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Tiger



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SOUTH PASADENA HIGH SCHOOL
1401 FREMONT AVE, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030

IN THE NEWS

Peer Mediators

The October Zine honors Ruth Bader Ginsburg, with submissions due by Monday, Oct. 12.

Library Book Club

Librarian Shelee Wilkerson is hosting an October virtual book club with the spooky novel *Sawkill Girls*.

2020 Election

Everyone eligible to vote must register online by Monday, Oct. 19, or in person on Election Day.

Youth work polls for 2020 Election



STORY EDDIE ZHOU
ILLUSTRATION TERRY SONG

Students are taking charge at the polls in preparation for the upcoming election, with multiple SPHS seniors preparing to work as poll workers on the Nov. 3 Election Day. Although most high schoolers cannot vote, they remain passionate about making civic contributions in any way possible.

Amidst the coronavirus pandemic, many citizens are resorting to mail-in ballots, but voting centers remain imperative to the efficacy of the nation's voting process. In the 2016 election, 56 percent of poll workers were senior citizens, while just 5 percent were under 18, according to the U.S. Election Assistance Committee. However, the threat of the coronavirus has scared off many senior citizens, leaving voting centers to rely on increased youth participation.

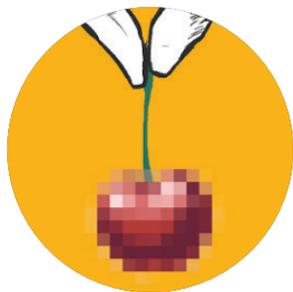
"I initially wanted my parents to sign up to be an election worker, but then I saw that students could do it as well," senior Audrey Ernst said. "I don't want to look back at this election and realize I didn't do anything to help. This is probably the most crucial election in our lifetime and I want to know that I did my part."

Ernst discovered the L.A. County Student Election Worker Program, which recruits and trains students for eight hours to work at the polls. Poll workers will assist with opening and closing the voting center, processing voters throughout the day, and answering voter questions while practicing social distancing measures. Participating students work from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Election Day and for 11 hours on one of the two weekends prior, earning them a maximum stipend of \$380.

After learning about the program from Ernst, AP Government teacher Maryann Nielsen encouraged students to sign up for it to actively experience the keystone of America's democratic process.

"The opportunity to serve as poll workers will definitely help SPHS students see firsthand the voting process and the importance of voting in our democracy," Nielsen said. "It will give them a stronger sense of political efficacy, which could have long lasting effects in their lives as they seek ways to get involved in the system or work to bring about change."

Students will begin their assignment on either Saturday, Oct. 24 or Saturday, Oct. 31, stationed at local polling centers.



CHERRY-PICKING

Widespread cherry-picking of the Black Lives Matter movement distracts from its essential work, which only serves to perpetuate racism.

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FREE THE PEOPLE

Wealthy white men created the U.S. government and continue to undemocratically profit off it at the expense of the majority.

Page 8 & 9



KARDASHIANS

The Kardashians' 14-year grip on reality TV changed celebrity culture and the American public's relationship with wealth forever.

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NEWS

Annual Club Rush transitions to Zoom

STORY SOFIA ALVA
PHOTO OSCAR WALSH

Clubs have adapted from their typical in-person meetings to a virtual setting as distance learning continues, and ASB held the annual student-led Club Rush through Zoom for the first time since its creation. Each club presented in its own breakout room instead of the traditional booth set-up throughout the week of Monday, Sept. 28.

Students joined the main Zoom call and then chose which of the over 60 clubs they wanted to learn more about — a system that yielded mixed results.

“The process for organizing Club Rush was a bit chaotic this year,” ASB Commissioner of Clubs Logan Bishop said. “It was challenging getting the entire student body aware of the event but on the other hand, it was easier on club presidents as they didn’t have to set up booths and students could visit clubs they were interested in with few conflicts.”

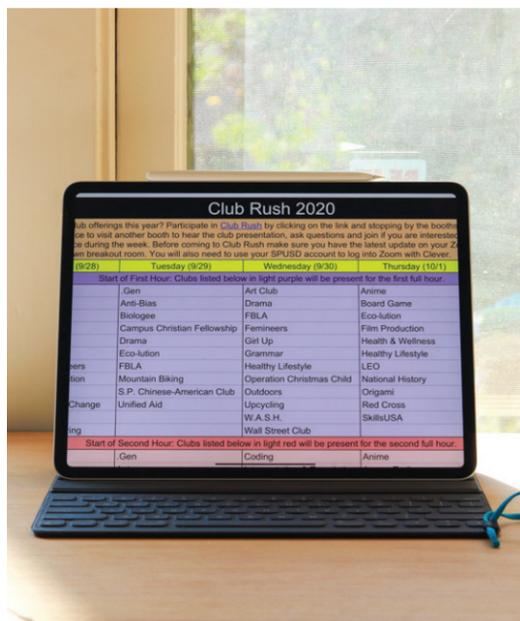
The format of Club Rush this year was also a new experience for freshmen at SPHS.

“I learned about a lot of cool clubs that I liked but it was definitely different than what I was expecting,” freshman Twyla Metcalfe said. “I liked that you could choose your own breakout rooms on the Zoom but the organization of it all was a bit confusing. I really liked how most of the clubs I visited tried to transfer their ideas to online.”

Amidst coronavirus restrictions, many students have looked to social media to re-energize past clubs and start new ones. Club leaders have utilized posts, videos, and graphics on Instagram to engage their members and update the student body. Newly formed club Generation Menstruation has taken advantage of the change in platform to reach wider audiences outside of SPHS, and it has already hosted the “Periods Don’t Stop for Pandemics” drive for menstrual products the weekend of Saturday, Oct. 3.

“This drive was our way of helping others in their time of need,” Generation Menstruation co-president Brynn Buckley said. “We chose [to help] the Downtown Women’s Center [this time, and] we plan on having more drives quarterly as we feel they are a great way to help out menstruators everywhere! We also plan on having educational workshops where students can discuss and disassemble the stigma surrounding a period.”

Clubs new and old are gearing up for a year of online activities and events to maintain the extracurricular tradition and engage students amidst the monotony of distance learning.



OVER 60 SCHOOL CLUBS signed up for several 15 minute slots to present to students in individual Zoom breakout rooms over the course of five days during the week of Monday, Sept. 28.

Arts programs adjust to distance learning by utilizing new technology

STORY KAHLEN MIAO
PHOTO SOPHIE YEUNG

The SPHS performing arts programs have embraced the difficulties of distance learning by taking advantage of the online format in creative ways.

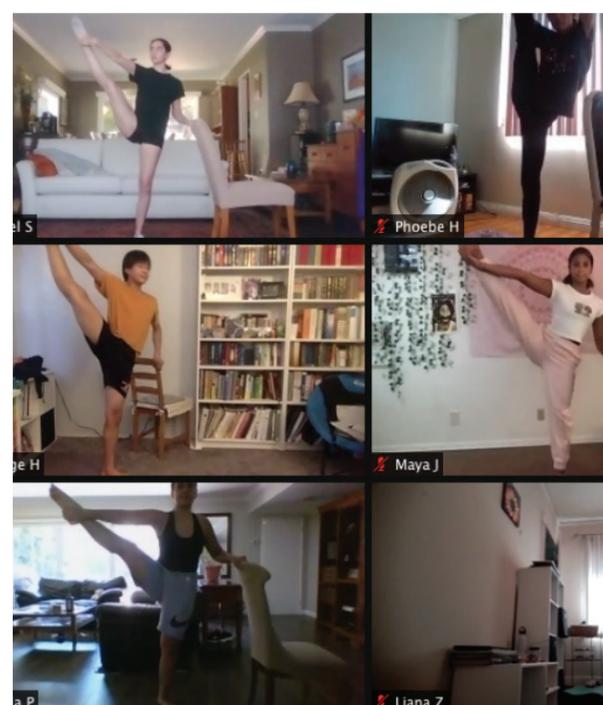
Coronavirus pandemic safety restrictions have confined students to their homes and computer screens, which makes it impossible for those in drama to perform on a live stage. Instead, classes have focused on smaller details such as fine tuning their accents and postures, which may not have previously been emphasized.

“Social distancing has helped me [to] really focus on the minor details that make all the difference in scenes,” sophomore Veronica Koutsky said. “With less distractions that come in the form of props and blocking, I can devote my attention completely to my scene partner and my facial expressions.”

The choir program has also taken a similar approach, as students have been improving their sight-reading, music theory, and production skills instead of singing as a big group. Students have been working on individual recordings which they will compile and edit to create a virtual concert, helping to foster a sense of community that so many high schoolers are currently missing in distance learning.

“It’s refreshing to have a class that isn’t 100 percent focused on academics. It gives us a bit of a break and we can feel a little more comfortable with each other,” freshman Lillian Sherman said. “I feel like I’m getting to know my [choir] classmates, even if it’s just a little, and that isn’t something I’m doing in my other classes.”

Although there is no marching band season this year, the band program has begun using apps such as “Upbeat” to mix together students’ individually recorded music to mimic a complete in-person performance. Instrument sections have also used breakout rooms so students can continue to bond and practice together.



DANCE STUDENTS have continued to practice routines in a socially-distanced setting.

The drama program will perform *The Tragedy of Macbeth* in a socially-distanced setting in early 2021 and is hosting auditions over Zoom on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 13 and 14. The arts classes’ roles of fostering creativity in the often rigid school day has grown even more significant during distance learning.

“As teachers we have to understand that we’re not teaching in the exact same way [right now],” drama teacher Nick Hoffa said. “It is so important for us to give the students a bit of a different experience than they would have in their normal everyday lives and I believe that’s true with the arts generally, but even more so now.”

Compost Culture wins \$5000 grant

The student-run program reduces residents’ waste via composting.

STORY KATIE HOHMAN
PHOTO SEAN JIN

Student-run project Compost Culture beat out 23 other groups to win extra funding from the Dragon Kim Foundation in order to expand its composting services on Thursday, Sept. 24. Senior Patrick Latting and junior Liam de Villa developed the program in February to foster a culture of sustainability in South Pasadena and improve the environment.

Latting and de Villa have tried to make it easy for residents to be eco-friendly by giving them the tools to compost from home. Community members only have to put their organic scraps into bins provided to them, and the two students will do the rest through their curbside pickup service. The program is simple and contactless, which makes it ideal for residents stuck at home during the pandemic.

“The reason we have the curbside organic-based pickup service is because composting can sometimes take a while,” de Villa said. “We created it as an option for people who didn’t have the time to compost or who don’t have good backyards.”

The two students, along with other volunteers, collect residents’ scraps and deliver them to a local farm for composting. Seemingly useless food scraps are then organically decomposed into rich soil. Latting and de Villa hope that their program will not only promote composting around South Pasadena, but shine a light on how important an eco-friendly lifestyle is to combat climate change.

“My family and I never used to compost because we didn’t know



COMPOST CULTURE CREATORS Patrick Latting and Liam de Villa utilized the Dragon Kim Foundation to fund their project.

where to start or how to go about doing it,” an anonymous Compost Culture participant said. “But ever since we got our composter, we use it all the time because we know the long-lasting environmental impact it has.”

Latting and de Villa noticed that while the effects of climate change like wildfires are visible all around the community, many residents are unsure how to help the environment. Thus, the two students decided to enable residents to reduce their ecological footprint from home.

“Food waste is a big [environmental] problem with methane emissions,” Latting said. “When food waste decomposes aerobically in a landfill, it

produces a lot of methane [gas] but it doesn’t do that when you compost it. By making composting more available [to the community], we are trying to help lower the amount of greenhouse gases we are producing.”

Compost Culture formally began when Latting and de Villa applied for a grant through the Dragon Kim Foundation in the Spring and earned \$5,000 in startup money. Now, six months later, Latting and de Villa have won the Dragon Challenge and an extra \$5,000 in funds, which they plan to use to expand to new locations like Pasadena. Signups for Compost Culture are still open and Latting and de Villa hope to bring more people into the project before they graduate.

Climate Plan takes local environmental action

An environmental consulting firm outlined major objectives of sustainability for the City by 2045

STORY ZOE SCHLAAK
PHOTO ELLA JAYASEKERA
GRAPHIC COURTESY OF
RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

South Pasadena has finalized a permanent Climate Action Plan and aims to implement it in the coming weeks. The City hired private environmental consulting firm RinCon to create long-term goals to primarily reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Action Plan intends to make the community more environmentally sustainable in six main categories — energy, transportation, water, solid waste, carbon, and municipal — to meet California’s carbon neutrality goal by the year 2045.

