to socialize, many at Mitty were more invested in following the actual game, as Mitty's robust sports program has an accomplished football team.

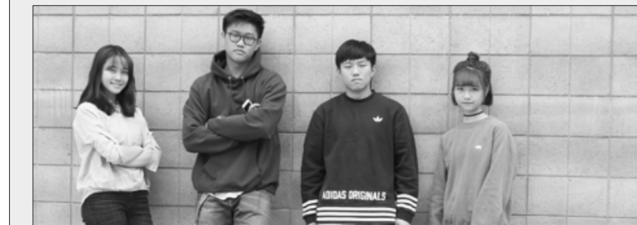
In the future, Wu wants to continue going to different football games and new schools whenever he has free time.

"It's easy to meet new people there," Wu said. "It's pretty lively and fun for socializing." ♦



Korean and American Cultures

GRAPHIC BY COLLEEN FENG



From left to right: Sophomore Selena Liu, seniors Brandon Mo and Daniel Ryu and sophomore Nicole Chen pose in outfits incorporating both American and Korean styles.

K-fashion trends impact teens

By ConnieLiang & OliviaLu

Walking down the streets of Hongdae in Seoul, the center of South Korea's youthful nightlife, senior Daniel Ryu was surrounded by Korean urban street art and underground music; however, most of the people he saw were wearing American streetwear brands like Stussy, Supreme, Obey, Vans and Nike. These were also the brands he wore most often.

Two years later, when Ryu moved to America, he was surprised to see dozens of Americans wearing Korean fashion (K-fashion), especially at school. These items include overalls, tennis skirts, oversized sweaters and boxy graphic tees.

On a much larger scale, as Ryu had noticed in America, Korean trends have spread throughout the world and become prominent in more places than ever before — including the U.S. Ryu noticed that both American and Korean fashion trends are swayed by music and entertainment, particularly hip hop, K-pop and K-hip hop. In Korea, K-pop idol celebrities, such as rapper G-Dragon and CL of former group 2NE1, are considered style icons, as some participate in fashion weeks around the world, pose for high-end magazines and collaborate with beauty companies.

After visiting South Korea this past summer, sophomore Selena Liu has embodied K-fashion by following trends such as wearing high waisted bottoms, loose clothing tucked in and a banged hairstyle.

"I just felt like I needed to get a cleaner set of clothes so I wouldn't look so shag-

gy all the time," Liu said, referring to the more clean-cut style of Korean fashion.

Currently, the vogue in South Korea is to dress in a non-conforming way, including genderless clothing or more daring and bold outfits.

Senior Brandon Mo has noticed a global shift in fashion trends.

Mo said that in the past, most fashion has been centered around European fashion houses and recently it all transformed to New York and Los Angeles, where most of the Korean fashion scene is from.

Sophomore Nicole Chen has followed a similarly open mindset.

Originally from China, Chen chooses to dress with Asian influences because she feels "cuter" and more confident in the lighter and springy Asian attire.

"I discovered that I look better in those styles instead of Western style," Chen said.

While fashion on a global level seems to dominate the American trends, the Korean beauty industry shares an equal part of the craze.

Liu observed that one of the most prominent beauty trends in South Korea was the natural look, a trend that highlights unfiltered beauty and is accentuated by whitening creams.

"[South] Korea isn't like America where you have a bunch of foundation on — they prefer a more natural look," Liu said.

Teenagers' fashion taste have evolved and matured while reflecting their own ideals and unique tastes.

"The way you dress influences people's self-confidence and the way others see them. It's individuality," said Mo. ♦

K-pop wave sweeps America

By ElaineFan & AnnissaMu

On July 14, at the San Jose SAP Center, Korean superstar G-dragon emerged on stage in front of a popping backdrop, performing with themed black and red outfits and seamless choreography. Before the stage, a sea of lightsticks and decorated posters moved to the beat as thousands of fans, including sophomore Jacqueline Lo, cheered excitedly for their idol.

Lo is a diehard fan of Korean pop, mostly known as K-pop, a musical genre originating from South Korea. Its worldwide popularity has skyrocketed recently, reaching an all-time peak.

Korean boy band BTS, newly renamed Beyond the Scene, has scored in the top 10 of Billboard Top 200 album chart with their new album "Love Yourself: Her," pushing to where "no K-pop act has gone before."

Asked about why she likes the group, Lo said: "The songs are diverse and catchy, plus the music videos are so aesthetic. New content is constantly made available."

K-pop's influence also heavily influence the annual Homecoming Quad Day performances, which often feature a K-pop dance consisting of songs from different groups or artists. Junior Ferennie Liu has organized the K-pop dance for the class of 2019 for two years, wanting to "show off" its incredible choreography.

Like many, Liu was attracted to the intense performance level of K-pop, which simultaneously incorporates elements of dancing, singing and rapping, often mixing various genres of music.

"It's so visually attacking," Liu said. "At the performance level, it's so up there. Everything is so well thought out: the choreo and concepts, and there's even outfit choices. Everything is so fast-paced."

Lo also found it easy to feel "connected" with Korean artists, due to the many opportunities to see them off-stage.

Fans can often watch groups participate in reality shows and game shows or interact with their favorite idols during fan meets.

Furthermore, numerous Korean ce-

lebrities visit America, specifically Los Angeles, each August for KCON, an annual Korean wave convention held in various locations around the world.

In May, BTS won the "Top Social Artist" Award at the Billboard Music Awards (BBMAs), garnering almost 10 times as many votes as artists such as Justin Bieber, Ariana Grande, Selena Gomez and Shawn Mendes. They also sold out multiple concerts across the U.S. in their recent Wings tour.

But despite the mostly positive reception from countries worldwide, the rise of K-pop has also introduced negative responses, including racism.

Notably, after BTS's win at the BBMAs, some Twitter users wrote derogatory comments asking why "Asians wearing makeup" beat "actual famous people."

BTS has scored in the top 10 of Billboard Top 200 album chart with their new album.

Others, claiming that they were "not trying to be racist," told BTS to "go back to Korea."

Nevertheless, K-pop continues to ascend in recognition and popularity worldwide. Korean artists continue to collaborate with a long list of prominent American artists, including Kanye West, Bruno Mars, Skrillex, Diplo, The Chainsmokers and Far East Movement.

Senior Jane Lee, who choreographed several K-pop dances for the senior Quad Day, was naturally exposed to K-pop during her time living in Korea.

While Lee has found that more people are aware of the genre than before, she also hopes they can discover the huge range of K-pop songs beyond those that are extremely well known.

"I do feel that it would be nice if good K-pop songs could become popular," Lee said, "not just the ones that are made by companies with good abroad marketing strategies." ♦

What happened to the other alphabet pops?

wangster gangster

Austin Wang

With more than 120 million views on YouTube, "You Exist in My Song" by singer Wanting Qu is an iconic Chinese pop song and one of my personal favorites. Unfortunately, iconic Chinese pop songs mean very little in America, since K-pop overshadows almost all other Asian pop music.

While most Asian songs have struggled to reach 10 million views, in 2012, Korean pop star PSY's music video "Gangnam Style" went viral and became the most popular video on YouTube until it was surpassed this past July.

Korean pop music has been a nationwide trend for decades, attracting both Koreans and non-Koreans alike. Millions of Americans have forgone lyrical understanding in favor of simply enjoying the catchy sound and uniquely synchronized and well-choreographed music.

It's little surprise that hundreds of students here are obsessed with K-pop, religiously following favorite bands like BTS and Day6.

Although I enjoy the occasional K-pop song (especially if it's from Day6), I've always wondered why the pop music of other Asian countries hasn't received a similarly warm reception.

After listening to a veritable alphabet of pops — Burmese, Laotian, Thai, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Japanese, Chinese, Cantonese, Taiwanese and Mongolian — I've found that, for the most part, the music is pretty decent. Of course, some cultures have music that doesn't quite suit American tastes: for example, Laotian pop music tends to have oddly high-pitched and nasally vocals, and Cambodian pop is generally far slower and more strings-based than American pop.

However, there are more hits than misses: I enjoyed the fast-paced beats of Thai rap, the slow romance of Chinese pop and the pop-rock of Indonesian boy bands.

Where everything tends to fall apart for smaller Asian countries is production quality. Not only is the production and choreography quality far worse than K-pop's, but the plots and visuals of other Asian music

videos are often obscure and off-putting.

One Mongolian music video with 130,000 views called "I won't make you haste," was not only titled with incorrect English grammar, but also followed a confusing storyline featuring a man with digestive problems.

In contrast, K-pop groups feature well-synchronized and iconic choreography such

I've always wondered why the pop music of other Asian countries hasn't received a similarly warm reception.

as the TT dance from girl group "Twice." While other Asian pop groups such as Thai girl group "Sugar Eyes" attempt to create similar choreography, the dance moves are more generic and slower-paced.

Of course, given South Korea's relative wealth, it's only natural that the pop music videos from less-developed countries aren't up to par. Yet even larger, more globalized countries like China and Japan struggle to expand internationally and are often less popular than their Korean counterparts,

even among Chinese and Japanese.

So what gives K-pop the edge?

For one thing, the South Korean government is completely dedicated to expanding the Korean entertainment industry. It considers entertainment as one of the primary pillars of its economy. South Korea subsidizes pop-star recruitment and idol training, and views their entertainment culture as a sort of soft power ensuring support from K-pop loving citizens across the world.

Furthermore, due to the prevalence of K-pop training camps and the overall competition in the industry, K-pop stars tend to be the most talented and well-trained performers Korea has to offer.

In the West, K-pop may also maintain stronger popularity than other foreign music because K-pop songs often better cater to Western tastes. Most K-pop songs contain English words in their choruses, allowing their non-Korean fans to still sing along for some parts. While pop music across Asia has its bright spots, it seems like K-pop still has an edge on the rest of the continent and has proved that its popularity is no passing trend.

So, next time I go to karaoke, I suppose I'll be rapping to K-pop instead of practicing my Mongolian throat singing. ♦

New adaptation of 'It' flops as a horror movie

barely sur-viv-ing

Vivien Zhang

As an avid clown-hater but a thriller movie enthusiast, I was conflicted when I saw that an adaptation of Stephen King's "It" was coming to theaters. I wasn't sure whether I wanted Pennywise the Dancing Clown to make his way into my nightmares, but I decided to take a chance. Unfortunately, "It" fell short of my expectations as a horror movie, but it wasn't a total failure in that it did a good job developing the characters'

path to maturity.

The movie centers around a group of seven outcasts called "the Losers" who live in the fictional town of Derry, Maine, where a mysterious, shape-shifting clown named Pennywise kills and feeds off children's fears every 27 years. Each of the children has interactions with their individual fears and, "spoiler alert," they come together to overcome them and defeat Pennywise.

