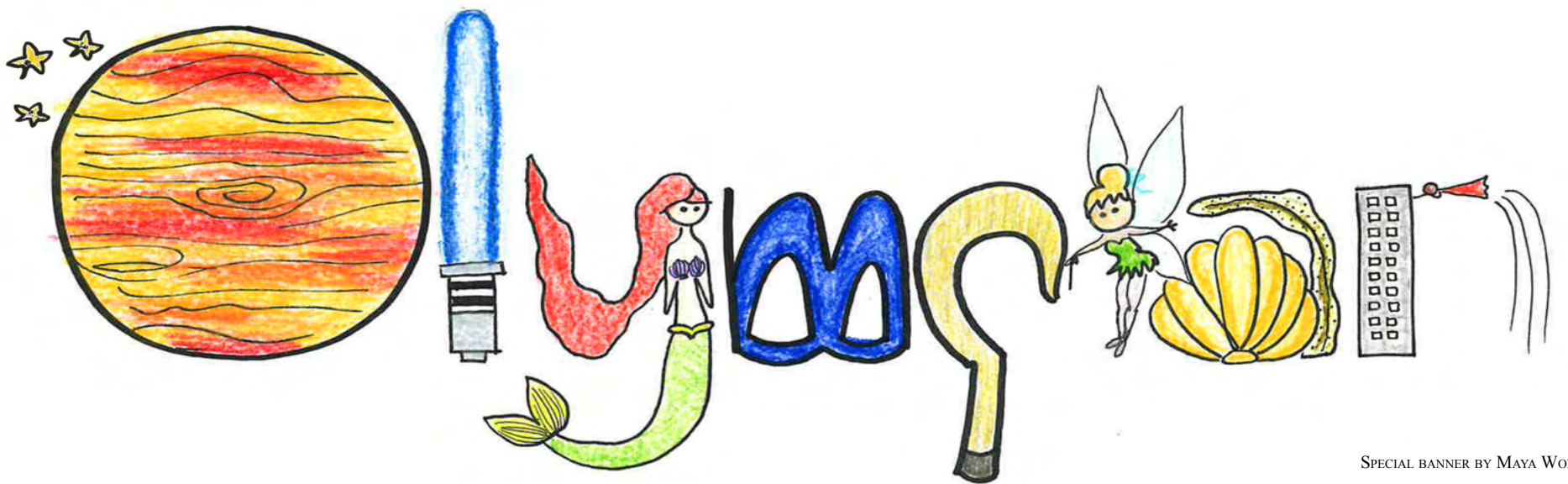


Special Homecoming Edition



SPECIAL BANNER BY MAYA WONG

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 2

NOV. 12, 2021

WEAREBORNTOSEEKTHE TRUTH!

WWW.CVHSOLYMPIAN.COM

Super Seniors Score Second



MAYA WONG



ANDREW HUI



JESSICA TRUONG



OLIVE DOOLEY



MAYA WONG



OLIVE DOOLEY



OLIVE DOOLEY



MELISSA BOUSSAROQUE

Seniors soared into Homecoming, their teamwork as tight as their neon spandex. Unfortunately, their capes and mighty powers did not carry them to victory, landing in second place. The defeat did not deter their spirit, and they tackle their final year with superhuman zeal.



MAYA WONG



THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL Olympian

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 2

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CVHS students march against sexual assault on Oct. 21.

ZOE DORADO

Protesting sexual assault

By Zoe Dorado

More than 100 students dressed in bright red and teal marched through the CVHS campus in support of survivors of sexual assault on Oct. 21. The marchers hope to spark action on the issue by both students and school staff.

The Women of Color for Change Club (WOCC) organized the demonstration.

"We initially organized this protest after Trojan Time at the beginning of our school year," said club member Bibiana Lazares. "Admin had said nothing about the actual rules of the dress code only, 'Please do not intentionally dress to provoke others.' From there we really opened a discussion on how that kind of language promotes victim blaming and how unsafe people really feel at school knowing their reports might be swept under the rug."

The group wants CVHS to:

1. Prioritize our safety as students and take our reports seriously.

2. Acknowledge the seriousness of sexual assault and take action when reports are received.

3. Make better efforts at explaining and enforcing the 'Zero-Tolerance Policy.'

Principal Blaine Torpey responded to the event with this statement: "We take sexual assaults very seriously. Our most important responsibility is to protect students and ensure that they are safe and feel safe. There are strict procedures and steps required under federal and state law that we must follow when it comes to any allegations of sexual

misconduct."

The CVHS student handbook prohibits sexual assault and notes a

"No one deserves to feel unsafe at school"

Bibiana Lazares
WOCC member

five-day suspension, police report and expulsion recommendation as consequences. There is not, however, any mention of a "Zero-Tolerance Policy."

"It's pretty well known amongst the student body that there have been some recent sexual assault instances and many people, including the victims, felt as though it was not being dealt with or did not feel supported by the administration as well as a good amount of their peers," said WOCC's President Aiana Pillay.

Lazares agrees. "No one deserves to feel unsafe at school," she said. "I know the sinking feeling in your stomach and the nauseating memories that you have to relive when you see your abuser."

Demonstrators remember how spectators had acted at the protest.

"During the demonstration, I was surprised that some students were making fun of the ones that were protesting, and many people don't take this issue as seriously as they should," said

participant Sofia Palau.

Lazares recalls a moment she circles back to: "I remember walking through the basketball courts and hearing someone say, 'Why is it only women?' I know they were clearly trying to make fun of us, but I think about that a lot. I feel like it says a lot about the conversation surrounding sexual assault and rape culture at CVHS. It is uncomfortable and hard to acknowledge that most victims of sexual assault are women, but I know there are more male victims than we think."

Brady Hogan, one of the few boys participating, explained why he felt it was necessary to be part of this protest. "At the end of the day we're all human," Hogan said. "[Sexual assault] is a problem everyone should be concerned about."

Although the event criticized CVHS administration, Torpey expressed support for the protestors and their goals.

"The organizers and participants demonstrated the power of students setting the expectations for all of us. Students reinforced how important the topic of sexual assault is. It was moving and impactful. Students showed how to respectfully share their concerns about a very important issue," Torpey said.

Lazares remembers a particular moment she had after the event: "Someone stopped me on my way to math class. She told me she was a victim herself and how much it meant to her. In that moment, it all became real. I didn't care after that, people could say what they wanted to. If we helped one person feel more safe and supported, then it all was worth it."

Vaccine mandate coming to state schools

Most CVHS students, staff already vaccinated

By Deleenn Block

California will require public high school students to vaccinate for Covid-19 to attend in-person learning following full FDA approval of the vaccine for teens, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced.

California becomes the first state to require students to vaccinate starting the semester after FDA approval, probably in 2022. The Covid vaccine will be added to the list of other required vaccines such as the measles and mumps vaccines.