In terms of energy, the action plan continues the City’s collaboration with the Clean Power Alliance to use 100 percent renewable energy. This includes implementing more zero-emission transportation options like public and shared transit to meet the objective of

a 25 percent increase in non-polluting vehicles by 2045. One way South Pasadena has worked to meet that requirement is its recent transition to electric shuttles within community programs such as Dial-A-Ride, which helps elderly citizens travel around town.

City leaders are also seeking to reduce the per capita water use by 10 percent before the year 2030. South Pasadena has already issued measures to save water such as the Water Conservation Ordinance which prohibits residents from watering their yards or landscapes between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Reducing waste and increasing recycling is vital to the Climate Action Plan and essential to meet the environmental requirements of SB 1383. This bill, which goes into effect in 2022, mandates that jurisdictions need to create community education and outreach programs on recycling organics to decrease the amount of solid waste being sent to landfills. The plan instructs the City to reduce residential and commercial waste sent to

landfills by 50 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2045.

Currently, South Pasadena residents do not recycle since the City contracts with Athens for waste management. As the entire Climate Action Plan is not public yet, it is unknown whether that contract will remain in the future.

The plan’s carbon section is designed to improve local air quality by raising carbon sequestration levels, or the long-term storage of carbon dioxide, through planting more trees and creating larger green spaces.

Air pollution has been a major health concern lately because of the local wildfires creating unsafe outdoor conditions for residents, establishing an unprecedented relevance for the Climate Action Plan.

“The record-breaking fires and heat waves experienced on the West Coast this summer show climate change is here now and already poses serious risks to human life, health, and property,” William Kelly, member of the Natural Resource and Environmental Commission (NREC), said. “For the sake of our children and future generations, it’s time for everyone in South Pasadena and communities across the planet to do what they can to reduce the carbon-based emissions that are heating the planet. It’s time too to put climate adaptation measures in place to protect our health and welfare from increasingly deadly heat waves.”

In 2019, the NREC implemented a Green Action Plan which created temporary goals for community members to reduce single-use plastics and improve water conservation which paved the way for the longer-term Climate Action Plan.



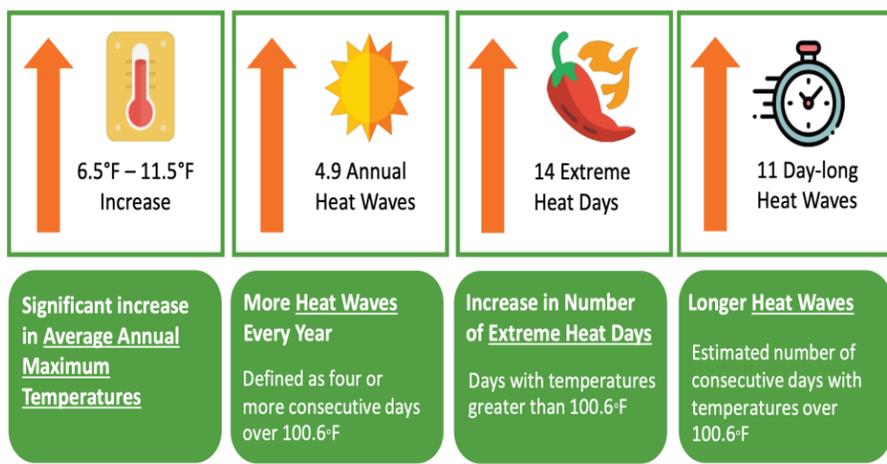
AS THE FIRST registered green city in the nation, South Pasadena has eliminated all fossil fuel consumption.

Despite the City’s various pledges for sustainability, residents have criticized local leaders for not doing enough to combat the existential crisis that is climate change.

“There is a neglect of attention from the older generation of people, who hold the power, to make a change,” junior Samantha Molina said. “The only power we have is to beg and ask for those in [leadership] positions, to please make a change, hear our calls, and listen [to us] to combat climate change.”

The Climate Action Plan is expected to be reviewed by the NREC one last time before it is sent to the City Council for approval.

Figure 1 Impacts of Climate Change in the City of South Pasadena (~2100)



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Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage month, which began on Sept. 15 and ends on Oct. 15, celebrates the achievements and impact Hispanic, or Spanish-speaking, people have had on American culture, society, and government. Tiger interviewed four Hispanic students to understand how they connect with their culture and keep traditions alive.

STORY SOFIA ALVA, HAELEE KIM, & QUINN MANZO

ILLUSTRATIONS TERRY SONG

Cooking alleviates cultural disconnect

Junior Julie Frias has struggled to connect with her Vietnamese and Laotian and Mexican backgrounds. Despite this, Frias has found ways to take pride in being a member of the Latinx community.

Society often pressures, and has historically forced, Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) to outwardly identify with only one race even if they are multiracial. When discussing her multicultural background, Frias feels that her Vietnamese, Laotian and Mexican heritages are competing for one place within her identity.

“I have struggled with my identity and have always felt that I did not belong to either community. I wasn’t Asian enough for the Asian community or Latina enough for the Latinx community,” Frias said. “I feel like my opinion [on societal issues] will not be validated since I am only half or don’t look the part. [However,] I am very proud to

be half Latina. It represents my family’s hard work and sacrifice in this country to get me where I am today.”

As a first-generation American, Frias has witnessed firsthand the importance of keeping family traditions alive while adjusting to a new environment.

“My abuela has been teaching me how to prepare traditional Mexican foods such as ceviche,” Frias said. “Every Christmas, my abuela has [also] been teaching me how to make tamales in hopes that when she passes away, I will carry the tradition of preparing them for the family. It is a very special moment between us that I will cherish for the rest of my life.”

Frias hopes to pass on memories of cooking traditional food to her children so that they will be able to connect with their Hispanic heritage as well.



Traditions teach life lessons

Pupusas, music, humility, and hammocks: These are some of the words that pop up in senior and first-generation American Brian Zepeda’s mind when reflecting on his Salvadoran heritage. Zepeda views his mother, Zeibis Arely Zepeda, as the connection between American and Salvadoran culture.

Zepeda proudly describes the shared values of gratitude, generosity, and hard work that his family has instilled in him. Oftentimes, he says, the people in El Salvador do not come from wealth, so they have a strong appreciation for everything they own and the effort it took to achieve it — including his own mother, who sold candies on a street corner in her home country at the age of four to support her family.

“[Salvadoran people] tend to be nice to their neighbors. We’re taught to think about others a lot more than

ourselves, which is something I think a lot of kids our age don’t necessarily think about.”

Zepeda beamed about his Salvadoran playlist, with the bright sounds of trumpets and powerful love songs. He learned both to embrace his own rich heritage and appreciate different cultures from his mom.

“Hispanic parents are often close-minded about political topics and what to wear and things like that.... More recently my mom has changed and been like, ‘I want you to express who you are,’ because the more I grow up the more she realizes who I’m becoming.”

Zepeda feels connected to both El Salvador and America through his mother’s teachings and his experiences in South Pasadena. Together, they will continue to share joyous family traditions together.

Death is a cause for celebration

While many people are scared of death, junior Frida Rojas’ Mexican heritage has taught her not to fear death but instead welcome it with celebration and joy.

Rojas’ family is extremely close in the most literal sense possible. Her abuelita, tías, and tíos all live together in one plot of land that her tío built. The household is completely run by her abuelita, who babysits the children, cooks and cleans, and makes blankets for the family members.

Rojas and her tight-knit family also retain a strong connection to their heritage.

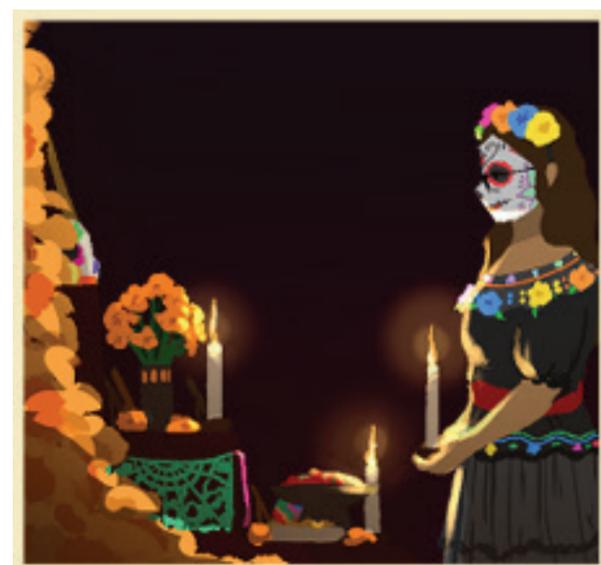
“I have always felt like Mexicans stay super close to their culture, even after they immigrate to America,” Rojas said. “We have a really strong pride in our traditions and [our] behavior.”

Día de Los Muertos is a prime example of how Rojas engages in Mexican traditions. During the holiday Rojas colors paper skulls, eats her abuelita’s food, and sets up altars for her loved ones who have passed.

When a loved one dies, she goes through the same five-step grief process like everyone else, but the event of the death itself is never sad. Rojas feels that laying out special memorabilia on an altar allows the family member to remain close.

“When symbols of their life are right in front of you, it feels like they never died, you know? I get to think of them like they’re still here with me.”

Rojas is grateful for the lasting cultural impact of Día de Los Muertos and she is set on approaching her life and death with a fearless outlook.



Family heritage cultivates pride

Senior Matteo Lee and his brothers, sophomores Tomás and Nico, developed rich identities intertwined with the traditions of their Mexican family. Thus, they do not shy away from acknowledging the difficult truths of their family’s immigrant experience. A poignant reminder of the brothers’ background is the white-washing of their uncles and mother’s birth certificates when they immigrated to the U.S. in the 1950s.

“When my mom told me she was ‘white,’ I was shocked. I couldn’t believe there wasn’t a Hispanic or Latino option,” Matteo said. “That story taught me to be proud of who I am as a Latino.”

Each sibling honors their heritage uniquely, but the importance of family is a common factor. This value invokes countless memories of birthdays, holidays, and weekend visits with their extended family.

“One special tradition my mom has kept up to this day is getting us piñatas for our birthdays,” Matteo said. “It is now a ritual that all of our friends have gotten used to at parties, and one that I hope some of them will continue to take part in.”

The twin brothers remember another lasting familial memory of their Hispanic heritage.

“Domingo means Sunday, but it also means allowance in Spanish,” Nico said. “So when we were younger, our grandparents gave us five dollars every Sunday. This strengthened the bond between us, our grandparents, [and our culture].”

As they reach adulthood, the three Lee brothers hope to continue commemorating their culture by building more memories with their family.

THE TIGER

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OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL



SPHS needs to combat campus ableism

The lack of mental health education at SPHS perpetuates ableism

The disability rights movement began in the 1960s as an effort to challenge negative attitudes and stereotypes surrounding disabilities. Parents demanded that their children be taken out of institutions and placed into schools with the necessary accommodations in order to succeed. Since then, dozens of acts have been passed that allow disabled students to receive an inclusive education. However, in achieving full equity, there is still a long way to go.

SPHS currently offers disability accommodations through a 504 plan that outlines the support a student with disabilities can receive from teachers, obtained through a medical diagnosis. If a student requires additional support, they can apply for an IEP, or Individualized Education Program, in which the student receives support from the Special Education department. Although this course of action is sufficient, societal conditions and the stigma surrounding mental health make it difficult to obtain a medical diagnosis in the first place. Furthermore, a lack of education surrounding mental health can lead to insensitive rhetoric and stereotypes that only exacerbate the difficulties individuals with disabilities undergo on a daily basis.

The process of diagnosing mental disorders and disabilities, from bipolar disorder to ADHD, can be long and arduous, taking months or even years. Booking an appointment with a psychologist can take a great amount of time and money. Even once an appointment is obtained, there is no guarantee that a mental disorder will be accurately diagnosed. In fact, according to the National Library of Medicine, 80 percent of children who need mental health services do not get them.

The stigma surrounding mental disorders and disabilities also plays a role in the lack of access people have to mental health diagnoses and care. Oftentimes, the people surrounding

these individuals may not even know that certain symptoms characterize a disability. Individuals with mental health disorders and disabilities are often written off as lazy or neglectful. This invalidation is a form of ableism.

Ableism is defined as discrimination or prejudice against individuals with disabilities. These acts of discrimination can be explicit, in the form of slurs or derogatory remarks, or in more covert forms that are just as pervasive. General culture of negative attitudes towards disabilities and mental health disorders are ingrained in American schools, however these biases are rarely recognized.

