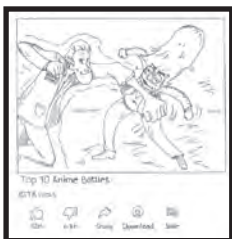




THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

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WE ARE BORN TO SEEK THE TRUTH!

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JENNY PHAM

Teachers protest for better wages and working conditions in Frank Ogawa Plaza.

Teachers march for wages

By Jenny Pham
FEATURE EDITOR

"She's up all night having fun, he's up all night grading papers," sang the Angry Tired Teachers Band to kick off the "East Bay Rally to Fund Public Education!" in Oakland on Jan. 12.

A coalition of teacher unions, labor unions, educators, parents, communities, and students from all over the East Bay came out to the Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland to fight for increased state funding for public schools. Castro Valley, Oakland, Berkeley, Union City, Fremont, Albany, Livermore, Alameda, San Francisco, Richmond, and more districts rallied in red, riding on the "Red4Ed" movement that began last year in West Virginia, which demanded higher salaries and improved working conditions.

The plaza was overflowing, with more than 1,000 attendees, estimated an organizer.

"I think it's a great turnout. I think people are starting to realize that we need to pay attention to our education to make sure it's funded properly," said Liz Ortega, secretary-treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council, when asked about the overall attendance

of the event. Ortega was the second to speak, enlivening the crowd with her frustration, energy, and determination.

"I've been to many rallies, rallies for wage equality, gender equality, gay rights, and much more. I've always understood why I was there, but something is missing here because I don't understand why I am here today," spoke Ortega. Her speech emphasized the ridiculousness in the United States having the 5th largest economy in the world, yet California being in the bottom five of state support

"

We want
what our
children
need!

Liz Ortega

Alameda Labor Council
secretary-treasurer

to schools. She points out the irony in politicians speaking about the importance of education, while more and more teachers are unable to afford

living in the districts in which they work.

"No more rallies. No more speeches. No more promises. We want what our children need and we're going to get it!" roared the crowd as Ortega concluded her speech.

More than 20 Castro Valley educators, school officials, and community supporters were present, including Mark Mladinich, president of Castro Valley Teachers Association.

"When it comes to increasing funding in California, it cannot be a small district by district movement. My hope is that this event will be a movement of many to show the California Legislature that we need to fund schools at a fair level," said Mladinich about what he hopes this event will accomplish.

Gary Howard, a member of the Castro Valley School Board of Education, agreed. "I think that it is a really good thing that teachers, administrators, school boards, and parents are here to try to make sure that we have enough funds for schools to run well," commented Howard.

The "East Bay Rally to Fund Public Education!" was initially organized by ten teacher

►See **MARCH:** page 8

Government shutdown hits CVHS

By Natalie Costello
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. government reopened after being partially shut down for over a month. This left 800,000 people out of jobs, national parks closed, and citizens left angered by the government officials.

CVHS junior Marya Gilbert was personally affected by the shutdown. She and her family were attempting to visit Pinnacles National Park which is about two hours from Castro Valley, but the shutdown closed the park.

"Just as we were coming up on the entrance we saw a cone and a cop car with a cop telling everyone to turn around and go home," she said. "It was really upsetting to my family and I. After planning this trip we were forced to make the two-hour drive home."

Close Up leader Carmelina Frasca worries another shut-

down may follow. "I am worried that there won't be much resolution in the next three weeks because the sticking point, the building of a barrier along our southern border, has become a very political issue that will likely have serious consequences for the 2020 election."

But students are relieved that the Close Up trip will no longer be affected since the government temporarily reopened.

The government shutdown was caused by a disagreement between President Donald Trump and Congress over a proposed border wall, which caused some of the government to close. Trump eventually offered to extend DACA protection to undocumented immigrants for three more years if the Democrats approved the funding for the wall. Democrats refused.

►See **SHUTDOWN:** page 8

SOSPOP will enhance semester

By Elena Lottich
STAFF WRITER

All CVHS clubs coming together as one, and each representing a prominent issue or topic symbolizing unity and diversity, is the vision that Club Commissioners Grace Boyd and Theo Santiago have for this year's Seasons of Service, Period of Peace (SOSPOP).

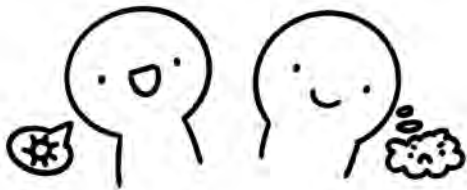
The CVHS campus will be thriving within school and out of school lunchtime activities, fundraisers, speakers, and mainly a new broadening of horizons as clubs take on each week with a specialized topic of interest. Beginning on Jan. 21 and stretching out to April 5, each club has the freedom

to educate the student body on the topic of their choice.

"There are one to four clubs each week and they are all united under one specific theme. So there are themes such as global health, women empowerment, Black Heritage week, Latino Heritage week. It's basically up to the clubs and whatever they want to do," said Boyd.

"It just represents who we are as a school and what we stand for. It's just a week for clubs to spread the word of what they want to do and what their message is. It's a good variety as well because every club has their own thing going," added Santiago.

In the past, SOSPOP has
►See **SOSPOP:** page 8



Good start for Gavin



Editorial:

Gov. Gavin Newsom was inaugurated as the new leader of California following his landslide victory in the election, and has already begun reforms towards increased fire safety and prevention measures, more educational spending, and cheaper, expanded health care for all Californians, including undocumented immigrants. We at *The Olympian* generally support his proposed measures. Newsom's proposed fire plan includes a larger budget of \$305 million delegated to combating wildfires which include methods making of forests less prone to fires, improving emergency responses, and updating equipment. He has also issued two executive orders to better prepare California for future wildfires and find new solutions for fighting them. We believe these proposals are necessary. The new educational budget would allow for an additional \$3 billion among California's schools from the General Fund.

