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THE CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

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Ribbon-cutting welcomes rainbow murals

By Zoe Dorado

The new rainbow murals on CVHS's campus are more than beautiful pieces of art. On Oct. 27, students, teachers, and staff gathered in front of the library to watch the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the progress pride flag mural aimed to uplift the LGBTQ+ community at CVHS. Yet, this mural is just one of many painted across all CVUSD campuses.

These Rainbow Pathways were an initiative spearheaded by seniors Karissa Chu and Rebecca Ireland in June of 2021. They raised \$3000 through GoFundMe and eventually garnered enough traction to become approved by the CVUSD Board of Education as an official district-wide project in Feb. 2022.

"Not only did we hope the paintings would act as a sign of support and welcome to LGBTQ+ students," Chu said in her speech with Ireland, "but also serve as a reminder to the greater school community that LGBTQ+ students exist and are a part of the school like any other group of people."

In the wake of the recent wave of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation introducing bills such as the federal "Don't Say Gay" bill, which, according to National Public Radio (NPR), "lumps together topics of sexual orientation and gender identity, with sexual content such as

pornography and stripping." That, in addition to the "adverse experiences LGBTQ+ people face in day-to-day life," as Chu said, the murals pose a potent message to the CVUSD and community: students "belong on the campus as their whole selves."

Despite facing opposition to the murals from a protest organized by the group Bay Area Against Mandates during the Sep. 14 CVUSD school board meeting, Chu, Ireland, and the school board stood their ground and carried out the project.

Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi spoke on the importance of the project: "As Dr. King says, 'Sometimes things that you do are not either popular or accepted. But your conscience tells you you have to do what's right.' We did what's right. This is right. You can always do what's right. There is never a time where you cannot do what's right. So thank you again, Rebecca. Karissa, this, all of you, all of the students here and our team, our board, our community for supporting this."

Chu and Ireland still believe that the work is not over yet.

"Not only do we want students and families to see that they are welcome on campus, we want them to see themselves in curriculum, staffing, clubs, activities, and more. This is proven to make a huge impact on LGBTQ+ students' esteem," Ireland said. "The



ZOE DORADO

rainbow murals are installed on campuses, books with more representation are being introduced in classrooms, staff is being more educated on LGBTQ+ topics, pride flags are raised every June, and staff is working with Karissa and me -- queer students who want to make other LGBTQ+ students feel more accepted and safe on campus."

Through their efforts, Chu and Ireland have supported the Wellness Center in launching a workgroup, facilitated by District Behavioral Health Coordinator Marian Meadows which began February 2022, for any students and staff throughout the district interested in becoming involved

with more projects to create actionable ideas for "a more inclusive and just curriculum with better representation" of the LGBTQ+ community.

"We're also creating an audio tour to highlight different locations, programs and things happening at school, and history [of] the LGBTQ+ community," Chu said. The tour topics and locations include the gender-neutral bathrooms to speak on the history of gender segregation in bathrooms, the football field to talk about trans students in sports, the Wellness Center to voice the issues of LGBTQ+ mental health, and the library to highlight LGBTQ+ representation in media. The tour will be available

in December for all CVUSD students to listen to and watch. More information will be available shortly.

"While we feel that more progress can always be made in the inclusivity and representation of the countless marginalized groups in Castro Valley and the United States, Chu said, "we are glad the LGBTQ community is not only being acknowledged, but celebrated on Castro Valley school campuses."

Ahmadi agrees. "Equality isn't just about passing laws as you know," she said. "You have to really get to the struggle that is in the hearts and minds of people."

California loses teachers

By Shannan Chan

Preceding the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, California was already facing the scarcity of teachers in the public school system. Following it, the public school system still faces its impact on the lack of teachers available statewide. This includes not just general education, but special

education and substitute teachers as well.

Positions and subjects that were hard to fill before the pandemic such as math, science, language, and special education are impacted even more. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics from 2016 to 2026 more than 270,000 teachers were to leave their jobs. Why?

Many factors that have affected teacher shortages include low wages, increased cost in living, as well as retirement. Persistent problems of the profession have continued to stem, making the career to be unappealing and job openings to be vacant. This brings us to the education credential system and its barriers can deter those who wish to be in the education field. For example, one such requirement is to have an internship or student teacher experience, in which many wish to be paid during apprenticeship.

On the subject of low pay, the average base salary for a teacher in California is \$34,915 annually,

9 percent above the national average (indeed.com). However with new teachers facing student loans and breaks with no pay (such as summers and vacation breaks), a struggle that can make the career unappealing.

Many problems have been worsened because of Covid. In the wake of the pandemic, current teachers, particularly elementary and middle school teachers, are in high demand. Many complain of overworking as class sizes expand due to lack of teachers. The dilemma comes full circle as much of this is caused by the shutdown of schools, the influx of students with nowhere to go, and the strain

put on teachers. Coming back from a year-long lockdown in many districts has stunted development and growth amongst students as well. This, particularly affecting those in primary school, have made teaching more difficult as standards are not as up to par as before.

As the number of teachers available begin to dwindle, many are worried that schools will take unprepared and unqualified teachers to fill positions. California has decided on solutions for its public education and schools with grants and funding, but many agree that this serves as a short term solution, not a permanent one.



2022 midterm election results and outcomes

Editorial:

The midterm elections took place on Nov. 8. The Olympian ran a voluntary mock election, which didn't include all propositions or races; nearly 150 students completed it. The survey results are very reflective of the actual election outcomes.

Reproductive rights were a hot topic across the states this midterm election, and the first California proposition on the ballot was the Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment — explicitly stating the fundamental right of uterus-having people to reproductive freedom in the California Constitution. 92.4 percent of the polled population at CVHS and the entire Olympian staff agrees with California voters in approving this amendment.

Prop 28 was the Art and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative. It will allocate one percent of the state budget toward arts and music in all CA schools. One hundred percent of The Olympian would support Prop 28 and 85.5 percent of CVHS students also support this proposition. Since it passed in the midterms, schools will be more equipped to run arts and music programs.

The income tax for residents who make above \$2 million for Zero-Emission Vehicles and Wildfire Prevention is Prop 30. It states that it would create a greater infrastructure for environment-oriented

causes by taxing the rich, which is important. However, because rideshare corporation Lyft funded the proposition, The Olympian was concerned that this money will be going to the wrong places, instead of toward green vehicles. Around 65 percent of CVHS students are supportive of this. However, since it didn't pass in the election, general tax funds will not be diverted from schools for this questionable initiative.

The last state proposition we looked at was Prop 31; Flavored Tobacco Products Ban Referendum. The Olympian supports this initiative with 83 percent approval, even though we have concerns about a ban engendering an underground flavored tobacco industry. Similarly, 85.3 percent of CVHS students voted in favor of the proposition. This proposition passed in California, so tobacco companies will not appeal to youth in the same way.

There is one county ballot measure—Measure D: Floor Area Ratio Measure, nicknamed “Save Agriculture and Open Space Lands”—which CVHS is split on, and The Olympian is 37.5 percent in favor of due to uncertainties surrounding potential impacts. Voters approved it, so wineries and equestrian lands will have more freedom with their space.

