

Olympian

THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL



Page 2:
Youth actions
brightened
2018



Page 5:
Holocaust
survivor
shares story



Page 7:
Trojans defeat
O'Dowd in
soccer, 2-0

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Police perform drill



JOSHUA LEVY

Officers enter a classroom with simulated weapons during an active shooter drill.

By Nikita Thomas
STAFF WRITER

What would happen if an armed intruder shot students and took hostages on campus? Law enforcement officers practiced dealing with this issue in an exercise at CVHS on Jan. 2.

In the exercise, police responded to simulated shots

fired in 100 hall. An angry young man with a simulated gun had “shot” a couple of students, leaving one apparently dead. He later stormed into a nearby classroom with a couple teachers and students. People were frightened and screamed at the sudden intruder. Just then, about a dozen officers rushed in with their simulated guns out

and “shot” the intruder. The hostages were safely escorted outside. As real as it seemed, it was only a drill.

About 25 officers from the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office and Hayward Police Department gathered for training sessions in the library, 100 hall and 200 hall.

►See **DRILL:** page 8

Swalwell discusses investigations

By Andrew Craig
STAFF WRITER

Congressman Eric Swalwell hosted a town hall meeting at Dublin High School on Dec. 1. His constituents had the opportunity to address him on a variety of issues in person.

“It’s always exciting to come back here... about a year ago, I delivered the Democratic response to President Trump on campus here, which was exciting, but now, the students here, they have a Congress that can actually address a lot of the issues that they care about,” Swalwell said.

The *Olympian* interviewed Swalwell shortly before the meeting began.

Olympian: How do you feel about the results of the mid-term elections?

Swalwell: “The American people very loudly said they want a Congress that focuses



MARA MOYSEN

Congressman Eric Swalwell gives an exclusive interview.

on... putting a balance of power on abuses of power. They want us to collaborate where we can, they also want us to investigate where Republicans weren’t willing to and that’s what they can expect to see.”

Olympian: What will your greatest legislative priority be?

Swalwell: “Mine personally is going to be to advance the Protecting Our Democracy Act... It has bipartisan support right now but never got a vote under Speaker Ryan so we hope that we can in a nonpartisan way put experts on the task

►See **SWALWELL:** page 8

Arrest made in school fire

By Katrina Siler
STAFF WRITER

A minor has been arrested on suspicion of causing the fire at CVHS on Nov. 2. Speculation was caused by questionable images caught on the school’s security cameras.

“We have made an arrest under 451 of the penal code, arson,” said Sheriff’s Deputy Josiah Mitchell.

Authorities took the suspect into custody on Nov. 14, according to Mitchell.

A few days following the fire, Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi sent out an email to CVHS parents stating that the security cameras captured images that “provided images that warranted further investigation.”

The identity of the suspected arsonist cannot be fully revealed because the suspect is a minor, according to Sheriff’s Deputy Jordan Peterson.

However, Peterson revealed that the suspect is no longer incarcerated.

The surveillance footage greatly assisted in capturing the perpetrator.

“There are surveillance cameras here on campus. If we don’t get a good image on one angle, we can always follow to see where they’re coming from. So we did that, we reviewed a lot of surveillance footage here at the school. It aided us in creating a flier that we disseminated in our department, and then the public, and we just followed lead that led us to an interview, where we had probable cause to make an arrest,” said Peterson.

Although the suspect faces a felony arson charge, it is uncertain what penalty the juvenile will receive, Peterson said.

“The suspect does not have a court date yet. We have a lot of different options. If the suspect has never been in trouble

before, and obviously it’s case-by-case basis, we could do diversion, or we could send it to the district attorney,” said Peterson.

The school district has not yet announced the progress made in the investigation.

“This is still an ongoing police investigation. Anyone responsible for these sorts of actions face appropriate consequences,” said Ahmadi.

CVHS has decided against increasing security measure, as this is not a common occurrence.

Peterson believes this was an isolated incident. “We don’t have an arsonist running rampant,” he said.

The fire took place on the night of the Cabaret concert, in which hundreds of students and parents were in attendance. Those in attendance immediately evacuated the school and the event was pushed to a later date.

The fire damaged some of the school’s electrical equipment as well as buildings, but the exact cost of reparations has not been concluded.

“We work with our insurance company to finalize cost,” Ahmadi said.

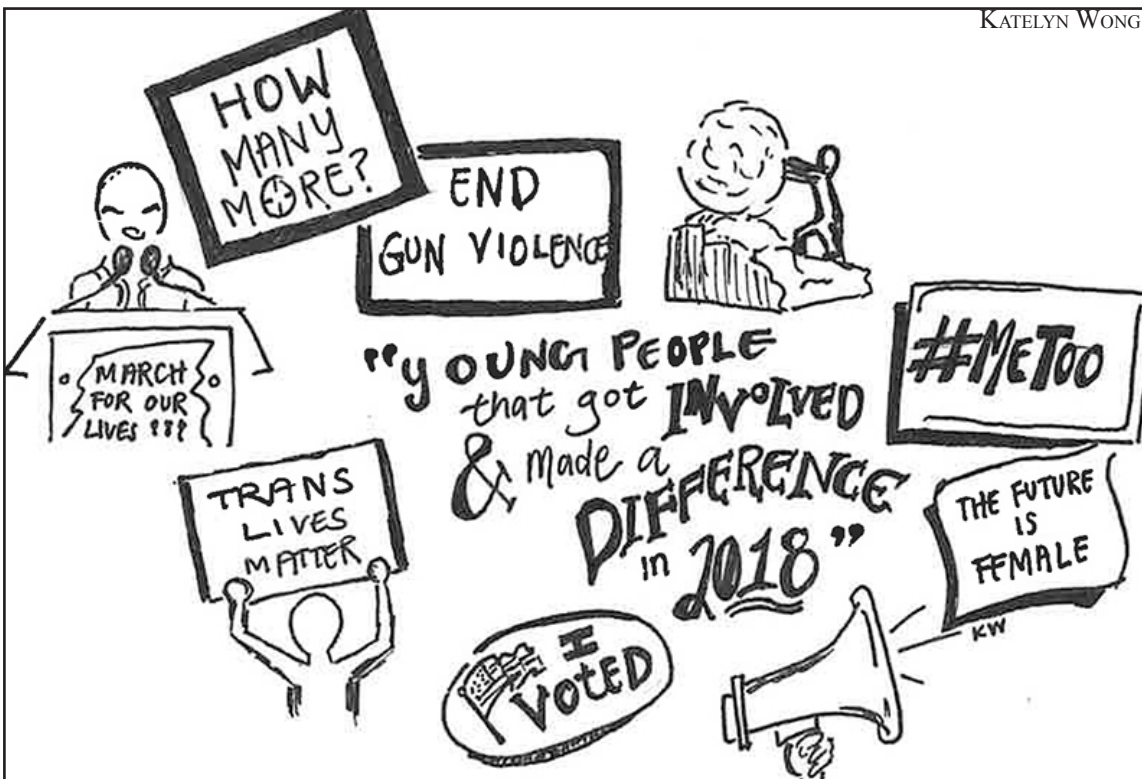
CVHS staff effectively managed the safety of those on campus that night, said Principal Blaine Torpey.