Society's misconception that mental disability is "not a real problem," a falsehood especially prevalent at SPHS, can prevent students from obtaining the accommodations they need. According to student testimonials, teachers and counselors have dismissed symptoms of mental illness when students are achieving good grades or succeeding in other areas. This dismissal is especially harmful because it supports the idea that one is "not disabled enough" to receive adequate support.

The issue of ableism is far more nuanced and includes patterns that are deeply rooted in American culture. Colloquial phrases such as "I'm so OCD" are thrown around on a regular basis, without an understanding of the complexities of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. This microaggression is one small part of the discrimination disabled people face on a daily basis.

Society's negative attitudes towards disabled people stems from the lack of education, ultimately creating a barrier to inclusion. Regular classrooms need curriculum that is disability-inclusive, in order to dismantle the ableistic culture and ally with the disabled community in their fight for justice.

Boos & Bravos

Tiger's cheers and jeers for the month of October.

BOOS

BOO to the other South Pasadena papers. Local journalism is only cool in high school.

BOO to South Pasadena city government. What's going on over there guys?? Employees are dropping like flies!

BOO to the freshmen. We haven't seen you guys yet, but we know you all suck!

BRAVOS

BRAVO to Trump for looking thick AF. Drop the butt workout ASAP, babe!

BRAVO to the Whitney-turtleneck combo. Looks so good, king!

BRAVO to the School Board for showing time and time again that they really do not care about our mental health.

PRO/CON : Third-Party Voting

Since Bernie Sanders dropped out, pressure on progressives to vote blue has blown up on social media. Should these voters support Joe Biden, even when their ideal candidate lies elsewhere?

+ Third-party voting is essential

STORY ANONYMOUS
ILLUSTRATION NICHOLAS FORMAN

Given the circumstances of the 2020 election, voting third party is more than a valid choice. Third party and protest voting is, contrary to popular belief, not a bad thing, even in the context of the 2020 election. Competition and negotiation are perfectly healthy and necessary aspects of democracy that force all sides to be represented.

It's necessary to recognize the stakes at the moment. Donald Trump is arguably the most corrupt president in American history and has stretched already existing loopholes within executive power to an extreme. Many understandably feel that voting Trump out of office is a priority, and Independents have a moral duty to contribute. However, Democrats need to stop applying their moral standards to third-party voters — none of whom owe anything to the GOP (Republican Party), DNC (Democratic Party), or any candidate for that matter.

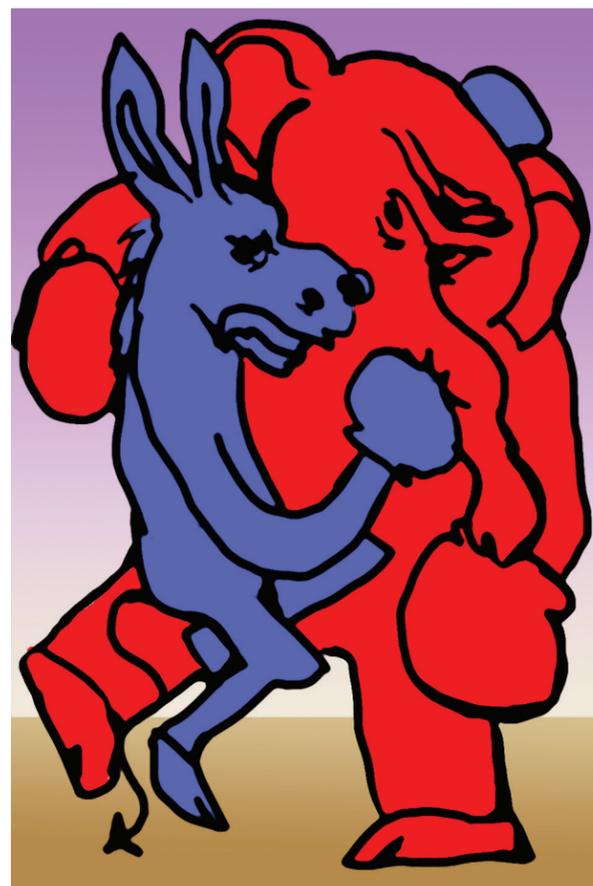
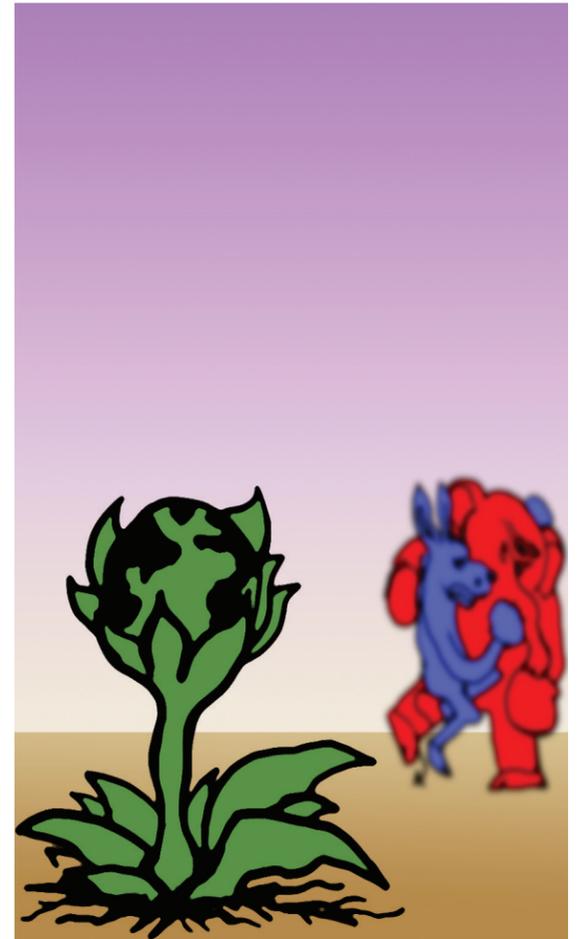
Citizens have to settle for Joe Biden, except this happens every single election. The DNC acts as if it is owed the progressive vote, when it hasn't made any appeal to progressives whatsoever. Time and time again, it has chosen the "safe" moderate route: such as selecting a cop for the Vice President slot and strangling the proposed policies of Medicare for All and the Green New Deal.

Firstly, it is a gross misconception made by many liberal Democrats that all third-party and protest voters are

affluent, immensely privileged white leftists. In 2016, 48 percent of non-voters were people of color, 51 percent did not receive higher than a high school education, and 56 percent made less than \$30,000 a year. These people are not sitting on a moral high horse; rather, they recognize that Biden is yet another establishment pick. In fact many policies such as Obamacare, were half-hearted compromises of slightly progressive ideas that actively made life more difficult for many working class citizens.

The same liberals that scream into the "Settle for Biden" echo-chamber, namely California, fail to recognize that voting third party in a solid-blue state will in no way impact the outcome of the election. Many voters' reasoning for voting green is to work towards dismantling the two-party system at extremely low risk because if a party receives five percent of the popular vote they will receive federal funding in the next election. Deciding to take that same route in a swing-state could have more drastic consequences. Regardless, a voter shouldn't have to vote one way or another simply due to location.

The Democratic establishment is the root cause of every single problem that could cost them the election, yet they take none of the responsibility. The liability for winning any competition falls squarely on the shoulders of the competitors themselves. Third-party voters, protest voters, and non-voters happen consistently every single election year. If a campaign would otherwise win if not for them, it is a losing campaign, and would only serve to show the necessity of appealing to your constituents.



- Vote blue no matter who

STORY SAM GROTENSTEIN
ILLUSTRATION NICHOLAS FORMAN

The importance of voting for Joe Biden expands beyond being a matter of party preference, and is an absolute necessity for progressive voters. While the Democratic Party has not earned the progressive vote, progressives should still feel obligated to support Biden, solely because of his opposition.

Donald Trump is an embodiment of the shift towards authoritarianism seen in the Republican Party. Despite claims from the right that Trump is a populist who is working to protect working class interests, he is actually defending institutions that uphold class division, ensuring the disjuncture of the working class through usage of overtly racist rhetoric.

Phrases like "Bad Hombres" and the idea of a "Muslim registry" do more than just normalize xenophobic language; they ask Trump's largely poor, white, and uneducated base to channel their frustration with an oppressive economy not at a low minimum wage, an increase in housing costs, or the destruction of workers unions, but at fellow members of the working class in the form of immigrant and minority workers.

This is expressed both in the apathy of Trump supporters to issues affecting primarily BIPOC (Black, Indigenous,

People of Color) communities such as police brutality and systemic economic inequity also as direct violence towards said communities, as Trump's rhetoric has directly led to an increase in hate crimes. Trump has also directly contributed to acts of violence, seen in his usage of the National Guard in response to protests over the murder of George Floyd, displaying a willingness to resort to militant authoritarianism that diverges from Trump's supposed support of limited federal power.

In contrast, there is a very high chance that pressure from left-leaning Democrats would force Biden into the opposite response, as he is a die-hard centrist. This contradicts the idea that Biden is not progressive enough, as many leftists are choosing not to vote for Biden as he is essentially a neo-conservative. The lack of a military presence at protests along with the desire of many centrist Democrats to return to a state of normalcy create a situation in which Biden is far more likely to listen to the demands of protesters than Trump.

Voting Biden in 2020 is the only option, as voting third party or not voting at all is tantamount to throwing away a vote, and does not remedy the flaws of the two-party system. The needs and desires of hundreds of millions are broken down into a choice between two vastly unhelpful choices, but reform is still easier under a candidate who is slightly more likely to listen to the demands of the American people.



CAT'S PLANET

CAT FLORES

Human rights are not up for debate

America's socially conservative right wing population is objectively wrong. Human rights issues such as gay marriage and abortion should not be up for debate. They aren't about politics; they're about protecting the autonomy and identity of people.

The Democratic Party is based on liberalism while the Republican Party is based on conservatism. Contemporarily, the Republican Party is against gun

control and is in support of lower taxes for the rich and traditional values rooted in Christianity. It is this religious foundation that the party uses to excuse their objectively wrong social conservatism that strips rights away from marginalized communities.

However, in America's melting pot of various cultures, races, religions, genders, sexualities, and identities, it is essential to recognize that others have different beliefs and that we have to respect people's choices. Other than that, if you're against basic necessities to protect humans such as trans rights or police accountability, you're probably just racist, homophobic, sexist, and like having control over other people. This in and of itself is a problem in America that stems from white supremacy and the need to assert dominance over other groups of people.

What happened to separation between church and state? People should work to keep their religious beliefs

separate from politics. Although the Bible may guide your life, it doesn't guide everyone else's.

But on top of these views that have always been considered conservative, a new issue has arisen. The right has gotten increasingly more extreme, such as showing a complete denial of science. For example, Richard Nixon, Republican president in the early '70s created the Environmental Protection Agency while Donald Trump outwardly denies climate change's existence and pulled the United States out of the Paris Climate Agreement.

This extremism has caused the right to refuse to compromise on issues that shouldn't even be considered partisan. This is rooted in an attempt to further divide the nation and convince conservative white Americans that their rights are being taken away and that all the left aims to do is put in this radical socialist agenda where there is no law and order.

Teachers need to regulate discussions



A safe school environment cannot allow the bigotry that often characterizes classroom discussions.

STORY QUINN MANZO

ILLUSTRATION DAVID SOHN

When class discussions go smoothly, they can result in logical compromises and new ideas that build on each other. However, a productive dialogue is fragile; it can quickly become futile and often leaves students feeling alienated and threatened in an environment that is supposed to make them feel supported and respected. It is the teacher's responsibility to foster the positive environment that students need through setting reasonable ground rules, picking constructive topics, and monitoring behavior throughout the discussion.

Before a discussion even begins, it's crucial to pick a prompt that is beneficial to the entire class. A

discussion concerning the legitimacy and existence of a marginalized group, such as the human rights of Black people in the United States, opportunities for women, and the marriage rights of the LGBTQ+ community, is destined to fall apart. Invalidating someone's existence is not a different opinion; it's an ignorant prejudice that no student nor teacher should ever heed. The effect these topic choices have on the students involved is long-lasting and infuriating.

"During a socratic seminar, a particular student made many racist and insensitive comments that were personally offensive to me and other students," an anonymous junior said. "I remember shaking and feeling my skin getting hot as I heard the words repeatedly leave this student's mouth. I felt helpless because I was hearing

blatantly racist comments in the place where I was supposed to feel safe and free of judgment."