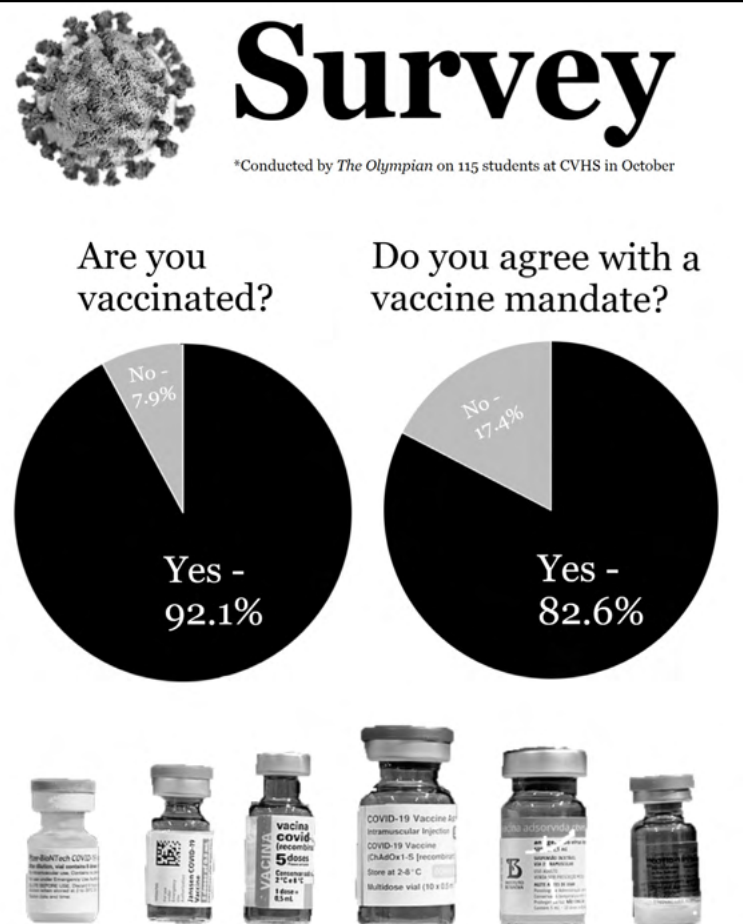
The majority of staff and students in Castro Valley are already vaccinated. "The great thing is that in Castro Valley we have very high vaccine rates in our population of people who are 12 or older. Eighty percent of Castro Valley's population that is 12 or older are already fully vaccinated. Within our schools, more than 90 percent

of our teachers are vaccinated and almost 98 percent of our classified staff are vaccinated," said school board member Dot Theodore.

Many parents are not happy with this mandate which brings the question about what to do with students who refuse to get vaccinated. When asked what will happen to these students Principal Blaine Torpey stated, "I don't make the rules so I'm not in a position to say, but once I receive guidance and the rules we'll go from there."

It seems that most students support the mandate though. An *Olympian* survey of more than 100 students shows that 92 percent claim they are vaccinated and another 82 percent say they support a student vaccine requirement.

"I approve of the new Covid vaccine requirement for public school students because it will make our community safer for all. Since students and teachers are sitting in classrooms for long periods of time and are walking the crowded halls, it is reassuring to know that (soon) everyone around me is vaccinated and healthy," said junior Nikoleta Limnios.



ANDREW HUI



Juniors run in for their rally.

DELENN BLOCK

Juniors win Homecoming

By Jessica Truong

The 2021 Homecoming week was filled with fantastical festivities, otherworldly themes, and super school spirit. At the end of it, the juniors triumphed as the overall winners.

Juniors, the victors of Homecoming Week, came in second place for dance, second for skit, and first for the mural. The winners of this year's junior Homecoming Court were Paolo Muniz and Sophie Zheng.

"Juniors won homecoming because we aren't lame like everyone else," teased junior Emily Pham.

In second place overall, the se-

niors placed first in dance, first in skit, and second in mural. Isabel Enriquez and Jacob Choy won senior Homecoming Court.

"It was a great experience. Being announced was very fun," said Enriquez.

"We tried our best, but it wasn't enough to beat the juniors so congrats to them," stated senior Catherine Chung.

Placing in third overall, the freshman placed fourth in dance, third in skit and fourth in the mural. The freshman Homecoming Court went to Caitlin Chen and Manson Andjou.

In fourth place overall, the sopho-

mores were third in dance, last in skit, and third in the mural.

Sophia Annas and Delaney Rasmussen were this year's sophomore Homecoming Court winners.

"It was really surprising that I won and it felt surreal to be in front of everyone at the football game and the dance. I'm glad that I put myself out there because I made a lot of fun memories," said Rasmussen.

Brianna Nulph and Isaiah Fortenberry reigned as Homecoming Royalty.

The dream-like week of mystical fairies, extraterrestrial aliens, oceanic creatures, and valiant superheroes showed Trojans spirit.

Ethnic studies class coming

By Zoe Dorado

California is the first state in the U.S. to implement a one-semester ethnic studies class as a graduation requirement for all public high school students. This new legislation, otherwise known as Assembly Bill 101, would take effect starting with the graduating class of 2030, but high schools like CVHS must start to offer this course as an elective in the 2025-26 school year.

"America is shaped by our shared history, much of it painful and etched with woeful injustice," Gov. Gavin Newsom wrote, expressing why he chose to sign this bill into law. "Students deserve to see themselves in their studies, and they must understand our nation's full history if we expect them to one day build a more just society."

Now that ethnic studies, first born out of the 1968 Third World Liberation Front student strikes in response to the Eurocentric education and lack of diversity at San Francisco State and UC Berkeley, is reaching classrooms, there are still an array of puzzle pieces that need to be sorted out, starting off with this question: What will the class teach?

Though the Legislature has a guide about what an ethnic studies class should cover, school districts have the ability to pick and choose any curriculum they want.

"I think it will be an exciting process to implement this new class into our department," said CVHS social studies teacher Britney Brown. "We can look at what

we already have and see what kind of fits under those guidelines already, while also staying open to student feedback and what students would like to see out of this program. That's a really cool opportunity for teachers to work with students. It's an exciting time to be a social studies teacher in California because of it."

Students like Shreya Varma who have encouraged CVHS to offer ethnic studies approve of the new state requirement.

"There are so many topics I wish we could cover in this class and I hope we can cover as much as possible. I would especially love to talk more about Middle Eastern and African ethnic groups," said Varma, the president of the Diversify Our Narrative Club.

The club advocates for racial justice and the inclusion of all race, genders, and sexualities in school curriculum. The group is part of a national organization working to make ethnic studies a class for more

schools in the United States.

"Overall, the AB101 bill signed by Gov. Newsom is great news and I'm excited to see how it will affect CVUSD," Varma said.

CVUSD could make ethnic studies substitute for a current graduation requirement: Comparative Cultures and Geography (CCG).

"The Social Studies department supports transitioning the current CCG class to an ethnic studies class," said Sarah Burke, CVHS social studies department chair. "The process will take time, and will most likely need to reconcile different perspectives and priorities, but once put in place should be a great educational experience for students."