“Custodian Aaron Ackerman called 911, while Custodial Lead Vince Sly and his team had the school open and ready for the Fire Department. Assistant Principal Jacqueline Cedillos helped coordinate the response and worked to safely evacuate the cafeteria with the help of choir teacher, Laryssa Sadoway. Our Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Director Gary Krebbs worked with his entire team the night of the fire and throughout the weekend to ensure that the school was safe and ready to open Monday morning,” Torpey wrote.

Positivity uplifts the year of 2018

Editorial:

Although 2018 was mostly filled with negative news, there was still positive news that made headlines throughout the year. Young people got involved and made a difference in 2018. With all the different incidents of gun violence in schools throughout the United States, the Parkland school shooting survivors took a stand and fought for better gun control. The students' brave and unified stance earned them the International Children's Peace Prize, which was awarded by Desmond Tutu from South Africa. Parkland's activism inspired students from CVHS to follow in their footsteps and have their own protests. Students gathered in the main quad with posters to show their demands for better regulation of guns. In addition to the gun control rallies and protests at our school, CVHS students also advocated for LGBTQ rights and to end hate. There was even a "Poetry Slam," where the main message was to end hate. This stance against hate message eventually made its



way around Castro Valley, with posters against hate showing up in businesses and homes. Although most high school students cannot vote, some CVHS seniors and juniors who were already 18, had the opportunity to vote in the primary election this past November. Despite the fact that midterm elections are

nowhere near as important as the presidential election, more than 800,000 people registered to vote as part of Voter Registration Day on Sept. 25. The fact that CVHS students had the opportunity to vote allowed them to have an amazing insight into the election process. Not only

did this unique experience give these students a chance to have some say in what our government does and where their taxpayer dollars go, the opportunity to vote allowed the students to participate in a key foundation of American democracy. Young people were also involved quite heavily in

the "#MeToo" movement and joined others to voice their opposition to sexual harassment. This hashtag has been used by millions of people from famous voices such as Lady Gaga, Patricia Arquette and Katie Couric to just regular working people, students and anyone who was opposed to sexual harassment. Their stance resulted in the downfall of such famous people as Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Bill Cosby, and Larry Nassar and even resulted in the firing or resignation of several key Silicon Valley CEO's. The brave new activism shown by young people in 2018 is an example for all of us. Through gun tragedies, hate crimes, and violence against women, young people rose up and banded together to form a strong unified voice, sending a message to the American people and U.S. leaders that they will no longer be silent. 2018 has been the spark for the rise of formerly silent voices. As we move towards a new beginning in 2019, these voices will only continue to get stronger and louder and will hopefully motivate others to get involved and end their silence.

"Baby It's Cold Outside" is undeserving of negativity



By Kayla Craft-Williams
STAFF WRITER
Some radio stations have controversially banned the song "Baby It's Cold Outside,"

because of a new-found meaning of date-rape in the lyrics. The song represents a flirtatious conversation between two adults. "So really I'd better scurry" (Beautiful please don't hurry) "Well maybe just a half a drink more" (I'll put some records on while I pour) In 1944, the song was solely not intended to come out how people of 2018 are taking it. In our century nowadays,

people really reactive and take everything to heart about a lot of things. "Baby It's Cold Outside" also comes at a bad time, with a lot of women coming out about their sexual abuse and rape stories. It's a very sensitive topic around the world, and comes off too strong for people in the 21st century. In the defense of the song, it shouldn't be necessary for the radio stations to ban it completely. If there was an explanation of the song and what it was supposed to mean

and not how people are taking it now, maybe it wouldn't so bad. "Baby It's Cold Outside" has been playing for years during the holidays, and people think that banning it will take away from traditions and spirit of the season. If the people can easily change if the a song can be played, then they can change all the other songs that mean much more to a lot more people. There are thousands of songs that talk about getting a woman drunk and having

intercourse, or men doing inappropriate things to women that are very explicit. No one talks about those getting banned, or goes through extra hoops to try and see them get taken down. People are giving so much attention to this song that was made before our decade, instead of focusing on rap songs or others that talk about topics that are so much worse. "Baby It's Cold Outside" is an innocent song that doesn't deserve the attention that it's getting.

PHOTOpinions What is the most memorable thing you did in 2018?



“ I graduated from middle school. I also went to Italy for two weeks with my family. ”
Camila Sacramento
freshman



“ I went to Zion National Park over the summer and discovered lots of great sights. ”
Ryan Yee
sophomore



“ I went to Yosemite and Hawaii with friends and I scuba dived with the fish. ”
Michael Wong
junior



“ After I took my last AP test I was very happy and it was a very great time. ”
Simon Lee
senior



“ My second daughter, Estelle, was born this year. ”
David Roth-Rossi
economics teacher

Popularity goals breed classism



By **Nathanial Ortiz**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Many CVHS students have been quick to post all throughout social media promoting themselves and their friends for senior superlatives recently. Senior superlatives are phrases such as "best dressed" and "most likely to be best friends in 50 years" that describe students who excel in a certain talent or characteristic. While senior superlatives are supposed to be a fun way to recognize notable students in the senior class, they have unsurprisingly become just another struggle for popularity among the students of CVHS.

While popularity pressure at our school isn't necessarily what we see in movies or TV, there is no doubt it is there. Before this year, I naively believed that popularity pressure became nonexistent after we entered high school because I myself was unaffected by the "power," per se, of my popular peers. But, one day I heard a peer reference certain students as "popular" and another mentioning how happy she was that a certain popular student had talked to her that day.