Monitoring behavior is also imperative for a conducive dialogue. Discussions quickly become unproductive when students stray too far from the topic at hand or begin attacking their classmates instead of the ideas that they present. Teachers are often much too lenient and some even find the altercations entertaining and will laugh or chime in with harmful quips that belittle the feelings of the students being attacked.

A fruitful platform can't coexist with hate speech or slander. With the right selection of prompts and diligent control of behavior in a class dialogue, students can leave class feeling safe and supported as they should.

Mental illness does not excuse past actions



STORY KATIE HOHMAN

ILLUSTRATION DAVID SOHN

Social media platforms like Twitter have popularized and solidified "cancel culture" as a normal part of bringing about justice. Calling out people for their mistakes on social media allows for a more public form of confrontation and ensures that no one gets away with problematic past actions. The community centered around cancelling public figures has only grown in size and continues to dig up celebrities' questionable behavior.

Despite the ruthless nature of cancel culture, past actions are oftentimes excused when a person claims to suffer from a mental health disorder. If a celebrity publicly speaks out about their mental struggles, fans begin to take pity on them and their actions are excused. The public opinion on a celebrity can turn from one of distaste to approval when mental health is added to the equation.

This excuse for mental health is shown most often in writing and instances where authors are accused of such behavior. While writing has always been a medium of reflection and authors tend to open up about their mental health disorders more than most, that does not mean they are above criticism. Writers who paint themselves as a tormented figure and make their struggles public are almost never called out.

David Foster Wallace, an author known for his short stories and novels that focus

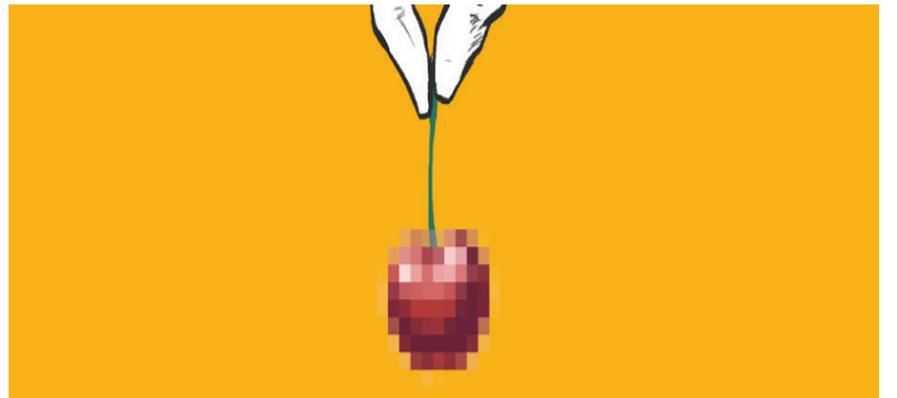
on depression and mental illness, is a perfect example of this phenomenon. Since his suicide in 2008, Wallace has become an idolized figure amongst the literary community. His stories of pain and sorrow have turned him into a martyr, while his troublesome past and abuse of ex-girlfriend Mary Karr have been almost completely ignored.

While it is important to acknowledge past issues like struggling with mental illness, it can end up taking the place of any real self-improvement. Authors that focus on the pain their mental disorders have caused them often end up removing themselves from confrontation and accountability. Instead, their writing becomes a form of deflection.

Mental health disorders can be a scary thing to experience and public discussions surrounding mental health are incredibly important, especially when it comes to destigmatizing disorders. But, opening up about mental struggles should not become an excuse for wrongful behavior.

It is unproductive to immediately forgive someone's past actions just because they are struggling mentally. When public figures use mental health as a diversion, they are normalizing a form of manipulation and refusing to accept their past actions. It is necessary for the public to educate themselves on a celebrity's struggles, but this knowledge should never cloud one's ability to hold people accountable.

Cherry-picking distracts from necessary change



STORY AMBER CHEN

ILLUSTRATION TERRY SONG

Professor Greg Patton of the University of Southern California (USC) faced backlash following a now viral lecture he gave about Chinese filler words. Common filler words in the Mandarin are "nà ge" or "nèi ge," which both translate to "that," but when enunciated sound just like the N-word, a racial slur.

In a letter to the university, the Black students wrote that the term "should be carefully used, especially in the context of speaking Chinese within... the United States." They also noted that the professor had pronounced the word incorrectly and cited that fellow Chinese were "appalled" by what they had heard.

USC responded in an uncharacteristically swift fashion, immediately denouncing Patton. Yet, it has been established that Patton did in fact pronounce the word correctly. A petition, signed by nearly 100 USC Marshall alumni and sent to Dean Geoffrey Garrett and other USC leadership, stated the following, "We unanimously recognize Prof Patton's use of 'nà ge' as an accurate rendition of common Chinese use, and an entirely appropriate and quite effective illustration of the use of pauses."

The Black students in this case were absolutely valid in their feelings, especially as they confided in Mandarin-speaking students before releasing the letter. The blame lies solely within USC

for performatively taking advantage of the situation that increases xenophobia towards the Asian community and in turn, harms the Black community.

People have been understandably outraged about this situation, however a lot of this resentment has been tainted with racist invasions of these Black students' feelings, rather than targeted at USC. The controversy has sparked the following remarks from YouTube commentary videos and South Pasadena residents: "This is classic manipulation from Black people exploiting a 'victim mentality,' 'Black people are so entitled,' 'This is why I don't support BLM,' 'Why do they think EVERYTHING is always about them?? Smh...'"

These statements are examples of cherry-picking, a logical fallacy in which people give a lot of leverage to specific situations that seem to confirm whatever position they want to uphold while ignoring a large amount of data contradictory to their point. The cherry-picking logical fallacy is not just specific in this case but has been extremely pervasive in regards to the BLM movement as a whole.

The implications of cherry-picking always distract from the larger issue at hand. In this situation, it is America's systemic racism and the institutions like USC that uphold injustice. Out of all the complaints of racism the university has, the administration manipulatively acted on the easiest situation, in order to avoid actions of actual importance.

FREEDOM THE PEOPLE: REDEFINING A BROKEN AMERICA

James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," made his anti-democratic viewpoints quite clear at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, stating "In England, at this day, if elections were open to all classes of people, the property of the landed proprietors would be insecure... Landholders ought to have a share in the government, to support these invaluable interests and to balance and check the other. They ought to be so constituted as to protect the minority of the opulent against the majority."

In America's checks and balances system, the executive branch enforces laws that the legislative branch creates and the judicial branch interprets. But, as Madison pointed out, this mantra of the three-branch system is really about keeping the "mob" in check and the "balance" of power in the hands of the one percent. In fact, a Princeton University study that examined 1,779 policy cases between 1981 and 2002 found that "overwhelmingly large pro-change majorities, with 80 percent of the public favoring a policy change, got that change only about 43 percent of the time."

America is not a democracy. This country was designed as a plutocracy by the rich and for the rich and divide only continues to widen as corporations grow increasingly bloated. Tiger explores how this plutocracy continues to pervade government and the structural changes that must be made to establish democracy.

STORY AMBER CHEN, CAT FLORES, KATIE HOHMAN, ADAM KWOH, NOAH KUHN, & CLOE MAURER

PAGE DESIGN TALULLA CHOW & MADDIE YOO

ILLUSTRATION NICHOLAS FORMAN GRAPHICS CHARLOTTE COHEN

Legislative Branch

The U.S. Congress is composed of two bodies: the Senate and the House of Representatives. Americans are represented proportionally based on population in the House of Representatives, however each state — no matter if it has half a million or 40 million inhabitants — receives two Senators. This bicameral legislature represents a compromise between democracy and long lasting systems of oppression in the U.S. The Senate is the embodiment of the white, wealthy patriarchy and true democracy can only be achieved if it is abolished.

In 1787, 55 elite white men met in Philadelphia to establish the framework for the newly independent nation: the Constitution. While these "Founding Fathers" claimed to have the will of the people in mind, the government they established intentionally favored themselves. As written in Madison's Federalist 10, the founders believed "that measures are too often decided not according to... the rights of the minor party" and that the minority rights must be protected. However, at the time the minority were the wealthy white property owners who the founders themselves belonged to. The Senate was designed to protect the founders' fears of "the majority faction" and continues to do so at the expense of women, poor people, and BIPOC.

Proof of the Senate upholding white supremacy, sexism, and elitism lies no further than a brief analysis of the governing body's current members. 74 of the 100 Senators are male, even though men make up only 49.2 percent of the U.S. population. Even in 2020, there are only 10 BIPOC Senators which is four times less than the percentage of people of color in the U.S.

Senate Demographics	US Demographics
0 Indigenous Senators	1.3% Indigenous
3 Asian Senators*	5.9% Asian
3 Black Senators*	13.4% Black
5 Latinx Senators	18.5% Latinx
90 White Senators	60.1% White

*Senator Kamala Harris is Black and Asian
Source: Congressional Research Service
Source: Census Bureau, 2018

Each state having two Senators heavily favors states with much smaller populations, which almost always have fewer BIPOC. The around 90 percent white residents of states like Wyoming, North Dakota, Idaho, and Utah are vastly overrepresented in Congress as compared to the much more racially diverse populations of states like California and New York. The Senate ensures that even as more BIPOC move into the U.S., white people will continue to hold more political power. Such a fundamentally racist system cannot be reformed but must be abolished to achieve racial equity.

The Senate has long held the most power and influence in Congress because it is the only body that confirms presidential and judicial appointments. However, it is also notorious for prolonging deliberation and preventing important bills from passing due to the Majority Leader's supreme power to control what Senators vote on and the legislators' ability to filibuster — a common stalling tactic employed by the Senators.

In comparison, the House of Representatives can move bills much faster because once they reach the House floor there is no filibuster to leave bills in limbo. Shorter terms of two years compared to the Senate's six also limit the potential for corruption and allow for representation and policy ideas to stay current.

The people already have their voice represented in the House of Representatives, albeit with some major flaws like gerrymandering and a history of appealing to slave states in the three-fifths compromise. The Senate only dilutes and hinders democracy to keep rich white men and their corporations in power. If America is truly the great democracy it claims to be, it needs to end its root of oppression and corruption in government by abolishing the Senate.

Executive Branch

The Founders created the executive branch to provide effective and intelligible leadership. However, it has become apparent that the executive branch's structure enables tyranny, the exact thing the Founders claimed to fear, and falsifies the American government's promise to uphold a true democracy.

Donald Trump's reign as president has exposed the issues within the executive branch that have existed since its creation. Firstly, he is a president who gained office through the electoral college — the root of the executive branch's flaws — even though he lost the popular vote. This has happened twice in this millennium alone, with the election of George W. Bush in 2000 and Trump in 2016.

The Electoral College is a body of electors established by the United States Constitution, which convenes every four years for the sole purpose of electing the president and vice president. It emphasizes the stark reality of America's pseudo-democracy.

For one, the Electoral College gives disproportionate voting power to small states, handing them more electoral votes per a person. For example, a voter in Wyoming has about 3.7 times the three electoral power versus someone living in California.

Furthermore, through the Electoral College, people are not voting directly, but rather, telling their state how to use its electoral votes. For example, when a candidate wins the majority of votes in Florida, no matter how small the majority, they get all of Florida's votes. But, minority rule should have no place in democratic elections; the very definition of democracy implies a majority rule.

Not only is the Electoral College inherently undemocratic, but the president wields an unfathomable amount of power. The cabinet should not be appointed, it should be composed of authorities in their respective field. Trump has stocked his cabinet full of his own family members and other highly unqualified individuals such as Ben Carson, a neurosurgeon, in Housing and Urban Development. This is clearly not in the best interest of our country, but in the interests of his party.

The president also should not be able to veto laws. Congress rarely overrides a veto; Out of 1,484 vetoes since 1789, only 7.1 percent have been overridden. This is because Congress can only override a veto by passing an act with a supermajority in both the House and the Senate. It is difficult enough for lawmaking bodies to pass laws in the first place and one person should not be able to override other elected bodies.

Furthermore, the president and vice president should be covered in the federal conflict of interest statute or the federal ethics disclosure. This is necessary in making sure there are no conflicts of interest and increasing transparency. For example, the fact that Trump kept his tax returns a secret from the public — until they were leaked — was shockingly legal. Information recovered revealed that Trump has acquired massive debts and the public is not required to know who he owes money to, even though there could be serious conflicts of interest at hand.

The current structure of the executive branch is a direct assassination on democracy. The Electoral College must be abolished and executive office holders must be held accountable by the American public.