This election cycle includes voting on our Congressional representatives and governor. All incumbents won reelection;

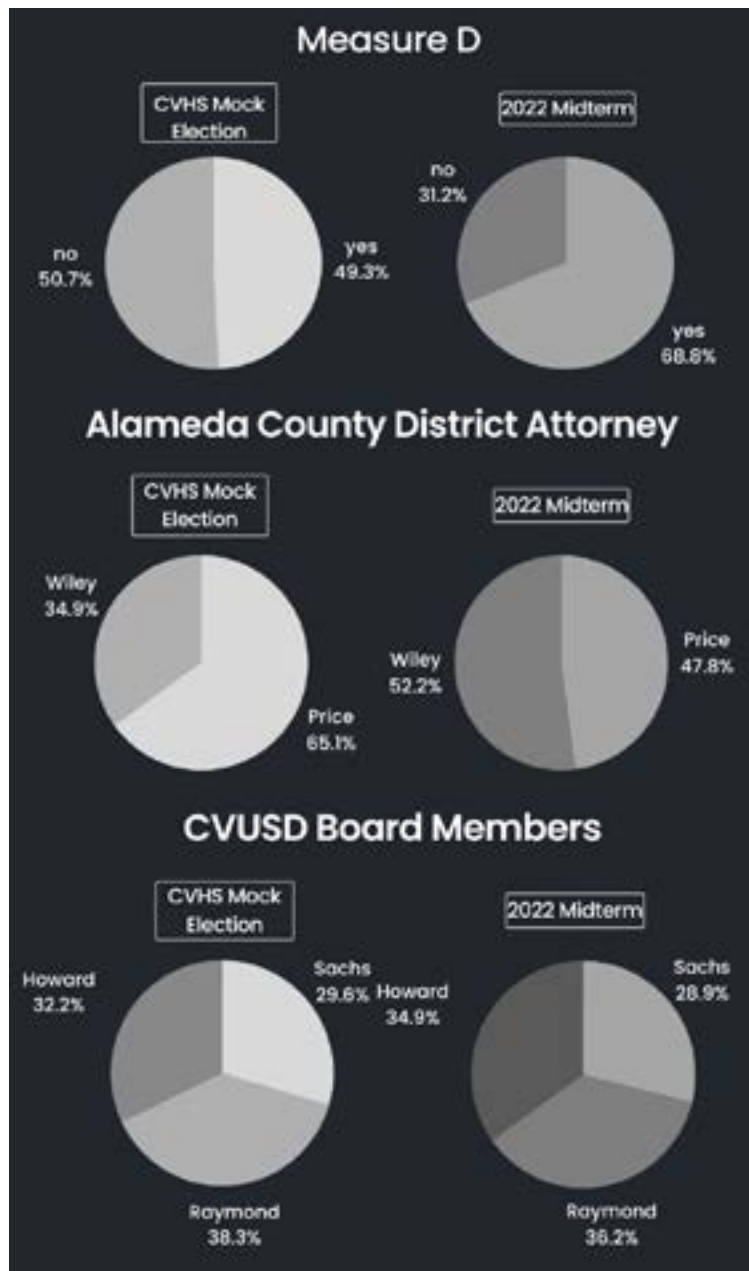
Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Alex Padilla, and Congressman Eric Swalwell. The Olympian and CVHS students agree with these results.

Liz Ortega and Shawn Kumagai—State Assembly District 20 candidates—represent the typical election; labor versus business, respectively. CVHS students are split between these candidates, but Kumagai won The Olympian over. Unlike The Olympian's vote, Ortega will represent District 20 as the electorate's choice for Assemblymember.

The District Attorney election was between Pamela Price and Terry Wiley (the expected “tough on crime” candidate.) CVHS and The Olympian favored Price by nearly a two-thirds vote, because we were concerned that the tough-on-crime approach has been proven to be racially motivated, resulting in more populated jails. However, Alameda County elected Wiley in a close race.

Finally, CVUSD school board had two seats up for election with three candidates running; Tina Sachs, Sara Raymond, and Gary Howard. While The Olympian supported Sachs and Raymond, CVHS students and Castro Valley voters were nearly aligned in percentages voting for Raymond and Howard to take the seats.

The results of the election in comparison to student opinions reflect the priorities and needs of citizens in our changing society.



School: knowledge or grades

By Anjali Yadavalli

Am I going to school to expand my own knowledge or am I going for the letter grade the school prints out on a piece of paper and mails home every few weeks? What is the point of me waking up at 6:30 in the morning? Is the lack of sleep supposed to be beneficial? Why am I taking classes that genuinely do not interest me? These thoughts have been swarming in my mind like bees for the past few weeks, and I cannot help but wonder how much worse it could all get.

Education Researchers have stated that students have a bigger fear of failure rather than an actual desire to learn the content being taught in class (thnk.org blog). Students lose interest in what is being taught and they tend to lean towards memorizing only what they need to pass the class. So again I ask, what is the real reason I am going to school?

When I go to school it is a constant reminder of my grades, academics, and competing with myself. Schools don't realize the amount of pressure that's put on students especially during their

junior and senior years.

As a junior, I find it extremely difficult to detach myself from academics at this point in my life. It is a struggle to drag myself through every class, everyday and every week.

Something that contributes to this feeling is our grading system. The way the teachers see growth in students isn't fair. Obviously, most classes in our school use tests or quizzes to determine a student's knowledge of what is being taught. While that may seem okay to most people, it doesn't show the true strengths of every student.

No child is the same, that's a given. The grading system restricts teachers to only using tests to determine a student's progress is the most flawed part of school. A student who may not be the best at taking tests, could be extremely affected by this. This student could be able to express themselves through art work, writing, or simply a presentation of some sort. Students being given the opportunity to express their knowledge in different forms is a positive way to exercise situations possible in the

real world. Restricting students to only tests is a way of locking them into the school system.

Schools are limiting students' passion by making it required for them to take general education classes in high school. And it is not only the school but it's the college admission system as well. Putting “AP” in front of required classes or adding a GPA boost makes them more desirable to certain students. These are the students whose ambitions are restricted to match the school systems. Colleges are more likely to look at students who take college level classes rather than looking at students who are following their aspirations.

The school constraining educators to giving tests is limiting a student's patience and tests their real determination towards their future. Administrators, teachers, and staff need to start listening to student voices. How much longer can we continue with this system? If I am one out of three thousand students, imagine how many more students feel the exact same way as I do.

Colleges must stop applying bias

By Nicole Wu

This is the season of...college applications. The thing most seniors dread, the long essays, and the letters of recommendation, is no easy feat to complete. For most students, this is what they spent the last three years working for, an articulately made portfolio, perfect to gain the attention of admission officers. However, a question prevalent during this time is: do the schools provide an equal opportunity for everybody?