Compared to the 1990 original, the 2017 version is much darker, putting emphasis on Beverly Marsh, the only female "Loser," and her life with a physically abusive father. The newer version of this film shows the father as more corrupt and controlling with Beverly than before. While the old version of the movie shows her transition from weak to strong, the newer version introduces her as an already tough and independent girl with

a harsh attitude due to being slut-shamed by the other girls in her school.

While the movie does a good job of creating and developing the characters' personas, "It" is anything but nightmarish. The choppy scene-to-scene transitions detract from the "horror" aspect.

The movie makes use of masterful cinematic effects, but it is rather frustrating to see the same jump scare used over and over again; many such scares are placed back-to-back yet have no variation.

The movie does succeed, however, in focusing on the camaraderie and awkwardness that surrounds its protagonists' transition from childhood to adulthood.

"It" showcases adults as additional monsters "the Losers" have to face, as they are physically and emotionally abusive. The lack of an adult figure leads to the formation of

a sadistic group of teenagers that bully "the Losers" throughout the entire movie to take out their anger.

The movie effectively depicts the violence between the bullies and "the Losers" through gruesome actions and foul language, such as carving letters with a Swiss-army knife onto Ben's (a "Loser") stomach.

Through these violent interactions, the audience sees that the children learn to protect themselves, setting the premise for the importance of their transition into proper adulthood. Because they are all uniquely burdened by their families and peers, they begin to mature as a group.

Although I am thoroughly disappointed by the lack of the promised "horror" factor, "It" finds success in developing the complex relationship the children share while taking a step into the adult world together. ♦

YouTubers 'branching out' on the money tree

By ElaineSun & RahulVadlankonda

When YouTuber Zoe Sugg's 2014 book "Girl Online" was revealed to have been written by a ghostwriter, fans were heartbroken to see that one of their idols had cheated them. Though this was one of the more negatively associated attempts of YouTubers branching out to other forms of communication, many of YouTube's most popular stars have nonetheless successfully expanded into other media.

After the YouTube Partner Program was introduced in 2007, YouTubers have been able to earn money through the ads played before and during their videos. In the meantime, the number of active users on the site has increased exponentially, reaching over 1.5 billion monthly users according to YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki and many creators now feel the need to cater to their growing audience's demands by branching out to other platforms.

The YouTube Partner Program states that users can apply for the program once a channel reaches 10,000 views, gaining the ability to monetize their videos. This program has allowed creators to use the videos they upload as their main sources of in-

come. According to Business Insider, popular YouTuber Jenna Marbles, who makes videos on her lifestyle shown to about 17.6 million YouTube subscribers, makes around \$350,000 annually.

However, being a YouTuber is not always a long-term profession or a guarantee of riches. Viewers can be fickle, and a YouTuber's annual income can as they struggle

to remain popular. This is another reason many creators have branched out from the video platform.

YouTubers such as Tyler Oakley, Connor Franta and Miranda Sing, who are usually known for the popular culture types of videos, such as challenges, video blogs and comedy, have published self-help books on stories about their lives and their journey to YouTube fame.

They have also been known to get sponsors for their videos. Companies that commonly appear in videos are Audible and

Squarespace, which allow users to get trials for the products of their services with discounts.

YouTubers release merchandise as well, promoting their own T-shirts, phone cases, sweatshirts and posters, which results in them getting a portion of the sales revenue and more advertisement for their channels.

Logan and Jake Paul, brothers who both post daily video blogs about their lives, have both reached 10 million subscribers on YouTube in around one year, have been known to constantly promote their merchandise.

Another option YouTubers have chosen is making podcasts.

A popular example of this is "Good Mythical Morning," a podcast created by popular YouTubers Rhett McLaughlin and Charles Neal, where they talk about popular cultural practices, such as challenges and experiments.

Junior Rohan Pandey, who often uses YouTube to get his share of politics, science and pop culture, said that branching is a

good move on a YouTuber's part.

"I think it is great that YouTubers find other ways to make a living because they can no longer trust the platform [for a stable income]," he said. "It's important for them to do this."

Junior Ria Jobalia agreed, saying: "If they develop a fanbase who would buy their book, there's nothing wrong with spreading their message to another platform."

Senior Sarah Deng, who has attended many book signings and corporate events for famed YouTubers, also agrees that writing books is smart, but if the book is ghost written, it can lead to hate mail.

"I think fans enjoy when their YouTubers come out with different content, or even the same content through new platforms," Deng said. "If he or she or other wants to write a book, it's a great learning experience and a chance to reflect on oneself."

Even though YouTube has gained huge popularity in the past couple of years, all these various avenues are just some of the financial benefits of having a big social media following.

Capitalizing off of their popularity allows YouTube and its users to grow together. By expanding, YouTubers can be a part of their viewers' lives in more than one way. ♦

Jake Paul: Is he really beating all the competition?

By VictorLiu & AlexWang

"It's everyday bro, with the Disney Channel flow," YouTube vlogger Jake Paul "rapped" in his hit summer single, "It's Everyday Bro." The song, which has a so-horrible-that-it's-funny status that rivals songs such as Rebecca Black's "Friday," has reached 127 million views as of early October.

Paul became famous by association through his Vine-sensation brother Logan Paul and amassed his YouTube audience after transitioning to YouTube following Vine's shutdown earlier in January.

Over the past three months, Paul has reached almost 11 million total subscribers, which he creatively calls his "Jake Paul-ers," and has gained more than 2.3 billion total views on his channel.

In addition to his YouTube following, he also has 2.3 million followers on Twitter and 10 million on Instagram. A combination of online drama between him and other popular online personalities and Jake Paul's ability to push new content out onto his channel every day has generated this large fan base.

However, Paul's recent popularity has become a topic of controversy.

With so much support and viewership across multiple social media platforms, it may seem like Paul is a well-liked celebrity. But after delving deeper than the poorly rhymed verses in "It's Everyday Bro," we have realized that there is more to Jake Paul

than meets the eye.

Unlike Rebecca Black, who has barely managed to break the 50,000 view mark after the sensation surrounding "Friday" died down, Jake Paul shows no signs of stopping, surging past 3 million views on nearly every single daily video upload. He may not seem that smart on camera — he thinks England is a city, for example — but he has created a formula for YouTube success that has propelled him to the spotlight, which we find both laudable and lamentable.

After struggling through a couple of his videos, we noticed a fairly simple pattern. Upon first glance, Paul, like a female baboon who attracts male attention by showing off her colorful behind, uses clickbait to draw in viewers. The attention-grabbing misleading titles, are usually capitalized, bolded exclamations like "YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT WE DID." Most of these titles refer to equally false thumbnails, usually a picture of Paul doing something vaguely related to the title accompanied with a silhouette of an expensive car or an emoji. Occasionally, he includes red arrows in the videos' thumbnails that don't seem to be pointing to anything.

In his videos, Paul flaunts his lavish life and often tries to disrupt the public with his stunts and invasions on others' privacy. He has set furniture on fire and posted his address publicly, attracting crowds of fans to his door like a carcass draws in turkey vultures. He has a reputation of mistreat-



Jake Paul and his group of friends, "Team 10," flaunt their wealth and status in the music video for "It's Everyday Bro." The song was written and produced in one day.

ing others and has received criticism for his behavior from neighbors and the media, which even his 11 million subscriber count cannot justify. In fact, Paul was released from his roles on Disney Channel for his repeated disruptive acts.

His videos are no better than his disorderly behavior. The content usually contains a lot of shouting, pranks and plugs about his merchandise and social media accounts.

Paul also releases music videos, where he tries to rap and sing simultaneously, end-

ing with disastrous songs. His diss tracks are not well written either and he comically spews lines that make no sense at all, such as "and I just dropped some new merch and it's selling like a god church."

Ultimately, Paul does not bring much to the table in terms of watchable content. His channel is based on clickbaiting viewers, doing outlandish things and disrespecting others. Viewers should follow Disney's example and expel Jake Paul from their lives because it's not everyday, bro. ♦

Former librarian looks back on time at old library

BY Krithi Sankar & Phoebe Wang

On most days, retired SHS librarian Tibor Szalay sits behind the service desk, wandering occasionally into the stacks to help students find their books.

"Right before I came in 1977, [the library] had closed the stacks," Szalay said. "I couldn't believe that unless you showed your ID, you were not allowed to go into the stacks. It was the Dark Ages."

Nowadays, many students take these privileges for granted: the new library, constructed in the early 2000s, is complete with a tutoring center and a computer lab, with free and open access to all books. It is an information hub.

Few students realize, however, that Szalay, who retired in 2002, is the one who did much of the design of the very library they are working in today.

A Sacramento construction company made the original blueprint when construction planning for the new library began in the late '90s, but eventually the administration realized it was best for a librarian to have a major say in the design, keeping with the needs of students and themselves in mind.

Along with playing this role in designing the new library, Szalay said his 25 years here involved revamping the media center and incorporating more technology in the old library that was located in the current 800 wing.

Szalay lived through many of the library's changes since the school's founding in 1959. The library he spent most of his career at resided in the current 800 wing along with a small copy room and a faculty lounge before major renovations to the campus in the late '90s and early 2000s.

From the side facing the quad, the old library had men's and women's restrooms, both of which still remain inside the 800 wing. Next to the restrooms was the old faculty lounge, which was later relocated to the building next to the cafeteria and a workroom for teachers.



Retired librarian Tibor Szalay is shown working in the old library. Having worked in the library during the late 90s and early 2000s, Szalay experienced the library's move to its current location, playing a role in designing the library and revamping the media center.



These are photos of the first library, which was constructed in the late 1950s when the school was founded. Since then, several major changes have occurred, including a move from the 800 wing to its current location today.



In the middle of the old library, there was a work area for students; if a student needed a more private setting to work, there were three conference rooms off to the side. A reference section filled with encyclopedias was also available to students for academic

research, and a large magazine collection was kept next to the service desk.

Past the work area in the old library, there was a glass window that separated a patio area where students could sit at and the bookshelves.

According to Szalay, books often flew open because of an open glass window behind the shelves. As a result, a wall made of brick that had holes in it had to be constructed and the patio closed soon after.

Near the patio were the bookshelves; however, free access to the stacks, which was another name for bookshelves, was restricted to students.

"I helped change the whole thing and it became, given the circumstances, a functioning library media center," Szalay said.

Technology was also handled differently in the old library; most notably, the old library housed only three computers. Video players and VCRs were checked out to teachers in the classroom.

However, with the dotcom boom that increased interest in settling the Silicon Valley in the late '90s, the school found itself with a library that could not support the larger population of the school or its academic needs. Eventually, school leaders decided that with the academic excellence of the students and the limited amount of space, the student body deserved a bigger, better library.

"Our students are academic, so they really do need a place to research, to develop, to write, to learn and to use tech," said assistant principal Kerry Mohnike, who was then an English teacher. "So that's when the idea was, let's give them what they deserve, just like a football team needs a football field. It was a question of what does this school need and the library was one of those things."