An additional \$576 million would be spent on special education programs in schools, \$1.8 billion to programs for children up to five years of age, including those supporting low-income families, and \$1.4 billion for higher educational support. Though we support increased spending on special education programs and schools, we do question the effectiveness of spending such large amounts of the budget on preschool programs, when it might be more effectively spent in later education. In spite of this, we remain open to the proposed plan, should extensive research find evidence in favor of early educational programs. At nearly \$60 billion, roughly 30 percent of the new budget will be allocated to health care. These measures are, generally, to make prescription drugs cheaper for consumers, provide programs detecting and treating mental issues, provide clean, healthier resources and living, and expanding overall coverage

and accessibility. California, which already provides coverage for undocumented immigrants up to 19 years of age, will extend coverage to those up to 25 years of age. We also support these goals. Expanded coverage will benefit many who are in need of medical aid, and early detection programs for Alzheimer's and psychosis will help even more. Newsom has quickly taken action against these issues, and though we generally support him, there are some concerns. At \$209 billion, Newsom proposes a budget dependent upon economic growth projections which may not pan out as expected. The educational budget alone relies upon a \$21 billion surplus. He has also taken progressive stances which may alienate voters who stand not as far to the left. In such a case lies the possibility of a California Republican retaliation in future years, should he ignore these voters. We at *The Olympian* remain optimistic and wish Newsom a successful term.

N-word is not for the classroom



By Talaya Francois
STAFF WRITER

Every student in the classroom immediately stiffened after it was said, then looked around to exchange incredulous, discomforted glances with each other. The substitute teacher read on, encountered another racial slur in the text, and read that one out loud as well. "This book has a lot of words I don't like. Would someone else like to read?" the substitute offered. Before winter break, this incident occurred in Michelle Lew's sixth period Afrocentric English class while reading the book "The Ways of White Folks," a collection of short stories about acts of terrorism targeting the African American community. Various students had been reading the story popcorn-style before before the substitute read the racial slurs. All of them skipped over the n-word when it appeared in the text, and hoped she would pick up on the cue. After the substitute read the racial slurs, the students discussed their discomfort. A few upset students left the classroom for a few moments to calm down. The substitute was

confronted by a group of students who explained why they were upset. Upon confrontation, the substitute said, "I'm sorry that you're upset." A few weeks after the incident, the substitute teacher approached Assistant Principal Nic McMaster and Lew with an intense apology for her behavior in the class. She wrote a formal apology expressing regret. All teachers should be cautioned against saying the n-word in class, even if it is for an "educational purpose." This is because the word does not have to be said for the weight of it to be effectively discussed. "It has to do with the level of respect for our history and how it's been used to degrade people. I don't want to give it any more power by speaking it. I don't think I'm in a position to use it," Lew explained. As an African American girl growing up in American classrooms, it always felt derogatory for me to hear any teacher read a racial slur, no matter the context. "I think it was a word designed solely to oppress people... I think it is important to acknowledge that the word existed in our history, yes, but that doesn't mean I need to repeat it," said Lew. Having official guidelines in the English department to guide educators on the sensitive issue of speaking racial slurs in classrooms may pose as an effective solution to avoid upsetting experiences. Even simple discussions around the issue are necessary for us as an interracial society to move forward.

PHOTOpinions What do you think about Gov. Newsom's proposals?



“ I like the idea of \$1.4 billion going to education. Money spent can buy better resources and create incentives. This could help kids do better in school. ”
Joacim Zamora
freshman



“ I support the idea of putting \$576 million in to our schools' special education programs because I think it will be beneficial to our community. ”
Ryan Watson
sophomore



“ I think extending the health care coverage for undocumented immigrants from age 19 to 25 will improve the well-being and prosperity of many. ”
Nathan Liu
junior



“ The proposed new educational budget of \$3 billion is a good idea. ”
Chiril Calin
senior



“ Universal health care and tuition-free higher education would be the best thing that Newsom could do for California. ”
Michael Langella
teacher

Women’s March empowers many



MYLA OGLE

Marchers display a sign at the Oakland Women’s March.

By Myla Ogle
STAFF WRITER

The annual Women’s March took place on Saturday, Jan. 19. This march continues to impact women around the United States significantly. The marches and rallies are designed to engage and empower all people to support women’s rights, human rights, and social and environmental justice.

“When the opportunity to march came along, I felt I was destined to do so,” said rally speaker Mona Shaikh.

The Women’s March is committed to represent the vision of humanity and equity for all. Supporters of this march commonly do not tolerate hate speech, bigotry, white supremacy, racism, misogyny, anti-semitism, homophobia, transphobia, or any other form of hatred.

People who march join to petition for human rights, dignity, and justice.

The march emphasizes that women’s rights are human rights and human rights are women’s rights. Americans must create a society in which women, including black, native, poor, immigrant, disabled, Muslim, Jewish, and LGBTQ, have freedom and

equality in a safe and healthy environment free from sexism.

All who participate are trying to celebrate women in government and emphasize how women should be empowered. The most impactful part of the march was seeing strength in numbers. Creative signs with inspiring messages and speeches illuminated bravery. Empowering chants were heard in the streets for miles and miles. One speech was especially moving. The speaker was a homeless single mother marching for health care and education opportunities for her four young children. Her words brought people together and moved many.

This march is a stepping stone to keep putting women in power. The goal of this particular march is to raise awareness on women’s issues. It is amazing that there are many who support women and their worth. This is milestone that is making history and opens up a great opportunity to become politically active. Although this is a time when many support feminism and the empowerment of women, it cannot stop after the rally is over. We must continue to support women actively and consistently. It is not enough to just march, you must take action after to improve the future.



JOSHUA LEVY

Police patrol 200 hall in CVHS, in search for a cadet playing the active shooter.

Police act out shooting scenario

By Arya Emadi
STAFF WRITER

As school shootings loom over the nation, our school district is one of many to address the elephant in the room. Alameda County Sheriff’s Office and Hayward Police Department officers united to practice shooting-scenario drills in our high school on Jan. 2.

During one such shooting drill, I volunteered to participate as a “victim” alongside cadets, university-age participants, and Explorers, who are high school-age students seeking police-related jobs.

Technicians, police, students, and Olympian reporters met in the library first.

The officers were given first aid lectures and door-breach lessons before the shooting drill. Students were divided up into two teams; some members were given vests that would react to the prop guns used in the activity.