After hearing what other students mentioned about the popular group, I realized that social structure in high school

was as strong as ever.

Senior superlatives are just one example of how popularity pressure affects us all constantly throughout our time in high school and beyond. While the specific social structures that we have been building since we started school will collapse when we walk these hallowed halls for our last time, they will leave us trained perfectly to embrace the classism we will experience in the real world.

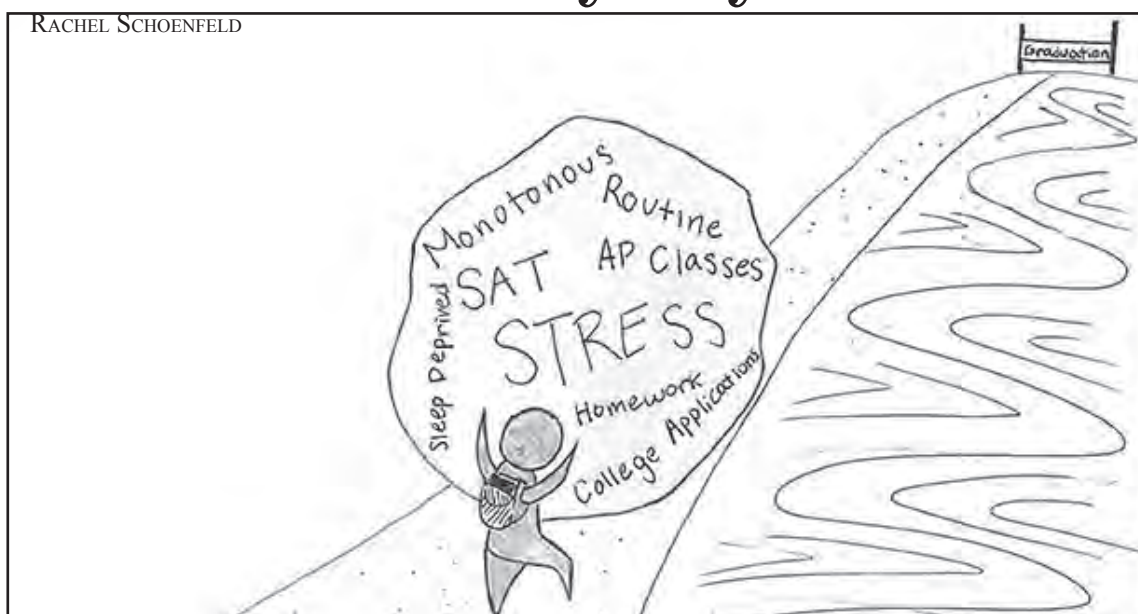
The basic principles that create social classes in the real world, such as income and social network, are some of the same factors that make up popularity. Students who come from more affluent families are able to go out more and host parties, making them able to make more friends, and students who come from established families within Castro Valley or within other ethnic, religious, or other communities have built-in connections from parents and siblings' friends.

When students go out and experience the social structures of the real world, they will subconsciously already submit to the preexisting conditions set in place by social classes. They will be ready to appease the needs of those who have more money and greater connections and will themselves contribute to the system.

The significance behind senior superlatives is so much more than just the superlatives themselves. Superlatives aren't what has to be changed; it is the culture of school popularity that does. We as students need to stop observing school popularity in order to break the cycle of valuing other people for their perceived social status.

The myth of Sisyphus embodies the anxiety of youth

RACHEL SCHOENFELD



By **Ria Panjwani**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Feet brace the ground, as biceps struggle to move even an inch of the solid earth before you. You grit your teeth and push with all your might, and slowly but surely you begin to inch up the hill. But as you reach the top, thinking it apt to take a break, you watch in horror as the boulder plunges downward. Your heart sinks as you realize the only way forward is to bring the boulder back up again.

Though it seems like I am relaying the fate of Sisyphus as described in "The Myth of Sisyphus," I am more aptly describing the plight of high school seniors as they near the top of the hill again.

Our lives as students of the American education system has been consistently filled with the mundane task of pushing a boulder up a mountain. Elementary school, middle school, high school are full of all boulders we've pushed. But this time is different. This time, the boulder won't fall

down the same path. The 13 years of our primary education has created a routine for us, a consistent system some of us have learned to deal with.

"The Myth of Sisyphus" details Sisyphus' eternal torture in the underworld, pushing a boulder up a mountain, only to watch it fall each and every time. Through this damnation, Sisyphus is described to find joy, despite knowing his eternal fate.

You could say we are the same: we find joy despite knowing we are constantly pushing a boulder up a mountain. Now I don't exactly mean to equate our education system with futile and menacing physical labor, but I do find similarities in the mundane tendencies of both. Through this tireless routine, we have found our joys.

The boulder has fallen before, but this time it feels different. I don't know what I'm supposed to be pushing. The consistent path is fading, and for once, I have the privilege (and disadvantage)

of choosing my own path. And yes maybe I am just an obnoxiously dramatic teen who pays a little too much attention in English class, but I've been doing a lot of big question thinking lately; pondering the meaning of life, the purpose of my existence, you know, the easy stuff. Maybe I am overthinking everything, but it is through this myth that I face my own reality.

So if I can find any sincerity in this scam of relaying a life's worth and esteem in one crafty, convincing, unique, original, intelligent 250 word essay judged by a person I will never meet, it is this: your truth is waiting to be spoken and only you can tell it. You will never stop pushing up boulders, even in pursuit of freedom from routine. So the sooner you can learn to find simple joys, the better.

I couldn't have put it better than TLC in the hit song Waterfalls: "Don't go chasing waterfalls, please stick to the rivers and the lakes that you're used to."

Text tax bills fails to pass



By **Brittany Bin**
STAFF WRITER

Some California regulators pushed to impose a tax on text messages. This tax money would have gone to programs such as 911 services, phone services for low-income families, and more equipment for people with disabilities. However, this tax proposal was shut down.

The tax wouldn't have been per text message, it would have been a monthly fee. Commissioner Carla J. Peterman had written a 52-page proposal and

the commission voted on Jan. 10, 2019. Without a doubt, the majority of the commission voted against the bill.