This topic has been up to debate in many recent discussions. Recently, the well-known Harvard University allegedly “systematically rated Asian Americans lower than other racial groups”, stated by congresswoman Michelle Steel and congressman Ted Cruz. The Heritage Foundation, an American think tank based in Washington DC, also likes to add that, “also, by ‘diversity,’ they are not looking for students with a wide diversity of opinions, viewpoints, life experiences and academic knowledge. Instead, their admission decisions are based on stereotypes and the assumption that an individual's race determines how that person thinks and what opinions they

hold. That is insidiously racist”. And it is not only Asian Americans that are being discriminated against; other people of color are treated unfairly as well. As provided by insidehighered, a website that provides college advice, “there is no acceptable reason in 2020 for the vast majority of these 101 public colleges to systematically exclude Black students like this—and to a great extent, Latino students as well.”

So the question is, how do we ensure that all students are provided with equal opportunity? The first thing we should do is acknowledge that this is a problem in our education system. Without ever addressing that we have one to begin with, we never will be able to solve the problem at hand. Going on from there, though it is no easy task, Richard Sander states that we should eliminate the group percentages, and allow students who have shown their potential be allowed in.

Moving on, I hope that the admissions grounds will be fairer in the future, and allow everybody an equal chance of achieving their dreams. For now, we will wait and see what the future holds.



In “Midnights,” Swift is a mastermind

By Maya Wong

From the color of her clothes to the subtle references to past songs, everything that Taylor Swift posts or releases seems to be carefully calculated; her fans have certainly caught on. Hidden messages or secrets, called easter eggs, are plentiful in Swift’s media. Swifties are on the hunt.

Swift’s latest album, “Midnights,” holds no shortage of encoded messages—neither did the release process. Swift announced the new album at this year’s MTV Music Video Awards, donning a dress of Swarovski jewels reminiscent of the dress she wore 13 years ago, when Kanye West infamously interrupted her acceptance speech at the same awards ceremony in 2009. But now, instead of being embarrassed, Swift is empowered.

As Swift’s tenth studio album, “Midnights” captures the highs and lows of a sleepless night. Described by Swift, the songs are “a journey through terrors and sweet dreams.” Here, the most quiet and intimate part of her day is amplified to share with the world.

With “Midnights,” Swift leaves the indie-folk genre of her previous two releases, “Folklore” and “Evermore,” to return to the catchy pop that



MAYA WONG

solidified her as a household name. Released on Oct. 21, the concept album experiments with electronica and synth-pop, creating a dream-like aura. Consisting of 13 songs and 10 bonus tracks (including both “3 a.m.” and “Lavender Edition”), “Midnights” is deeply personal and reminiscent. Swift’s masterful lyricism paints her experiences vividly, while allowing listeners to relate to their own lives.

Swift’s voice is as polished and robust as ever: she

transitions between chest and head voice with ease. Longtime collaborator Jack Antonoff’s production is punchy yet somewhat restrained, allowing for Swift’s artistry and lyrics to shine through.

The album’s lead single, “Anti-Hero,” deals with the relatable issues of self-antagonization and loathing. Containing some of Swift’s odd yet poignant lyrics—Swift is the protagonist of her story, but in reality she’s malevolent. “Sometimes I feel

like everybody is a sexy baby / And I’m a monster on the hill / Too big to hang out / Slowly lurching on your favorite city / Pierced through the heart but never killed,” sings Swift. Always the advocate for English teachers: Swift utilizes various rhetorical devices, giving a deeper meaning to her music than what’s on the surface. “It must be exhausting always rooting for the antihero.”

“Bejeweled” is an upbeat, empowering song

backed by glittering twinkles. Here, Swift is undervalued by her lover; she goes out for the night knowing that she can still dazzle others. She sings “familiarity breeds contempt” as a clever turn of phrase to the common saying, “kindness makes the heart grow fonder.” Swift is strong and defiant, focusing less on the criticism of others, and more on herself. “Best believe I’m still bejeweled / When I walk in the room / I can still make the whole place shimmer.” And shimmer she did. For the first time ever, during the week of Nov. 5, no spots in the top 10 of the Billboard Hot 100 were held by a male. Why? Because Swift held them all.

In the music video for “Bejeweled,” Swift is accompanied by a star-studded cast, including Antonoff, Laura Dern, HAIM, and Dita von Teese. With diamonds and jewels galore, the video recalls the dress Swift wore at the album announcement. Classical instrumentals of Swift’s older songs play during the intro and outro. Imagery and hidden details all hint one thing: a new album, the rerecorded “Speak Now (Taylor’s Version).”

To conclude “Midnights,” Swift slyly sings: “It was all by design / Cause I’m a mastermind.”

Watch “The Watcher”

By Mason Jordan

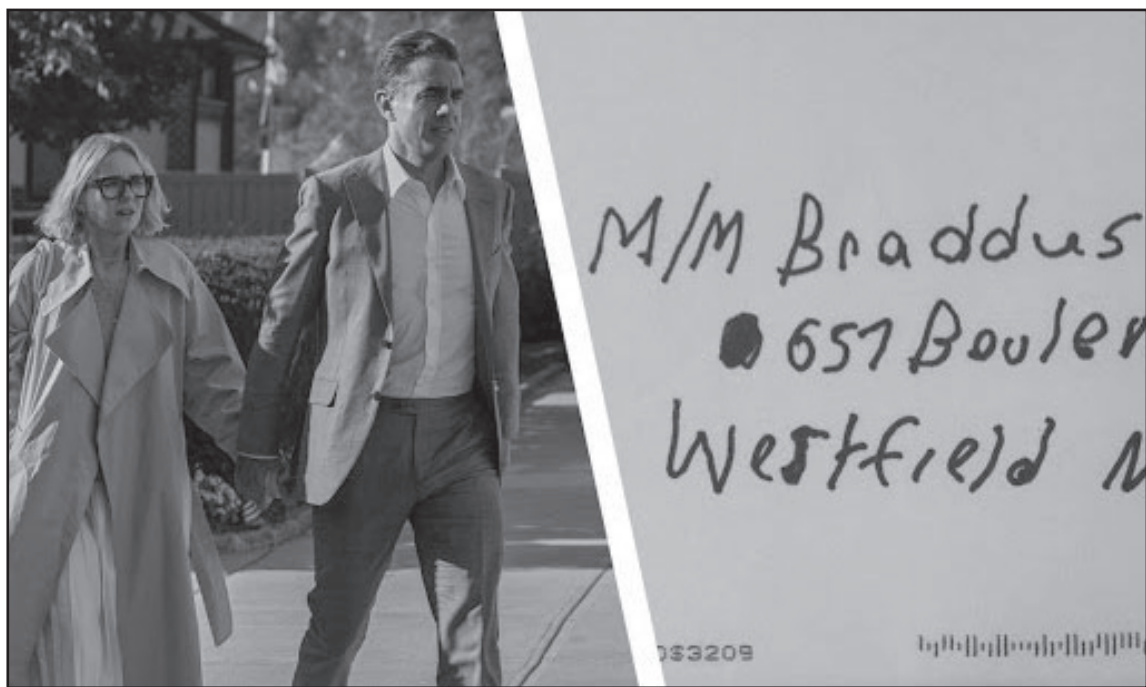
Letters. A forgotten way of communication, a personal medium for a writer to directly tell a specific reader what they want. Yet, with something so simple, letters can be scary—horrifying even. This is conveyed amazingly in the new Netflix series “The Watcher.”