The activity itself was relatively simple and had little variation at first; cadets and Explorers would cower in classrooms pretending to be students while “the shooter”

stayed outside at the beginning.

As the police arrived, the cadet playing the shooter yelled at other cadets near him, “Now you’ll pay!” to the students near him.

Using a simulated gun, he pretended to shoot one of them.

The shooter then retreated to our classroom and shot blanks a couple more times. Then police swarmed into the room and, using simulated weapons, pretended to shoot the assailant.

The first phase of the drill was done: eliminating the threat. This process was covered during the lecture given to the officers, using the acronym SMACE (Stop the threat, Major blood loss, Airway, Chest, Evacuate).

Then officers provided first aid to those who needed it. Supervising officers and participants discussed the exercise after its ending.

I was assigned a wound to the shoulder and was told to say that I have “trouble breathing.”

Two or three times I was given a field dressing, but in the rest of the rounds, I was

told to evacuate with the rest of the students as I could walk.

Sometimes I was searched via pat down, sometimes it was merely mimed. With our hands on our heads, we evacuated to the hallway where the drill was reset for the next group.

The whole event was eerie. I was sitting in a classroom as simulated shots were fired. What really brought the activity home for me, however, was the careful gathering up of the simulated bullet shells ejected by the shooters’ guns.

The officers were careful to remind us that the activity was not just a play-fight but practice for real emergencies. During one drill, the victim who was “shot” at the beginning of each performance was dragged into our classroom and was confirmed “dead,” right in front of us all.

While the shooter had no variation in his performance, the police officers’ responses varied and were surely evaluated.

Here’s to hoping that those officers never have to use such tactics, and that a real gunshot never rings through the halls of our school.

Shutdown divides, not unifies



By Brittany Bin
STAFF WRITER

President Donald Trump’s views on immigration have always differed from the majority of the students at CVHS. His recent choice to pursue building a wall between the U.S. and Mexican border has led to very serious problems.

The government shutdown which started on Dec. 21 lasted 35 days and made history as the longest in U.S. history. Trump has tried to negotiate with Democrats who rejected him. Our president planned to continue this shutdown until Democrats comply but allowed the govern-

ment to reopen on Jan. 18.

“I think it is a waste of money,” says sophomore Timothy Liu.

There is a GoFundMe page trying to raise \$1 billion to build this wall. During Trump’s campaign, he promised that he would make Mexico pay for the wall; although it doesn’t seem like the situation now.

“I think it’s a waste of our money, resources, and time. However, my mom supports it and sends me information about it nonstop,” says sophomore Alina Huang.

While a majority of our students may think a wall is unnecessary, people of a different generation may support it. A lot of parents may see immigration as a bad thing because it lets opportunities be taken away.

“We do have a lot of immigrants in the U.S. but they do the jobs that no one would want,” says Huang.

There are other options to solve immigration problems that cost less and takes away less time than building the wall. The first thing is to improve the

immigration process. We should judge immigrants individually and not on the country they are from. The process should not be a lottery, because that is based on luck, not the worthiness of the individual.

Next, we should deal with illegal immigrants in a more humane way. The U.S. should not be separating families at the border.

“I think that it is not fair to the families being split apart,” says Liu.

Last, we should be spending more money to develop technology that can help prevent illegal immigration. People who are sneaking into the U.S. will climb any wall and dig any hole to get into our borders. A simple wall won’t be able to keep illegal immigrants out when things such as ladders exist. We should be investigating more technology to put at the border to prevent illegal immigrants.

I think our country should be focusing on preventing illegal immigration and not splitting apart families.



THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

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4 FEATURE

Club shares cultures through dance



JEANETTE WALLIS

The new Cultural Dance Team diligently practices for a performance in the spring.

By Jeanette Wallis
STAFF WRITER

If you happen to walk by 700 hall in the middle of the week after school, you might catch a glimpse of the Cultural Dance Team practicing. The team consists of about 20 students who perform more than ten types of dances from different cultures, such as a bharatanatyam dance, a Chinese ribbon dance, and a Laos 1000 hands dance, to name a few.

The team is fairly new, having only formed last year under the leadership of Isis Poulouse, now a sophomore.

"I had the idea when my sister and I were talking about high school struggles and I originally had the idea of a club that studied a new country every week. Unfortunately my idea got shot down so I had to think of something else," Poulouse explained. "My final idea was to make some sort of dance team that was accepting and would teach people about different cultures in a fun way."

Not only do members get to learn a variety of different dances, but they get to perform for friends and family. Now they are preparing for their spring showcase.

"Last year we wanted to have our performance in the CFA but due to complications, we ended up having it in the cafeteria. We are hoping to have our next show prepared in April but the renting process is difficult as a high schooler without any money," Poulouse laughed.

Last year dancers donated the money they earned from their performance to child refugees in Syria, but Poulouse says they might choose a new charity.

Poulouse directly teaches and choreographs the dances, along with the help of a few other CVHS students. Anyone can join the dances are easy to learn.

"I joined because I wanted an outlet of creativity and wanted to learn more about dance," sophomore Jolie Tran said. "My favorite part about it is getting along with the members of the club and being able to show off the diversity we have in our school."

Tran will be performing a polka and an Indian wings duet, in addition to the all-cast Vietnamese dance.

"I'm most looking forward to our showcase in the spring," Tran added. "I can't wait to show off all our hard work from over the past year!"

Most people know of Schneck as simply the Honors Chemistry teacher, but he has done and still does many other things outside of teaching. In fact, he's one of the most experienced people you'll ever meet.

Schneck became a chemistry teacher because chemistry came easy to him when he took a class at a community college and after tutoring chemistry for two years, he realized he enjoyed it and started his teaching career at the age of 21. Schneck taught chemistry and other sciences at American High School for nine years before he quit as he wanted to make more money to get his children to college.

He worked for 12 years at NUMMI, a Toyota Manufacturing plant, currently known as Tesla, in Fremont. He started off as a Quality Control Engineer who had the responsibility of training five people on how to conduct chemistry tests on raw materials. He was later promoted into management where he learned about auto manufacturing.