Principal Blaine Torpey agrees. "Having an ethnic studies class would formalize and make conversations and discussions about race and race relations explicit in classes for every student. I think that would probably be one of the biggest benefits," he said.

Concert venue sparks controversy

By Melissa Boussaroque

CVHS rescheduled and moved a band and choir concert planned at 3 Crosses Church after Castro Valley Pride planned a "rally to support the LGBTQ community" outside the church during the event. The concert was originally scheduled to occur on Oct. 1, yet the day of the concert, CVHS Principal Blaine Torpey sent an email changing the date and venue.

Members of Castro Valley Pride, a local group supporting LGBTQ rights, objected to a school concert taking place at 3 Crosses Church because they believe it does not welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community.

"The school district invited 3,000+ families to a space that denies gay families and that's disappointing," stated Austin Bruckner of Castro Valley Pride.

However, when asked about the church's values on the LGBTQ+ community, lead pastor Danny Strange responded, "Our hope is that our church would be a place where everyone would feel welcome to come explore faith in Jesus, including members of the LGBTQ+ community."

After the rescheduling, Castro Valley Pride cancelled its planned rally, and the concert took place at the Center for the Arts on Oct. 15.

Torpey cited a "calendar mis-hap" in his email announcing the change. "After consulting with our District leadership, we have made a decision to reschedule the CVHS Fall Preview Concert," he wrote.

Choir teacher Laryssa Sadoway and band teacher Keita Hasegawa did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

At a school board meeting on Oct. 13, Bruckner asked for a policy change in response to the incident.

"Our ask to the school board is that they amend their policy to make sure that the venues that they are sanctioning as safe places for community events are actually safe for LGBT folks," Bruckner said.

Two school board members seemed to agree with Bruckner's suggestion.

"There needs to be a certain separation of church and state and I think that we need to be clear on our policies about not using religious facilities for educational purposes," stated school board Trustee Lavender Whitaker.

Trustee Dolly Adams agreed. "I would like to support the idea that separation of church and state is a really good idea and that we should maybe not be using church facilities," she said.

Live theater resumes with "Clue"

By Kai Liebowitz

"Clue," the dinner party turned whodunit, came to Castro Valley's Center for the Arts in November.

"Clue" opened on Nov. 5 at Castro Valley's Center of Performing Arts. It was the first in-person play since March 2021, marking the return of theater as we used to know it. Despite new Covid protocols, the staff's enthusiasm for the production of "Clue" was not hindered.

"Seeing this show will remind people why shared communal experiences that the arts provide (music art, dance, and theater) are vital to a healthy community," said theater teacher Tiffany Daily.

An adaptation of the 1985 Paramount movie (which was based on the board game), "Clue" follows the story of six guests attending a mysterious dinner party. When murder strikes, the guests must work together to solve a series of riddles and clues. The play pleases theatre, boardgame, and movie enthusiasts with excitement, horror, comedy, and above all else, mystery.

The actors and staff involved in the making of "Clue" worked tirelessly to bring the audience an

amazing experience. After months of daily rehearsals, the staff finally performed their masterpiece. When asked about his favorite part of preparing for the play, cast member Quentin Hansen, who plays Mr. Green said, "Seeing the whole thing come together, seeing all the work everyone has been putting into it, seeing all the scenes coming together and having it flow."

The cast had an amazing time practicing and performing this modern, yet already classic play. Although many of the cast have drawn inspiration from an existing character from the movie, "Clue," they still put on a unique performance for Trojans.

Their inspiration for the return of in-person theater was obvious and exciting. "I think people will be completely energized watching this as an audience member because in live theater, you aren't just watching a show the way you watch something on a screen; you are having a live interaction between living actors on a stage," said Daily.

"Clue" played on Nov. 5, 6, 12, and 13. Audiences thoroughly enjoyed the production and look forward to future projects.

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Youth strike for the climate

By Rebecca Ireland

Hundreds of teenagers in red, orange, and yellow flooded the streets of San Francisco bearing ginormous signs and even bigger voices on Friday, Sept. 24, to protest the inaction of the government in regards to climate change.

A group called Youth Vs. Apocalypse put on this climate strike because members are mad at the government's inaction toward the climate. Participants believe the government is allowing chaos, wildfires, and death.



Hundreds of teens protest government inaction in regards to climate change.

REBECCA IRELAND

The CVHS Activism Club attended the climate strike. Sixteen Castro Valley students took BART to San Francisco instead of attending school. The president of Activism Club, Sofia Palau, helped organize the strike: "When we strike, we're saying that we will fight for our future."

The goals of the strike were to get President Joe Biden, House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Gov. Gavin Newsom to listen

to youth, end the U.S. Senate filibuster rule, pass the \$3.5 trillion reconciliation bill, stop oil drilling, and pass the Green New Deal now.

The event began at the Embarcadero Plaza, with a land acknowledgement taken one step further, to support Indigenous communities in the Bay Area.

During the strike, students marched two miles, pausing only to lie on the ground: demonstrating in front of Pelosi's office and

the Federal Building that they are letting people die through their inaction.

After marching, students sat in front of the San Francisco City Hall to hear from fellow marchers why this event mattered to them. One speaker said he marches for himself and his cousin, because they have asthma getting worse because of the worsening climate conditions.

"They claim to care, but they don't; all they care about is putting

money into their pockets. It's time for people in power to get off their butts and start changing lives," CVHS junior Natalie Bennett reminded the crowd.

"It is wonderful to see young people care," CVHS English teacher Michelle Lew said.

Not only did this happen in the San Francisco Bay Area, this occurred all over the world, as it was the international day of climate action. Now, the world has a choice: will they listen?

Quarantine gives teens' lungs a breather

By Sam Scott

As schools reopen, some unexpected positives about teenagers being stuck in quarantine are becoming apparent: they are vaping less.

Before the pandemic, the number of students who admitted to vaping in middle school were astounding, and these numbers only seemed to be growing. However, students being locked in their homes due to Covid-19 has seemingly lessened their desire for--and access to--vapes.

"I think vaping has decreased due to the quarantine since people are not going out as

much. I also think that vaping just is not really as appealing to teens as it once was," explained freshman Yusef Scott.

Although the general speculation regarding teen vaping is that the numbers have gone down, the percentages give a better insight into the reality of the phenomenon. According to U.S. News, "In 2019, 27.5% of high school students and 10.5% of middle school students said they used e-cigarettes. In 2020, those numbers dropped to 20% of high school students and 5% of middle school students."

A seven percent decrease in high school students vaping

across only a one-year period is a massive change. These numbers can be correlated to quarantine, as the lockdown in many areas began in March 2020, roughly the same time these percentages began to drop.

Quarantine has had a big impact on teen vaping across the last year and a half, but other factors have had their fair share of the change.

"Nationally, regionally, and locally over the past two and a half years, there has been an incredibly powerful campaign about the dangers of vaping, and we've seen a decrease in vaping related to nicotine," said

Principal Blaine Torpey.