The Watcher follows a middle-aged couple called the Brannocks. A seemingly normal family whose only real issue is financial troubles. Dean, the husband played by Bobby Cannavale, takes out just about every loan he can to afford the family’s dream house. 657 Boulevard in Westfield, New Jersey is a place most people would love to call home. Sure, there is a bit of an eccentric population surrounding the house. The neighbors aren’t very ‘neighborly.’ But still the house is a dream come true, at least until the first letter arrives.

The letters are the driving force behind the entire story of

“The Watcher.” The first shows up casually in the mailbox missing a return address. With a ripping of an envelope, viewers are sucked into a twisting, turning, crime story. The letters consist of just about every creepy thing a person could say, being intentionally ominous with phrases like, “I would be scared if I were you,” and referring to children as “young blood.” As one may guess, the Watcher claims to be watching the house through the windows. This is where the show goes completely away from the source material.

The Watcher is real, at least a real case and person. Real people were targeted and sent letters, but their names were not the Brannocks. This family was the Broadusses, and they purchased the home for much less than the Brannocks, roughly \$1.5 million less. This is mostly where similarities end. There is no recorded evidence or testimony of creepy neighbors, blood cults, or previous murders



MASON JORDAN

in the home. The Watcher claims that they were appointed to watch the house, like their ancestors before, and that they told the previous owner to leave the house.

The Broadusses are scared, and because they aren’t in a Netflix show, they bolted out of 657 Boulevard at the speed of sound. They let the house sit vacant for six months, then finally put it on the market. It was bought surprisingly quickly. Oddly, however, the

new owners haven’t reported any letters. This brings up a question posed in the show often. Did the Broadusses send the letters to themselves? There is a chance, because to this day, the case remains unsolved. Viewers can see possible motivation: maybe the house was a bit too expensive for the family. Could there be a chance that the Watcher was the Broadusses? We’ll never know.

Figuring out what happened is an important part of this

case, but in the end it’s all up to speculation. The show bends the story to give us lots of conclusions to come to. There are many theories someone could make before they watch the final episode, and this does in fact make the story more engaging. Just remember, if a letter arrives from an unknown sender with no return address, be careful when opening it. Ignorance is bliss. Knowing what is in that letter might drive someone insane.



“Meat” the smokin’ Canyons BBQ



Photo credit: Hayward Historical Society

By Samantha Jew

Out with the old and in with the new, that’s what usually happens when a new business takes over an old building. But thanks to Ken Carbone and his vision for the future of Castro Valley, the former gas station and car dealership now hosts a brand new family-owned barbecue joint called Canyons, with two separate stores still in the making. On the corner of Castro Valley Boulevard and Wilbeam Avenue, the old building is finally being restored to its former glory.

As one of the only barbecue

restaurants in Castro Valley, Canyons has indoor-outdoor seating, takeout, catering, and opportunities for fundraising. The menu features various types of meats like tri-tip, brisket, pork ribs, pulled pork, smoked chicken, and hot links. Canyons also offers a rewards program, where your purchases earn points that can be put towards special deals or future purchases.

The owner of Canyons, Larry Ingram, is no stranger to the barbecue business. With other establishments scattered around the Bay Area, Canyons stands out with its custom-built space explicitly tailored with the

restaurant in mind.

Ingram wanted the restaurant to relate to its location when deciding on a name. Canyons stood out the most due to Castro Valley’s abundance of this particular geographic feature.

Ingram originally got into the barbecue business through his son. The barbecue place his son worked at in high school was nothing more than a hole in the wall, and when the owners decided to sell the business, he suggested they buy it and turn it around.

“I’ve really grown fond of the community and we really have a special place here,” said Ingram. “I mean, there are [other] cities around, but they’re not quite



like Castro Valley... we’re really happy to be here and we hope to be good community members.”

Carbone, with the help of others, acquired the funds to restore the building as part of their effort to foster a newer and better Castro Valley. They have worked to restore and renovate multiple old buildings along Castro Valley Boulevard and hand-selected the businesses that will go in them in order for them to “work together and create a synergy and this [nice] walkable downtown.”

The original building was constructed to house a gas station and the first car dealership in Castro Valley. Throughout the years, it has cycled through

various businesses, including a laundromat, smoke shop, hair salon, and even a fish and chips joint, before it was finally left vacant for a period of time. Now restored, the building houses the Canyons barbecue restaurant, with space for two other up-and-coming businesses.

As they start to go into business, Canyons is hiring more employees, specifically looking for local high school and college students. “We have the ambition of making this a great place to work... hopefully it’s the first job for some of these folks, and it’ll be a memorable one that they’ll look back on,” said Ingram.

Noble nobly educates about horses

By Mason Jordan

Brianna Noble, an eBrianna Noble, an entrepreneur from Oakland, went viral after an admirable stand for social justice. She and her horse, Dapper Dan, joined a crowd of Black Lives Matter (BLM) protesters, showing her concern and passion for the movement with bold and vibrant action. After this rocket ride into public recognition Brianna moved on to making her dreams come true.

“I was five years old when I rode a horse for the first time and the rest, as they say, was history,” Noble shared. “I got involved with horses through my older sister Brittany, who worked at a barn in exchange for lessons.”

Noble has a history with horses, which inspired her to start her own foundation, Urban Cowgirl Ranch, in Castro Valley. It is a modern ranch, where Noble’s horses are diligently taken care of daily. These horses are used for Noble’s programs to help people who don’t normally have access to horses experience riding and caring for them.

In 2020 Noble rode Dapper Dan in the BLM protest, kickstarting her journey.

“I couldn’t have known that riding Dapper Dan to the protest would have the impact it did,” she recounts. “Seeing people trail behind us in an alliance was powerful, as was the outreach and support we continue to receive.”

In the midst of the action, the famous photo was taken by

a photographer named Shira Bezalel.

With a “great team of people around her,” Brianna is actively expanding and working on giving more people access to horses.

“I think that horses are a mirror to a person’s soul, allowing someone to see themselves through them. They’re healing to be around,” Noble says. Since she has these views, she is motivated to introduce horses to the underprivileged children and people of the Bay Area.

“Their big stature can be intimidating, but once you work with them and get to know their personalities, that fear turns into respect and understanding,” she said.

At Brianna’s ranch, proper usage of resources is prioritized to decrease waste production. The ranch has a biodigester, a tool used for getting rid of waste by converting it into usable energy. The ranch’s fodder feed system, brainstormed by Noble

and partner Adolfo Gutierrez, is also a smart usage of resources.

“Our fodder has a 7 day growing cycle and provides fresh, nutritional feed daily while only using one gallon of water per horse.”

Brianna made her life goal exposing underprivileged children to the beauty of the equine world through outreach programs, giving underserved inner city children a newfound love for the subject.