"The highlight of working there for me was when I was a part of the creation of a plastics plant from scratch that makes bumpers and instrument panels for Toyota, Tacoma, and Corolla. I designed it, selected equipment, and designed processes for each team member to do," he said.

Although he took up a lot of stress after he became the manager of Passenger and Truck Paint with over 300 people working for him, he had lots of fun and earned quadruple that of what a teacher makes, but he decided to quit.

"After 12 years at NUMMI, I realized that I had missed much of my kids growing up. I quit the next month and spent the spring getting to know my kids

before they were too old to want to hangout with dad," Schneck recalled.

Not so long after, Schneck made the decision of returning to his passion: teaching. He started teaching at CVHS in 2003 and has been working here for 15 years. Thanks to his hard work as a "College and Career Specialist," the college career pathways at our school were established and many kids were given the opportunity to join pathways such as HABIT, DADA, ICT, and Engineering.

Schneck's favorite part about teaching is when a student understands something they did not know before. He believes the biggest challenge students face today is adjusting to change and the fear of making the wrong choice.

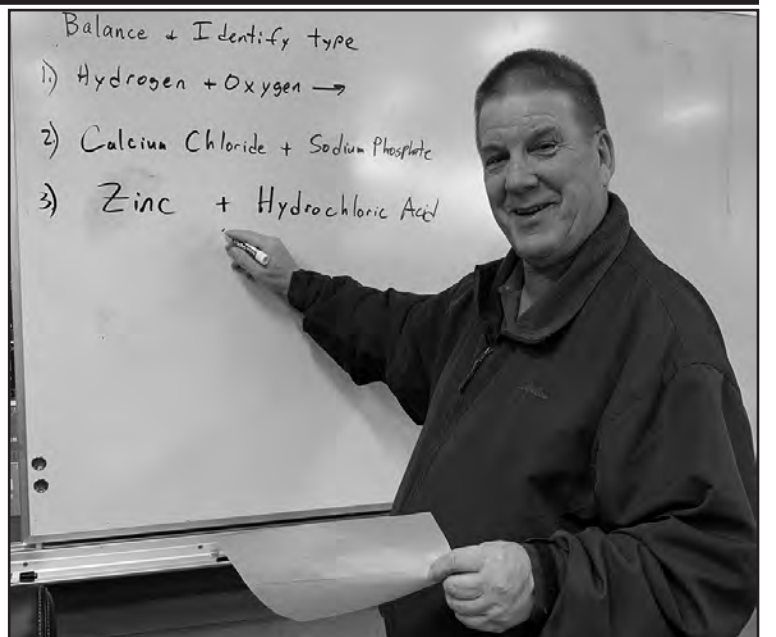
"I like that he understands his students and he tries his best to make the class less stressful while still keeping it an honors class," says sophomore Sophia Siopack, one of his Honors Chemistry students.

"Mr. Schneck always turns on the fire when it's cold, and I love that about him," said sophomore Kyla Dolorfino, who is also in his Honors Chemistry class.

"One of the reasons I am passionate on letting students know their choices in college and career in high school is because I had no guidance. I remember classmates talking about getting accepted into USC and multiple Cal States in April of my senior year in high school, I said, 'I guess I better apply' not knowing that the deadline had passed six months earlier," recalled Schneck. He graduated from UCLA with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry; later on, he received his teaching credential from Chico State.

In his 27 years of teaching, Schneck has done many crazy things from making hot air balloons that transported students to launching volleyballs over the gym with a giant trebuchet and making a go-cart and using power tools to get it to 30 m.p.h.

"I have spent much of my career in teaching, because it changes lives and produces educated citizens that hopefully can make logical decisions as a society," said Schneck.



NIKITA THOMAS

Richard Schneck prepares warm-ups for his chemistry class.

Schneck changes lives through teaching

By Nikita Thomas
STAFF WRITER

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Talented Lexi Kwon does it all



KATRINA SILER

One of three choreographers, Lexi Kwon leads seniors in their 2018 Homecoming dance.

By Katrina Siler
STAFF WRITER

Some students zone in on one particular interest during high school, but senior Lexi Kwon has managed to pursue many at CVHS. Kwon has managed a schedule chock-full of extracurricular activities such as leadership, cheer, karate, and an internship at the Chabot Space and Science Center throughout her high school career.

Kwon barely recognizes her own major accomplishments because diligence is routine to her.

"I feel like if I'm not working hard, I wouldn't know what to do," said Kwon. Although she may not appreciate her own achievements, Kwon's success is obvious to her peers.

Kwon does all of her extracurriculars for different reasons, but

her favorite activities feature her leadership skills. She most recently demonstrated her leadership skills while choreographing the seniors' homecoming dance routine. Kwon found it rewarding because she was able to teach a multitude of people with no previous dance experience an elaborate five minute dance routine, all within five days.

Despite having to manage all of her extracurriculars, Kwon still manages to make others laugh.

"I've never worked with someone more passionate or caring. Lexi does handles her workload with ease, and she still manages to have an amazing sense of humor," said senior Raana Naghiegh.

Kwon's talent is also demonstrated by her career in karate. She attended a karate clinic in Nevada, in which she furthered

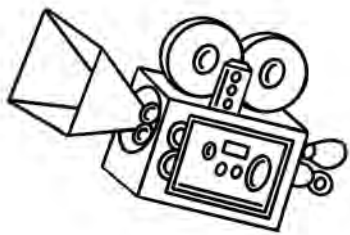
her skills. Kwon has capped off her karate career, having been a black belt for the last five years.

In contrast to the independence of karate, Kwon participates in the camaraderie of the CVHS cheer team. Once again, Kwon's natural leadership skills are demonstrated through her position as captain. Kwon has been doing cheer for nine years, being on both the competitive and sideline cheer teams.

Kwon spends weekends at Chabot Space and Science Center, where she has an internship. She enjoys spreading her love of science to others, specifically the younger generation.

Nonetheless, Kwon is nothing but humble.

"Don't get me wrong, I spend as much time scrolling through Instagram as everybody else," she said.