The proposal faced a lot of opposition and doubt. The Federal Communication Commission has classified text messages as an "information service." The Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association claimed that if texting is "information service" then the commission had no right to put a tax on them, because they didn't have authority over it.

California regulators claimed that this money will go back to the citizens, but how exactly is that going to happen? If the commission claims to give the money back to low income families, then why were they trying to tax them? If you tax everyone, they will lose money which wouldn't help the poor.

This proposal, if imposed, would also create inequality among messaging applications. If carriers tax phone-users on their messages then there

would have been an increase in use of other messaging services such as Skype, Snapchat, and Whatsapp. The tax would have incentivized people to stop using text messages. This would make all of the positive effects on the proposal ineffective.

The proposed tax was less than seven percent. If your monthly phone bill is \$50 it would have been \$53.50 with the tax.

One thing we should take into account is that the commission says money needs to come from somewhere. If it's not from our text messages, then it may be from our voice calling services. However, I don't understand why California needs this extra money. The state already has programs to fund 911 and low income family phone services.

The potential taxing of text messages is being highly opposed and may even be against federal law if the texts are considered an "information service."

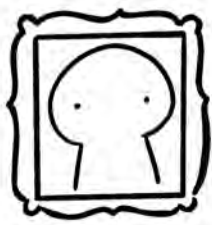


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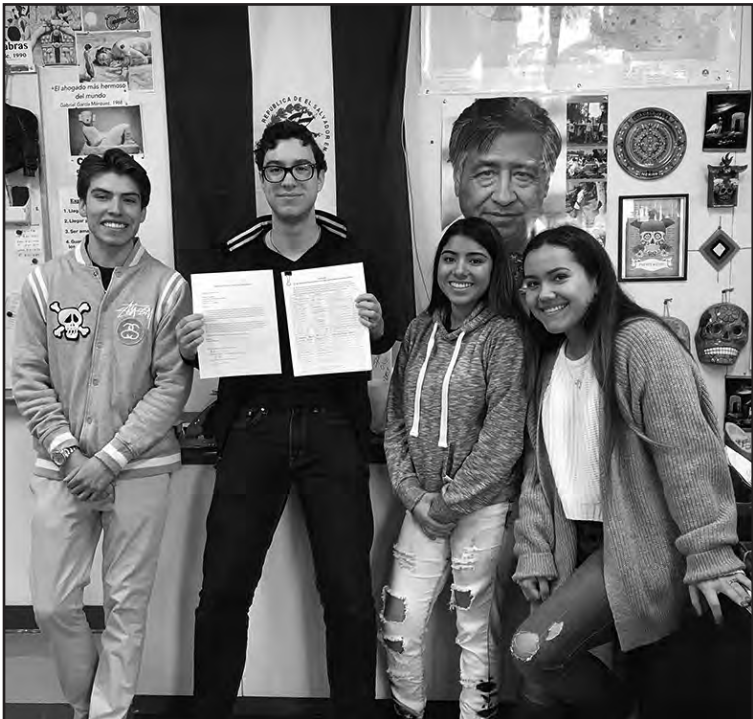
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No school on Cesar Chavez Day



TALAYA FRANCOIS

Officers of Latinos Unidos pose with their official confirmation of their proposal for Cesar Chavez Day to be a CVUSD service day.

By Talaya Francois
STAFF WRITER

Dealing with mixed feelings of excitement and nervousness, last year the Latinos Unidos Vice President Juan Paz Ramirez and President Andres Gonzales attended the Castro Valley Unified School District's (CVUSD) office to present an idea along with 1,000 signatures to support it. Cesar Chavez Day should be a service day for Castro Valley, they proposed.

"He's a hero of this nation, he deserves his day. I think it's only right to have a day of service to honor him for his great achievement," said senior Ramirez.

His achievements are stacked high. Political activist Chavez

workers' rights: labor codes, protections, benefits, and increased pay. However, it may surprise you to know that Chavez's activism didn't stop there.

Chavez served in the US Navy after WWII, supported gay rights in the early 1970s when it was extremely unpopular, and condemned the Vietnam War in the 1960s. It isn't a question whether Chavez deserves to have a service day or not.

What is impressive is the immense effort members of the Latinos Unidos club put forward to collect 1,000 signatures by reaching out boldly into the community.

"It was almost like a competition to see who could collect the most. Students went as far as knocking on doors and asking neighbors," said teacher Antonio Acosta.

Even more impressive is the fact that the club accomplished this in the span of only one week.

Students of CVUSD will have no class on April 1, though employees will have a staff development day.

Although it's nice to have a day off from school, it should be spent in a meaningful way, such as giving back to the community.

"We didn't just get that day off for nothing," said Ramirez. "We should use the day for service."

An update on dual enrollment

By Jeanette Wallis
STAFF WRITER

Students taking dual enrollment class are now finishing up their first semester. Dual enrollment allows high school students to take a Chabot College class twice a week at the Castro Valley Adult School after school on Mondays and Wednesdays.

"Dual enrollment has been great!" said junior Addie Bukhari. "As someone whose passionate about sociology and politics, I feel like I've learned a lot about America and race relations throughout history and today."

"Students get the benefit of experiencing a college class in a supported way, get college

credit at almost no cost, and can get elective credit towards their high school diploma if needed," counselor Allison Zuckerbrow added.

The class is offered to those in grades 10 to 12, with priority given to juniors and seniors. This past fall semester, the class focused on "Ethnic Studies," but in the spring the topic will switch to "Principles of Sociology."

CVHS staff members determine which subjects will be taught in future semesters by asking students to complete a survey. They then work with Chabot College to decide which class to offer based on the availability of Chabot faculty.

"My favorite thing is our discussions after we watch a

documentary or have a lecture," said Bukhari, "They get heated—which is my favorite because it gets a good conversation started."

"I think every student should try to take this class because we talk about things you wouldn't talk about in your English or government class," Alfredo Zuniga said.

The new semester starts on Jan. 22 and ends in late May. The priority deadline to register was Dec. 12 but those interested can still turn in late applications until Jan. 11.

"I would definitely recommend this class. The professor is amazing, and it's an eye opening course to take. I'd definitely enroll next semester!" Bukhari said.

Drama department impacts students



ELENA LOTTICH

"The Crucible" was of the many theater program's terrific live performances.