Two-Party System

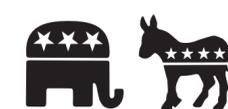
In the waning years of George Washington's presidency, a two-party system began to emerge in its most nebulous form: Federalists and Democratic-Republicans. Washington warned against the fracture, predicting that it would widen and threaten the new country's false democracy. His prediction was eerily correct and a democracy in shambles is the proof.

The two-party system reconfigured and contracted over the next two centuries and power ultimately consolidated in the Democratic and Republican parties. Unlike most developed nations, America has no influential Labor Party; in other words, there is no American political party that stands only to represent the interests of the people. This is an alarming oversight reflected very plainly in the relationships politicians on both sides of the aisle have with American corporations. "Pro-business," a traditionally Republican platform, has taken on a whole new bipartisan meaning. Pro-business is now pro-corporation, something all pocket-lining politicians can get behind. Democrat Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi took millions of dollars in donations from a health insurance provider and Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's big donors are Wall Street firms. They are supposed political opposites, but they play the same corrupt systems for their personal gain.

Two ultra powerful parties are also two very vulnerable parties, hypersensitive to the politics of the elected rather than of the electorate. This is evident in the Overton window's (If the political landscape was a sliding scale, the Overton window is the slider and it can move left or right and whatever falls within the confines of the slider is what is generally accepted by the public) dramatic rightward shift. Environmental preservation policies are now synonymous with the Democratic Party when it was Nixon who formed the EPA 50 years ago, and the Republican Party's loudest voice is an alarmingly and unabashedly bigoted president who refuses to denounce white supremacy. Democrats failed to act on legislation like The Employee Free Choice Act which would protect the right to unionize and impact the private sector, in other words, big corporate donors, the most.

When the topic of Donald Trump's \$750 federal income tax was raised during last week's debate, he spluttered that Joe Biden created those tax loopholes in the form of a post recession bill designed to alleviate business loss burdens. While this is not entirely factual, it does brush up against a larger idea about where Democrats' priorities lie. Like Republicans, they are willing to uphold laws that benefit corporations, specifically when their wealthy owners are also their donors. Super pacs and lobbyists allow politicians to be bought and this is reflected in how much corporations spend on lobbying: around \$2.6 billion per year.

Moderate Democrats are the most influential Democrats in Congress. They are also often the deepest in bed with their corporate donors and are willing to hinder progress for their donors' benefit. The Democratic National Convention consistently puts forward moderate presidential candidates like Joe Biden that don't represent more progressive Democratic voters, but the only other option is to support a right wing extremist Republican party. Of course, third-parties do technically exist, but they hold no real sway. A third-party candidate has never won the presidency and anyone, like Bernie Sanders, who wants a real shot at being elected runs with the Democratic party.



The two-party system ladles power into the hands of the economic elite and forces voters to rally behind candidates that do not stand to meet their needs or protect their rights. Lobbying and super-pacs must be banned in order to disincentivize favoring the wants of corporations and the uber-rich over the needs of the people. The two-party system is an unproductive and undemocratic basis for democracy and must be broken down in order for a truly representative system that prioritizes principle regardless of party to take form.

Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch, which was created to ensure justice and equality and curtail tyrannical leaders, has devolved into an isolated body with too much power. The limits of the courts, which were originally put in place to limit corruption, have stripped the body of its ability to truly represent the people.

Within the branch, nine justices are granted almost unlimited power and are responsible for upholding the rights of all citizens. Those justices do not accurately represent the diversity of the American people. Currently, five of the eight justices are white men, but have been given the power to carry out rulings that affect millions of people from different backgrounds.

The court system has always been this way. In the decision of Roe v. Wade (1971), all of the justices were men but the case was specific to the reproductive rights of women. In Obergefell v. Hodges (2015), which legalized same-sex marriage, none of the justices were members of the LGBTQ+ community. It can be painful to sit and watch nine justices appointed during a bygone era argue over the rights of people who have no say in the final decision.

One key way to combat that issue is to expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court. Instead of relying on nine people to make fair decisions, having more people in charge of the rights of all will allow for a more fair distribution of power. More justices also opens up the possibility of more diversity of opinion on the bench, allowing the American people to feel more represented.

With the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, more people have begun to re-evaluate the power that the Supreme Court has and what led to the future of our democracy resting on the shoulders of one 87-year old woman. In response to those concerns and the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett, House Democrats proposed a 18-year term limit for Justices.

This proposition makes sense, as a life term is far too long for any one person to be in politics and only leads to the appointment of justices that are older and have lost touch. Having such long terms discourages the appointment of young justices who may not be ready to commit to such a position for that long.

Abolishing the life term for Supreme Court justices and replacing it with a staggered 18-year term limit will keep the Justices current and create a less isolated court system. It will allow the American people to be better connected with the Supreme Court and create a judicial branch that best represents the people.



California Propositions

Californians will vote on many propositions on Election Day 2020 that could shape the future of the state for generations. Tiger examines four propositions with the potential to significantly impact students.

STORY KATIE HOHMAN, ADAM KWOH, GEORGIA PARSONS, & MATTHEW TSAI

PAGE DESIGN TALULLA CHOW & MADDIE YOO

GRAPHICS CHARLOTTE COHEN



Proposition 15

Commercial Property Taxes

Proposition 15 would increase taxes on large businesses by enforcing payments on current market values rather than original purchase price. Farm land, residential properties, and any businesses valued under \$3 million would remain unaffected.

California would dole out billions of dollars in tax revenue to communities, with local governments and public agencies receiving 60 percent of funds and the rest divided among schools. Prop. 15 would raise an estimated \$1.86 billion and \$2.79 million for South Pasadena and SPUSD, respectively.

Led by the California Teachers Association and the Democratic Party, supporters argue that the proposition would generate necessary funds for cities and schools struggling during the coronavirus pandemic.

“Prop. 15 would allow us to curtail these incredibly difficult, damaging losses and provide immeasurable support and stability to our school district,” English teacher Rama Kadri said. “Prop. 15 is a fundamental piece of legislation that will offer the financial support we so desperately need in SPUSD and across the state of California.”

However, some assert that the pandemic is the main reason to oppose Prop. 15. California is currently in an economic recession and critics believe that major tax increases could prove to be catastrophic. Large corporations might increase housing costs, indirectly jeopardizing renters and small businesses.

“Since there is no rent control in South Pasadena, local housing is inaccessible for a lot of people,” senior Jayden Eden said. “Any type of raised rent could practically decimate a lot of current tenants’ living situations.”

Undecided 17%



No 34% Yes 49%
Source: UC Berkeley Poll Wed. Sept. 23



Proposition 16

Reinstating Affirmative Action

Affirmative action was used to fight institutional inequality in the 1960s until it was officially outlawed in California in 1996. Proposition 16 would reverse the 1996 ban on affirmative action, allowing schools and public agencies to take race and other demographics such as gender into account for admission and hiring decisions.

Supporters argue that the proposition is needed to counteract the years of discrimination against women and minorities. Black and Latinx admission rates at UC campuses have fallen a significant 26 percent since the 1996 ban, according to a 2020 University of Washington study. As displayed in the 2019 college admissions scandal, wealthy white Californians still have much control over the college admissions process through application as a legacy student or athlete. This proposition would presumably level the playing field, allowing women and people of color equal opportunity in the admissions process.

“There has always been a discrepancy between men and women in top colleges. White men have always had the upper hand in college admissions, and we are still working towards closing that gap. Recognizing and acknowledging differences to start helping each other out is how you begin creating equal chances and opportunities for all,” junior Samantha Molina said.

Opponents of the proposition suggest that it would indirectly harm minorities by placing them in an environment they are not adequately prepared for. A 2012 Duke University study showed a significant drop in affirmative action student’s grade point averages between freshman and senior year.

The future of Prop. 16 is relatively uncertain as indicated in various polls, and its impact on the college admissions process will not be known until implemented.

Undecided 26%



No 41% Yes 33%
Source: UC Berkeley Poll Wed. Sept. 23



Proposition 18

Primary Voting at 17

Young people have recently been advocating for a national constitutional amendment lowering the voting age to 16. While no such amendment has been passed, some states have enacted more moderate policies to make civic participation more accessible to youth. Proposition 18, a California constitutional amendment, would allow 17-year-olds who will be 18 at the time of the general election to vote in primaries.

During primary elections, California residents can pick any voter-nominated candidate on the ballot, and the top two vote-getters will move onto the general election. However, for certain positions, like the District Attorney, if someone garners over 50 percent of primary votes, they automatically win the election.

With so much at stake in the primaries, supporters argue that young people who can vote in the general election should be able to voice their opinion earlier that year.

“With information more accessible than ever, teens are inclined to make informed choices... and fully engage in the election process,” senior Mollie Parker said.

Opponents believe that, since 17-year-olds are minors, they are strongly influenced by their parents. This could prevent them from expressing their own voice and opinions, but increased high school voter education is a potential solution.

“I think Prop 18 is a great idea,” AP Government teacher Maryann Nielsen said. “The one caveat is that 18 to 24-year-olds have the lowest voter turnout rate of any age group, so... voter education needs to go along with the expansion of voting rights to truly make an impact!”

19 states already allow

17 year olds to vote in primary elections if

18 years old by the general election



Proposition 24

Greater Consumer Privacy

Proposition 24 aims to curtail tech companies’ profits from selling consumer data by allowing Internet users to limit how much sensitive information, like religion or race, they share and also restricting how long businesses can hold onto those demographics.

The proposition will patch holes in the 2018 California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), which was a response to Facebook’s Cambridge Analytica scandal where users’ personal data was harvested for political advertising purposes. Critics of the CCPA have noted its lack of enforcement policies, and have thus supported Prop. 24 for its creation of a state agency to regulate privacy laws.

However, some groups are also criticizing Prop. 24 for its potential to harm lower-income consumers. Real estate developer Alastair MacTaggart spearheaded the ballot measure, but compromised with tech companies along the way so businesses can legally charge more to consumers who opt out of giving personal information.

“The [idea] that you have to pay for being safe online is ridiculous,” freshman Twyla Metcalfe said. “I think that these companies sell the idea of privacy but one mistake online can lead to a lifetime of consequences.”

Teenagers are heavily involved in online activities, which leads some students to believe that privacy is impossible to accomplish in today’s society.

“I don’t really believe that online privacy is all that attainable in this virtual day and age, so I would hesitate more [to pay for privacy],” senior Kayla Nielsen said. “This also brings up issues of privacy being a right of all people. Why should we have to pay for something that should be our inherent right?”

Major Proponents Include

- Common Sense Media
- Alistair and Celine Mactaggart
- Consumer Watchdog
- California NAACP
- Andrew Yang

Major Opponents Include

- ACLU
- Dolores Huerta
- Color of Change
- League of Women Voters of CA
- Media Alliance

FEATURE



The Kardashian family was never really meant to be kept up with

STORY KATHARINE FLORENCE
PHOTOS ALICIA ZHANG

Reality television in itself is somewhat unorthodox and has created an unexpected prosperous market. It relies on, and is somehow successful in, having a base that is so interested in celebrities that there is demand to see every aspect of their lives. Keeping up with the Kardashians, one of the biggest reality TV shows to ever exist, announced its end after 20 seasons on the air. Subsequently, the time has come to reflect on the unique effects and influence the show has had. The show is a truly remarkable reality television phenomenon.

Before their stardom, the Kardashians were already somewhat of an established name, at least in L.A., partially due to their initial socialite status and Robert Kardashian's brush with fame as one of O.J. Simpson's lawyers and close friends. After Kris Kardashian and Robert divorced, Kris went on to marry former Olympian Caitlyn Jenner. Parental status aside, Kim Kardashian was the person who launched the family's major success.

She climbed her way up the social ranks as Paris Hilton's assistant and as the girlfriend of popular musician Ray J. That relationship and the associated public soft-core porn somehow evolved into an empire of excess and launched the Kardashians into unprecedented fame. That same year, radio personality, producer, and family friend Ryan Seacrest accepted the family's pitch for a reality TV show.

The question asked again and again is how the Kardashians are able to maintain their status as A-list celebrities, despite having seemingly no talents. Arguably, the absence of a career such as acting or singing is why they've managed to stick around so long; they are not limited by the fragile nature of a job that can easily phase them out of relevancy. Every single member of the family has managed to make a profit from modeling, a profession the Kardashian-Jenner clan has the money to make last as long as they wish.