CVHS alum writes book about science fiction golden age

By Hayate Moro

PHOTO EDITOR

CVHS and Harvard graduate Alec Nevala-Leerecently published the book, “Astounding: John W. Campbell, Isaac Asimov, Robert A. Heinlein, L. Ron Hubbard, and the Golden Age of Science Fiction,” one of the best books of 2018 by “The Economist.”

Q: Before we get into the book will you give a little background information about yourself?

A: I’ve been writing probably since I was in my early teens. I started out writing a lot about science fiction and other kind of things and transitioned to suspense and thrillers that came out 2012 and 2013. The book “Astounding” came out of my interest in science fiction and the history of the “Astounding” science fiction magazine.

Q: “Astounding” is about the authors and not about the books they wrote. How did you come up with that?

A: What I realized is that there has never been a biography of John W. Campbell, who was the editor of “Astounding” and “Analog,” during most of my period. Then, after talking to my editor, we expanded to include Asimov,



Heinlein, and Hubbard who were probably Campbell’s famous, famous writers.

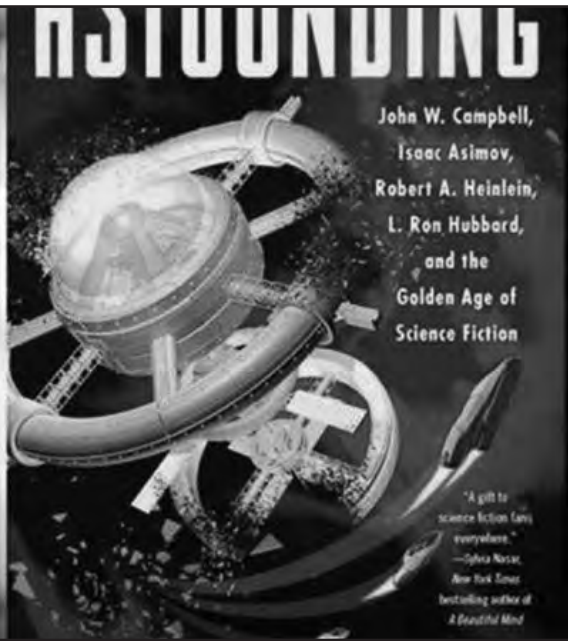
Q: I think students would love to hear that these successful authors were not quite what we would have expected them to be. Do you think you can tell us a little summary about your book?

A: Right now, you look around and science fiction is ticking over innovation culture and it’s everywhere, but during the 30s and early 40s that wasn’t true. All the writers knew each other, the fans

knew each other, and they worked together very closely.

Campbell is the editor of the most respective magazine in the field, and this is a time when you could actually earn a living. Campbell wrote stories like, “Who Goes There?” which later became the basis for the movie “The Thing” and so he was very talented, but he also preferred to assign ideas to writers for them to work out on their own.

Q: Is there any particular story about Campbell that you would



like to share?

A: One important theme of the book is diversity and the lack of diversity in science fiction during much of its history. There just weren’t a lot of writers of color or women involved in science fiction. I mean, he was racist and he certainly didn’t see any need to diversify his author base; it wasn’t important to him. So I think he is part of the blame for limiting the range of voices that you see in science fiction.

And even Asimov, who is this

beloved figure and one of the most famous science fiction writers in the world, groped women at conventions for a decade. It was horrifying and I think it really affected the ability of women to be taken seriously as science fiction fans or as writers.

Q: Are you writing a new book?

A: I’m currently writing a biography of a man named Buckminster Fuller. He is best known for the geodesic dome, but he was a famous intellectual and a public figure, almost like an Elon Musk type figure during the early 60s and 70s, who I think is fascinating and kind of the guy who embodies some of the same themes from this book in real life. I just started working on it pretty recently and I’m going to have a book ready for publication in 2021.

Q: Do you have any advice for students who want to become writers like you?

A: Start as early as possible because it can take years to break through. It took me about five years as a full time writer before I published my first novel and another five years before I began to feel even like half way secure. So the sooner you start the better.

“Artemis” is astonishing

By Arya Emadi

STAFF WRITER

“Artemis” is acclaimed author Andy Wehr’s second science-fiction novel and his attempt to make lightning strike twice.

His first of these novels, “The Martian,” was such a smash hit that it was adapted into a movie. The question I had about “Artemis” was whether this book had the same wit, relatable characters, and humor that made “The Martian,” about a Mars planet-side outpost, while also having its own unique, self-standing story, this time about a moon colony.

“Artemis” features a relatable and reliable narrator, by the somewhat cheesy name Jazz, who starts out initially planning something of a space heist only to try and unravel the consequences of those actions to keep herself safe.

Her character is a consistent

source of humor as she dishes out science facts without any pretentiousness, using that knowledge to great effect.

Some may want to compare her to a “Mary Sue” as she tends to propel the story as a lone-wolf-with-exceptions, but I feel that criticism is hypocritical considering “The Martian’s” jack-of-all-sciences character.

This book may contain science without buzzwords and with practicality at its core, but I kept in mind that the book is a story of people first and foremost, as all books should be.

Its relatively small page count makes it a fun read without a serious commitment, with its casual narration easy on the eyes and brain. It may tend to explain away some things, but it is an overall good book and piece of sci-fi I would recommend to any of the many fans of “The Martian.”

REPAIR WORKSHOP



CVSan’s Fixit Clinic & Clothing Swap ‘N Sew

Saturday, February 9th

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave.



Fixit Clinic: Bring your non-functioning electronics, small appliances, computers, bikes, toys, etc. for assessment and coaching on possible repair. Workspace, specialty tools, and guidance will be provided to help you troubleshoot.

Swap ‘N Sew: Bring clean, gently worn clothes to “swap” with other participants. Need to mend something? Bring fabric items and your sewing machine and our coaches will guide you.



Sign-up online: bit.ly/fixitcheckin and select the Castro Valley event. Entire families of Fixers are welcome!

Coaches needed! Sign up as a volunteer Fixit Clinic Coach at bit.ly/fixitcoachsignup.

For more information on CVSan’s Zero Waste Week Activities, go to www.cvsan.org/ZeroWasteWeek.