Mohnike believes that it was ultimately the school's growing academic rigor that led to prioritizing the development of the new library; with the rise of high tech, students needed a place on campus to support their intellectual needs, she said.

Even though technology and space were lacking before the creation of the new library, a student could always ask the librarian for research help. For Szalay, helping students was his favorite part about working here.

"The library was a very nice place to work at, a wonderful place," Szalay said. "I loved every minute of being a librarian." ♦

CHECKING OUT THE Library



GRAPHIC BY COLLEEN FENG

Former history teacher forges career as librarian

BY Ananya Vadlakonda

Sitting at the wooden tables next to the shelves of books in the library, a student stared at the same worn-out book for an hour after school, his fingers pinching the corner of each page, struggling to comprehend the words before him. Discouraged, he put the book back on the shelf and left.

But the ounce of motivation led the student back to the library the next day; he picked up another book that he tried to read through before coming to the same result as the previous day: confusion.

After noticing this process continue for several days, librarian Kevin Heyman approached the student and tried to understand his dilemma. Piecing together his broken English, Heyman realized that the student was trying to use books as his tool to learn English.

It was 1998, and following Hong Kong's transfer of sovereignty to China, a wave of immigration had swept through the U.S., causing an influx of immigrants at Mt. Pleasant High School, where Heyman worked at the time. A huge portion of the immigrated students had limited knowledge of English.

Heyman worked with this student to better his English by starting with finding a book that was at his level. Satisfied, the student returned a week later "with a big smile on his face and proudly told me he had read the entire book," Heyman said.

By the end of his four years of high school, the student voluntarily read about nine books a year in addition to his heavy school work.

"During those four years, I was able to witness a dramatic increase in his English skills, not only his reading ability, but his ability to speak correctly and to understand complicated ideas that he read about in English," Heyman said.

Before the libraries:

Heyman was initially a history major when he went to Humboldt State University in California, where he spent countless hours in the library researching for papers and projects.

"I admired the way the librarians there could always seem to help me find the type of information that I was looking for," Heyman said.

This eventually sparked his interest in education and he decided to earn a teaching credential in both Social Science and Special Education.

In 1990, Heyman's teaching career began. He found himself teaching history and special education at Mt. Pleasant High. In 1994, he was appointed department chair of the Social Studies department and switched to solely teaching history.

After several years, with his abundant experience with both studying and teaching history, Heyman felt it only natural to get a Masters in Library and Information Sci-

ence and an additional teaching credential in Library Media Services at San Jose State University.

After completing these programs, Heyman became the librarian at Independence High School in 2000.

Heyman enjoyed his job as the librarian on the Eastside campus, but at the same time he saw a lack of technology being used. Shortly after, Heyman moved to SHS and started working as a librarian here in 2008.



Heyman

At SHS:

After being hired as librarian at SHS, Heyman and former principal Jeff Anderson developed specific goals to enhance the library and increase collaboration with the other teachers.

They worked to increase access to digital information in the form of databases. But with the constant technological advancements, he said the school is still continuing to keep up with changes in digital information.

Additionally, Heyman has been working toward increasing his own collaboration with teachers when planning and implementing lessons on information literacy.

However, in addition to being the school's primary information specialist — he develops and provides a collection of resources, namely the database — he maintains his passion for history by heading the

annual National History Day competition.

Heyman works alongside history teacher Faith Stackhouse Daly to help students through each aspect of the National History Day competition, from assisting the students in their research and helping fine tune their projects, to coaching the students on how to interact with the judges.

Alumnus Maximilian Chang, who participated in the National History Day Competition, said he enjoyed working with Heyman. Chang was appreciative of Heyman's attention to detail and his genuine interest to help each student succeed.

"I remember one time I went to his office, and he had spent a considerable amount of time the night before going through every single page in my website, providing line-by-line feedback," Chang said. "It was incredible advice and I was very grateful."

From 1998 when he taught a student English to now, he says his job has remained "pretty much the same" as he continues to help make the library and its information as accessible as possible.

However, many advancements in digital information have kept Heyman always growing and learning, looking to find better ways to integrate technology in school.

"I discovered that as a school librarian I could be in the vanguard of this great big change in education," Heyman said. "Keeping up with all the changes in information, technology keeps me inspired to stay in the library, serving students and teachers." ♦

Technology demands libraries stay current

BY Elaine Toh

As technology and the nature of information change, so should libraries.

That has always been the philosophy of librarian Kevin Heyman in his jobs here and at Independence High School.

When he arrived on the SHS campus a decade ago, the library was in need of some upgrades. It had only 20 computers, magazines stored on cumbersome CD-ROMs and no access to online databases.

When he worked for Independence in 2000, it also had no databases. By time he left, it had "a full suite of databases available for teachers and students over the entire district," an outcome of his advocacy for technology integration.

Coming to SHS, Heyman worked with former principal Jeff Anderson to bring in databases like ABC-CLIO to help students prepare for colleges, most of which usually carry about 800 databases.

"University libraries are expanding their digital collections, so I moved to expand SHS Library's digital collections," Heyman said. "I visit university libraries and talk to their librarians and make sure that what students experience here matches what they will encounter after they graduate."

However, because some information is not yet accessible online, Heyman still thinks books are an important resource.

On average, he said roughly 1,000 print books get checked out a year as well as roughly 900 eBooks.

Another key resource are the 95 computers and printer that are available for student use — a resource that dozens take advantage

of regularly.

One example is sophomore Tiffany Chen, who used the library's resources before.

"I realized I had some mistakes in my essay that I needed to fix," Chen said. "So instead of turning in a copy that I wasn't satisfied with, it helped a lot that the library had a printer as well as many computers."

The Saratoga public library has also adjusted to changing times. It offers a breadth of resources from hundreds of databases, online tutoring, and even a laptop kiosk.

"I see more people coming in with laptops to the library, but then not everyone has a laptop or sometimes they don't work well," librarian Birgit Spring said. "It's nicer for people, especially if they are working a group, if they can just check out laptops and sit at one of the group study tables."

While technology adapt to people's needs, students and staff still discover ways to return to their past of holding a book snuggled in a section of the library.

"I have a Kindle and bought so many books but often times I like to feel the book and glance over it," library technician Lee Tapley said. "It's a sentimental thing."

Heyman thinks that as more information technology and resources increase, so will the need for librarians and librarians since they can help find valid sources and information.

"The purpose of a library hasn't changed for a few thousand years and it won't change for the foreseeable future," Heyman said. "The manner in which information is stored and accessed has changed. As information storage changes, people need help navigating those changes." ♦

Library databases aid in schoolwide assignments

BY Siva Sambasivam & Rahul Vadlakonda

As senior Andrea Su wandered through the stacks of literary anthologies last year, she couldn't help but marvel at the sheer size of the library's collection.

Though she started out reading Poetry Criticism and Poetry Foundation to conduct research for an English project, she soon realized that using hard copies of the literary criticism anthologies of the works of her poet, Gwendolyn Brooks, was far too inconvenient to wade through efficiently.

So she began using the school's online databases instead.

Every year, English 11 Honors teachers Amy Keys and Natasha Ritchie assign their classes a poetry project where students are required to use the databases and books to research about a poet.

Students are often required to use the numerous databases offered through the school library's website for research projects and papers.

Among these include Academic Research databases and Advanced Placement (AP) class databases, as well as databases about many humanities subjects including history and literature.

An example of these databases and NoodleTools, a tool which helps student structure projects, essays, etc. For the entire suite of databases, the district spends roughly \$9,300 every year, according to librarian Kevin Heyman.

Because all featured publications in the databases are written by academics students are given access to a greater variety of cred-

ible, cutting-edge research.

"[The use of these databases] avoids misinformation that can happen when using random sites are on the Internet," Su said.

According to Heyman, the library began subscribing to these databases in 2009 with the goal of helping students with immediate projects but also familiarizing them with the database systems that are commonly used at universities.

"It is essential for students to know how to use databases because they will be expected to know how to use them at whatever university they will be attending," Heyman said.

Having databases has made it far easier for both students and library staff to access information.

Before the library started using databases, it subscribed to a variety of print magazines and journals that were housed in the library's Periodical Room. Students found the works they needed through an index called the "Reader's Guide to Literature."

Now, the databases have proven to be more frequently used, as over 60,000 articles and eBooks were read throughout the entirety of last school year, Heyman said.

Senior Neal Iyengar appreciates the easy access that the library provides to these databases and loves how quickly he can get the information he needs.

"[The databases] are great as students don't want to go scrambling from one website to another," Iyengar said. "It keeps everything in one location and gives students access to information through simply search decreasing the normal amount of time it takes for a student to find information." ♦

Library experiences declining use for print materials

BY Mathew Luo & Howard Tang

Sophomore Riya Kalra remembers one time scanning through the bookshelves of the library that holds nearly 20,000 physical books for information on foreign policy. Upon finding her book, she was surprised to see that the last time the book was checked out was 1965.

"I think the fact that the book's last check out date is older than my parents speaks volumes about the quality of the library catalog," Kalra said. "Major updates are necessary for students to see it as an actual source of reading material."

Such experiences and attitudes are typical of the culture surrounding print materials such as books, magazines and traditional newspapers these days.

Retired librarian Tibor Szalay, who worked here from 1977 to 2002, had firsthand experience with the huge changes of the library and students' attitude toward physical print materials such as books, magazines and textbooks.

Szalay recalls how in an earlier era the library used to be extremely rich in print magazine subscriptions.

Although the magazines the library owned used to be put out on racks for students right next to the conference rooms, the library has stopped subscribing to print magazines since 2011, and now archives and stores them on databases.

"You could go into the shelves and browse to your heart's content," Szalay said. "We almost had more magazines than some junior colleges do. Sometimes the racks' spaces got too small so we had to put the overflowing magazines on a wall; we often

had a whole wall full of magazines."

Due to the incredible pace of technological progress, digitization rapidly occurred after the library acquired its computers in 2002. The ever growing popularity of technology and relative lack of interest in reading has caused the physical books in the library to become less used than in previous generations.

The library has stopped subscribing to print magazines since 2011 and now archives them on a database.

"Print material is dying and it's visible in the school library," Szalay said. "It's a pity — when you have a book in your hand, there exists a relationship between the person and the book, and with technology you just don't have that."

According to current librarian Kevin Heyman, roughly 1,000 physical books are checked out every year. With the fading of traditional print, the library's staff mostly assists students and teachers with research work and helping out with the distributing and organizing the 32,000 textbooks in the library houses and tracks for classes like chemistry, English and math.

The librarians continually replace damaged textbooks, which wear out eventually because of constant use. In addition, every few years, old texts are replaced with newer, more updated ones. Replacement costs for individual books vary from \$15 to \$200,

Heyman said.