By Elena Lottich
STAFF WRITER

A heartfelt glance of love, a scream of a tragedy, a monologue of inspiration all grace the stage at the Center for the Arts. The CVHS Drama Department features around 160 stars in the theatrical productions throughout the year.

The theater has been making a large impact on many CVHS students for several impactful years.

"Before I started performing, I was painfully shy. I hate meeting new people and I couldn't stand public speaking. But after I've joined the theater program, that has completely turned around. Theater brings out the best in me and I feel so much more confident in myself. I am thankful for all I've learned and all I continue to learn from this incredible art form," said senior Gigi Bjork-Nelson.

The department is widely known throughout the community for its terrific on-stage, live performances of plays and musicals such as "Guys and Dolls" and "The Crucible." Actors are able to prepare in class, run lines, and attend workshops and even field trips to watch

shows or musicals.

"I learned how to lie for a living, and hopefully I get to do it for the rest of my life," said junior Mia Way.

The drama program has impacted the lives of so many young actors. Students in the drama program are exposed to many job opportunities, extra auditions, and chances to see shows all around the Bay Area. Going to see the famous play "Dear Evan Hansen" and a large field trip to Ashland, Oregon have been some of the highlights thus far in the year. They are able to go and see many shows that theater teachers David Judson and Tiffany Daily hope will connect students' passions to a career.

Judson, who has worked with the program for 15 years, and Daily, who has worked 24 years, have been instructing the young CVHS actors and coordinating the three levels of theater classes offered.

"We have one of the biggest drama programs in the state. We are one of the more decorated programs competing in social competitions against 2,000 other young actors. Our program is outstanding because of the great kids we have who

are able to win medals in these competitions that are judged by professional directors," said Judson.

"Most high schools usually only have two to three but we have the full slate. We're very lucky that the program is successful. Our success is dependent on ticket sales that bring in new shows. We're trusted by high organization to test out shows with our cast and work with the newest technology on stage," added Judson when asked how our CVHS drama program stands out.

The program has even produced some great actors who've been in the spotlight on further national tours and shows. Students who participate in the shows after school put in long grueling hours of rehearsal and run throws. Even during tech-week, a week of dress rehearsals before opening night, students practice up to 5 hours a day.

Overall, the department never fails to put on a good show. It is clearly filled with dedicated and passionate students that are here to put in work. They are producing wonderful productions with great student actors, never coming up short on excellence.



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Writer considers book deal



TIFFANY HO

Inspired by a dream that her brother had, Ikekhide started writing her soon-to-be-published novel at the age of 14.

Claire Ikekhide is up-and-coming author

By Tiffany Ho
STAFF WRITER

For many people, writing is an unpleasant task that is only done for school. Even the thought of having to write at all is burdensome to some, but for junior Claire Ikekhide writing is a passion and a hobby.

“I’ve always loved to write,” said Ikekhide.

Ikekhide is an up-and-coming author who will publish a book soon. She began writing her novel when she was 14 after being inspired by a dream her brother had.

Her book, “The Girl They Forgot to Take,” is a coming-of-age story that shows the struggles the protagonist faces internally and externally with herself. The protagonist wakes up one day to discover that everyone around her is gone and tries to find clues to reunite with her family again. Throughout the book, she learns to stay true to herself and to choose between difficult decisions.

Shannon Messenger, the New York Times bestselling author of “The Sky Fall Trilogy” and the “Keeper of Lost Cities” series, is one of the authors

Ikekhide admires and feels inspired by.

“Something I used to struggle with before reading her books was trying to make my characters two-dimensional so they have depth to them,” said Ikekhide.

Through reading her books, Ikekhide was able to create characters with personality and quirks making them more relatable to readers.

For many writers, getting published is one of the biggest struggles they could face. Many authors face multiple rejections before being accepted by a publishing company that is right for them.

Ikekhide’s uncle encouraged her to send samples of her story out to different companies to see if any of them would be interested in publishing her story. After four months, her efforts paid off.

“I got an email two months ago from a man who works with the agency saying they would like to meet to discuss the process of publishing the book,” said Ikekhide.

The publishing company, Xlibris, was interested in her novel and reached out to her.

“I felt fortunate because a lot of people wait a while before they can get published,” said Ikekhide.

In early January or late February, Ikekhide will fly to New York to further discuss the future of her novel.



EVAN SIM

Kyle Abilar (left) and Hayate Moro (right) are determined to advance to the next round.

Successful ping-pong tournament

By Evan Sim
STAFF WRITER

Although the CVHS ping-pong tournament is an annual event, it is always sure to yield some very intense matches between students from every grade level. All they need to bring is their skill and determination to win.

The tournament took place from Dec. 10 to Dec. 14, the latter being the day of the finals. A total of 20 teams participated, but only one team reigned victorious.

During the semifinals on Dec. 13, team Wu Tang Clan, which consisted of seniors Kyle Bales and Jack Clemente, defeated team Egyptian Takeover, and team Da Duasians, which con-

sisted of seniors Kyle Abilar and Hayate Moro, defeated team Everest.

The finals took place the following day on Dec. 14, in which Wu Tang Clan faced Da Duasians.

The game ran 3 matches, with Wu Tang Clan winning the first match, and Da Duasians winning the second. The teams played to 23 points in each match.

Throughout the final match, it seemed that Wu Tang Clan was making a comeback during the initial 15 points. However, Da Duasians eventually caught up; the score was 21-22, with Da Duasians needing only one more point in order to win the game.

Due to a misserve by Wu Tang Clan, the match point was given to Da Duasians, who were crowned the victors.

“The odds were so even,” said Bales of Wu Tang Clan when asked his opinion on the game overall. “Me and Jack versus Hayate and Kyle was a good match of different techniques and it could’ve ended in many different ways, but, unfortunately, it was due to me choking.”

The game was extremely close, but only one team could win. Following the game, Da Duasians rejoiced in their victory, and Wu Tang Clan congratulated them. With this, the 2018 CVHS ping-pong tournament came to an end.

Survivor tells of Holocaust and life



RACHEL SCHOENFELD

Holocaust survivor George Elbaum shares his story to encourage students to treat others better.

By Marin Ruiz
STAFF WRITER

CVHS students had the chance to view a special presentation from George Elbaum on Dec. 12. Elbaum is a Holocaust survivor who escaped Poland, moved to the U.S., became a aeronautical engineer at MIT, and represented American firms in the Soviet Union.