With more and more companies pushing against vaping, especially amongst minors, it becomes clear how the decreasing numbers of teens vaping can be attributed to the media opposing vaping.

The changes in vaping regarding teens over online school were apparent over the months of quarantine, but now that students are back at school, it's possible that this progress is being reversed. "I would say that when we were home for distance learning, [vape use] definitely decreased. Now that we have resumed school it has

started increasing again, as they did not have much access before," explained health teacher Erika Ikemoto.

As Ikemoto describes, students being out more often now has increased their access to vaping, meaning vaping numbers may increase once more.

A new tax may help keep vaping numbers down. California approved a 12 percent tax on electronic cigarettes.

As schools reopen and teens get out of their homes, it's only a matter of time to see whether or not the bathrooms fill again with cotton candy-scented smoke.

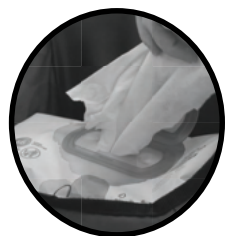
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Maintaining reliable wastewater pipelines and facilities is everyone's responsibility. There are simple actions we can all take to make sure that our wastewater system works.



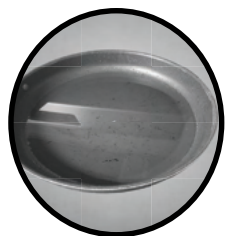
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Never Flush Wipes!

Used flushable wipes belong in the garbage. When flushed, flushable wipes can damage expensive equipment at pump stations and the wastewater treatment plant and only increase the chances of a sanitary sewer overflow.



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Murals add to Homecoming



Juniors work on their class mural.

JENNIFER MI

By Maya Wong

Homecoming activities looked a little different this year. Due to Covid-19, the annual Homecoming parade was cancelled, meaning that there were no floats or grand processions of chanting students. Instead of crafting class floats, artistic CVHS students instead teamed up to paint murals.

Based upon each grade's Homecoming theme, students painted these murals on the outside of portable classrooms P1 and P2. Each mural reflects one grade's homecoming theme: Atlantis, A Galaxy Far Far Away, Neverland, and Hero's Headquarters. Elements from the other themes had to be incorporated, as well. Volunteers drafted the designs.

Painting took five days. Participants labored for about 24 hours in total, and the artwork was completed after sunset on Thursday, the night before the big Homecoming game.

"Everything was really stressful because I had to guide everyone on what colors to use, where to use them, and the design in general because I understand the mural the most," commented freshman Carrie Lee, who designed her grade's mural.

The combination of a time crunch and lack of participation from underclassmen created difficulties during the painting process. Some juniors and seniors had to abandon working on their own murals to assist their classmates instead.

Despite that, painting the murals was lighthearted and fun. Friends gathered after school to spend time together and work on something that would be appreciated by the entire community.

"It's a super fun experience and if you ever get to do it, definitely join in," exclaimed junior Julia Warren, who helped direct the mural for the class of 2023. The junior class mural was also the winner among the Homecoming murals.

To construct their murals,

each class spent \$500 on house paint. Scaffolding, ladders, drop cloths, and paint brushes were lent to students from a local roofing company. Compared to making floats, the homecoming murals are logistically simpler and more cost effective.

"The hardest part about doing our floats is that you need to get four flatbeds," explained Leadership teacher Tommy Maloney. "Every year, the flatbeds get a lot harder for us to find."

Each mural cost \$300 less than the floats, and gaining access to necessary materials was easier. Whether CVHS will make murals or floats in the future has not been determined.

For the time being, this year's Homecoming murals will be available for viewing all year long. Students walking outside the 700 hall can admire the hard work of our very own.

"I hope that the kids like it and that it becomes a spot where when major milestones happen, like graduation, seniors will come in their cap and gowns to take pictures," said Maloney.

Grigorian shines as student of the year

By Athena Sy Kuzuhara

This year's student of the year is senior Leon Grigorian. Grigorian was chosen for being an "outstanding student" and "sharing his energy and modeling Trojan togetherness."

The student of the year is chosen through the principal's office with input from teachers. "Leon is a student that epitomizes Trojan togetherness," said Principal Blaine Torpey.

Grigorian has been a student that has demonstrated kindness and academic success. He takes care of his two-year old younger siblings and helps out his mother in the house. He is



Leon Grigorian

also taking the merchandising ROP from the ROP program. In his free time, Grigorian likes to draw cartoon characters.

"I was honestly shocked when I read the email from the principal and saw that I got the student of the year award,"

said Grigorian who received his award at a board meeting held by the district.

After graduating high school, Grigorian plans to get his driver's permit and become a firefighter. In the future, he will join a firefighter academy. "I just really want to help people, that's why I want to be a firefighter," Grigorian said. "It's something I've always wanted to do."

"I would like to thank my math teacher Ms. Claire Heppner, my old English teacher, Ms. Fletcher, who retired, my mom, dad, brother, sister, grandma, and grandpa. I would like to say to them that I appreciate them for helping me out," Grigorian said.



Jennifer Oliver cares for the dogs Selma, Bentley and Nyla.

Oliver helps animals with loving care

By Drew Paxman

Jennifer Oliver, the CVHS bookroom and school supply technician, assisted the East Bay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (EBSPCA) in the transfer of 80 dogs to various shelters and homes throughout the Bay Area last fall. These dogs were surrendered and abandoned in the Tulsa, Oklahoma region.

"Abandonment of dogs is a massive problem in many parts of our nation. Tulsa just happened to be the one this time," said Oliver.

Oliver, who has been a volunteer at EBSPCA for five years, works as a canine companion—someone who specializes in walking and socializing with dogs. She also specializes in Trap, Neuter, or Spay, Return (TNSR) which requires her to safely trap kittens and spay them to prevent them from reproducing.

Her experience in TNSR provided great assistance at CVHS a couple of years ago, when a kitten was stuck atop a hallway roof.

"When school started in August [of 2019], we had a kitty colony here that was pretty large. In that first year, I trapped 30 kitties," she explained.

Oliver found the most humane way to treat the cats,

finding traps that would not hurt them. Once trapped, the kittens were then TNSRed.

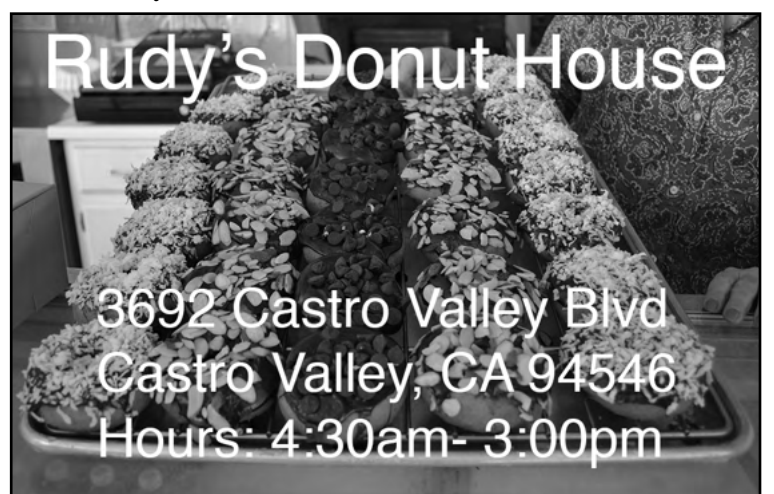
In that first year, she caught 30 kittens; some went on to be adopted by Castro Valley families and CVHS staff, including former chemistry teacher Silvia Perri. As of now, there are no cats on campus.