While the library's physical book collection is not used by all students, the library staff still carries out its mission to ensure its collection is accessible for student readers.

For example, the staff chooses popular books that are displayed by section on shelves scattered throughout the library. In addition, the staff makes a special effort to display books of high reader interest near the front of the library for checkout.

On a recent day, those included titles such as "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky and "Juliet Takes a Breath" by Gabby Rivera.

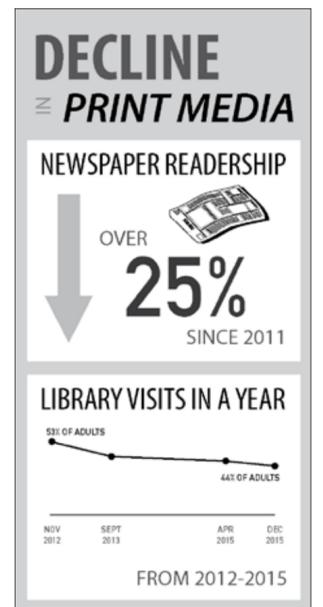
Old and obsolete books sometimes have to be discarded in a process known as "weeding" to create space for newer books, which are constantly chosen, bought and then displayed, Heyman said.

Despite these efforts, some students have suggested removing a huge section of the books the library currently houses, effectively converting it into a larger study space.

"The library should hold a book fair, remove the shelves of books that are just sitting there and put in more tables and room for students," sophomore Alex Mah said. "Something like an extended tutoring and student center, which is quite popular and very helpful for students."

However, the library continues to be useful for students and staff in more ways than just the physical print. The wide space of library is often used for school board meetings, faculty and community meetings and college presentations.

English teacher Susanna Ryan believes that the decline of physical books has not doomed reading and that the decline in physical books is due to the sheer ease of ac-



COURTESY OF FORTUNE, CNBC GRAPHIC BY ELEANOR GOH

cess that digital technology provides.

"I still see freshmen read in class after they are finished with their assignments, even though I haven't assigned my first IR project yet," Ryan said. ♦



BY HOWARD TANG & VIVIEN ZHANG

Junior Nirav Adunuthula remembered staring at the mosaic of orange and green dots during his ninth-grade Biology class, straining his eyes to recognize the green "5" formed printed on the Ishihara plates. But the longer he looked, the more the two colors blended into each other.

After finishing multiple eye tests, Adunuthula learned he has a mild form of red-green color deficiency, the most common form of color blindness.

With no cure to color blindness, many scientists are researching ways to improve the lives of those who live with it.

Color blindness, also known as Color Vision Deficiency (CVD), is a condition in which a person is unable to see colors under normal light, making it difficult for them to distinguish certain colors.

According to Colblindor, color blindness comes in multiple types and various levels of severity. Red-green color blindness comes in two forms: protan, resulting from abnormal red cone cells, and deutan, resulting from abnormal green cone cells. Blue-yellow color blindness, also known as tritan, is a rarer form of color blindness resulting from abnormal blue cone cells.

While color blindness can be acquired, it is usually genetically inherited. The gene controlling this trait is located on the X-chromosome, making males more likely to inherit CVD. According to Enchroma, some forms of color blindness may affect 1 in 12 men, but only 1 in 200 women.

Dealing with the condition

Adunuthula said being colorblind does not affect his daily life much, but sometimes it can hinder his learning because his teachers don't know about his condition.

"It was pretty frustrating once when Mr. Yim wrote on the board in blue and purple [while trying to explain a math problem]

and each color was supposed to signify different important steps, but I couldn't tell the difference," Adunuthula said.

Adunuthula does not know any other family members with color blindness. On the other hand, all male members of junior David Berkowitz-Sklar's family are colorblind — his younger brother, father, uncle and both grandparents. With his mild form of protan color blindness, Berkowitz-Sklar feels that his life has not been drastically changed, save for the occasional annoyance, such as identifying a color when drawing or doing other activities with color identification.

He too has had some problems in the past due to his teachers not believing that he was colorblind.

"In P.E. class in seventh grade, we had a quiz on archery in which we had to label the components of the arrow," Berkowitz-Sklar said. "The green feathers have a specific name and the red one has another name. I mixed up the colors so I got the labeling wrong and got points off even though I technically knew it."

New solutions

Although mild forms of color blindness generally do not affect a person's daily life, stronger forms of color blindness are more debilitating.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that red is on the top and green is on the bottom right?"

REDWOOD TEACHER Josh Marks

Since there is no cure to color blindness, many scientists are researching ways to improve the lives of those who live with it.

One example is the Enchroma glasses, co-invented by Don McPherson and Andrew Schmeder in 2010 by a company that creates special glasses to enhance color vision. McPherson and Schmeder spent a decade perfecting a lens technology that would reveal color as it was meant to be seen — "pure, vibrant and true to life."

In March, Redwood Middle School core teacher Shannon Avina organized a fundraiser via GoFundMe to raise money to give fellow core teacher Josh Marks a pair of prescription Enchroma glasses.

Marks is profoundly color blind, meaning that he doesn't see colors in a normal way like in gray, black and white. He can "see" colors but cannot tell the differences between dark blue and purple, or dirty red and brown.

The drive was successful, but the results have been mixed.

"Unfortunately, because Enchroma glasses are made for red-green colorblindness only, it has not made a profound difference in my life, but it does allow me to enjoy the outdoor scenery much more," said Marks.

Although the glasses cost \$515, the fundraiser ended up collecting a total of \$1,375, and Marks received the glasses as a birthday present.

Like most affected students, Marks remembers having many problems while in school.

"I had some teachers who were unsympathetic and were upset when I couldn't answer basic questions that involved studying data," Marks said. "As a teacher, I have a hard time seeing the differences between highlighters and ink, which makes grading student annotations difficult."

To Marks, everyday life is manageable, as he says people with colorblindness learn tricks to get by.

"People often ask me about traffic lights," Marks said. "I can see they're different, but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that red is on the top and green is on the bottom, right?" Another scientific method developed to help those with CVD is the implantation of a third "eye."

Artist Neil Harbisson, who was born with an extreme version of color blindness that resulted in grayscale vision, developed a wearable lightweight eyepiece that allowed him to "hear color." With the help of Digital Futures expert Adam Montandon, he blurred the lines between sight and sound, transposing light frequencies into sound. Harbisson memorized all of the frequencies and decided to permanently attach the sensor to his head, making him the world's first cyborg.

While there have been many innovative

COLOR BLINDNESS
affects approximately:
1 in 200 women and 1 in 12 men in the world.
caused by:
- genetics -
- diabetes -
- multiple sclerosis -
- age -
- medication -

COURTESY OF COLOURBLINDAWARENESS
GRAPHIC BY ELAINE FAN

designs in the past few years to mitigate the effects of color blindness, there is still much room for advancement.

Neither Adunuthula nor Berkowitz, the two students affected by the condition, plan on getting Enchroma glasses or a "third eye" anytime soon. They feel that colorblindness is just something they have to live with.

"Being colorblind makes life more comical sometimes. It isn't actually, at least for me, a disability," Berkowitz-Sklar said. "The funny thing is that you can kind of see two different colors at once. Like I'll see green and then my friends will tell me it's orange and then all of a sudden it starts looking more orange. So actually it's all of you non-colorblind people who are missing out." ♦

togetalks

What is the worst part of being color blind?

"As an artist sometimes it's a pain to figure out which colors are which."

junior Ian Le

"I have trouble playing some video games ... I drive into a lot of animated trees."

history teacher Colleen Duffy

"People ... pointing out something and being all surprised when I tell them the correct color."

junior Derek Chiou

Parents track kids' internet activities through apps

BY CONNIE LIANG & PHOEBE WANG

Where can balancing chemical equation tutorials be found? YouTube.

What is the best way to stay in touch with a long-distance friend? Facebook.

Have some people cheated on the SAT and not been caught? If so, how? Google it.

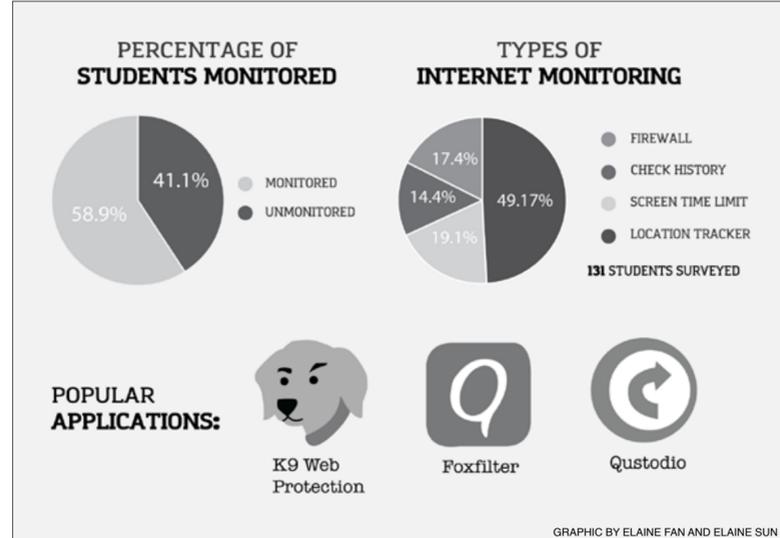
In the span of a little more than a decade, smartphones and laptops have become widely accessible to the world's population, allowing a far-reaching bank of information to be at everyone's disposal, especially among teenagers and children.

With this increase in youth exposure to the internet, parents have grown increasingly concerned about their children's safety and well-being. In order to monitor their kids' online activities, some have begun to review their children's online history while others have implemented programs specifically designed to limit digital freedom on a day-to-day basis.

As just one example, sophomore Malika Ahuja's mother controls her daily allotted screen time — and she is one of many students across campus in the same situation.

In a campus-wide survey of 130 people, 41.1 percent of students say their internet activities are monitored by their parents. Twenty-four percent of students' locations are tracked, 9.3 percent of students' screen times are limited and 7 percent have had their history checked.

Ahuja's mother, Devina Grover, decided that monitoring her two teenagers' activities was crucial, especially after numerous studies emerged proving that excessive technological exposure to social



media can lead to depression and other health ailments.

Therefore, Grover wanted to cut back on the time that Malika and her older brother, senior Pranav Ahuja, were using their digital devices and instructed them to download OurPact, a program that limits a device's allotted screen time to a set amount each day.

"A big part of parenting in today's world is raising your kids as more responsible users of social media," Grover said. "Children are children and they need direction from parents."

All apps on Ahuja's phone are disabled except OurPact, and if she wants to use any of them she has to pause the pause button on OurPact, allowing her daily time limit of two and a half hours to

run.

Initially, Malika and Pranav were opposed to this new program, but Malika said she has been able to adjust to the change over time and even finds that she now uses her phone less because of the app. With her two and a half hour daily limit, Malika said she only uses her phone for about half an hour.