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Mina Kim inspires young journalists



KAITLYN TCHANG

By Kaitlyn Tchang

It's 10 a.m. on a weekday morning, and with the touch of a radio dial, Mina Kim's voice fills the air. As co-host of radio station KQED's live talk-show, "Forum," Kim reaches millions around the Bay Area and state of California.

"Forum" uniquely tackles current social and political issues. Each day, Kim spends the hour-long segment interviewing at least one guest, questioning them thoughtfully while deftly fielding live questions from listeners.

But Kim's path to radio journalism was not a clear-cut one. After college, she did Teach for America and became a first-grade teacher, although she knew at this point that she ultimately wanted to pursue a career that contributed social change to the world. She did not realize journalism was her true calling, however, until she gained the opportunity to shadow a journalist and editor through Coro, a public policy fellowship program.

Through that experience, Kim recognized the value journalism has in educating the community.

"I thought, that's so cool that you are out there gathering information, relaying it back to the people in hopes of better informing the public about what the issues are," she said.

Soon after, Kim took an internship at KQED with the experimental program "Pacific Time," which focused on Asian and Asian-American issues. She became an award-winning news reporter, which allowed her

to directly witness stories and interview people at the scene. In this way, Kim likens journalists, who "write the first page in history," to first responders.

Kim's own response to intense stories have had a profound impact on her. She vividly remembers her experience covering the protests following the killing of Oscar Grant in Oakland: "This was when the verdict was announced for the cop who had shot him. And I remember watching people crumble... on the sidewalk at the news. And being a witness to that is really powerful and really humbling."

Starting in 2014, Kim became the Friday host of KQED's program, "Forum," while the show's main host of over two decades, Michael Krasny, hosted the other four weekdays. Six years later, Kim took over the daily 10 a.m. segment of "Forum," a position she continues to hold to this day.

Along the way, Kim has appreciated how race intersects with a journalist's craft. Hailing from St. John's, Newfoundland, Kim identifies as Korean Canadian-American, an identity she sees as intertwined with her skills. She explained that her ability to truly empathize with people of different races comes from having shared similar experiences as a non-white person: "So that is in a way a superpower... the kinds of things that you experienced as a result of your race are part of your skillset."

Like many other AAPI people, however, Kim is no stranger to having this "superpower"

marginalized and disregarded. She reports that journalists have many opportunities to find out whether the "gatekeepers of editorial decision-making" truly value them for their individual perspective, skills, and talents, or the mere "diversity points" they bring to the table.

Kim adds that before diversity became a recent focal point, there existed the "journalistic ideal" of a "view from nowhere," wherein journalists were expected to suppress their experiences and identities, all in the name of impartial reporting. In reality, however, it is impossible to have a "view from nowhere," and embracing diversity is critical to true, honest journalism.

"[Diversity] is deeply, deeply important [to journalism]. It is actually essential to accurate reporting. Because if you are constantly reporting from the lens of a relatively singular experience, then you are only ever going to get that portion of the picture. But... [people] bring insight and empathy because of whatever experiences they have had," Kim said.

The journalism industry has been taking recent steps to diversify and accept divergent perspectives, though it still has a long way to go—52% of nearly 12,000 journalists surveyed reported a lack of racial and ethnic diversity in their news organizations—and Kim recognizes that this movement is occurring faster in some places than others.

One such place where diversification efforts have made sizable progress is KQED, particularly Kim's show, "Forum." According to Kim, this is apparent in how "Forum's" producers have told her, "Mina, bring your experiences to bear, '... [So] I do a lot of shows that address the importance of diversity or representation or inclusion. I do a lot of shows about identities that are marginalized because so much of my experience in growing up is informed by those kinds of experiences as well."

The depth that "Forum" brings to these topics is purposeful, especially as American society

has undergone rapid political polarization over the past few years. In an era where traditional news sources are being replaced by social media, and the line between fact and fiction to many are blurred, hosting a show that informs the public about current issues comes with challenges. While Kim acknowledges this, she also details how "Forum" has embraced this polarization as an opportunity to more easily crystallize "what matters, and our willingness to articulate what as a journalism organization at KQED, and what as a show, we should do."

Identifying what matters to "Forum" has yielded two core areas of focus. Firstly, the show must prioritize "stories that help strengthen democracy by giving people good information." Kim explained that this is because KQED, as a journalistic organization "whose function is to inform people to be able to make... good decisions [and] vote in an informed way," is "very much an entity that is essential to a functioning democracy."

Secondly, Kim described how "Forum" has been deliberately centering the affected populations of each story or issue they examine. "We're going to lean into the humanity and that's going to be our area of focus," she said.

Keeping these core foci in mind while hosting an engaging show might seem like a difficult task to accomplish every day, but to Kim, it is "both the beauty and the challenge" of live radio.

"Definitely I've had moments where I'm like 'Oh, I shouldn't have said that,'" Kim admitted, laughing. Or, "I don't know why I'm saying this.' But that happens. Sometimes that's not a very polished process when you're doing it in the public in the moment. But I think people who like tuning into a live show value hearing people think and process in real time."

Exploring and learning from the challenges of radio journalism has not always been smooth sailing. Early on in Kim's career, she remembers having to work through feelings of impostor syndrome, until she realized that people were tuning in to listen to her because they genuinely valued her interviewing intuitions.

Her biggest tips now for aspiring journalists and interviewers are thus to simply listen to the people you are interviewing and trust your instincts.

"Don't try to be everything to everybody," she urged. "Trust that what is interesting to you matters and is important and will be important to other people as well."

This is a shortened version of the article. You can access the full version on our website.

Teens teach tech

By Anjali Yadavalli

STEM sessions being presented to elementary schools are a way to educate about the foundational principles of how the world around us works. STEM lets students think critically about certain aspects of their everyday lives. The CVHS Teens Teach club provides that insight for younger students and helps high school students gain experience working in STEM environments.

Teens Teach is a club entirely student-driven. Students run the STEM Sessions for elementary school students. The club plans to do activities involving science experiments, tutoring in math, working with different mediums in art, working with technology, and so much more. When STEM is inserted into a student's life at a young age, it opens their thoughts to new possibilities. These opportunities provide students with a broader perspective.

When STEM is taught during adolescence, students' brains have a higher probability of taking in new information. STEM not only aims at the mindset aspect of it but it targets using teamwork and applying knowledge to real-life situations. It encourages adaptability in a team setting and understanding that working together can only benefit the case. It urges asking for help and asking questions when needed. Using critical thinking is a big part of anyone's life at any age.

Junior Lucy Ni, a member of Teens Teach stated: "Obviously STEM is important. It's the foundation for everything, it's basically the basics."

Ni thinks that when younger children are exposed to STEM it will benefit them in many ways. Even if they don't think it's useful at this exact moment, it will be exceedingly beneficial in the future.

STEM sessions provide lots of insight and information on things that regular classes in school don't supply. STEM meetings go more in-depth about how real-world circumstances can be seen through a different lens using critical evaluation. Sciences, technology, engineering, and math all develop and gain difficulty as students get older, interposing STEM could help students gain a better understanding and foundation of the subjects.