"Ms. Oliver is a really incredibly giving individual of her time and energy both to the staff here and to the greater community," said Principal Blaine Torpey, who called for Oliver's assistance with the cat incident in 2019.

Oliver also assisted with the Animal Rights Club here at CVHS before the Covid-19 pandemic. As a lover of animals, she desperately wants to see it return. "We need an Animal Rights Club to come back," she said.

As for now, Oliver continues to volunteer at EBSPCA. She has also started a fundraiser for a pit bull named Buddy, whose owner, a homeless Hayward citizen, cannot afford to pay veterinary care for Buddy. Wanting to see vet care prioritized, her goal is to provide veterinary services to one animal at a time, then go on to the next one.

"Compassion and mercy is key. I don't feel like I need to start a rescue, we have a lot of those. We just need a lot of one-on-one; grassroots, ground level, one-on-one," Oliver said.



Juniors Fly to Neverland



DELENN BLOCK



ADA CHEN



DELENN BLOCK



DELENN BLOCK



OLIVE DOOLEY

With a little bit of faith, trust, and pixie dust, the juniors flew to Homecoming victory. As they embark on the voyage of their penultimate year at CVHS, their youthful spirit soars.



Sophomores soar into fourth



JENNIFER MI



JENNIFER MI

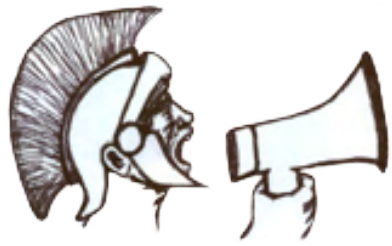


JENNIFER MI

Sophistic Sophomores soared up up up and away into the galaxy, but fell right back down into fourth place. Their suns and moons did not align this year, but they will manifest a victory soon.



ZOE DORADO



Ethnic studies: a good addition to California curriculum

Editorial:

Gov. Gavin Newsom has assigned legislation making California the first state to have a required ethnic studies class. In order for students to graduate high school, they will have to take a semester-long course. All schools must have an ethnic studies class as an elective in the 2025-26 school year, and as a required class in the 2029-30 school year.

We support the idea of a required ethnic studies class. Having an ethnic studies class will focus on Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and other groups that aren't focused on in Eurocentric history classes.

Taking an ethnic studies class will help all students to be better informed about other ethnic groups. When it is required, the material will reach people who may have been hesitant to take

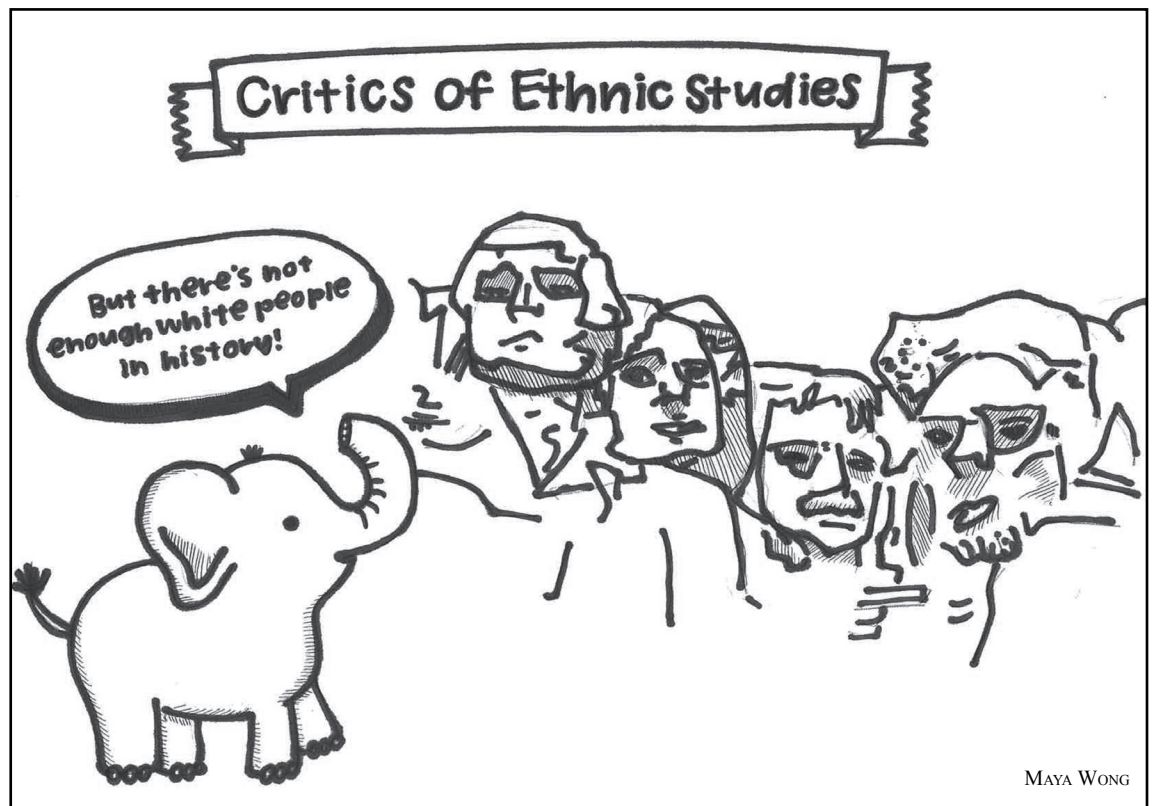
an elective.

While an ethnic studies class is a good idea, we also have concerns about how the class will be run.

Since districts are able to choose what they want to include in curriculum, different parts of California may teach different things. One concern is that some school districts may teach a watered-down version of the information, which would make it less effective.

There is also the issue of having to pick and choose which ethnic groups to include. It would be difficult to cover all of them in a semester. Another question is how other history classes might change in response to the ethnic studies class.

We suggest that when forming the curriculum for this course, students should be involved in the conversation.



MAYA WONG

PHOTOpinions

What do you think about a required ethnic studies class?



“It will help us further understand our fellow students' cultures and help us understand how they feel over certain events.”

Nathan Quinby
freshman



“More people can be educated in a way that's appropriate and respectful towards those of different backgrounds.”