"It's definitely made me focus more on what's actually happening in the world rather than just looking down at my screen," Malika said.

While OurPact causes some inconveniences for her, including faster battery loss and slower app performance, Malika said the overall benefits outweigh the slower functionality.

In addition to OurPact, her

mother uses an app called Life360 to pinpoint Malika's phone's location at any given time, alongside an indication of her phone's battery percentage.

In contrast, junior Zoyah Shah's parents give her relative technological freedom — she has no such tracking programs installed on her phone.

If her parents were to do this, Shah said that it would violate the trust between both parties.

"Teenagers should not have tracking devices because it's nice to have a sense of independence from parents, and I feel that parents should trust their child to do the right thing," Shah said.

She also said that such restrictions might lead students to lie to their parents if they are planning on going somewhere they're not

supposed to, creating suspicion, and thereby distancing parent and child.

Dr. Danah Boyd, visiting professor at New York University and founder of Data and Society, a non-profit organization that studies social and cultural implications of technological development, told The New York Times, "The game changes when we're talking about a 16-year-old who feels 'stalked' by their parents. This is because the sharing of information isn't a mutual sign of trust and respect anymore, but a restricting process of surveillance."

On the contrary, an article written by Thomas J. Dishion and Robert J. McMahon in a 1998 issue of the journal Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review, discusses studies showing a consensus that increased parental supervision of adolescent activities was correlated with less criminal activities and more healthy behaviors.

From her experience as a parent, Grover thinks parents should at least hold some degree of control over their children's technology whether it be through reading texts or simply occasional checks on history instead of having their "heads in the sand."

"As a parent you would be almost not parenting to the fullest extent if you're not taking some sort of action to monitor or have some kind of influence on your child's usage of social media," Grover said.

While some teenagers find the watchful prying eyes of parents to be a disruption to their privacy and expression, others, like Malika, have learned to adapt.

"When I tell people [about the monitoring] they all say 'Woah, that's crazy,' and I always say 'Oh, this is just how I live now,'" Ahuja said. ♦

Why live in Saratoga and not attend its public schools?

BY ANISHI PATEL & ELAINE SUN

As high school junior Nikhil Dharmaraj rushes out of his house in Saratoga in the morning, he drives past the tan cinder block buildings of Saratoga High School, and continues driving down Saratoga Sunnyvale Road toward San Jose.

Dharmaraj, a student at The Harker School's upper campus, said he prefers his private school for its "sheer range of options."

Harker offers more elective classes than Saratoga High, with options like AP Latin, Honors Data Structures and English 4 Madness in Literature available to students.

But, with the annual tuition for a year at Harker being \$45,877, the price of this private school education is high.

Other private schools in the area (such as BASIS Independent, Archbishop Mitty High School, Bellarmine College Preparatory, Castilleja or Presentation High School) have annual tuition prices ranging anywhere from \$19,160-\$45,900.

Harker tops out as one of the most expensive private schools in the Silicon Valley.

As a result of high prices for private school educations, most families living in Saratoga choose

the highly regarded local public school system. Some families even move to Saratoga precisely for the excellent quality of its public schools.

Most properties in Saratoga range from \$2-\$3 million. Owners of those properties pay about a 1 percent annual property tax that goes largely toward funding the local public schools.

That means that a house purchased for \$2.5 million would cost the owners \$25,000 in annual property taxes.

However, families like Dharmaraj's decide to send their children to private schools, paying tuition for enrollment on top of property taxes for public schools.

But Dharmaraj hasn't always been a private school student. He lived in Saratoga until he was 3 years old, and attended Blue Hills Elementary, a small public school in Saratoga that is part of the Cupertino Union School District.

Then in third grade, Dharmaraj decided to switch from public school to Harker.

"I moved schools mainly because we had heard from a family friend that Harker is a really challenging school, and I wanted to try it out," he said. "I ended up really liking it, and since then, I've just stuck with that choice."

activities, such as robotics, Junior Classical League Club and speech and debate.

Smita Dharmaraj, his mother, said she has supported her children's decision to attend a private school because her son and daughter both enjoy Harker's teachers and classes.

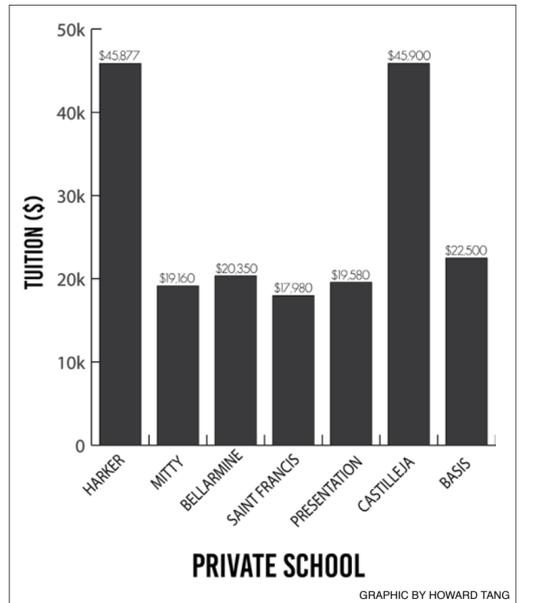
Unlike Dharmaraj, Saratoga High junior William Liu found his private school experience less ideal. Liu, who went to BASIS Independent for eighth grade, found the classes difficult and the faculty support network lacking.

"The staff was bad, the teaching wasn't great and the atmosphere there wasn't great either because there was just a ton of competition between students," Liu said. "It was very self-taught because of how bad the teachers were."

The curriculum at BASIS Independent is scheduled to end in 11th grade, so that 12th grade can be an exploratory year for students to do more research. This means that the classes are faster paced to help students finish high school a year early.

"They make you take AP World History in eighth grade, and they had really tough classes that were mandatory," Liu said. "Kids took AP tests in middle school, too."

He prefers the calmer academic atmosphere of Saratoga High to the high pressure middle school



students faced at BASIS. Compared to other public schools, Saratoga High ranks 20th overall in California, according to USNews.com, making it one of the top public schools.

"Even though I don't go to a Saratoga school, I love living in Saratoga," Dharmaraj said. "No matter what school we go to, I think we can all agree that Saratoga's a great city." ♦

GIRLS' TENNIS

BY JayKim & AnnissaMu

4-3 (L) @ Monta Vista
4-3 (L) Los Gatos
4-3 (W) @ Homestead
4-3 (L) @ Cupertino
4-3 (W) @ Palo Alto

The girls' tennis team lost to Monta Vista 4-3 in an away match on Sept. 12, a loss that may have been surprising to both the Matadors and the Falcons. "For all my years on the tennis team, we have never lost to Monta Vista," senior captain Stephanie Ren said. "Some of my friends from Los Gatos even texted me asking what happened. They were so confused." In the next home match on Sept. 19, the Falcons also lost to Los Gatos 4-3, raising questions

whether this year's team can sustain the success of last year's season. However, Ren is still confident and said that they are gaining back their momentum. "Although we had two losses against arguably strong teams," Ren said, "we had a great tournament at the Stanford Classic, and are carrying that momentum into league matches." She said that overall, the team is focusing on match play drills and doubles strategies, which contributed in the team's first win in a league match this season with a score of 4-3 against Homestead. "I'm confident that we'll get back in the running since we got a great line up," Ren said. "And the team is still looking forwards to the rest of the season." ♦

BOYS' WATERPOLO

BY RahulVadlakonda & PhoebeWang

12-14 (L) @ Cupertino
8-11 (L) @ Santa Clara
4-13 (L) Fremont

The boys' water polo team has struggled to find victory this season, holding a 1-7 league record as of Oct. 16. Nonetheless, players such as junior Andrew Gao said the team is seeing progress. "We put a lot of work in at practices, but our coach has been pushing us to learn more about the ins and outs of the game by ourselves, through watching

more water polo and reading more about it," he said. Though the record might say otherwise, Gao said that the team's power continues to be strong. "Though the outcome of many of the team's efforts during games still resulted in losses, Gao said that in particular junior hole defender Ryan Busse has done quite well for the team throughout the season. "[Busse] been putting in a lot of work since [the] team is generally pretty small, so he can guard the large people playing hole set on the other teams," Gao said. ♦

GIRLS' WATERPOLO

BY KayleneMorrison & VivienZhang

14-4 (L) @ Palo Alto
16-1 (L) Mountain View
10-2 (L) @ Los Altos
11-0 (L) Gunn
7-5 (L) Homestead

As the middle of the season approaches, the girls are still struggling to keep up with the intensity of the upper league with a 0-5 record. Nevertheless, members remain optimistic. Junior Sarah Daoudi said that she is proud of the team's overall improvement over the past season, and that the team has an

idea of what still needs to be refined. "We don't get back on defense fast enough," Daoudi said. "A lot of the teams are faster than us and have better reflexes on counter attacks, so if we could get back on defense sooner I don't think they would be able to score as many goals." Coach Jerome Chung recognizes the hard work and effort that the girls are putting into practice and said that games will eventually become more evenly matched. "Things just aren't going our way," Chung said. "But things will eventually break. It's just a long process." ♦

FIELD HOCKEY

BY NeilRao

Heading into the last three games of the league season with a record of 1-1-4, the Falcon field hockey team is hoping their increased efforts will translate into wins in the remaining five games. Because of the poor air conditions caused by the fires in the North Bay, the team's games against Los Altos on Oct. 11 and Cupertino on Oct. 13 were postponed. The team came out of a tough 10-0 loss against three time repeating CCS champions, Los Gatos, on Oct. 6. Despite their efforts, the Falcons could not get past the Cats' team strong teamwork and incessant compression of the midfield. Before that, however, the team earned its first win of the season

at home against Monta Vista on Oct. 4 by the score of 3-0. The team worked together to break down the Matadors' defense with two assists from senior captain Kate Bossi. "We've improved an incredible amount since the beginning of the season creating a lot of hope for the rest of the season," Bossi said. "Coming out of our first win we have a huge confident boost and I'm hoping we can bring that to the remaining games and end our final season strongly." Despite their losing record, Bossi says they're working well together and enjoying the season. Due to printing deadlines, the Falcon couldn't cover the team's games against Homestead, Lynbrook and Monta Vista on Oct. 18, 25 and 27 in this print issue. ♦

Meet the Dance Team

Coach: Kaitlyn Landeza
Captains: juniors Alexandra Li and Amy Tang

- run practice when coach is absent
- choreograph and clean dances for football games and rallies

freshman 1
sophomores 4
juniors 5
senior 1

Practices
warmups
3-6 hour weekend practices
3 hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
across the floor
cleaning dances

Competition Season
5 regional competitions begin in January
Dances are perfected until nationals in March
Competing 2 solos and 3 all-team dances in lyrical, jazz and hiphop

Summer:
- Season starts in June and ends in May -
- Team works on technique and practices rally dances -
- Girls attend 4-day USA boot camp -

Graphic by ELAINE FAN

Why are sports played when they are?