Somehow, the Kardashians have managed to create a new kind of celebrity. It's no surprise that Keeping Up with the Kardashians is a play on the cultural term Keeping Up with the Joneses. The philosophy behind the Joneses is that, when people begin to compare their standard of living

to that of their peers, conspicuous consumption occurs. And with the Kardashians, conspicuous consumption is an understatement. Everything the Kardashians do is flashy and over the top, from Kim's infamous alterations to Kris and Khloe's closets full of five-figure Birkin bags. They have transcended real accomplishments and are now accomplishing the arbitrary and abstract, specifically reflected in Kylie Jenner officially becoming a billionaire, something only .0000372 percent of the world's population has managed to do.

In fact, their main source of income has been their ability to leech from the very foundation of American society: capitalism. The Kardashians have parlayed reality show stardom into next-level consumerism. Viewers not only watch them consume but participate in the consumption by the way of the Kardashians' various brands.

Khloe has her Good American size-inclusive denim venture and Kim created KKW beauty covering both cosmetics and fragrance, as well as her shapewear company SKIMS. Even Scott, Kourtney's ex-boyfriend and father of her three children has somehow constructed a minimalist clothing brand called Talentless that sells purely by association.

The Kardashians recognize their socioeconomic standing is unachievable for the vast majority and their businesses are a way of remedying that gap between them and their fan base. Consumers are unable to imitate their way of life; however, they can buy their products in an attempt to feel as if they are reaching a similar status as their idols.

The immense wealth the Kardashians boast has almost become a reflection of American culture today and that family has become the perfect representation of increasing wealth inequality. America's unique culture of wealth voyeurism only encourages the Kardashian phenomenon. Prior to the wealth gap explosion, influencers and celebrities set a standard that common people could at least try to follow.

Now, that standard is actually unattainable. Celebrities, specifically the Kardashians, have set the bar so high, whether it be monetarily or physically, that people cannot reach it without the same level of wealth. The cruel irony is that you can't keep up with them.

Kim's Convenience

KIMBERLY HSUEH



Finding the right fit

Most South Pas students have one goal: getting into college, especially a prestigious one. Even in middle school, I was beginning to think about my dream college and planning how I would get there. But in high school, I began taking a more critical look at the cracks forming in the pedestal I put college on.

My college dreams are a manifestation of my mother's own American Dream. She came to America with little knowledge of English, making her job search extremely difficult. My mother worked part-time at my father's chiropractic clinic while raising my sister and me.

She often recounted stories of her education while we worked on homework at the dining room table. Taiwan's education system never resonated with her learning style, so she found herself in a constant spiral of confusion and disinterest. She wanted us to take a different, more fulfilling path, emphasizing achievement and academic success.

My mother urged my older sister to find a role in every organization on campus, and soon her resume was filled by ASB, Virtual Business, Tiger, and most SPHS clubs. Finally, the long-awaited dream came true. My sister would join Dartmouth's Class of 2019. Seeing my sister's hard work pay off encouraged me to follow in her footsteps. I joined various clubs and participated in competitions. I faced rejection, success, and uncertainty. Was this for myself or for college?

Many students travel this same path, and often, acceptance into their dream school is where the plan ends. My sister was one of these students. Entering college undecided, her world was flipped upside down. She struggled with her goals, the rigor of academics, and a scattered list of majors. My sister began to wonder if Dartmouth was the right school for her and I began to question my own desire to attend a prestigious school.

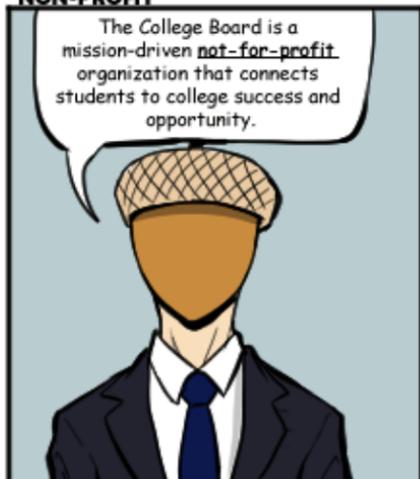
Will I truly enjoy attending an Ivy League school? Or, am I just yearning for the prestige of acceptance into one?

As a Questbridge scholarship applicant, I have taken these questions into careful consideration. When looking at the list of forty schools, I found familiarity in the Ivies and hesitated to explore smaller liberal arts schools.

After weeks of stalling on Questbridge's homepage, I finally clicked on a smaller schools' website. In the end, the majority of my college list was made up of schools I recently discovered, schools I could truly envision myself thriving in.

Just like how APs and extracurriculars won't guarantee college admission, a school's prestige and name won't necessarily guarantee easy entrance into a career pathway. So, before developing Ivy League tunnel vision, consider what kind of college experience you actually want to have and seek schools that align with those goals. After all, a college should be one that best fits you, not the other way around.

"NON-PROFIT"



PERSONALITY PROFILES

ASHA BAHROOS: AN OPTIMISTIC REALIST

STORY QUINN MANZO
PHOTOS COURTESY OF
ASHA BAHROOS

Despite being a self-declared realist, Asha Bahroos is a true ray of sunshine. There was a short scramble to schedule an interview that accommodates Bahroos's central time difference, but once she hopped on FaceTime, she answered each question with enthusiasm, flashing her million-dollar smile.

Bahroos' dad was recently offered a job at USC, which is a great opportunity for him and the family, but it presented a couple of issues. Moving meant leaving home in Chicago, a city she loves dearly, behind.

"Once I realized that I was gonna be leaving I got super emotional and wondered, 'Why do I care so much?' and I think that's when I started realizing it's because Chicago had such an impact on me, and that sounds so cheesy, but it's so real. I love the energy. Chicago feels really busy, but not too busy."

Bahroos struggled to find the right time to tell her friends she was moving, and insisted that she say her goodbyes in person out of respect for her friendships. As the interview continued, it became clear that this was strongly indicative of her kindness. That being said, when she was asked what quality is most important for a person to have, her answer was rather off-beat.

"I know people think it should be kindness or whatever, but I honestly think someone should just be funny. Being able to laugh at yourself is fun, and makes everything so much easier."

Failing to respect a good joke or taking oneself too seriously are two of few things that annoy the usually good-natured Bahroos. To her, you need the humor to get yourself through the toughest moments in life. If caught in a difficult situation, she tries her best to sit back, gain some perspective, and laugh.

Bahroos is able to see the silver lining in every situation, so she sees quarantine as an opportunity for personal growth. She considered herself an optimist pre-quarantine, and believes the pandemic has opened her eyes to life's darker inevitabilities. Spending time alone has reacquainted Bahroos with her own set of strengths and weaknesses, and although she sets lofty goals for herself she knows when to take some of the pressure off.

Her expectations for other people, however, are nonexistent. The strict "live and let live" policy she lives by protects her from disappointment, while allowing her to be genuinely happy for others when they do the right thing.

"When I think about other people it's always, 'They'll do them, I'll do me.' And that's not me trying to be mean. I'm always impressed by other people. Before quarantine, I would feel jealous, but I feel really happy for other people now. I think I started to be happier with myself too because I wasn't focused on what the people around me were doing, so I realized I don't need to be comparing myself to them."

Asha Bahroos floats through life, but she's never too far from the ground. She is ready to accept each new phase in her life and has an adept awareness of how her past has shaped her personality and overall perspective.



EQUIPPED WITH A STRONG MORAL COMPASS and a good sense of humor, junior Asha Bahroos is ready for everything life has in store for her.

ERIC LIN: RENAISSANCE MEETS PUNK ROCK



STORY GEORGIA PARSONS
PHOTOS ERIC LIN &
OSCAR WALSH

"I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring" is the David Bowie quote junior Yijie Eric Lin painted on his very first commissioned piece — a Louis Vuitton bag featuring a portrait of Bowie with his iconic lightning bolt face paint. This quote rings particularly true for Lin: the 17-year-old's art, and life, is anything but boring.

Lin's mother, an interior designer and art lover, encouraged him to pursue art throughout his childhood. Despite his mother's efforts, he had little interest in art until he discovered graffiti in middle school. Inspired by the works of iconic graffiti artists Shepard Ferry and Banksy, he immediately took to sketching on paper and eventually moved to canvas, similar to the graffiti-style paintings he does now. Lin confesses that his mother played a big role in his passion for art. She imparted her knowledge of fashion and architecture, in addition to their shared experiences traveling the world together.

Perhaps Lin's initial attraction to graffiti was influenced by a rebellious streak — a common theme throughout his work. One particular painting portrays Saint Mary in traditional Russian icon style holding a gun and throwing the sign of the horns.

"When you see these old paintings, like Saints, they're all [portrayed] very respectfully and put on a pedestal. I wanted to put a gun in her hands just to represent something different. [I wanted it to be] something eye-catching."

Lin typically works on canvas, although he often ventures outside of his comfort zone, painting on jackets, bags, and shoes. His artistic range is similarly wide, ranging from traditional portraits to

more abstract pieces and he often draws inspiration from his travels through Europe and Asia. Most of his work fuses elements of traditional portraiture, a mark of European Renaissance influence, with his signature graffiti style touch.

"Traveling [throughout] China, Asia, and Europe— especially Europe, and getting to see [the work of] Michelangelo, and the art in the churches there influenced me a lot. Also, Asian art has inspired my work, seeing the fashion trends there and the different fabric patterns."

For three years, Lin lived in the French Concession in Shanghai with his family. Regarded as "the Paris of the East," the French Concession is home to many European-style apartments, live music venues, fashion shops, and art galleries.

"It used to be very French-influenced, in the architecture. There are a lot of museums in Shanghai, [the city] is full of so many different cultures, everywhere you go there is inspiring."

The artist's genre-blending work, especially his wearable pieces, have opened up commission opportunities. One of his most recent painted leather jackets was commissioned by a man he met while visiting a gallery.

The man was drawn to Lin's painted tiger jacket, inspired by one of his favorite artists: Hua Tunan. The two began coordinating and Lin ended up painting two custom leather jackets for him.

Lin has big plans for the future. He hopes to visit Tokyo, Japan in person, a place that he often draws fashion and art inspiration from. Lin also hopes to continue building upon his technical skills so that he can have more freedom to expand upon his ever-changing style.

ASIAN STREET STYLE and European Renaissance artists inspire junior Eric Lin to create masterpieces that are distinctly his own.

Practicing mental wellness: advice from Ms. Prime



STORY ZOE SCHLAAK
ILLUSTRATION DAVID SOHN

Many students have found themselves struggling with their mental health and wellness since adapting to distance learning. Day after day, as Zoom meetings and online homework dominate students' lives, maintaining one's sanity is of utmost importance. *Tiger* spoke with the SPUSD Social Worker, Ms. Natasha Prime, about mental health insights and how students can incorporate mental wellness into their daily routines.

Tiger: How do you think spending more forced time has stressed family dynamics? What tips do you have for maintaining healthy relationships with them?

Ms. Natasha Prime: Because we are all stuck together, even under the best of circumstances, there can be strain between family members. I think also the pressures of the pandemic — job losses, job uncertainty, health worries — are all factors that contribute to added stress in the household and we frequently take stress and worry out on our loved ones. As far as tips, it is important to take time and space, for students in particular, because you are teenagers and this is also normally the time when you are breaking away from parents and going out and testing the independence waters. You haven't been able to do that as much, so going outside, taking a walk, and getting out of the confined space of the home would probably be most important. Have someone that is not in your family that you trust and connect with to talk to.

Tiger: We are all dealing with all of our responsibilities from our homes so it's easy to feel like we have to be productive all the time. How do you recommend identifying where you need to set up some boundaries in your life?

Prime: Because work, home school, socializing is now all in the same place, there is no physical distinction between the various parts of our lives, so it all melts together. Looking at your day and creating a schedule for yourself that has distinct periods of time where you are working on school work [can be helpful.] If you have the luxury of being able to move around, find different spaces for school, a different space for your socializing space. Try to establish those differences of time and space for different activities because there is no way you can be productive 12 hours a day.

Tiger: Is it normal to want time for yourself while in quarantine, and how can students go about communicating that to their family? Should teenagers feel guilty about not wanting to spend time with them?

Prime: No, they should not feel guilty. I think it is totally normal. Even if you have the best family, and everybody is close and normally gets along — and I don't know how many families are really like that, under these circumstances — everybody needs space. So, I think communicating that and saying "You know what? I need a little alone time right now just for me. It's not about you. It's not about anything you have said or done. I just need space, and I recognize that you need that, too."

Tiger: Is it okay to feel overwhelmed right now? How should students approach their feelings of fear or anxiety?