Haseeb Rashid
sophomore



“There are many people who should've been more recognized due to their contributions to the construction of what America is today. Their sacrifices deserve more recognition.”

Sara Cordiano
junior



“It is a great opportunity for others to embrace other cultures, learn more about the past and how things came to be.”

Justin Cataag
senior



“There's a lot of kids that don't get that education on that topic from their parents, so being able to teach them that here is very crucial, especially nowadays.”

Cody Sandall
staff

Make public transportation free



By Ethan Hudson

BART gets hundreds of thousands of people where they need to go every day. A round trip fee from Castro Valley to San Francisco will run you about \$10.50; a daily fee many have to spend.

It's no secret that people “avoid” paying this fee all the time. It's incredibly easy to hop the barrier or walk through the emergency exit without consequences. Recently, BART phased out paper tickets and opted for Clipper cards. This was for Covid safety at first but now it's used as another way to catch fee violators. BART police

will frequently board trains and ask passengers to scan their Clipper cards. If they haven't been used recently enough or if you happen to not have one at the moment you will be written a ticket.

This begs the question of who should be paying for public transportation. BART is a necessity for many people and a daily fee of \$10 or even \$5 adds up quickly. The current system relies mainly on low-income people and is unable to keep both the stations and trains clean. Socializing public transportation and relying on taxes would be a better system that would allow a better environment for passengers.

This would be beneficial for everyone. Having more people taking advantage of public transit could take 2,000 cars off the road for each train. This would help decrease traffic congestion and would be

much better for the planet. As more people start to use public transportation, the demand for cars will go down and it will become easier for those who need one to buy one. Having a larger train system would create hundreds of jobs for people.

In March of 2020, Luxembourg became the first country to eliminate train fares entirely and saw a marked increase in passengers. In 2020, the city of Olympia, Washington eliminated transportation fees entirely and will continue to do so for four more years.

Free public transportation would lower the cost for thousands of middle and low income Americans while simultaneously decreasing cars on the road and greenhouse gas emissions. It's an important step in creating a more environmentally and class conscious society.

Trojans Talk

These students commented on the news at cvhsolympian.com.

“I think everyone had done such a great job on the murals and all of them look so amazing.”

Paula Catacataca

“It was an amazing experience to work on the murals!”

Julia Warren

“It's so great that Juniors won!”

Christina Yanke

“If we guarantee that the people are vaccinated there should be less cases.”

Calvin Gao

“Getting all of the students vaccinated will make Castro Valley High School a safer and a healthier place.”

Omar Alfawadeleh

“Ms. Oliver is helping out the animals that are in need of help and I greatly respect that!”

Zachary Bitz



“I think that why vaccines are important before implementing any mandates, and everyone needs to know why they are important.”

Zachary Simonton

“It's great that sports are finally going back to normal and that we will be able to have more games and less restrictions during the seasons this year!”

Allison Mitchell

The *Olympian* encourages letters from our readers. Please note that letters must be signed and no longer than 200 words. E-mail them to cvhsolympian@gmail.com.

‘My Lao Ye was struggling inside’



By Maya Wong

My grandfather was a happy person: constantly cheerful, loving, and full of life and energy. Or so I thought. In truth, my lao ye was struggling inside; a smile masked what he sincerely felt. For the time in which our lifetimes overlapped, I was oblivious to his depression. It seems like all my memories with him now have a hidden backstory.

I have only seen Lao Ye and my grandma, Lao Lao, twice in the last five years. They resided in a suburb not far from Beijing, China.

When I was younger, my grandparents would come visit for months at a time to assist my parents, spending time with my sister and me. I loved those months. I fondly remember learning how to play online card games with Lao Lao and shaping



glutinous rice balls with Lao Ye. Whenever my grandparents packed their bags to return home, I would cry and hold them tight, never wanting to let go. I knew that two years would pass before I could be with them again.

The Tuesday before junior year, I had slept soundly and felt ready to seize the day. My parents then called my sister and I into their bedroom. Their voices were serious, their faces somber.

They soon notified me of Lao

Ye’s passing. He died in his sleep the night before, with chronic depression being one of the main factors of his death. It was peaceful, my mom said, tears streaming down her face. My cheeks turned warm and crimson as I felt tears pooling in my eyes.

Maybe it was the stress of caring for Lao Lao, or the grief of my great-grandma’s passing last year. I don’t know. What causes me the most pain is knowing that Lao Ye was unhappy during his last few

days here on Earth.

Honestly, I was less shocked by the news of the death, and more so with who had died. My lao lao has dementia and recently underwent brain surgery. When my parents called me to talk, I was sure that it was about her. I walked into the room ready to be told of Lao Lao’s passing. In my mind, I already accepted her as gone.

The reality startled me.

Lao Ye was the first of my grandparents to die. He was third-

oldest of the four, so I always figured he would be around for a while — at the very least, here to see me graduate. I didn’t expect him to leave so soon. When I saw him in Italy during the summer of 2019, I hugged him goodbye with the intention of being with him again.

When I think about my grandfather, I imagine someone living, breathing, tangible. I haven’t fully internalized that he is gone. The next time I go to China, he will not be waiting at the airport terminal. Lao Lao won’t have a companion, and she will soon forget my face.

I often think that if I had noticed Lao Ye’s suffering, he would still be here. If I had spoken to him and cheered him up the night before. If I had recognized his deteriorating mental health as much as I did with Lao Lao’s physical health.

Unfortunately, time cannot be reversed. I can only reminisce and honor Lao Ye’s legacy. I looked at photos of our last trip. I made glutinous rice balls. Most importantly, I am taking care of myself: making sure that my fragile mental health stays intact. I know Lao Ye would want me to do that. And I do so, just for him.

Petito case and missing white woman syndrome



By Leah Janaway

Social media influencer Gabby Petito was reported missing by her family on Sept. 11, 2021; police found her body on Sept. 21. Hundreds of news articles from varying sources covered her disappearance and the events leading up to it, dragging up

every detail authorities provided. Meanwhile, the missing cases of Black and Indigenous people are going largely ignored, both by law enforcement and the media.

Petito, a #VanLife influencer, documented her life on the road on Instagram, YouTube, and Tiktok over the past two years. In the weeks leading up to her disappearance she had been on a cross-country road trip with her fiancé Brian Laundrie, who now has a warrant out for his arrest.

In Wyoming, the same state Petito disappeared from, more than 400 Indigenous people have gone missing over the last decade; they received little to no media coverage. Of the 543,000 missing persons cases

in 2020, 36 percent were Black; however, Black people make up only 13 percent of the total U.S. population. These groups go missing at a disproportionate rate, and yet their cases are rarely given attention.

This unequal media response is an example of “missing white woman syndrome” in which society fuels its fascination with the tragedies of young, attractive white women while turning a blind eye to the disappearances of hundreds of Black and Indigenous people.