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Semi-successful senior send-offs

Festivities compensate for football flump

By Renata Gutierrez

The Castro Valley Trojans battled the San Leandro Pirates on Oct. 28, their last home game of the season and their senior night. Although the Trojans gave the Pirates a good fight, they lost 41-27. The senior night ceremony happened before the game, awarding 23 varsity football players and 14 members of the varsity spirit squad.

During the ceremony, seniors from the football team and spirit squad walked through the Trojan helmet one last time, accompanied by their loved ones, as the crowd and their fellow teammates cheered them on.

The first touchdown of the night made by the Trojans was executed by number 42, Sincere Dove, during the second quarter of the game, making the score 20-7 by the end of the second quarter. However, this was not Dove's only touchdown of the game; during the third quarter, Dove made yet another touchdown giving the Trojans a chance for a comeback with two minutes left on the clock in the third quarter, the score was now at 20-14. With a few seconds of the third quarter left, the Pirates got a touchdown, slimming the chances of the Trojans winning. The last Touchdown by the Trojans was made by number 3, Deven Salinas, making the total points the Trojans scored 21, but the Pirates continued to score points, bringing their



OLIVE DOOLEY

total to 47.

During halftime, the class of 2023 varsity spirit squad members performed together one last time.

"That was so sad. I think it was a little nerve wracking just because it was like the last performance," said Ashley Kim, one of the cheer team captains. Nonetheless, this is not the spirit squads last performance, given that they also cheer during basketball season.

However, they were not

the only ones dancing that night; after the spirit squad performance, the parents of varsity football players, alongside parents of spirit squad members, put on a show for the audience, dancing through technical difficulties. The crowd was enthusiastic about the performances of the senior parent spirit squad as the parents bobbed their heads and stamped their feet. It was truly a night to remember for everyone in attendance.

Volleyball seniors secure win



MELISSA BOUSSAROQUE

By Melissa Boussaroque

The Trojans defeated the Encinal Jets, yet again, on Oct. 20; the CVHS girl's volleyball team won 3-1 at their last home game of the season, which also happened to be their senior night. The nine seniors honored were Maddie Low, Gaby Schirado, Amber Huizar, Kaylie Gomes, Bianca Petalver, Roisin Nugent, Kara Matthews, Maria Fanger, and Mia Wierzba.

The game was preceded by a ceremony, complete with tiaras, gifts, flowers, and a fog machine. The ceremony honored the CVHS seniors, as well as the seniors from Encinal.

"It's always sad to see seniors go, so it feels weird to finally be a senior. It all feels very bittersweet" said Low.

"Bonding with the team is the best part because we've all grown together," said Nugent.

The game was off to a good

start when the Trojans easily won the first set 25-9. The second set had a rocky start; the Jets were quite a few points in the lead until the Trojans caught up and it was close until the very end when the Trojans won 25-23. The Trojans unfortunately lost the third set 20-25, but it was extremely close the entire time and they put up a good fight. After the loss, the Trojans were able to redeem themselves and easily won the fourth, and therefore last, set 25-14.

"I'm pretty psyched about the win because it was our last home game", said Fanger.

Coach Maggie Del Grande said, "That was a really important win for us because that clinched our spot in the playoffs, and I'm really proud of our seniors".

After this win, the Trojans advanced to the playoffs against Cal High on Oct. 25 where they unfortunately lost.

Colmenares' comeback



OLIVE DOOLEY

By Erika Sun

Serjio Colmenares did not initially envision himself to be a football player, as he played baseball growing up. However, when he moved to Castro Valley in fourth grade, he decided to sign up for a local intramural flag football team and give the sport a try. His experience seemingly knocked a sense into him, as Colmenares instantly fell in love with the sport and forgot all about his original baseball ambitions.

Fast forward to high school: a left guard for the varsity football team, Colmenares has quickly become a football phenomenon both on and off the field.

"Serjio is one of the most committed guys we have. He doesn't talk a lot but he works hard, doesn't complain, and is a team player," said varsity football coach Denny Molzen. "He's unselfish, hardworking, has a team first mentality and is mentally tough. Additionally, he's an exceptional student, teammate, and young

man."

Colmenares' football career, however, did not always move in perfect bliss. In middle school, he was cut from the sixth grade flag football team. Colmenares saw this bump in the road as a learning opportunity to grow and develop his game even further.

"It really broke me, but it pushed me to prove that those coaches had made a mistake. Now before every game, I think of what those coaches said to me when they cut me," stated Colmenares.

Now a standout senior who has been part of the CVHS football program for 4 years and currently on the varsity squad, Colmenares is a prime example of what having perseverance and a good work ethic can do.

"I love everything about it," said Colmenares in regards to being on the school football team. "But the thing I love the most is running out of the blow-up Trojan head, seeing my family in the crowd, and seeing how proud they are of me."

While it will be Colmenares' last year playing for the Trojans,

he continues to demonstrate a hardworking attitude to the very end. His leadership and commitment to the team will truly be missed by the coaching staff.

"He's a glue guy. High school football teams can only be successful with young men like Serjio who does what his team asks or needs from him," noted Molzen.

Despite not being quite decisive on his future pursuits due to prioritizing his focus on the current season, Colmenares has many ideas in mind.

"Right now I don't have a clue, as I'm focused on making the most of this season as I can. I would love to pursue football in college, but if that doesn't work out, I want to finish college and get a job in the field of psychology and maybe come back to Castro Valley and be a coach," said Colmenares.

Nevertheless, whether it be through his football achievements, his positive attitude, or perhaps being the school's next football coach, "Serjio Colmenares" will undeniably be a name known among the CVHS community.



FRANCES LEE

Prop 1 makes abortion a constitutional right

By Frances Lee

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* sparked numerous discussions regarding reproductive rights and the fear of losing those rights. As a result, California proposed an amendment to give people the right to choose whether they want to have an abortion or refuse contraceptives. The proposition will change the constitution's wording to specify that, "the state cannot deny or interfere with a person's reproductive freedom and that people have the fundamental right to choose whether or not to have an abortion or use contraceptives."

CalMatters, an on-partisan and nonprofit news organization, explains, "there is already a right to privacy guaranteed in the California Constitution, but it is not explicitly defined."

Supporters of Proposition 1 also argue that the choice to use contraceptives should be given to individuals and their healthcare providers. This proposition will grant individuals the freedom of choice to use or deny contraceptives based on the individual's needs, instead of the law.