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Noodle house comes to town

By Eyzid Hadi
STAFF WRITER

A new restaurant has opened in Castro Valley. If you are in the mood for Vietnamese food and culture stop by Pho Play, located by 24 Hour Fitness in the 580 Marketplace.

When you walk in, you are greeted by indulgent aromas that make your mouth water. Unlike many other Vietnamese restaurants, this restaurant also has a menu that lets you customize your meal. Minutes after you order and sit down the food arrives, steaming hot. We ordered the beef brisket pho, a combo pho with various cuts of meat, a salad topped with grilled beef and chicken, and a grilled beef short rib platter. For appetizers we tried the egg rolls and for drinks we tried a passion fruit tea and a matcha green iced tea. The restaurant was decently busy for 8:30 p.m. and the decor was very modern.

As soon we sat down and grabbed our utensils and napkins,

the food and drinks came to the table. The egg rolls were nice and crunchy and both teas were very flavorful. The bowls of pho came with their own vegetable garnishes and the short ribs came with a dome shaped portion of rice and vegetables on the side.

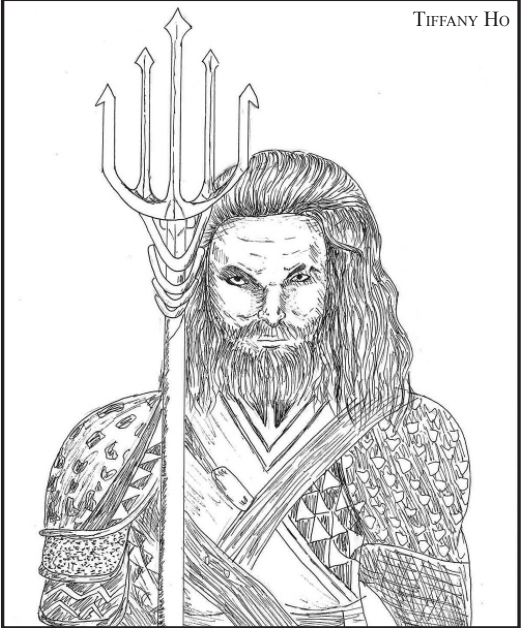
The pho noodles had the right thickness and consistency, the broth tasted like beef and the meat was delicious. Despite being soaked in broth, the meat was not soggy.

The grilled short ribs were very tasty, and the accompanying rice and vegetables made a very good meal. The salad was a heaping bowl of mixed lettuce and vegetables, topped with deliciously tender and flavorful grilled beef and chicken.

Pricing was reasonable, with appetizers in the \$5 to \$6 range and main courses between \$10 to \$12. It is a good amount of food and a good value for the price.

If you are looking for a tasty, healthy, and reasonably priced meal that is served fairly quickly, Pho Play is the place for you.

Aquaman dives into theatres



By Kayla Craft-Williams
STAFF WRITER

In “Aquaman,” the title character defeats the monster and is worthy of getting the royal trident of the past king of Atlantis. Jason Momoa plays the main character and he’s a great actor for the part. He would never try too hard, and it just felt natural to watch him.

This movie got raving reviews, being a D.C. movie with high expectations. Filmmakers had to bring a lot of effort and money, into bringing this whole visual of the deep ocean. Superhero movies are expected to have great graphics and action in them, and I think “Aquaman” can say that it succeeded checking off those categories.

The movie portrayed a beautiful underwater land of different variations of sea animals we already have along with made up ones. The technology in the movie, visuals, and costumes were greatly detailed. The extra features-

-makeup, materials, etc.--for the Atlantis people were very precise, and you could tell it took a great imagination.

“Aquaman” is a fantasy/science fiction. It portrays a man who is half Atlantean, living among humans. He was an heir to the throne of Atlantis, the kingdom of the sea, and had to serve his people. For years he has been avoiding going back home, because he didn't want to take on those responsibilities.

That soon changed, once a threat was upon the kingdom. The Ocean Master, Patrick Wilson, was planning on taking over both land and sea worlds. Aquaman could not let the world fall in the hands of a villain with bad intentions. He battled the Ocean Master who was also the heir to the throne for the spot as king.

Eventually they battled, and Aquaman had to find ways to defeat the Ocean Master. At the end Aquaman stubbled as past interferences resurfaced and he had to handle that as well.

Bandersnatch snatches viewers on “Netflix”



By Rachel Schoenfeld
STAFF WRITER

“Black Mirror: Bandersnatch” changes how viewers interact with their movies. This new Netflix movie allows viewer interaction through a series of choices and pathways, each with a different ending.

The film, set in 1984, follows around amateur game designer Stefan Butler through his experience creating and publishing his first game, Bandersnatch. The game itself is based off the fictional choose-your-adventure novel by the same name. The writer of the book slowly went insane while writing it, and if the viewers choose the correct pathways, they can see Stefan following in his footsteps.

The movie in itself is very self aware. Stefan becomes aware he is not making his own choices.

Another character, Colin Ritman, starts to recognize things that have happened in previous pathways after the viewer resets the movie. There is even a time where the viewer can tell Stefan that his life is a movie on Netflix.

This isn’t the first interactive movie Netflix has done. Netflix has made interactive movies before, but they were more aimed towards kids. None of them have been quite as complex as Bandersnatch.

To create this film the developers used code used for games such as Tell Tale games, which many viewers have compared this movie to. They even timed the attention span of viewers to see how long they would pay attention between each choice before losing interest.

However, if the viewers never pick up the remote to make any choices, the movie has its own

automatic ending. If the viewer tries to reach all the endings, the movie can last around two hours. However the total amount of footage ends up being five hours and 12 minutes.

There are so many twists and turns in this movie, it makes it very interesting to watch.

However, it is difficult to access it as many televisions can’t play the movie although all smartphones and laptops should be able to play it. I would recommend this movie for anyone who wants to watch a creepy movie with some friends, or if someone wants to get creeped out alone and has a lot of time to kill.