Elbaum is part of a program called Facing History and Ourselves and travels around the world sharing his story in-person to youth. Our generation will be the last one that will have the ability to meet survivors like Elbaum.

Elbaum was one year old when war broke out in Warsaw, Poland in 1939. He and his mother were the only two out of the 12 people in his family to survive the Holocaust. During the war, his mother

got a job and was able to pay for Catholic Poles to take care of her son whom she was only able to see about once every two months. After the war, he and his mother had lived in Poland but he had ended up moving to Paris because Warsaw was still dangerous.

“I give my survival to pure luck and the intelligence of my mother. She was so clever and did everything in her power to keep me alive and I was one of the very lucky few who avoided death,” said Elbaum.

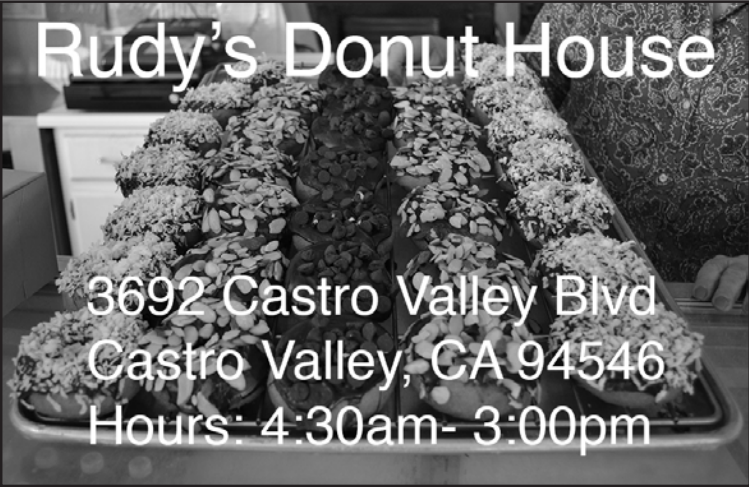
In 1949, Elbaum and his mother came to the United States to start their new life. Within a year, Elbaum was fluent in English. In high school he had only applied to one college, MIT, and was accepted. From then on, he didn’t talk about his childhood until about 2009 when he understood the

importance of his story.

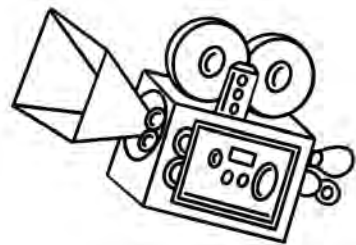
“I kept an emotional distance from the Holocaust. I saw what it had done to my mom. She was a very smart woman, very successful in business but she was haunted until her dying day and I had never wanted that to happen to me,” explained Elbaum. “It wasn’t until a few years ago that I truly realized that my story has value that can be used to educate.”

Elbaum’s story is one that is truly unique and something that students are always going to remember. He is someone who started life from nothing, living in absolute fear of death every day, to someone who became extremely successful and pursued his dreams in spite of the past. He hopes his story will encourage students to be all around nicer people and give the world a much different look.

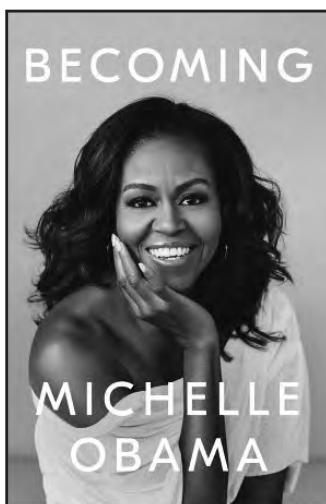
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“Becoming” makes an impact



By Myla Ogle
STAFF WRITER

“Becoming” is a powerful and inspiring book written by the former first lady of the United States, Michelle Obama. While in this position, she continually established herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and also around the world. Obama significantly influenced her family and stood with her husband as he was in his presidency. Obama explains the tough racial obstacles she had to go through and how she overcame them, which was deeply inspiring.

Although at first glance Obama seems invincible, in this book she writes about the truth behind her appearances on camera and on television.

“Your story is what you have. It is something to own,” said Obama.

This book is a memoir that

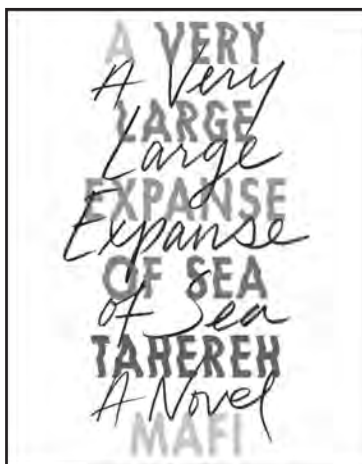
reflects on Obama’s entire world. This literary work explains the experiences that have shaped her life. Starting off in the South Side of Chicago, Obama explains her early overachieving childhood to dealing with the struggles of being an African American woman, growing her own family, and her years as a powerful political figure in the White House.

Obama writes about how she had to balance motherhood, work, and her time spent in the White House. Obama goes through her book telling her full life story truthfully. “Becoming” is an exact example of an empowering personal story.

“Becoming” was surprising to read because it showed Obama’s hidden fears and aggravations. As you read the memoir, it is clear that Obama often felt suffocated. In this book, Obama admits the times she felt moments of doubt and regret. Although the main content of the story regards her own life, she also expresses her love for her successful husband and how proud she is of him. In “Becoming,” Obama writes as if she can finally release herself from these fears she faced and live her life open and freely.

This is a great book for those who would enjoy reading Obama’s life journey filled with inspiration, honesty, and empowerment. “If there is one thing I’ve learned in life, it’s the power of using your voice,” wrote Obama.

Prejudice and the path of love



By Kimia Emadi
STAFF WRITER

New York Times best-selling author Tahereh Mafi delivers a shockingly personal account of high school as a Middle Eastern teen in her newest book “A Very Large Expanse of Sea,” closely based off of her own experiences.

The novel exceeds expectations, as Mafi’s previous works in the realms of fantasy and dystopian fiction had been critiqued as too cliché and overly similar to other young adult novels of the time.