There is a twisted sort of enjoyment society receives from following cases like Petito’s. For centuries, the stereotypes of the white damsel in distress and the

victimized white woman have been perpetuated. In Petito’s situation, the result of this was the blurring of the line between a current event and a fictional crime show or podcast, and she became more of a character instead of a real person. This underwhelmed the tragedy of her death, and instead served to feed the media’s suspense story while people of color’s cases went neglected.

The main causes of missing Black and Indigenous people, such as domestic violence, are often ignored. They are written off as drug or gang-related, as an unfortunate result of the inherent crime in the area, or as the victim’s own fault for living in a place where such things are

common. Children of color who disappear are most often thought to be runaways. Because of these incorrect assumptions, these cases do not receive appropriate attention from law enforcement.

This issue is rooted in deeply ingrained racism and inequalities in our society, but there are ways to combat it. Accountability for both law enforcement and the media should be increased in order to ensure each missing person’s case, no matter the race of the victim, is given an appropriate response. More diversity in the newsroom would help to oppose this obsession with white danger. The perpetuation of this inequality is costing lives, so working against it is crucial.

Castro Valley needs cityhood



By Rebecca Ireland

We are trying to modernize everything in Castro Valley, except our governing body. Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Committee (CV MAC) is an appointed group of people who are supposed to relay what the Castro Valley people want on to Supervisor Nate Miley. Castro Valley’s population is about 60,000, yet we are represented by seven people who don’t represent the majority of the city’s views.

Castro Valley is the largest

unincorporated area in Alameda County; we don’t have elected representation, city government, or a police department. Because the CV MAC is only advisory, Castro Valley residents do not get everything they need or want. Currently, Miley chooses who he wants to listen to. Electing our officials would cost more, with the expenses to hold elections, but we would get to have a say in who represents us.

Democracy is the first step Castro Valley needs for incorporation to work. If we elect our officials, they will be accountable to us, unlike the current CV MAC.

There is a group called Castro Valley Matters, which has been pushing for Castro Valley to become a city. If we become a city, services can go directly towards our residents, and our taxes can go directly back into our community. Currently, our taxes are spent all over Alameda

County, so becoming a city would ensure that the taxes our residents pay go back into our community.

Currently, someone who needs a building permit has to go to the CV MAC, which then reports to Miley. If we were to become a city, Castro Valley would be a one-stop shop for building permits.

Contrary to popular belief, becoming a city would reduce the possibility of higher taxes, because a city must have consent from residents to raise taxes, while the county can raise taxes with just a vote from the county representatives.

There have been two elections regarding Castro Valley becoming incorporated, and, evidently, both efforts have failed.

“Incorporation is about Castro Valley making decisions for Castro Valley with revenue already generated in our community,” said Michael Kusiak of Castro Valley Matters.



THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

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Football team claims Homecoming win

By Olive Dooley

Sprinting down the field, Trojans wide receiver Jacob Rothwell, the CVHS Trojans scored the third touchdown of the night for CVHS. That score would prove essential to win the homecoming game on Oct. 8.

The first half of the football game was filled with excitement as the Trojans secured a sizable lead against the Moreau Mariners. From the get go, the Trojan football team rushed to score over the other team, leading with Isaiah Nobriga scoring the first touchdown just minutes into the first quarter.

"They [Moreau] were definitely talking before this game, so it felt good to go in and shut some people up," said Rothwell.

The Trojans continued their streak through the first quarter, scoring another touchdown. Jalen Melancon rushed the ball to the end zone, bringing the score to 14-0 Trojans at the end of the first quarter. By



Seniors Isaiah Nobriga and Camaria Reece celebrate a touchdown.

MEGAN BALDWIN

this time, the crowd was filled with excitement at the sizable lead the Trojans were able to achieve.

Rothwell scored the final Trojans touchdown in the second quarter, but a failed field point

kept the score at 20-0.

"If you make a bad play you just gotta get back, we just stuck in there and we fought," said lineman Emon Dost.

And fight they did. At the end of the second quarter, Moreau

appeared to be nearing the end zone, but Rothwell intercepted a pass, keeping the Mariners from scoring.

The halftime show performed by both the CVHS Spirit Squad and Band and Guard effectively

kept people's spirits high as they anticipated the second half of the game. However, the team was unable to score in that time, and allowed the Mariners to score two touchdowns.

"We came up strong in the first half, but we let go in the second half. The score should be a lot closer to zero right now, definitely not 20-14," said Rothwell.

Despite these struggles, the Trojans reigned supreme over the Mariners when the final buzzer rang throughout the stadium. It was definitely a game that kept spectators holding tight to their seats, but in the end the Trojans secured their homecoming victory.

"We told our kids to play with the confidence they had played with last night, and from the get-go they did that. We kind of got into a lull in the second half, the kids just needed a pick me up, but in the end our guys made enough plays to win the game," said head coach Denny Molzen.

Cross country teams win



Juniors Cameron Huynh (left) and Jacob Bull (right) run full stride.

ALI NOSSEIR

Trojans claim varsity titles

By Ali Nosseir

CVHS cross country teams performed exceedingly well on the rigorous 3.1 mile course at the Peter Brewer Cross Country Invitational at Canyon Middle School on Oct. 9. Both the boys and girls varsity teams won first place in the meet, a very

difficult feat to achieve.

Both the girls and the boys team won by a mere two points, the girls varsity team with a low 38 points defeating second place Willow Glen and the boys varsity team reigning supreme with 108 points over Santa Rosa.

At this meet, the boys varsity runners delivered a true team performance. In first and second place for CVHS ran junior Jacob Bull and senior Logan Phulps, both finishing in 10th and 11th place overall. Sophomore Lucas Chang then finished 24th while juniors Conrad Avery and Evan Griffith ran in at 32 and 35th place. Despite no CVHS runner finishing in the top nine athletes at this meet, the CVHS boys still came out as victors.

"It feels great to win and even better to know that all our hard work at practice is paying off at these meets," said Avery.

The varsity girls team at this meet further cemented the immense potential and skill this team has this year. Junior Cameron Huynh finished in 4th place, topping all CVHS girls. Running in 7th and 12th were sophomores Delaney Rasmussen and Alisson Mitchell. In 11th place ran freshman Maya Dughi. Altogether, these great performances proved to be just enough to win the varsity girls division.

"It feels good to win this meet especially since we worked together as a team to earn it. It's extremely rewarding especially after all the work put into training," said Huynh.



Team captain Jessica Sage blocks a pass.

AMANDA WONG

Sage balances water polo, school, work, and extra-curricular activities

By Amanda Wong

From her freshman year until now, you could spot senior Jessica Sage in the pool, water polo ball in hand ready to play. Influenced by her older sister and close friend, Sage first started playing water polo in seventh grade. She climbed the ranks quickly, making varsity for all four years of high school and becoming one of the team captains as a junior.

"Jessica is very understanding and always there for everyone while having a great attitude all the time," said teammate Camila Sacramento.

One of Sage's favorite aspects of water polo is the sense of community. "My team makes it feel like a family," Sage said. It's true: you can often find the girls water polo team support-

ing each other on social media and cheering each other on at games.