Prime: I think [that] not only is it okay to feel overwhelmed, that is the feeling for most students and most people right now. A lot of people are working from home and I think overwhelmed is probably the general feeling that people are having right now. In terms of managing that, first of all, you have to acknowledge sometimes, that "Yeah, right now I am overwhelmed." Take a breath and think "How I can balance all my responsibilities and the workload, and take care of myself, my physical health, and my mental health?" If you stay in an overwhelmed state... it's going to be very hard to be productive.

Tiger: What does the term mindfulness mean to you and what are some ways people can practice it?

Prime: I know [mindfulness] has become a buzzword. Basically the idea is when you are feeling overwhelmed or anxious, all these thoughts and worries start to crowd your head. Let all these worries go and do something mindfully to refocus and come back to where you started to lose your focus. The very basic thing is to breathe mindfully because a lot of times when we get stressed, we are breathing in our upper chest, which is our fight or flight type of breath. And you never are really fully getting the oxygen into your body. [It is important to practice] mindful breathing — in through your nose, making sure your breath is going all the way down to the bottom of your belly, and mindfully exhaling. If you are sitting at your desk, and you are getting overwhelmed, take a minute to pick a color and look around your room and find all those things of that color. Then there is also the 5-4-3-2-1 technique: [To destress pick out] five things you can see, four things you can touch, three things you can hear, two things you can smell, and one thing you can taste. It is whatever helps you regain your focus and your calm, so you can get back to the task at hand.

Across an ocean, through a screen, around the world

STORY KIMBERLY HSUEH
ILLUSTRATION NICK FORMAN

Long hours of absorbing blue light and increased academic load have overwhelmed a vast majority of South Pas students. However, several SPHS students who are temporarily studying abroad are facing more challenges, while juggling online school and extracurriculars. Seniors Rio Smith and Shane Yu describe daily life in Japan and Korea, their respective countries.

Smith and his family departed America in early June and expected to return back to South Pasadena by the start of school. Unfortunately, coronavirus travel and immigrant visa restrictions blocked their entrance. With his father's work in Japan and his mother, a Japanese citizen still in the process of visa applications, the pandemic hurled more than a few obstacles their way. The family is currently waiting for the U.S. Embassy to schedule the final interview for his mother's visa from their home in Tokyo.

"They recently finally contacted us saying they would probably get back with the date of the interview in late November, but the interview can be two months after the notification," Smith said. "[Since] I'm still 17 and I have a younger sister, my parents wanted a guardian or a family member to watch us if we were to return to South Pasadena. The problem was most of my family in California has underlying health issues and going to Los Angeles would have been a risk to them."

Yu and his family had left for Korea two weeks before school started to handle family emergencies. In order to engage in synchronous learning in California's time zone, Yu had to get accustomed with sleeping at 4:00 p.m. and waking up at 12:00 a.m. while in Korea.

"It's been more than a month since my arrival, but I sometimes still have trouble getting

enough sleep. Furthermore, an odd sleep schedule results in a bad eating schedule. I still haven't figured out a fixed eating schedule since my parents, who live on a normal schedule, eat at appropriate times," Yu said.

Smith has also adjusted his sleep and meal times. He attends school from 12:30 to 5:10 a.m. and has an internship in the afternoon; to obtain enough energy to get through his packed schedule, Smith sleeps twice a day, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. while in Japan.

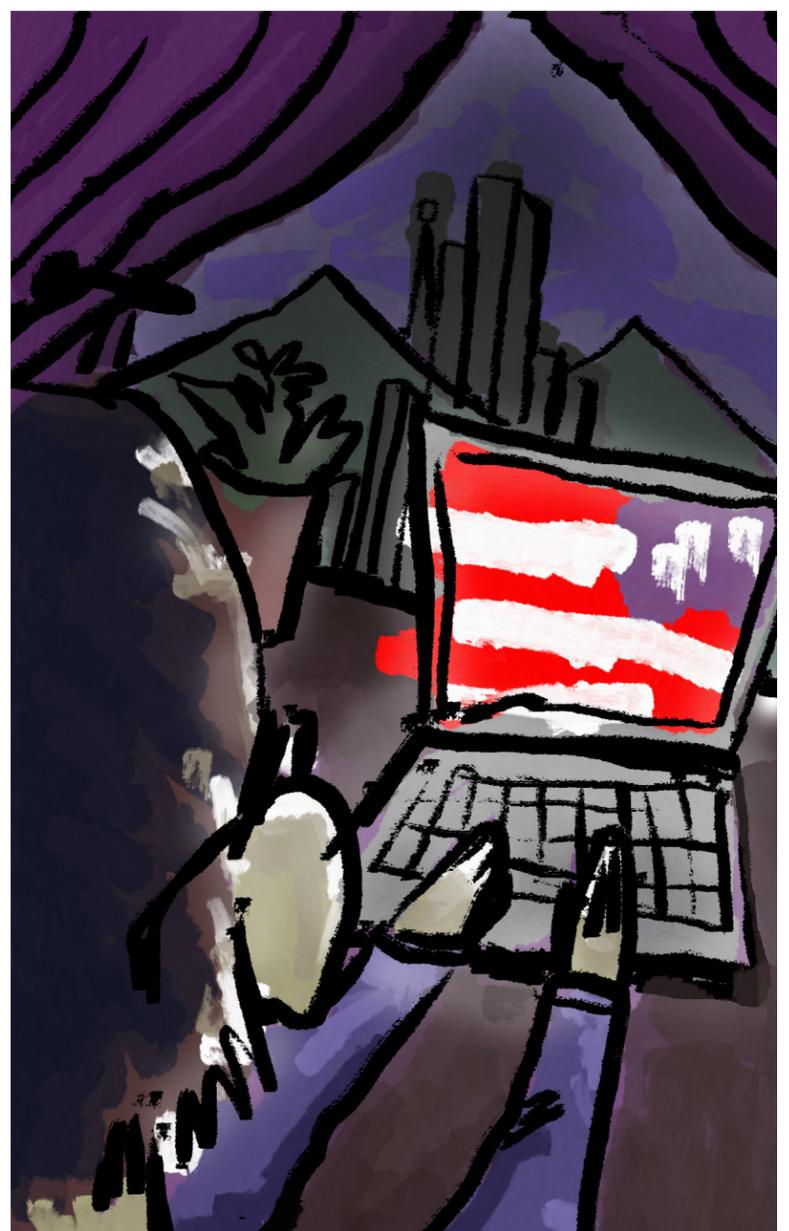
"It's kind of strange to go to sleep at these hours. I don't mind it but I get tired, physically. Also I'm not sure when to eat meals. It was strange at first but after a while I got used to it," Smith said.

Both have found ways to improve their mental and physical wellness. Yu has begun biking daily to break up long periods of sitting and brings his camera with him to capture the stunning Incheon sunsets.

Smith's coping mechanism is his renovation internship. Here, he helps transform a 1930s building into an art gallery and office that will be a residency program for artists. His roles range from demolition, plastering, and interior design, to business transactions where he works as an English translator.

"There is a sort of rhythmical pattern to the renovation that is relaxing," Smith said. "At night I am confined to my computer but during the day, I can go out and get active. Quarantine can also make the world seem small. Meeting artists from Columbia, from the Netherlands, from Russia — it just makes the world seem a lot larger and reminds me that there is a lot more out there that I am yet to see."

As they wait for the chaos to attenuate in America, they will seek refuge in their respective countries' safety for the time being.



TAAGLAA: In search of the perfect taco

TIGER'S AWESOME ADVENTURES IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA



STORY SAM GROTENSTEIN
PHOTOS ELLA JAYASEKERA

Los Angeles has, indisputably, the best tacos west of the Mississippi, but my goal was to find the best of them all: the elusive perfect taco. On a brisk Saturday morning, I set off on a journey in search of tacos across the greater Los Angeles area, from the hipster ridden streets of Highland Park to neon Hollywood at dusk.

My first stop was La Estrella, a Highland Park taco stand found on the corner of 61st and Figueroa. La Estrella is on a particularly commercial stretch of Figueroa and thus sees attention from both locals and visitors. I sat down at a table outside, and was immediately taken back by the hand-painted art on the wall of the restaurant. It depicted a colorful, expansive landscape, that utilized the construction of the restaurant to create a feeling of depth, as complex characters would peak out of grates or out from behind walls. Per recommendation of my server, I ordered two lengua tacos, which consisted of some fat cuts of diced lengua, topped with lime and salsa which I wolfed down without stopping for air.

After leaving La Estrella, I made my way a few blocks down to Viva Taco Azteca, widely regarded as one of the best taco trucks in the Highland Park area. Having thoroughly enjoying my previous meal, I once again decided to order lengua tacos, which not only superseded the tacos found at La Estrella, but all other lengua tacos I had ever had. The taco consisted of lengua, small, sliced onions and peppers, and a lime garnish. The combination of tender cow tongue and smoky spices elevated my soul to a higher plane of existence.

A brief bus-ride to Eagle Rock brought me back to reality. I stopped at Cacao Mexicatessen, a personal favorite. I ordered two tacos, one carne asada and one duck, as well as the hot chocolate — a Cacao Mexicatessen staple. While the tacos failed to rock my world in the same way Taco Azteca's had, the hot chocolate was a welcome

treat. Unlike American hot chocolate, Mexican hot chocolate is far thicker, and filled with a blend of spices that add a third dimension to the simple concept of hot chocolate. As per Eagle Rock usual, Azteca was busting with the local hipster crowd, and I almost lost the group I came with in a sea of beanies and flannel.

The next evening, I once again took to the streets in search of tacos. This time, I embarked on a much longer adventure, navigating the Metro to Hollywood, where I then caught a bus to Melrose and Fairfax. Then I walked to my most fabled destination, El Coyote.

El Coyote was easily the most iconic stop on my journey, as a staple restaurant in Hollywood culture as well as being recently featured in Quentin Tarantino's *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. El Coyote was also missing much of its usual luster, as the social distancing measures prevented me from enjoying much of its usual nighttime environment.

Out from the regular grease and grime of the streets of Hollywood emerged the iconic, neon, El Coyote sign. I ordered two beef tacos, an uncomfortable and unimpressive plate of bland meat and too-moist tortilla. My El Coyote experience can be likened to much of Hollywood. Without the star-studded streets and colorful lights, it's underwhelming, and just like the tacos, largely uncomfortable.

The locations I visited were only a handful of the many options for tacos across Los Angeles, they show that L.A. can cater to all of your taco needs. Whether you wish to enjoy the best taco of a lifetime, a quiet and calming restaurant environment, or an iconic, yet almost certainly underwhelming Hollywood destination, L.A. surely has the place for you.

I may not have found the perfect taco, but I can rest easy knowing it is out there somewhere in the bright and bustling streets of L.A.



THE SEARCH yielded some truly delicious results, but the perfect taco has yet to be found.

Tiger's New Podcast! Nightmare on Mission Street

Hosted by Cloe Maurer and Amber Chen

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Wolf Schermerhorn: The power of persistence

STORY EDDIE ZHOU
PHOTO SEAN JIN

South Pasadena High School alumnus, Wolf Schermerhorn is used to overcoming challenges. Whether it's dealing with dyslexia or fighting for a starting spot, his unrelenting passion and undeterred spirit have always pushed him forward. As a high schooler Schermerhorn decided against joining his friends on the school's soccer team. Rather, he believed that his development would benefit most from focusing primarily on club soccer.

Schermerhorn first began playing soccer when his mom signed him up for a club in Mt. Washington. Being an energetic kid, soccer proved to be the perfect outlet. Often the tallest player on his team, Schermerhorn's coaches would play him at goalkeeper growing up. Transitioning to the position at a young age allowed him to quickly acclimate to the physical and mental challenges of goalkeeping.

"Playing goalkeeper is a different experience from being a field player," Schermerhorn said. "It has taught me to not dwell on the past and to keep a positive mindset. It forces you to understand that little decisions can be extremely consequential and therefore has taught me how to handle high-stress situations."

This ability to deal with stressful situations has been with Schermerhorn for his entire life. Growing up with dyslexia, Schermerhorn had to learn to face challenges that instilled in him a strong-willed and determined mindset. Although this attitude translated to much success on the soccer field, he still found otherwise practical tasks such as reading and writing overwhelming. Instead of dwelling on his struggles, he chose to focus on how to cope with dyslexia, shaping him both academically and as an athlete.