BY ElaineSun

As girls' tennis continues practicing and competing at matches, most boys' tennis players can afford to relax because even though girls' tennis starts in the fall, boys' tennis starts in the spring. The exact origins of this long-held tradition are unclear, but it seems to be common sense. Sophomore varsity tennis player Vivian Lin believes that the scheduling occurs to reduce conflict between girls' and boys' tennis. "If boys' tennis season was at the same time as girls' tennis season, then there would obviously be a lot of conflicts with who occupies the courts at what times," Lin said. "Professional tennis is basically year round, so I guess our tennis season is also professional tennis season." Likewise, senior Tristan Xiao, who participates in boys' tennis, believes that they would not have enough resources, including courts and coaches. He also said that if they had a year-round season like professional tennis, it would be "too tiring physically and mentally."

Athletics director Tim Lugo explains that the season of sports are organized by a school's athletic section within the state and not by individual schools. Girls' and boys' tennis, for example, are in different seasons due to court space, and the same happens for water polo and swimming because there is not enough pool space. The number of facilities and weather are the main reasons the school offers winter sports. In Southern California, for example, water polo is a winter sport because the weather is warmer, while in colder Northern California, it is played in the spring. Qualified coaches are also more difficult to find, so when water polo is played in the winter, one coach can instruct both boys and girls, he said. "Availability of facilities has a lot to do when sports are offered," Lugo said. "It's been brought up in our section [for a winter water polo season], but our weather is different than the south that time of year." Girls' and boys' soccer, on the other hand, is played in the

winter due to lack of field space, which are taken up by football and field hockey in the fall and lacrosse and track in the spring, he said. Although Lin plays tennis during other seasons, she said that she enjoys playing the sport in the fall more. "My time is usually more open to practice and compete, since first semester is usually easier than second semester," Lin said. "Plus, the weather is cooler, so I don't have to drink water every five minutes to keep myself hydrated." ♦

bigIDEA

Seasonal Sports

Why seasons are different?
Sports are organized by athletic section within the state

Other considerations?
Some sports lack adequate facilities and coaching

Student opinion:
"The weather is cooler, so I don't have to drink water every five minutes"—sophomore Vivian Lin

SPORTS MEDICINE

Athletic trainer's shadows gain hands-on experience

BY KayleneMorrison & SandhyaSundaram

Junior Evelina Niva rushed out to the opposing team's bleachers during a home football game against Silver Creek earlier in the season to help the other team's cheerleading coach, who had fainted in the 110-degree weather. Niva, along with three other girls — senior Sadhana Vadrevu, junior Maddie Stuart and junior Hannah Hovey — scrambled to the field to see the dazed and confused coach lying on her back behind the bleachers. The girls lifted her onto a golf cart, and athletic trainer Liz Alves drove her to the training room.

There, they applied ice packs to her groin, underarms and major blood vessels to bring down her core body temperature. This treatment continued until Alves determined that the coach was stable.

These four girls are Alves' shadows. They attend all football games and stay after school a few days each week to help out with athlete injuries.

The shadows spent the weeks before school training with Alves. They are now learning various sports medicine skills from administrative tasks such as organizing coolers and repacking kits, to medical tasks like treating and preventing injuries, therapeutic techniques, massaging and stretching.

Alves said that she is "very picky" in terms of choosing her shadows and puts all of them through an interview process before starting. "It's an honor to be able to travel with football and you have to be committed to that," Alves said.

A day spent training with Alves is very different from a typical class. Athletes come in to the training room in the afternoon for stretching, massaging, taping and sometimes even ultrasound.

Alves' ultrasounds are often required elsewhere, and her assistants are left to run the

room on their own, meaning much of the girls' training takes place on the fly. During designated training periods, the shadows first practice on each other and on Alves until they are proficient enough to treat athletes.

Stuart first approached Alves when she herself was injured. She then decided that sports medicine was something that she was interested in, partially due to the field's practicality.

"You can't do sports forever because when you get older you won't have the physical capability. [Sports medicine] is something I can use throughout my entire life. It never goes away," Stuart said.

As an athlete herself, Stuart knows how easy it is to get an injury and then be unable to participate in a sport for weeks or even months. Due to the practicality of the field, she said she would consider a job working with professional sports teams and injured athletes.

Additionally, working with Alves is a different experience every day.

"It's never the same routine every day like a regular class where you're reading a book or taking notes," Niva said. "Every day something different happens and you just go with the flow."

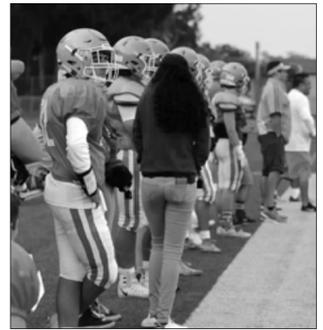
This year will mark Alves' 10th year at SHS, and it is her seventh year having shadows. This opportunity has allowed her to build relationships with students, many of whom she still talks to now even though they graduated years ago.

"It's been really great to have a relationship with these kids," Alves said. "To have them come in as children basically — some of them being 13 — and then leave as adults."

Niva said that she loves Alves' hands-on teaching style. The hands-on aspect of sports medicine is one of the main reasons that Alves decided to go into the field. She said that this career is a great choice for anyone with ADHD because there is always work to do and no time to get distracted.



Alves



Senior Sahana Vadrevu and juniors Hannah Hovey and Maddie Stuart work with athletic trainer, Liz Alves, on the field to help the Falcon varsity football team.

Vadrevu likes the chaotic nature of sports medicine because it provides an exhilarating adrenaline rush. "Helping out on the field is stressful and exciting all at once because you're excited to go out and help but you don't want the players to actually be hurt," Vadrevu said.

Vadrevu is friends with many of the players on the team, which she said both helps and hurts her job. Her friendships with the players give her more of a reason to engage herself in the game, but she is always a little on edge because she doesn't want to see her friends get hurt.

Vadrevu and the other shadows have learned many practical skills over the months or years that they have worked with Alves. Not only have they learned methods to treat medical ailments, but they have learned practical skills that can be applied to any work environment.

"What I hope people get out of working with me is practical life skills and actual work experience," Alves said. "There are a lot of subsets in the medical field and each is different. It's important to explore as many actual work settings as you can so you can find what really makes you happy." ♦

NFL

High-flying Korean kicker inspires Asian athletes

BY RahulVadlakonda & KatherineZhou

While playing for the Georgia Southern Eagles, then collegiate placekicker Younghoe (pronounced Young-way) Koo was the subject of a popular Twitter video (now with 11,000 retweets and counting).

The video shows him running up to a ball, kicking it slightly ahead of him until it is vertical to the ground and then punching in about a 20-year field goal while doing a backflip.

Besides this eye-popping trick kick, Koo made headlines this past summer by signing with the NFL's Los Angeles Chargers, becoming one of only a few players of Asian heritage in the NFL. In the league's history, there have been only about 20.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Koo moved to Ridgewood, N.J., right before the sixth grade and played for Ridgewood High School a couple years later. He went on to be kicker for Georgia Southern.

Though the 23-year-old was a star during his college football career, Koo was an undrafted free agent when he signed a contract with the Chargers, but he won the starting job during training camp.

His NFL career has had a rocky start — he missed a potential game-winning 44-yard field goal against the Miami Dolphins and had a last-second game-tying field goal blocked in the first game of the year against the Broncos.

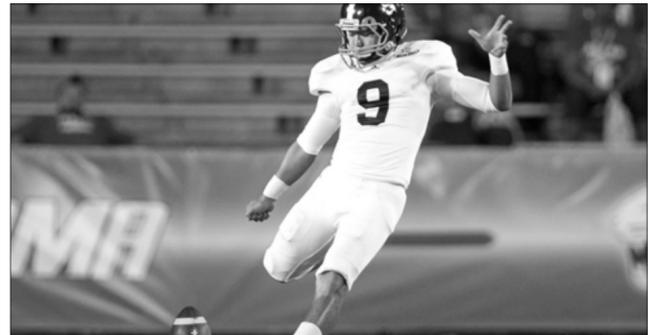
Though Koo is no NFL superstar yet, the mere presence of an Asian player on an NFL team is historic and has served as a reassuring precedent for aspiring Asian-Americans athletes.

Sophomore George Bian, who is a wide receiver, defensive tackle and team co-captain for the JV football team, was encouraged by seeing an Asian athlete playing in the NFL.

"It's pretty cool to see more diverse people playing football."



SOPHOMORE George Bian



Korean kicker Younghoe Koo nails a kick during a Georgia Southern training camp.

Despite the recent progress, though, the number of Asians playing professional sports in America is still relatively scarce.

Some believe that this is because of usually seen through immigrant cultural thought processes and values — since most immigrant parents needed to find stable, secure work when they, jobs in sports leagues tends to not be so.

As players across leagues such as the NBA, NFL and many more are expected to reach a certain level of proficiency in the respective sports, the simple risk one might take in order to do so, sees not to be some-

thing confidently taken. "In Asian culture it is not a safe career to be in sports, compared to other races," Bian said. "Football is not talked about in China."

However, the actions of Koo and players before are inspiring to Asian football players. Although Koo was cut recently from the Chargers for his poor performance, his stint in the NFL still inspired Bian.

"It's pretty cool to see more diverse people playing football. Normally [the stereotype is] that all Asians do is study. [Koo playing is] pretty motivating for new students to try football," Bian said. ♦

FOOTBALL

Falcons lose to Mustangs in close Homecoming game

By Alex Wang

Homecoming games have historically been must-wins for football teams.

They are often the most-attended matches of the season, where students, parents and alumni fill the stands to represent the school.

"It was really exciting to see all these people and to represent the school," senior receiver Will Turpin said.

After a 62-7 loss to Milpitas on Sept. 22 extended their extended losing streak to five games, the Falcons came into their homecoming game against Homestead on Sept. 29 desperate for a win.

For the past three years, the Falcons have been able to win on Homecoming.

But after playing catch-up the entire game, this year's Falcons came up short 41-34, leaving the players, fans and cheerleaders feeling dispirited.

"It was really disappointing," Turpin said. "We were 3-0 on Homecoming, and losing, especially as a senior is upsetting."

Turpin attributed the loss to mistakes that the team should have avoided.

Containing the run and tackling were some of these mistakes.

Nonetheless, he said that

everyone played hard, but just could not come up with the win.

Senior captain cheerleader Evelyn Ha also felt disappointed.

"We were saddened by the loss because it was Homecoming and we felt bad for the players," she said. "We tried to keep pumping the crowd up, but it was hard, especially since it was a losing game."