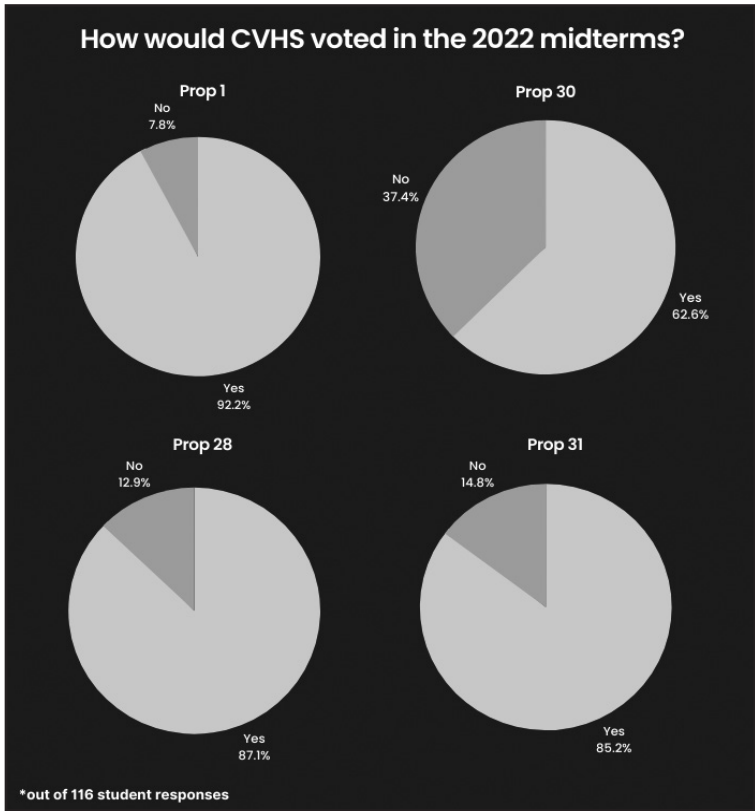
Proposition 1 will have no financial impact since those

rights are already protected in California, according to CalMatters. However, opposition argued that due to the proposition's broad wording, it may cost California millions of dollars in legal fees.

California Together, a campaign led by religious and anti-abortion groups, argued that although California spends roughly \$200 million on abortion and reproductive health care, most of it is spent on individuals from other states who are looking for a legal way to get an abortion. These groups argue that these funds should be focused on education and infrastructure.

According to KQED, a local public media organization, "California is preparing to spend up to \$20 million to bring patients seeking abortions from other states to its abortion clinics, a policy aimed at increasing access to a procedure that has been outlawed or restricted in many states since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*."

Could the approval of this proposition lead to an increase in the already inflating economy, or could this improve women's lives and prevent overpopulation?



OLIVE DOOLEY

Prop 31 passes, saves teens' lungs

By Maddie Newman

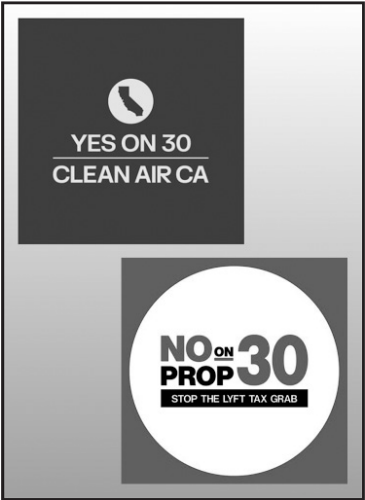
Prop 31 prohibits many flavored tobacco products from being sold in California stores. This was actually a vote to approve Senate Bill (SB) 793, which was passed and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2020. The law was on hold until voters decided it would be put into effect.

Support for this proposition meant banning sale of flavored tobacco products. No on this proposition meant continuing to allow the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Gerald "Jerry" Hill, the legislative sponsor of SB 793, said, "California fought Big Tobacco and won. This shameless industry is a sore loser and it is relentless. It wants to keep killing people with its candy-, fruit-, mint- and menthol-flavored poison. The adults who are hooked on nicotine aren't enough for Big Tobacco; it wants our kids too".



Prop 30? A climate dream or a capitalistic nightmare?



VICTOR BAHNG

By Victor Bahng

This November, seven propositions were included on the ballot, introducing Prop 30, which would have added a new tax on the wealthy to help fund and spread more access to Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) and fund wildfire response and prevention.

Prop 30 would have required California taxpayers that earn an annual salary of over \$2 million to pay for an additional tax bracket of 1.75 percent. The estimated \$3.5 to 5 billion that will be accumulated each year would have gone towards efforts to reduce carbon emissions by funding wildfire response and prevention programs as well as ZEV programs, which will help citizens afford electric vehicles. Charging stations would also have been installed with the revenue.

Of the \$3.5 to 5 billion, 80 percent of the total revenue

The American Lung Association in California said, "Using candy flavors to trick kids into trying nicotine is the cornerstone of Big Tobacco's deadly business model. Yes on 31 will save lives—protecting kids from ever getting hooked on tobacco in the first place."

Joe Lang, managing partner at Lang, Hansen Giroux & Kidane, says "It's already illegal for anyone under 21 to use any tobacco product flavored or not. Prop 31 is not a ban on flavored tobacco for children - that's already illegal. It's a ban on legal regulated sales to adult consumers."

Supporters of voting yes on Prop 31 said that it will save kids from becoming addicted to nicotine through products marketed towards them. It's already illegal for people under 21 to buy tobacco products; those against this proposition say that it will only prohibit adults from consuming products they want.

would have gone towards ZEV programs, 45 percent as payments to afford electric vehicles and 35 percent for charging stations, while the remaining 20 percent would have gone towards wildfire efforts.

This proposition would have taken effect in January 2023 and last for about 20 years, depending on whether the goal of reducing carbon emissions by 80 percent of the 1990 level emissions (roughly 431 million metric tons) for three continuous years.

With a glance, this proposition stands out as a wonderful decision for the ongoing battle of reducing carbon emissions. The subject is being approached more frequently as people become more aware and worried about the unpredictable future and stress action for it. But even with this seemingly angelic prop, there were still opposers.

Their main argument was their opposition to the transportation company, Lyft, with Governor Newsom stating "it [Prop 30] was devised by a single corporation, to funnel state income taxes to benefit their company." To clarify, in 2018 the E-Car bill was signed which required ridesharing companies, such as Lyft and Uber, make their fleets transition to ZEVs. Studies have shown that drivers were producing a lot of carbon idling or driving to customers, which is what led to the mandate.

Prop 28 increases arts funding

By Kaitlyn Tchang

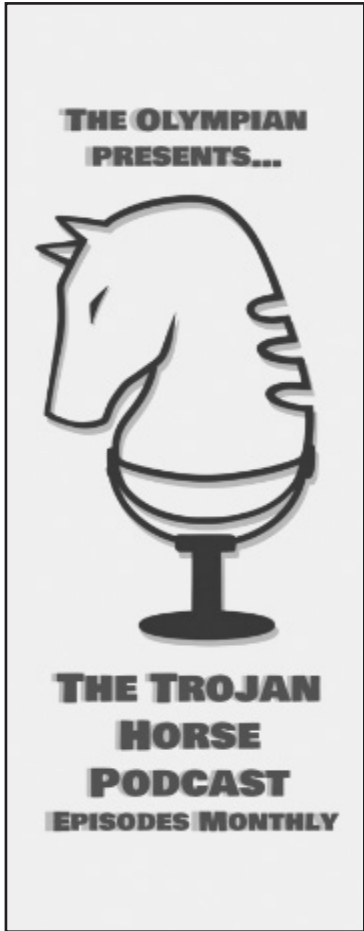
California voters found Prop 28 on their ballots.