Overall, the story that this movie tells can be enjoyed at all times of the year, and I think that it was very entertaining. I would give “Black Mirror: Bandersnatch” a rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

“Super Smash” is a splash

By Evan Sim
STAFF WRITER

If you’re somebody who plays video games, it is likely that you have recently heard of, if not played, a game by the name of “Super Smash Brothers Ultimate.” Released on Dec. 7, 2018, “Super Smash Brothers Ultimate” is the fifth installment of the famous Nintendo “Super Smash Brothers” fighting game franchise for the Nintendo Switch, and is possibly the best yet.

For those unfamiliar with the game, “Super Smash Brothers Ultimate,” as well as the entirety of its predecessors, follows and have followed a very simple structure since the release of its first installment in 1999: beloved characters from across various Nintendo video game series battle in one crossover fighting game.

Although it may seem like a structure for a game which would get old after so many years,

“Super Smash Brothers Ultimate” introduces better graphics, unique game mechanics, and an ever-expanding character roster which includes both entirely new characters as well as every character from all of the game’s predecessors.

“Super Smash Brothers Ultimate” is for the Nintendo Switch, which allows for beautiful graphics and thoughtful character animations, incredibly responsive and fast gameplay, and, most importantly, portability.

Being that the “Super Smash Brothers” games have been best enjoyed when playing with friends or through online matchups, the next step in the franchise was to find a way to mobilize it while retaining both the graphics and playability of a game that could be found on a non-portable console. With the introduction of “Super Smash Brothers Ultimate,” players now have the freedom to play quick games anywhere.

Additionally, such new in-game

mechanics as directional dodging and parrying (or what players sometimes refer to as a “perfect shield”), add a new dimension particularly to competitive play.

Though some may argue that these mechanics, as well as the overall increased sensitivity of the controls within the game are quite different and require some time to get used to, this is somewhat of a triviality in light of such a great game.

However, one somewhat unforgivable aspect of the game are the dramatic pauses which seem to occur at random times when a player gets a kill; it distracts players during intense games, and there does not seem to be any way to turn it off.

Aside from this, “Super Smash Brothers Ultimate” for the Nintendo Switch is certainly the most heavily anticipated game of 2018, and continues to be wholly relevant through 2019. It is a unique, intuitive, and streamlined fighting game by Nintendo. Need I say more? Please play this game.

Cheer stunts to the top of the game



RACHEL STEIN

Varsity competition cheer team members cheers their hearts out pushing them to first place in United Spirit Association Regional Competition on Jan. 12.

By Rachel Stein

COPY EDITOR

In a sport named for enthusiasm and pep, the Trojans' competition cheer teams in fact have much to cheer about. Both the JV and varsity teams took first place in their respective categories at the United Spirit Association (USA) Regional Competition at Deer Valley High School in Antioch on Jan. 12.

"The competition teams have come upon several hurdles this

year, but through their hard work, dedication, and perseverance, they were able to overcome the obstacles and finish the regional season undefeated," said coach Erin Hagerty, alluding to injuries that kept some team members from competition.

The JV squad competed in the Junior Varsity Show Cheer Non-Tumbling division and took first place, earning 90.7 out of a possible 100 points, while the varsity team competed in

Coed Varsity Show Cheer Non-Tumbling and received a 94.2 out of 100 points.

Lexi Kwon, senior and varsity co-captain, was pleased with how her team pulled together.

"Although we had a lot of last-minute changes and an injury, we were able to at our highest score in competition yet. The team did such a great job at persevering and pushing past all of the barriers in our way," she said.

Kwon also noted how this

last win got the teams excited about competing in the USA Spirit Nationals competition in February in Anaheim.

The Antioch competition was the last of the regional season. Both teams' winning performances were reflected in their scores and the judges' written comments. One judge noted that their "...voices were loud and strong throughout the performance."

According to Hagerty,

some comments were more constructive.

"We are using those notes to improve our routines further in anticipation of the upcoming nationals competition next month in Anaheim. The competition teams at Castro Valley are working harder than ever and are excited to represent their school and community on the national stage and we hope to bring home a national win to CVHS," she said.

Athletes of the Month

Jaret Unti reaches for his goals

By Milagros Aquino

BUSINESS MANAGER

Most people at the age of eight would have given up if they did not make the club soccer team, but not Jaret Unti. Instead, he thought of other places he could play. Dublin was the place he went which ended up opening many opportunities for him such as joining the Olympic Development Program (ODP) which is a very limited soccer team that represents the state.

Unti started playing soccer at the very young age of three and started playing competitively at seven. He has even played for the ODP in the past for three years.

With all the hard work Unti has put into the team as captain and goalkeeper, he has earned everything that is thrown his way.

Unti has been on the varsity boys soccer team since he was a freshman and continues to be on the team as a junior, even becoming captain.

"As a captain you have to motivate the team, bring them together, make sure we have one common goal, as a goalie even if you're not captain, you're captain of the defense and team because you see everything so you gotta make sure your communicating well to your team and making sure we're all

on the same page," said Unti.

Along with being captain of the soccer team, he also has been on varsity volleyball for the school, during his sophomore year. With all these extra activities he still finds the time to get a GPA of 4.5.

"As a player he's got the size for the type of position he plays. He's very quick on his feet and a very smart player as far as reading the play. As a captain, one of his highest qualities is he's a simple normal kid that doesn't think too high of himself and leads by example," said soccer coach Dario Fabian.



MILAGROS AQUINO

Jaret Unti dives for the ball, protecting the goal with everything he has.

Kylie Rojas kicks into action

By Ria Panjwani

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kylie Rojas, senior and captain of the girls varsity soccer team, has been a committed athlete to Cal Poly since her sophomore year. Rojas started soccer at around age six and currently plays for the San Jose Earthquakes academy.

"One of the most memorable moments for me was being able to compete at the national playoffs with my club team. We had the chance to go to Kansas City and ended up getting third place in the nation!" exclaimed Rojas.

Rojas committed to Cal Poly knowing that it was, "the perfect school for me." She wanted

to remain close to her family and by a beach, and the school more than surpassed those expectations. Rojas described the process of committing as stressful, yet rewarding, as many of her teammates were committing around the same time.