Whether or not these reviews were true, Mafi’s newest work is anything but unoriginal. It

perfectly reflects the struggle between identity and safety, complete with cute boyfriends and breakdancing crews.

In the novel, sixteen year old Shirin finds herself in another small town after spending her entire life moving from one place to another, encountering the ugliest parts of America along the way, like the intense racism and xenophobia that pervades our country.

Yet it isn’t another tragedy, but a celebration of strength that pushes the story forward. Shirin had always isolated herself, denying anyone entrance into her life for fear of being vulnerable; or worse, that her status as a second-class citizen would hurt the people she came to love.

This isn’t without reason, though. As the school grows increasingly uncomfortable with her existence as a blip in their carefully crafted reality, the harassment escalates to the point where even school staff become violent.

This is the dilemma she is faced with when Ocean, a strangely named but undeniably adorable classmate, finds his way into Shirin’s heart. She’s left with two

options: stay with Ocean and put him in danger from the people targeting her or continue to keep herself separate from those she cares about.

As she lets Ocean into her life, Shirin slowly begins to truly connect with others in a way she had never allowed herself to before.

While the plot may seem melodramatic, it is executed with heartbreaking honesty. The reader is enveloped in the story so completely that none of it seems out of place.

This rings especially true for brown students who have had firsthand experience with balancing race and safety.

Dealing with racists continues to be a simple fact of life for people of color, but it is the uncompromising determination to let ourselves love and be loved that makes it possible to stay afloat.

Mafi delivered a truly powerful novel without sacrificing the awkwardness of high school romance or the pain of feeling alien. “A Very Large Expanse of Sea” is a must-read, not only for Muslim teens but for anyone who has ever felt the need to be accepted.

The new movie for the holidays

By Natalie Costello
STAFF WRITER

The Netflix movie “The Princess Switch” starring Vanessa Hudgens is the perfect movie to watch this holiday season. It calls for attention to issues occurring in the world currently but also holds the typical Christmas movie feel.

The star Stacy DeNovo, a baker from Chicago, goes to the Kingdom of Belgravia to participate in a baking competition along with her friend Kevin and his daughter Olivia.

While preparing for the competition, she runs into Lady Margaret Duchess on Montenegro who then discovers they look identical. Margaret then invites Stacy to the palace and asks if they could trade places for a few days.

Being a duchess of a kingdom, Margaret hasn’t had the normal experiences, so Stacy agrees. The two then switch spots and spend a couple of days in different lives. When they reunite, they discover that they do indeed want to switch

places and so they do. Lady Margaret ends up with Stacy’s friend Kevin while Stacy goes to marry the king.

When Stacy spends time with the king she makes him aware of many issues that he has been shielded from. They visit an orphanage where none of the children get gifts on Christmas so Stacy insists they go to get gifts. This was just one of the many issues the film gave attention to.

Watching this movie, one would assume it would just be a sappy Christmas movie, but it is so much more than that. This is a story of discovering family, finding love and growing not only as individuals but together as pairs. This movie was absolutely incredible and I would recommend it to anyone especially those who enjoyed Hudgens in the “High School Musical” series.

Overall, I would rate this movie five stars out of five. The film is a feel good movie that can be enjoyed throughout the year with family and friends.

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Trojans slay O'Dowd Dragons, 2-0

Boys celebrate first win against rival in eight years

By Milagros Aquino
BUSINESS MANAGER

The Trojans boys varsity soccer team won their first game against Bishop O'Dowd for the first time in about eight years on Jan. 8.

The game stayed tied through halftime until CVHS got a penalty kick in the second half changing the score so that Trojans were ahead by one.

This caused the energy in the field to completely change and create a better environment. The penalty kick was made by senior Dimitri Vanich who plays the position of striker.

"It felt pretty good, it was also against my old high school because I'm a transfer student from O'Dowd so it felt good to beat my old friends," said Vanich.

Later in the second half, another goal ended up being made by

junior Kareem Elshobakey. After that there were no more goals made, meaning that Trojans had won their first win over the Dragons in many years.

"A big part of our win was just being able to move the ball around at our own pace and not trying to play their game and we played our game, our own style of play we played to the best of our ability, followed the coaches instructions and we came out with the win," said senior Payton Morgan.

Although Trojans ended up with the win, there were many injuries that happened that could affect future games but the number one goal is to have no injuries or prevent as many as the team can. Such as a player getting hit in the face and few others previously hurt in other games. But they are very proud of their well-deserved win.



MILAGROS AQUINO

Ramon de la Cruz (right) controls the ball to drive it past his opponent and down the field.

"Highlights of the game where the communication between players, the confidence of the players, the way they approached

the game, the way they came onto the field with high confidence that was huge and of course getting on the board and making sure that we

stayed on track countering every one of their attacks," said varsity boys soccer coach Dario Fabian.

Athletes of the Month

Green Giant leads on and off court

By Layne Johnson
COPY EDITOR

When describing Devin Green, people know him as a tall and friendly guy who is a leader on and off the court.

"Devin has a good mindset and has a good presence on the court," said teammate Joseph Elliot.

He is involved in the leadership class, a member of DECA, and BSU. Green is an all around athlete playing volleyball as well as basketball. Green is also on the District Student Leadership Alliance.

Going down his father's

path, 6-foot-3-inch junior Green dominates on the basketball court as a center and a forward. Green's passion for basketball started when he was in elementary school.

"My dad played basketball throughout his life and I used to watch film that my grandfather would record of my dad playing and that got me really interested in basketball," said Green.

Every athlete has a different start with different motivations. Green started at a young age and has been playing basketball ever since.

"I started playing basketball when I was in first grade. My dad

coached a team with me and my friends. It was a lot of fun, that's how I really started playing," said Green.

So far the Trojans have been doing very well this season, with a 3-3 record, and have a lot of potential. Green expressed excitement about many upcoming games.

"I am most excited for playing in our big games against O'Dowd and Moreau. Hopefully our team does really well. We are all really looking forward to the season. We are hoping that we do better than last year," said Green.



HAYATE MORO

Devin Green takes a free throw to get another point for his team.



MARA MOYSEN

Sydney Burnama practices to perfect her three-pointers.

Burnama: "hard working, unselfish"

By Mara Moysen
VIDEO EDITOR

"I was super girly when I was younger. I didn't even find myself even going near basketball; I thought I'd be a cheerleader," Sydney Burnama recalled.