The Homestead Mustangs came out strong early on, establishing a tone with their run game. Throughout the whole night, the Falcons' defense had a great deal of trouble.

"Homestead's just really good at running the ball," senior captain and running back Robert Scott said. "If teams find a way to run the ball inside, that's all they're going to do, and that's what Homestead did."

Since the defense had no answer for the Mustangs' run-heavy offense, the Falcons' passing game adapted.

Senior captain and quarterback Niko Rositano threw for 332 yards and five touchdowns.

Passing opportunities came from Homestead's defensive formations.

"Because they played press the whole night, we kept on taking shots down the field," Scott said.

In the first quarter, the Mustangs scored on their first three drives by running the ball

continuously.

This scheme of running the ball continuously by Homestead chewed up a lot of clock in the first half, leaving little time for the Falcons' offense to try to match them.

However, this was no problem. Rositano threw three touchdowns to put the Falcons one point behind the Mustangs after a missed extra point kick.

The Falcons were down 21-20 into the half as the Homecoming court was paraded around the field and crowned.

On the ensuing drive after halftime, Homestead went right back to their original gameplan and rushed for another touchdown.

Soon after, they found the end zone again after a long run off of a reverse play which fooled the Falcons' defense.

Down 14, the Falcons got the ball on the 7-yard line off a bad Homestead punt and punched it in with a quick throw to senior receiver Alex Metz.

Then, both teams traded scores.

Down by seven, the Falcons attempted an onside kick but it was unsuccessful.

The Mustangs recovered the kick and drove the ball down the field as time ran out.

Due to printing deadlines, the Falcon could not cover the game against Wilcox on Oct. 19.

The Falcons face a tough Wilcox team at home on Oct. 19. ♦

GIRLS GOLF

By Elaine Fan & Lina Kim

299-201 (L) Palo Alto Away
224-343 (W) Los Altos Away (non-league)
186-188 (W) Lynbrook Away
221-221 (T) Gunn Home
220-229 (W) Monta Vista (Cupertino) Home
213-215 (W) Lynbrook Home

Standing with a strong 4-1-1 overall record, the Falcons are well into their season with SCVAL finals approaching on

Oct. 24. With No. 1 player junior Janelle Jin leading the team, the girls have scored several close wins, beating their rivals at Lynbrook High by two strokes.

Freshman Jane Loo and Iris Lee have also displayed strong performances, pulling through in games against Los Altos and Gunn.

"When most of us were having a bad day, two people would step up and play really well," sophomore No. 3 player Sally Kim said. "So far everyone who has traveled has done so, which is great!"

According to head coach David Gragnola, the Falcons will compete well if their veterans play up to their potential as "proven stars in the league." ♦

CROSS COUNTRY

By Matthew Luo & Elaine Sun

Boys' Meets:
Lynbrook: Seniors placed 3/6; Juniors 3/6; Sophomores 1/4; Freshmen 4/4

Earlybird Invitation-al: The team placed 7/28
SCVAL meet #1 at Central Park: Varsity placed 7/14

SCVAL meet #2 at Crystal Springs: Varsity placed 6/13

SCVAL meet #3 at Baylands

"Our coach this year is a lot more strict with the team and is pushing us through harder workouts," junior Eric Pors said. "Our workouts this year have been shorter and higher in intensity than workouts last year, and we

have been continually running hills on the weekends, which is making us a lot faster this season."

Girls' Meets:
Lynbrook Center Meet, team placed 7/10

Earlybird Invitation-al, junior Isabella Tan placed 69/179, sophomore Julia Hoffman placed 30/206

SCVAL meet #1 in Santa Clara, team placed 13/14

SCVAL meet #2 at Crystal Springs-Varsity placed 12/14

"The season is going well so far," sophomore Julia Hoffman said. "We'll continue adding more miles to build endurance and start running more hills." ♦



Scott



Hoffman



Lugo

Athletics fights debt after lack of donations

By Sherrie Shen & Elicia Ye

When the athletics department tallied up total expenses for sports in the 2016-17 school year, athletics director Tim Lugo realized that despite the usual operating expenses of approximately \$234,000, sports had only received \$140,000 through the usual asked-for donations.

As a result, the ASB was forced to step in and help — together, they were able to pay off the athletic department's \$85,000 debt.

In Lugo's 10 years at the school, he hasn't seen this kind of situation, or even close. Just the year before, the athletics department ended the year \$1,200 in the black.

Lugo attributed last year's debt to an uncharacteristically low donation rate for sports during the spring season: Only 50 percent of parents paid the asked-for \$250 fee. That drop-off meant that in total, donations fell to a rate of 70 percent for the year, as opposed to previous yearly averages in the high 80s or low 90s.

Despite such deficits, public schools cannot make donations mandatory for extracurricular activities. In 2012, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a lawsuit against schools that were charging mandatory participation fees for band and sports and ultimately won the case. Now, it is mandated by law for sports teams to function entirely on district funds and donations. All fees must be optional.

But if debts continue to accumulate, Lugo said, the athletics department will have to slash expenses, starting with team budgets, uniforms and transportation, and face the possibility of cutting some sports.

Before cutting a sport, however, the team's account, which contains a fixed amount between \$14,000 and \$15,000, gets

closed down. Teams are then responsible for their own fundraisers in order to pay off their expenses. Even with the set funds allocated to each team each season, some sports are struggling more than others.

According to senior Bradley Oh, the boys' water polo team had one coach for both JV and varsity teams until midway through the season, when the coach recruited his friend to help him run the teams.

Additionally, since water polo doesn't have the expenses to rent buses to travel to away games, parent volunteers have had to offer rides so the team could carpool to other schools.

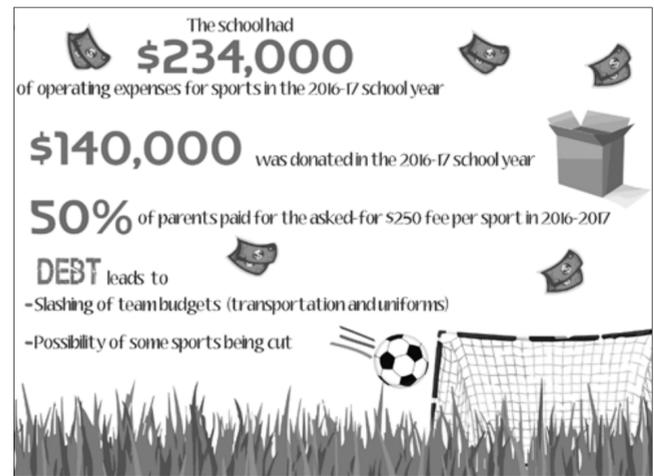
As a result, some water polo players including Oh and junior Sarah Daoudi feel that they are not benefiting much from sports donations.

"Our team experienced a few setbacks due to lack of donations," Oh said. "The pool covers are really old and need to be replaced because they are peeling away and leaving plastic in the water, but because of the budget cuts, I'm not sure when we will be able to do that."

"I think the parents have tried to understand this is a real problem and it's up to us to get the message out."

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR Tim Lugo

While the district covers the salaries of head coaches for all sports, as well as assistant coaches in large sports like football, swimming and track, the athletics depart-



GRAPHIC BY COLLEEN FENG

ment bears the rest of the burden, spending \$76,000 of its budget on assistant coaches last year.

Transportation costs took up a sizable amount of the athletics department's budget last year at \$33,000. Since the district has a contract with only one school bus company, which is rarely available, teams often have to use charter buses, which is 25 percent more expensive than their counterparts.

Other expenses included referees at \$36,000, league and section dues of \$11,000 and uniforms at \$10,000.

While some have suggested not to spend too much on maintaining the turf fields and snack bars, Lugo said that the larger expenses are covered by Measure E bond money, which is separate from parent donations.

Other larger projects on campus such

as the bleachers by the Benny Pierce field, repainting of the gym and teams' special requests (basketball's special shooting machine, water polo and field hockey's new goals) were also paid by Sports Boosters, not the athletic department.

In addition, Lugo plans on running a golf tournament in the future to start to pay back ASB. While he doesn't expect revenue to exceed \$10,000 in the tournament's first year, he hopes it will raise as much as \$30,000 in the future. Lugo also hopes to repay ASB with any extra funds left over in athletic department accounts at the end of each year.

"We are ahead of what we were at last fall right now, so that's a good sign," Lugo said. "I think the parents have tried to understand this is a real problem and it's up to us to get the message out." ♦

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Team works on defense for wins in upper league

By Sandhya Sundaram

The girls' volleyball team tried out various lineups and formations of players during the preseason. Now, the girls are working on coming together to play against tougher competition in order to finish strong in the De Anza league.

"We're giving our competitors a really challenging match, which they don't expect," senior setter Dasha Gousseva said.

The team has won one of its league games so far against Los Altos on Oct. 5.

"We worked well as a team together so that's what really brought us that win, and we kept fighting till the end and never really let up," senior outside hitter Hannah Fan said.

The team's wins in the league and in tournaments have been mostly because of good communication and full effort from every player.

"In one of our tournaments we were playing against teams that I would even argue are better than teams in our league and we would win because we realized that it was a joint effort," Gousseva said.

The girls lost their match against Los Gatos on Oct. 3 3-0, with the scores from each set being close. The team hopes to avenge this loss when they meet again on Los Gatos' court on Oct. 24.

Senior middle blocker Isabella Strawn said that the team is working on being mentally tough and not letting the other team get in their heads.

"Physically we're on par with all of these other teams, but it's our mental game that we're trying to work on," Strawn said.

The team's strengths are offense, especial-

ly since the outside hitters are very strong. Outside hitters, senior Riley Carter and junior Katie Hulme, have tried to mix up their hits to make the opposing team's players move.

On Sept. 7, the Falcons lost 3-1 to Branham. Carter led the team with 21 kills, Fan had 12, and Hulme had 11.

Coach Steve Chiou said that the team is working on defense, especially playing cohesively in the back row. Gousseva said that the upper league presents many more challenging serves and hits than they saw in the lower league. To be competitive, the girls must improve their defense.

"Passing is where it all starts and we have a good offense, but we need to be able to get the pass up," Strawn said.

Fan took on the role of libero after playing outside hitter previously and has been vital in defense by passing and digging balls. Having never played libero before, Fan said she was excited to step into the new position.

"Hannah has been stepping it up a lot in the back row," Gousseva said. "She's chasing down balls all the time which is awesome."

The team has also been practicing with players from the boys' varsity team in order to improve their defense and blocking.

With their record of 1-6 so far in the league as of Oct. 12, the Falcons hope they will still be able to make it to CCS.

Gousseva said that the positive energy from every team member during games ultimately leads to wins.