Sage also excels outside of the pool. "I also swim, but besides that I'd say I'm very social and I like to go out a lot when I get the chance," she commented.

On top of water polo, she juggles a job as a life guard, maintains good grades, and participates in extracurricular activities.

"Water polo has always been so busy, so I've gotten the hang of juggling with it," Sage added. "The most challenging part is being so busy all the time, working harder every day, and not always succeeding."

Regarding her plans for the future, "After high school I plan to go to college and find who I am and hopefully still play water polo for a club as a hobby," Sage said.



Billie Eilish is ‘Happier than ever’



By Delaney Rasmussen

Marking an impressive number six on Billboard’s top 100 albums, Billie Eilish’s sophomore album “Happier Than Ever” is a shockingly stunning piece of art, offering a new look on modern-day pop. This album offers you a whole new level of escapism into a different world, a different galaxy even. With her melancholy yet mesmerizing sounds, you won’t be able to take your headphones off.

After Eilish’s internet-sensation first album, she had a lot of pressure put on her to produce one of the best sounds the fans have heard yet. She definitely did not disappoint. It’s an album that feels more intimate than the first one, offering a candid coming-of-age view. These songs make you



ATHENA SY KUZUHARA

feel as if you are entering an interstellar state of mind, one you never want to come out of.

It seems many others have this same opinion, as the album has an outstanding average rating of 4.8/5 stars on Apple Music. Throughout the whole 16 tracks you will get carried through grief, happiness, and relief all stemming from the 19-year-old’s breathtaking

lyrics.

Eilish talks about some strong topics in her songs, really speaking out for women worldwide. “In the public eye, girls and women with strong perspectives are hated. If you’re a girl with an opinion, people just hate you. There are still people who are afraid of successful women, and that’s so lame,” Eilish said during an

interview.

The lead song on the album and fan-favorite is also titled “Happier Than Ever.” The song starts off with the lyrics, “When I’m away from you, I’m happier than ever, wish I could explain it better, I wish it wasn’t true.”

These lyrics give an inside view on the general theme of the album, as throughout the other songs in the album she

repeats, “I’m happier than ever,” just as she says during the song “Getting Older.” “I’m happier than ever, at least that’s my endeavor, to keep myself together and prioritize my pleasure.” This line gives an interesting look and makes you think, is she really “happier than ever?”

“It wasn’t forced, it wasn’t pressured, it wasn’t scary,” Eilish told Apple Music on the making of the newly-released album.

“Happier Than Ever” was released July 30, and by only the second week of this album being out in the world, it had a shocking 59 million listens, only on Apple Music.

Not only did this album turn me into a Eilish fan, but it seems to have done the same to many. “Happier Than Ever” is a must listen. The way Eilish writes makes you go through the lyrics and feelings of the songs right along with her, and takes your mind on a field trip across galaxies you may have never even heard of.

‘When I Close My Eyes’ soothes



By Corinne Davidson

Chelsea Cutler’s sophomore album “When I Close My Eyes” will encapsulate you with its soothing sound and beautifully written lyrics. Cutler’s poetic lyrics make the album not only beautiful music wise, but also story wise with its complex and relatable themes.

The album as a whole is a perfect mix of heartfelt sweet songs and gut wrenching emotional songs. Many of Cutler’s old EPs, albums, and singles were sad break up songs, but this album shows a different side of Cutler and her musical narratives. While this album still has the classic sad themes, there are many songs that talk about new love, moving on, and seeing that you will be ok in the end. One of the album’s highlight songs, “Devil On My Shoulder” illustrates Cutler’s own struggles with depression and anxiety and aims to remind listeners that they aren’t alone in their struggles.

The contrast within the album truly shows the versatility of Cutler’s skills. The opening song of the album, “Forever” depicts the feeling of falling for someone and experiencing that feeling of “I could be with you forever,” again. “Cause forever never sounded good before I met ya,” declares Cutler.

Then on the opposite side of the spectrum, “Walking Away” illustrates the feeling of leaving a relationship that you know isn’t working out and the bittersweet feeling of making the decision to leave. “It’s not your fault that we are here, it’s not your fault that you need time on your own, sometimes two people need to be alone,” sings Cutler.

Cutler’s new approach to break up songs brings a new light to break ups and shows the growth that one would experience after such an event. Cutler’s first big single was “Your Shirt” in 2017 which got over 50 million streams on Spotify. Seeing Cutler grow as an artist over the years both in popularity and skill has been amazing and this album shows just how far she has come in her music career.

‘Owl House’ makes fans beg for more



By Jessica Truong

Thrown into a world of magical beasts and mystical creatures, Luz Noceda has one goal in her mind: to become a witch despite being human. She meets Eda the Owl Lady, the most powerful witch on the Boiling Isles, and finds herself a home at the Owl House.

Season two of “The Owl House” is full of new surprises: from fighting abominations, exploring ruins, and joining a revolution against the Emperor. This season continues the journey of the eccentric and imaginative teenager Luz as she uses the magic she has learned to find a way back home to the human world.

Season two has been amazing so far, and I’m sure that it will continue to be. Between the humorous jokes and the immersive world, lies an excellent story that will entertain any viewer. Building off and diving deeper into the backstories of the many lovable characters has been one of my favorite parts of this season so far.

Although it is airing on Disney Channel and is rated for kids 7



and up, “The Owl House” is much more than just a show for kids. The show colorfully illustrates the complicated and strong bonds between characters in a way that is appealing to any age group. Each and every episode depicts one or more themes that go beyond what one might find in a children’s show.

The show follows characters as they learn to accept their imperfections and celebrate everyone’s oddities, no matter how strange. “The Owl House” is all about accepting others and oneself, despite the differences or so-called flaws that may divide.

“The Owl House” also celebrates diversity by including characters of every kind. A recent episode released early this August garnered all sorts of praise for confirming a relationship between the main character Luz, and recurring character Amity with an adorable confession scene. Luz is Disney’s first bisexual lead character, and just recently, its first nonbinary

character was introduced to the show.

Although Disney seems to be making great steps for LGBTQ+ representation with this show, it hasn’t always been this way. Alex Hirsh, the creator of “Gravity Falls” was told by Disney that representation of that sort was not allowed in his show. Dana Terrace, the creator of “The Owl House,” also struggled with this problem at the start, but after pushing Disney, she got permission to go ahead with it.

Unfortunately, season three has been shortened by Disney to three 40-minute specials instead of a full season. In July, #savetheowlhouse was trending on Twitter with over 150,000 tweets from fans rallying for another full season. Many have been critical of Disney its decision to limit a show with great diversity as well as an eager fanbase.

Although I am disappointed by Disney’s decision, I am grateful for “The Owl House” and the rest of season two.

Freshmen swim to third



FELIX SHUM



CORINNE DAVIDSON

Fearless Freshmen fiercely swam through the week and reached the shore in third place. They set a new grand tide that will grow in years to come.



FELIX SHUM

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