"Dyslexia wasn't very well known when I was growing up, so I just had to deal with that discomfort while learning," Schermerhorn said. "After a while, I got used to the discomfort. I feel developing the skill to be comfortable with uncomfortable things definitely helped me become the person and goalkeeper I am today."

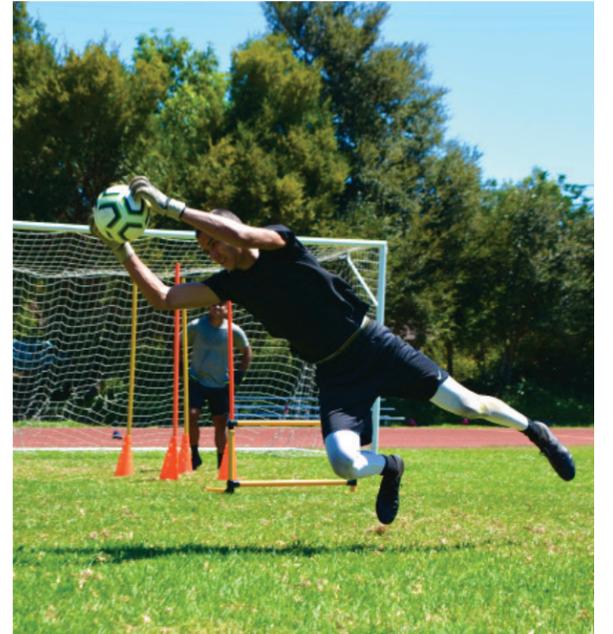
While Schermerhorn's passion for soccer stemmed from playing with friends and familiar faces on AYSO teams, it was his extensive experience playing for different soccer clubs that exposed Schermerhorn to the various new people, cultures, and skills that continue to drive his lifelong dedication to the sport.

"Soccer has kept me around people that are much different from people in South Pasadena. It has taught me new cultures, languages, and mindsets," Schermerhorn said. "It exposed me to what the world is like outside of our city and the 'bougie' funded clubs like FC Golden State."

Schermerhorn found himself immersed in new environments as he progressed to more competitive and intense clubs. A drive for a bigger challenge eventually brought Schermerhorn to the Total Football Academy (TFA), where he won the Southern California region of the National Premier League two years in a row.

"I grew so much as a person during my time with this club. At TFA, I really got a good grip of what true passion is, in this case towards soccer," Schermerhorn said. "My teammates gave everything on the field for each other like no one I had ever seen before, and that's why we were so successful together. The unity and relentlessness of the team was truly inspirational to me."

Although Schermerhorn had built a tight bond with his teammates at TFA, the competitiveness and constant pursuit of success that his teammates radiated pushed



CURRENTLY ATTENDING UC SANTA CRUZ as an environmental science major, Schermerhorn is one step away from attaining his goal of becoming a professional goalkeeper.

him to pursue greater things in his athletic career — this time, in the form of academy soccer.

At FC Golden State Academy, Schermerhorn was faced with staunch competition from some of the most talented teammates he had ever had. Although he found his spot in the team come under pressure, Schermerhorn channeled the determined mentality that a lifetime of overcoming challenges had given him.

Amanda Kanaly: A leader on all fronts



AS A MULTI-SPORT ATHLETE, winning isn't in Kanaly's best interest. Instead she prefers cultivating a welcoming environment for her team.

STORY HAELEE KIM
PHOTO ELLA JAYASEKERA

Senior athlete Amanda Kanaly ventured into many different sports before she discovered her niche. Her first experience playing a sport was with basketball at 4 years old, which was subsequently followed by softball a year later. By elementary school, Kanaly had a daily routine of these two sports in addition to track and field.

Then in the summer of sixth grade, Kanaly discovered water polo through a mutual softball friend who recommended it at the South Pasadena Water Polo Club.

"At first, I was amazingly slow and I could barely hold a ball above my head," Kanaly said. "I had done swimming before I started water polo so it wasn't completely foreign to me, but it took some getting used to."

It was here that Kanaly was molded into the player she is today. In a sport known for shows of unsportsmanship, her coach emphasized playing smart, with honor and integrity rather than resorting to more unsavory tactics. Her commitment to water polo grew over the years, to the point where she made daily trips to Downey for club practices after school.

"It was pretty rough and draining, plus it was hard to balance school with those time consuming trips. But it worked out and it was definitely worth it because I love that team and the coach is great," Kanaly said.

A very knowledgeable player, Kanaly's peers and mentors soon became aware of her natural affinity to the water. Her ability to compartmentalize was particularly noted; with an incredible focus on the grand scheme, Kanaly was always level headed, even in the midst of a turbulent play.

She is also an effective team player, using versatile approaches in reciprocating her teammates' skills with her own movements, to create a fluid environment of passes and shots.

Consequently, Kanaly earned a roster spot on the varsity water polo team as a freshman. This immediately added enormous expectations for her to perform well with the group of veteran upperclassmen.

"It was so nerve-wracking, and I was nervous as hell before every single practice and every single game," she said. "The environment surrounding my team was also very hostile and unwelcoming because of the cliques that divided our team. The team didn't really feel like a team."

Time soothed her nerves as Kanaly gained more experience. She had been able to build stronger relationships with her coaches at the onset of sophomore year, and much of the old burden left her shoulders when the seniors of her first year graduated. This finally gave her a proper space to cultivate her skills and reshape her priorities and mindset for the rest of high school.

"I didn't care if we won or lost. I mean that so seriously. It was literally only about how we played and if we had enjoyed doing it," Kanaly said. "[Naturally], over the course of the years our team grew closer because of that. It was such a relief honestly after that because we were all supportive of each other and we motivated each other which made the whole experience much more fun and enjoyable."

Instead, each game was all about putting her best foot forward and fully exhibiting her prowess for each game. The rest of the team adopted that attitude, and as Kanaly became a burgeoning leader, she made it her prerogative to emphasize inclusivity over division among her team.

"We made it a group effort to not [have the environment] be like the previous years," Kanaly said. "There was a girl who was in the same situation as I was, being the only freshman on varsity. She was having a difficult time, which I completely understood. So we were as welcoming as possible because we knew what she was going through."

Having a stronger team significantly improved the team's energy. And although they were not able to replicate the material successes of previous years, the team found genuine joy with their time spent in the pool.

"We had always lost to Temple City by just a little bit. But during one tournament, we beat them," Kanaly recalled from one memorable game. "It was really rewarding because we beat them without looking at the score. As a team we were really cohesive and it was one of the best games we ever played together."

Kanaly's junior year performance was one of her best. Over the course of the winter season, she managed to nab 19 goals for the team. Despite her senior year sports hanging in uncertainty, Kanaly has reflected upon all the valuable lessons she has learned throughout the course of her athletic career.

"I've learned to savor the experience rather than the outcome more, the journey rather than the distance," Kanaly said. "It also taught me hard work for the years to come."

SPORTS

SPHS welcomes new physical education teacher Jill Timothy

STORY SOFIA ALVA
PHOTO COURTESY OF
JILL TIMOTHY

South Pasadena native Jill Timothy made her teaching debut at SPHS on Monday, Sept. 14, working with mainly freshman and sophomore physical education classes. Timothy, an avid runner, wife and mother of three, is excited to be back in South Pasadena and hopes she can return to campus soon.

Timothy graduated from Cal Poly Pomona University with a degree in Kinesiology. She previously taught dance, aerobics, and health at Temple City High School and at secondary schools in Yorba Linda and East Whittier.

Adjusting to distance learning has been an interesting experience for Timothy, as teaching PE is much different than teaching a traditional subject. During at-home instruction, she has begun incorporating lessons about fitness and physical health into her classes.

“Teaching online has required a whole new set of skills,” Timothy said. “However, I’m trying to look at my cup as half full and it’s enjoyable to get online and see everyone’s faces everyday and to be able to still connect with them.”

Timothy’s virtual PE classes typically begin with a group warm up and



ONLINE PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES keep SPHS students moving during distance learning at home.

stretching. Depending on the day, Timothy may teach a brief lesson on a new sport or aspect of physical health to her students. Students are given opportunities to fulfill their cardio portion of the class individually, and if they choose, outdoors. This is in an effort to balance student’s time glued to the screen with more time spent outdoors in fresh air.

Many students believe that the combination of individual fitness as well as group fitness gives students a unique

experience that they wouldn’t otherwise get in traditional at-school PE classes. This combination also helps combat fatigue from Zoom that many students face during distance learning.

“The class is different online but I like it because she allows us to exercise individually,” freshman Michelle Shadmon said. “I also like that we get to do something other than staying on video during class because I know a lot of students are getting tired of being on Zoom all day.”

Cross Country remains determined through offseason



THE CROSS COUNTRY TEAM AT SPHS has continued to hold practices throughout the fall school year despite a delay in the athletic season.

STORY KAHLEN MIAO
PHOTO KATELYN HERNANDEZ

During a regular school year, clusters of cross country runners could be spotted running through the streets of South Pasadena. However, this year’s changes to their routine and sports season haven’t stopped the team from keeping up their morale and practicing.

The team has maintained a similar schedule to one during a regular school year, where Mondays and Thursdays are for practicing speed, Tuesdays and Saturdays are for running hills and long distances, and Wednesdays and Fridays are reserved for recovery runs. With cross country coach Mike Parkinson sending out online schedules and weekly workout

routines, students on the team have continued to practice in a socially-distant setting running in smaller groups.

“[The practices] have been a great place to see friends instead of being socially isolated,” junior Miranda Liu said. “When you’re on your own it’s difficult to keep pushing as hard as you would when you can see your teammates, even if they’re not next to you like typical times. The feeling of normalcy boosts morale.”

The team’s training has also transitioned to an online setting where students are able to interact with the coach by logging in their times and mileage for runs, workout routines, and progress onto the website XCStats. The program acts as a weekly calendar that allows coaches to provide feedback.

Many team members have also been participating in virtual races where they are timed by a supervisor to run certain distances. The races help maintain a sense of habitualness among the team, allowing students to keep their competitive spirit. Those who place high enough after the race can receive medals that help students stay motivated, encouraging them to continue to set new goals and personal records for the unofficial season.

“Even though these aren’t real races, it’s great practice and still really fun. I’m hoping to break some more personal records in cross country in upcoming virtual races,” junior Sydney Morrow said.

Although the team has kept a positive outlook on the current setting and possible season, it is not met without disappointments. The limited interactions among team is disheartening for many members.

“Social distance practice has lost a bit of what made a normal practice so great: the team,” sophomore Karl Tizon said. “I looked forward to finishing up my run and being able to chat with my teammates in the weightroom or a cafe.”

Andrew McGough creates Tiger Fitness Club

STORY LILIAN ZHU
PHOTO COURTESY OF
ANDREW MCGOUGH

SPHS math teacher Andrew McGough may seem like your average calculus teacher, but behind his mathematical career lies a hobby of his: the workout regimen CrossFit. Forming the Tiger Fitness club, McGough posts daily workouts and weekly challenges on Google Classroom and Instagram to encourage both students and teachers to stay active.

In comparison to his workouts in the Spring, McGough has taken further efforts to give his workouts a more structured schedule. The workouts can be scaled up or down for all fitness levels and can be completed without any equipment. Students have found that his efforts act as motivation to stay physically active and are beneficial for their overall wellbeing.

“[McGough’s] club impacts students’ mental health especially now because it motivates us to stay healthy and organized during quarantine and to not slack off,” sophomore Tia Guang said. “I think it’s pretty unique that he’s doing this for his students despite having a busy schedule as a teacher.”

In addition to workouts and challenges, McGough posts strength training exercises. In his Google Classroom, he links YouTube videos from various sources to show proper movement and optional equipment to facilitate workouts.

“I hope that it encourages [participants] to work out every day and gives them ideas on how to structure their exercise regimen,” McGough said. “It is great to see people participating in an activity that is fundamental to leading a healthy life and challenging themselves to push hard when the workout gets tough.”

McGough initially started doing CrossFit, a form of high-intensity interval training, back in 2015 after being inspired to become healthier for himself and his family. Soon, exercising became a habit as he began to create his own workouts. CrossFit introduced a unique way to stay in shape that’s adaptable for most sports.

“I work out after I wake up each morning, starting my day with a small success that propels me into more productive behavior overall,” McGough said. “I feel amazing after the workout. I have energy, strength, and stability. I can run around all day with my son without feeling winded. One of my goals is to stay as fit as possible as I age so that my son doesn’t have to take care of me as I get older.”



MCGOUGH FORMED THE TIGER FITNESS CLUB to provide an outlet for community members to destress and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

BUT WAIT!
There’s more...

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