"We're working on trying to find that energy and that intensity to play through the whole match and for each player on the court to step up as a leader," she said. ♦

THE LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY

Sophomore resumes training, practice after major shoulder injury

By Anna Novoselov

During her team's ice hockey games in recent months, sophomore Sarah Smails has been sitting on the bench. Often, she finds herself adjusting her black sling, a constant reminder of her dislocated left shoulder, the injury that has kept her from playing. Meanwhile, her teammates skate up and down the court, pulsing with adrenaline and the desire to win.

Smails isn't used to being a spectator in a hockey rink. "I would rather be out there on the ice," she said.

Due to her injury, Smails has taken on the role of supporting her team, the Girls' JV Sharks 16UAA, a 15- to 16-year-olds tier two team, on the sidelines. Although she said she has tried to be enthusiastic, Smails found that sitting on the bench is "not as fun as playing."

"Hockey is such a big part of my life, so I was pretty devastated."



SOPHOMORE Sarah Smails

"It was a really big bummer," Smails said. "I would see my teammates out on the ice and think, 'Oh I wish I could do that' and 'I know what I would do in that situation.'"

In January, Smails was on her first turn on the ice at a select camp in Los Angeles. Suddenly, her skate caught an edge and

she fell on her shoulder.

She did not expect that her fall would keep her out of the sport for so long. The pain was more of a dull ache than a sharp sting, so she brushed it off at first, not thinking it was anything serious.

After going to the emergency room and finding out that she had torn her labrum, Smails learned that she would not be able to play ice hockey for many months.

"Hockey is such a big part of my life, so I was pretty devastated," she said.

Since a young age, Smails had been going to the rink for fun with her family.

In third grade, at the urging of her twin brother, Chris Smails, and a friend, Smails decided to join a competitive hockey team.

Smails said that the odd benefit to playing ice hockey is that it is a "great conversation starter," since people are usually amazed that she plays such an uncommon sport.

Since there is no high school hockey teams in the area, Smails practices at Solar4America Ice in San Jose.

The commute is far, for the rink is located about 30 minutes from her house.

Despite the drive, Smails said that the distance is worth it, as she really enjoys the game and believes that it is a good substitute for someone who does not like running.

Smails's team has arduous practices for 10 hours per week, including dryland, which focuses on workouts that build strength and endurance off the ice.

Smails knew that she would not be able to actively participate until she healed.

Smails's coach Bobby Long was supportive and reassured her that she was still part of the team.

He recommended a physical therapist who Smails has been seeing for seven



Courtesy of SARAH SMAILS

Sophomore Sarah Smails rebounds from her from injury during practice at the Solar4America rink. Smails was first hospitalized after she learned a dull ache in her shoulder was actually a labrum tear.

months.

"That's been really helpful," she said. "I have almost full range of motion now."

Smails has slowly worked up from passive movements, where the therapist would move Smails's shoulder for her, to stretches and exercises with rubber bands and small weights.

With time, Smails has been working up the intensity and regaining strength and movement of arm.

Smails hopes to start playing her sport again soon.

Her physical therapist has given her the

OK to pass and shoot in practice, so she has been trying to get in as many repetitions as possible.

"I'm definitely out of shape and my skating and stickhandling is not where I want it to be," Smails said.

Currently, Smails is working on getting back to the same level as before her injury.

Even though she knows that it will take a while, Smails remains optimistic.

"I really missed playing," she said. "It's no fun if you can't play in games or even skate, so I'm really looking forward to getting back onto the ice." ♦

>> snapshots



FALCON // PHOEBE WANG



FALCON // SOPHIA ZIVANIC



TALISMAN // SAHANA SRIPADANNA



FALCON // MUTHU PALANIAPPAN

Senior Anya Srivats promotes Glee Club, during the first day of Club Fair on Oct. 3.

During the Senior Quad Day on Sept. 29, offensive guard Tommy Vithanage takes the stage as part of the football dance.

Nominees for Homecoming king and queen pose during halftime at the game.

On Oct. 9, senior co-head commissioner Mervi Tan informs the parents about the drive to help North Bay fire victims.

buzzworthy >> New Trend: Rock out with my Crocs out

BY Austin Wang
& Alex Yang

If you wanted to partake in high fashion or just be a plain old Hypebeast, you will probably have a hard time deciding which shoes will complement your outfit best.

Balenciaga?

Yeezys?

Adidas Superstars?

No, if you want to be a true hypebeast, there is only one option: Crocs. Crocs have everything you could possibly want in footwear: the sleek rubber layout allowing your foot to easily slip in, the bright colors drawing attention from everyone around, the swiss-cheese like top providing perfect breathing room for your feet and the amphibious, waterproof material giving you the mobility to conquer land and sea.

In fact, the Croc-hype seems to have started out as a reaction to the ridiculously

priced Hypebeast streetwear fashion trends — after all, \$30 for a high-quality amphibious shoe is quite the steal.

Even celebrities such as John Cena and Drew Barrymore have begun wearing crocs regularly as part of elaborate ad campaigns aimed at making Crocs more popular amongst youth. Outside of ad campaigns, Crocs have also found popularity amongst K-pop stars with the entirety of BTS taking photo shoots in neon crocs.

Crocs have also broken into the world of high fashion with crocs making an appearance at London Fashion Week 2017 and being planned for the Gucci Cruise 2018 fashion show.

Throughout the school, some of the trendier students have already jumped on the Croc trend. Although some argue that Crocs were a mere meme — an ironic avant garde footwear — the emergence of true Croc enthusiasts proves that we won't be

saying later to these gators anytime soon.

Senior Allyson Chang started sporting bright yellow crocs at the start of last summer and she hasn't looked back since. "It started [out] kind of ironically," Chang said, "but after I started wearing them more I actually really liked how they looked."

Despite receiving some mean-spirited comments from other students, Chang remained undeterred about her fashion choices and even sought to introduce more people to her favorite footwear.

"My friends tease me about my Crocs, but it's always out of love," Chang said. "I still hope we can all wear matching Crocs someday."

While Chang's friend group still hasn't completely embraced the Croc trend, other students have also found Crocs to be a valuable addition to their outfits. Senior Valerie Yang remembers impulsively buying a pair of neon pink Crocs online after being

enthralled with their flashy color online.

"Crocs became my favorite shoe — they are extremely comfortable and lightweight, so I can wear them anywhere," Yang said. "Plus, they match with basically every outfit, so it's super easy to pair."

Underclassmen have also started following in Chang's and Yang's croc-shaped footsteps. Sophomores Ashleigh Abe, Malika Ahuja, Sophia Jones and Sanmati Nakil have all started wearing crocs regularly.

"Well, we all got crocs as a meme originally," Nakil said, "but then they ended up being really comfortable and I began wearing them."

While Crocs may never find themselves as a completely mainstream footwear, they will always hold a dedicated niche of fans who can truly rock the Crocs. ♦



Read this: the humble essay that got me into my dream school (not click bait)

D-elicia-
ous Ye

Elicia Ye



In honor of getting accepted through early-early-early action to a college that I have applied to every fall since fourth grade, here is an excerpt from my supplemental essay for this particular school of my dreams. May these modest words spark inspiration among all you poor souls during these times of hardship and distress.

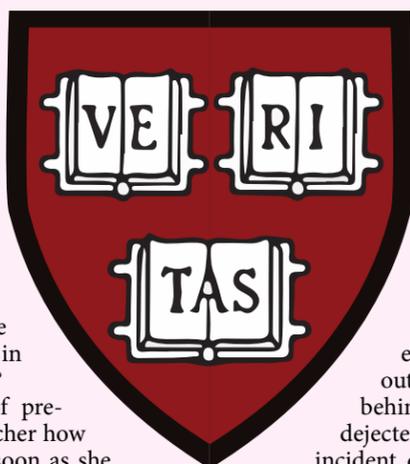
The mission of Harvard College is to educate our students to be citizens and citizen-leaders for society. What would you do to contribute to the lives of your classmates in advancing this mission?

On the first day of pre-school, I taught my teacher how to spell my name. As soon as she remembered how to spell "Yichen," I decided to change my name to "Elysia" so that she could solidify her spelling skills by practicing with different combinations

of vowels and consonants. After approximately five name changes on my part, her face turned bright red.

She may have demanded that I stay indoors during recess, so I decided to stick with the last name I came up with: "Elicia." Even though I no longer shared with the class my creative name invention process, I still spent my free time coming up with new words — for example, I invented the word "Trump," which stands for any carrot with an ego larger than its head.

In second grade during Thanksgiving break, I led some of my classmates to the



emergency room at the hospital, hoping to help out doctors and nurses with our Toys "R" Us doctor kits. Squeezing our way through a flurry of white coats, we found ourselves being glared at whenever we handled our plastic pink and yellow stethoscopes. A doctor eventually escorted us

out and locked the door behind us. Even though I felt dejected, I didn't let this tiny incident deter me from becoming a doctor, soon earning my Ph.D. — that is, Post-holiday Depression — a week later.

By the time I turned 13, I received my

Gold Award in Girl Scout. By "receive," I refer to the deal I had made with my neighbor: I could get her Gold Award badge if I gave her \$300 in cash, which I would then earn back by selling my AP Calculus text-

I must let others have the chance to shine too, which means I couldn't excel in everything in life

book. Through this transaction, I proved myself as a business leader, cautiously weighing my options and effectively utilizing resources at my disposal.

Of course, as a citizen-leader, I must let others have the chance to shine too, which means I couldn't excel in everything in life. As a result, I must cap my unweighted GPA at 4.0, make my mile time even lower than my GPA, learn to grill turkey-flavored chickens and cook 15-minute Kraft mac and cheese in under 7 minutes.

Normally I'm not an advocate of cutting corners, yet being a leader means making sacrifices in some areas in order to benefit society overall. I hope to bring to Harvard my unprecedented skillset and humility, thus setting a great example as a role model for my classmates as a global and responsible citizen-leader. ♦

topten

WAYS TO SPOOK YOUR FRIENDS

- 10 **Tell them that the Common App servers are down.** It's their fault for not turning in their application.
- 9 **Hand out candy corn.** Nothing says spooky like fluorescent artificial sugar triangles.
- 8 **Don't come to school at all.** Will your friends think you got horribly sick? Or are you just ditching the AP Chem test?
- 7 **Take your friends to In-N-Out.** They'll be quivering when they aren't on Herriman by 12:40.
- 6 **Buy your friends school lunch.** The greatest thing to fear is the unknown.
- 5 **Remind overzealous freshmen who intrude on college visits the reality:** attending an info session will not increase their chances of getting into Harvard.
- 4 **Tell them their SAT score got canceled.** Give them flashbacks to the AP test trauma.
- 3 **Come to school looking like a literal zombie.** It'll be scary when they find out it's not even Halloween yet.
- 2 **Don't do your hair or makeup.** Now that would be frightening.
- 1 **Tape an AP Physics test to your face.** Pre-curve. That 40 percent is sure to give them a heart attack.

>> Victor Liu and Neil Rao