For Rojas, making connections with other people have made the experience worthwhile, as she described meeting some of her best friends on her first Castro Valley team. She credits her parents for being her biggest source of inspiration and encouragement.

"My parents definitely encouraged me since my dad played soccer throughout his childhood," remarked Rojas,

smiling as she reminisced her early childhood.

As school captain, Rojas has grown as a leader among her peers. On varsity since freshman year, Rojas has grown on the team and says she will miss her teammates the most.

Soccer has been a defining part of Rojas' high school experience, and her college career will be filled with weekly practices and tournaments as well. She is thrilled to be studying at Cal Poly to discover what she wants to pursue in the future, and remains grateful to what opportunities the sport has given to her life.



RIA PANJWANI

Kylie Rojas poses for a picture after a tough game.

Teacher march engages East Bay



JENNY PHAM

An Oakland union leader speaks in front of supporters at the education rally on Jan. 12.

►MARCH: from page 1

unions, and since then has grown to about 20. Speakers at the rally ranged from presidents of school districts to leaders of teacher unions to politicians to students, most of whom were a product of public education and proud to be so. Throughout the two hours, the audience was showered with a multitude of messages, mission statements, demands for actions, and encouraging chants, but the overall takeaway was clear: we need to “fund the future now” and close loopholes in public education funding.

Speakers encouraged everyone to pass the Proposition 13 revision measure on the 2020 ballot that would charge

companies in the state billions of dollars more in property taxes. This would give California about \$11 billion more per year which could support education.

When asked about what anyone could do to contribute to this movement, Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi said, “Every year, we need to constantly talk to politicians who have the decision-making power to make sure that they hear our voice and they understand that in order to have a bright future for our country, for our state, we need to take care of our students. That means that we need to take care of those who are working with them day in and day out in the classroom.”

SOSPOP ready to enliven school

►SOSPOP: from page 1

replaced Days of Diversity, a similar time of school unity celebrating the diversity on campus with many guest speakers and activities. SOSPOP has since given the clubs more freedom and specialty on a topic.

Each club has something to say on this campus, making sure they get a voice to reach out to the entire school. Messages of positivity and excitement for club members and officers show that SOSPOP has been a great hit since switching over.

“We’re doing a lot of work with feminism and working with MSA. We’re having a guest speaker from a mosque which should be fun and unique since my life is so different than theirs,” said Katrina Siler, co-President of Girls Learn International.

Lunchtime activities surrounding the themes of mental health, women empowerment, basic needs, public health, and women in STEM

make SOSPOP an event for every student on campus. Activities all week long can be located in any of the gyms, off campus, and the library.

“The main goal was to kind of educate people on what it’s like to be intersectional. On Monday we had a therapy circle with the honest opinions of how it is to live life. It was really deep and a good activity,” added Siler.

“It’s so unique that it really does try and attract every single person at this school,” Boyd also explained when asked about the lunchtime activities.

“We’ve been trying to implement more activities and themes around diversity, culture, and education. So this year the themes are more focused on diversity this year. We’re trying to still keep a bridge with the Days of Diversity and SOSPOP,” concluded Santiago.

You can keep up with the latest updates and each week by following CVHS SOSPOP on Instagram.



JOSHUA LEVY

Renovations run into issues

By Joshua Levy
STAFF WRITER

The construction on campus has already become very noticeable, but there will be even more changes during the summer and throughout the 2019-2020 school year that will catch your eyes again such as the renovation of 100 hall. These changes are exciting, but unfortunately they come at a price.

Limited parking, distracting noises, and crowded barriers throughout campus are just a few of the inconveniences from the construction that is going on right now. This is hard to avoid when doing construction and it will all be worth it in the end, but when will that be?

Measure G is a plan to renovate a large amount of the CVHS campus and other schools by 2024. At CVHS, this includes renovations in the 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 and 700 halls. Along with a new health and wellness center, this plan also promises several stadium, gym, library, and system improvements.

Just by taking a look at the sites, you might see that the construction has made progress in the 400 and 500 wings but still has a ways to go. Some of the rooms in 400 hall are still completely gutted out.

Many of the obstacles that the construction company has faced has actually been out of its control. Their first major setback occurred when the ap-

►SHUTDOWN: from page 1

Congressman Eric Swalwell compared Trump’s behavior to his 19-month-old son having a tantrum.

“Any parent knows that if you give in to a toddler every time he pitches a fit, he’ll keep pitching fits to get whatever he wants,” wrote Swalwell.

Swalwell made the point that if Congress approved the wall funding, the next time Trump wants something he will have another shutdown because he knows it will be successful.

With the government now temporarily open it is unclear what will happen. The bill to end the shutdown only lasts three weeks.

proval to start construction was delayed six months. Sharon Trieu-Quince, director of facilities construction for CVUSD, also mentioned that the along with the shifting economy, the price of construction workers during the summer increases due to a higher demand. This takes time out of construction because the district has to take a step back and re-budget the project.

Another unfortunate situation that made work a lot more difficult was the recent outbreak of wildfires throughout California. Many construction workers had to put aside their current projects to go build temporary shelters for the victims, along with fixing the destruction from the fires.

Other setbacks have included companies not delivering crucial equipment on time, and workers finding new problems that surface while performing construction. One of their recent discoveries is a layer of moisture underneath the ground of 500 hall, which means that they have to take some time to figure how to move on and then do more work than they had previously expected.

All of these setbacks delay construction time, but fortunately workers haven’t let it set them back too far.

“For the 400 and 500 buildings we project that finishing in the summer and we will move classes in August,” said Trieu-Quince.

There have also been upgrades to the security cameras and the fire detection and alarm system. Other improvements include a resurfacing of the track, brand new turf, temporary classrooms and bathrooms, and LED lighting upgrades with smart energy sensors.

Measure G has gained a lot of attention, but there’s also going to be more construction soon underway on Santa Maria Avenue. This is a separate project that is being done by the Alameda County Public Works Agency, which plans to renovate the street, create new sidewalks, and add bike lines.

Workers will be working on all of Santa Maria Avenue and will try to be thoughtful of release times from school when they are close to CVHS. Beginning in February, that the construction will be completed in about 12 months.

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