Prop 28 builds off of Prop 98, which narrowly passed over three decades ago and forced California to allocate a minimum percentage of its budget to K-14 education.

Prop 28 will divert 1 percent of Prop 98's allocated funds to arts and music education—doubling the amount of funding these categories have historically been allotted. 30 percent of that funding will specifically be sent to public schools with low-income students and 80 percent of the funding each school receives will be required to be spent on hiring full-time music and art teachers. Prop 28 is predicted to increase California's spending by up to \$1 billion annually.

Supporters of Prop 28, argue that most California public school students are receiving inadequate music and arts education. This is due to art programs often being the first programs cut by public schools during times of financial distress. Supporters believe that Prop 28 will end this cycle of underfunding and offer all California students high-quality arts programs.

Meanwhile, opponents of Prop 28 argue that the ballot initiative's locked-in funding may prove dangerous in times of economic distress. They worry that forcing money allocation to the arts means that during future tough times, damaging cuts to more essential needs may occur. The organization Reform America instead urges voters to elect "better school board members to spend the existing education dollars more effectively and efficiently."



Should we be thankful for Thanksgiving?

By Evan Griffith

Americans love Thanksgiving. A holiday dedicated to sitting around the table and ingesting large quantities of butter filled food. It's right up our alley! But the history of Thanksgiving is rather grim. The famous story we base the modern holiday off of is that colonizers and Indigenous Americans alike came together on the fourth Thursday of November and celebrated that year's harvest.

This story, of course, is not an accurate representation of the historical relationship between Indigenous Americans and European colonizers. In fact, our modern holiday is not even an accurate representation of what a real Thanksgiving was. Feasts held back then had no potatoes, rolls, stuffing, pie, or even turkey. European colonizers would hold these Thanksgivings not only for harvests but for any event they believed to be a cause for celebration. Including the forcible and violent theft of indigenous crops and land.

For obvious reasons, the celebration of Thanksgiving does not sit well with many Indigenous people. Some opt for Indigenous centered events such as the National Day of Mourning. As for how to celebrate Thanksgiving in a respectful manner, here are some ideas.

Educate yourself! Reading up on the history of Indigenous Americans as well as the current issues presented towards their communities is a crucial part of good allyship. Try celebrating Indigenous American culture with a traditional dish native to the land that you are on (That would be Ohlone land if you are in the Bay Area). Something else you could do would be to donate to Indigenous organizations such as the Sogorea Te' Land Trust, an Indigenous-women led organization dedicated to the rematriation of native land.

No matter how you celebrate this Nov. 24, celebrate with honor, respect and acknowledgement of the Indigenous people whose land you are celebrating on.



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Golly gee ol' chap! Britain's in crisis in't!



By Wyatt Franklin

The U.K. has been struggling with economic problems and in the last few years, it worsened. With the U.K.'s most recent Prime Minister only lasting 50 days, it seems their problems are continuing to grow.

The U.K. has always had a mindset to never think of the future when it comes to economics. A 2018 report by Trades Union Congress shows that the U.K. is 34 on a list of 36 countries in public and private investment proportional to national income.

A great example of this is the U.K.'s water. All reservoirs, pipes, and treatment plants are privately owned by companies around the globe. This forced the water companies to pay \$57 billion in dividends from 1991 to 2019. This is almost half of what these companies spent on improving infrastructure. It is the same story with many of the companies that generate power for the U.K..

The war in Ukraine has pushed energy prices to the moon. According to the U.K.'s House of Commons, energy prices have increased by 96 percent since 2021.

With inflation at a record high in the U.K., things are not looking good for the average consumer. Inflation has been pushed by rising gas prices, low job opportunities and the U.K. leaving the EU. According to the British Retail Consortium, "food inflation has hit a record high of 11.6 percent."

Most credit Brexit to the beginnings of the U.K. rescission. The U.K. left the EU to stop mass immigration sent from various countries and because they were funneling the most money out of all of the

countries into EU financial aid.

With a very split vote the U.K. decided to leave the EU. While it might seem like a good economic decision, the Euro was the only thing propping up the U.K.'s economy. With all the problems facing the U.K. economically they needed an outside currency that was not as affected by their massive economic fumbles.

Brexit has now reared its ugly head as problems are mounting in the U.K.. The pound has fallen massively as it has no other countries to save it from taking a tumble.

The U.K. has had five prime ministers since 2016, creating political turmoil.

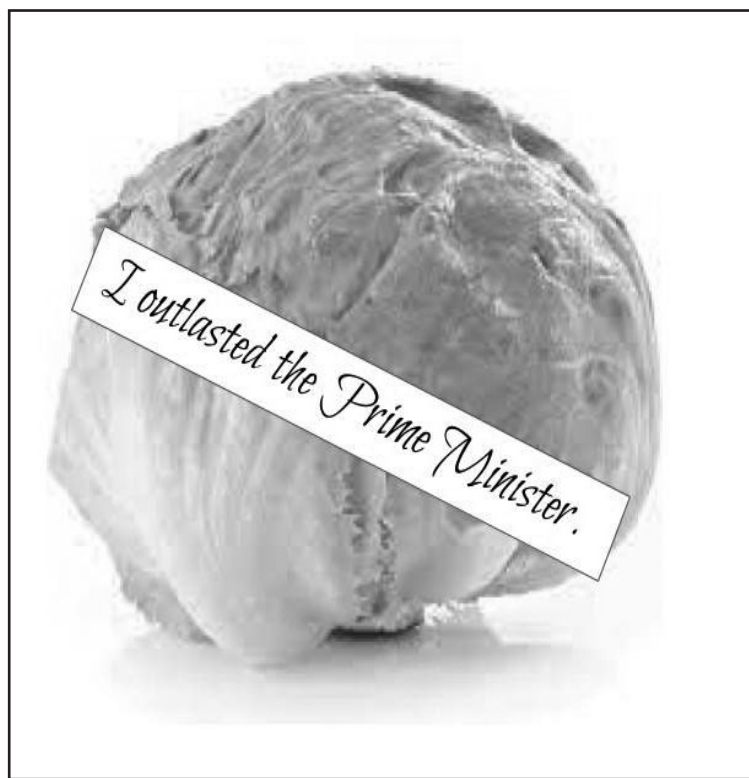
A more ideological setback is Queen Elizabeth's death. The death of Queen Elizabeth is the end of an era in Great Britain. Her death has also thrown into question if anyone in the royal family is up to the task as monarch.

Right after the queen's death, Liz Truss resigned as Prime Minister, becoming the shortest serving prime minister in history, causing a major economic downturn. Following her induction as prime minister, she promised tax cuts and increases to government spending. These two things do not go together.

After this massive economic breakdown Truss resigned after 50 days in office. The news of her resignation did not help the U.K.'s problems. With the pound's value still falling below the dollar.

Now with Rishi Sunak as Prime Minister things seem like they might be on an upturn. It seems he might take a better approach to the U.K.'s dire economic situation.

Sunak has already started to fight down record high inflation in the U.K. by freezing energy prices and raising interest rates. What comes next for the U.K. is all up in the air right now. We will have to wait to see if Sunak can last at least 51 days.



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