Starting at the age of eight, Burnama was trained to play basketball by her father, who wanted her to follow in sister's footsteps. She quickly learned to love the game.

Burnama is currently a senior on the girls varsity basketball team. She was chosen to be the first co-captain by her teammates and is a point guard on the court.

"I love how competitive everyone gets in it. Basketball is just a sport that you love when you're on the court. It's like an unexplainable feeling," said Burnama.

She admires how hard her teammates have worked to earn their spot on the team and how hard they continue to work at practice.

"Sydney is a hard working, unselfish player who is very supportive of her teammates. She keeps a positive attitude and cheers for us when we make a good play. She's a great captain, player, and teammate," said teammate Olivia Gilman-Chun.

On the court, Burnama's strengths lie as a defensive player so she

always makes sure to pass the ball to her teammates and let them score. In 2018, Burnama won the Best Defensive Player Award.

Off the court, she likes to do art in her free time, such as sketching and painting, as well as playing the piano.

Aside from basketball, Burnama also plays volleyball. "I plan on continuing volleyball [in college], but I still will always have a love for basketball and I'm definitely planning on playing intramural," she said.

In the future, she wants to become an occupational therapist to help people recover mentally and physically.

Police drill involves students

► **DRILL:** from page 1

The young man who had pretended to be the active shooter was a junior cadet along with the other cadets and high school Explorers who had volunteered to play other roles such as hostages in this simulation. Many kids were volunteer actors from CVHS.

The purpose of this whole drill for officers to practice responding in case of a real active shooter.

Sgt. Keith Lydon gave a lecture about some first aid tips and what to do if someone is shot. He went into detail about tourniquets and many other first aid information such as occlusive dressing and hemostatic agents. An important acronym he kept on pointing out to officers was "SMACE," which stood for "Stop the Threat, Major Blood Loss, Airway, Chest, Evacuate." Lydon's main objective is to make sure people are safe.

"This is the second phase of the active shooter response by law enforcement in terms of organizing rescue efforts to help those that have suffered any sort of injury and efficiently get them treatment as

soon as possible to minimize any loss of life," said Lydon.

Another training session was conducted by Detective Marcus Cox, who happens to be a CVHS graduate. He gave a session about "breaching," or breaking through doors. In case of a shooter, the first step is to get into the room with the threat.

"If we have a critical incident or somebody needs help inside, we have to be able to get in to those doors. We can't help you if we can't get in," he said.

Although this was just a drill, officers and volunteers made it as real as possible.

"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," said junior Arya Emadi, who volunteered to be one of the students in the classroom.

In the case of an actual emergency, Cox advised people to do act quickly to protect themselves. "Run, get out of there, hide. If you have no other options, then as a last resort you may actually have to fight," he said.



JOSHUA LEVY

Officers help a student actor who participated in the drill as a victim, while continuing to look for the participant playing the intruder.

Trojan Time changes coming

By Nikita Thomas

STAFF WRITER

As first semester Trojan Time has come to an end, students and teachers have been wondering about what exactly will be taking place in second semester. One thing is for sure though, no more lessons on "how to be a good student." Students won't have to be with their third period classes every time anymore.

During second semester, students may be able to spend Trojan Time at the class of their choice. The only requirement is that students need to choose their current teachers. They will have access to a website where they can select. In addition, teachers will also be able to choose which student they want. For example, if a student needs to make up or redo a test, the teacher

will pick the student's name which will require the student to go to that teacher.

The adjusted Trojan Time is meant to help students who are struggling and give them a bit of a break to catch up on the class they are struggling in the most. It can also just give students a break from their stressful classes and can use the time to read a book or just freshen up. English teacher Trenton Logan is working with Spanish teacher Candice Tigerman to prepare the website that students and teachers will be using.

Teachers will be using a new website called "TeachMore." TeachMore was founded by two high school teachers who wanted to be able to be more involved in flex times and tutorials. This website will allow them to track and help students in a more advanced and efficient way. They will be able to organize and set up an appointment during tutorial time, in this case, Trojan Time, and then keep track of those appointments.

Students will create a TeachMore account and through the account, they will be able to pick any of their current teachers. Teachers will also be able to

book an appointment with a student and they will be able to keep track of all their appointments on the website.

As students walk into the classroom during Trojan Time, teachers will use a scanner that is connected

“It should be really great and a lot better than last semester”

Trenton Logan

English teacher

to their computer to scan each student's I.D. card to confirm that they are in the right class.

Many school districts in the Bay Area have been benefiting from this new website. These school districts include San Jose, Fremont, Palo Alto, San Mateo, Acalanes, Sequoia, and East Side.

"It should be really great and a lot better than last semester," said Logan.

Swalwell talks presidency

► **SWALWELL:** from page 1
of looking at what happened, how we can prevent it from happening again, and securing our democracy."

Olympian: What investigation would you like to tackle first, and who would you like to subpoena first?

Swalwell: "I'd like to focus on the Russia investigation and fill in the gaps where we can, to bring in to the Judiciary Committee Acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker, to understand if he's going to allow the Russia investigation under Special Counsel Mueller to continue, but I also want to look at where the President has cashed in on access to the Oval Office, by getting hold of his tax returns, looking at whether his financial interests are driving domestic and foreign policy, and intervening where we can, to protect the American worker."

Olympian: What do you believe are our options for improving voting, in terms of reliability, technology, and access?

Swalwell: "I would like to see us have online voting, on your mobile device. I know after the Russian attack, people sometimes suggest we should dip our

thumbs in ink and go back in time. I think we should see this as an opportunity to convene the best and brightest minds in digital security and come up with a way for us to [vote online]... make it more accessible, and get rid of a lot of the suppression that we've seen.

Olympian: If you were to run for president, what would be your plan to unite us as a country?

Swalwell: "Most of my life, whether it's passing dessert at the Thanksgiving table or just seeing my in-laws, has meant talking to and working with Republicans; I passed bills as a minority member in Congress and got them signed by the President, because I had relationships with Republicans. This President has challenged all of us, but this country is going to need to heal. I think the next president is going to have to unite us. One way that I see that would be to put forward consensus items that Republicans and Democrats believe... I think the next president should put Republicans in the cabinet and show the American people that we're going heal and climb out of this together. If I ran, and was elected, that's something I'd do."

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