

Empowering students to think critically and creatively since 1913

Tiger



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OCTOBER 14, 2021

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

IN THE NEWS

FALL ARTS CRAWL

South Pasadena will host its Fall Arts Crawl with art and music on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 4 to 8 p.m.

REFLECTIONS ART CONTEST

Students may submit writing, visual art, and more to the SPHS PTA website by Monday, Oct. 18.

HOMECOMING

ASB will host the semi-formal dance at the Arroyo Seco from 8 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 23.



STORY CHARLOTTE DEKLE
PHOTO SOPHIE YEUNG

Students and faculty filled the stadium in a sea of orange and black after almost two years of distance learning, to celebrate the 83rd Color Day on Friday, Oct. 1. The festivities included creative orange getups and a high-octane Color Day assembly on the football field.

Vitality filled the bleachers when the school band played “Eye Of The Tiger” as the students gathered in front of their Avatar element-themed posters. As the assembly began, the Dance program’s electric performance to BlackPink’s tune “Ice Cream” was a welcome distraction on a hot day.

Sophomore Lauren Kim sang the national anthem and Commissioner of Assemblies and senior Andrew Kowal revived a long-missed tradition: roll call. The freshmen and sophomores were customarily booed while the seniors let out a roar for their class. Many seniors were excited about their last Color Day.

“I look forward to Color Day every year so this being the last one is bittersweet. I thought they [ASB] did a great job,” senior Ellis Cho said.

The long-awaited tug-of-war battle began, with each grade clawing at the rope trying to win. Ultimately, the group of seniors reigned supreme.

The annual teachers’ dance elicited cheers from the audience as the educators struck moves on the football field. English teacher Katya D’Almeida emulated

Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s “Tax The Rich” dress as part of the English department’s winning Met Gala costume. Fellow English teacher Mark Afram dressed in an orange version of actor Rami Malek’s gala suit.

After the teachers’ dance and a skit by ASB, a series of competitions commenced. As per tradition, SPHS emerged victorious over neighboring schools (La Canada, San Marino, and Temple City) in a punchy boxing match.

Towards the end of the assembly, Commissioner of Spirit and junior Audrey Xie announced each grade’s homecoming nominees to roaring applause. Before grade levels filed out, pep and band closed with the alma mater.

Even though the underclassmen had never experienced Color Day before, some enthusiastic groups still created memorable outfits: an elaborate sophomore Pacman reconstruction won their grade’s costume contest.

“[Color Day] is long overdue. It was cool to see everyone in orange showing spirit for the school. Especially the freshmen and sophomores who have never experienced it,” and sophomore Class President Colin Wong said.

Xie announced the homecoming winners during lunch on Wednesday, Oct. 6. Freshmen selected Elena Wilds, the sophomores chose Colin Wong, and the juniors voted for Samantha Lopez. The three senior nominees are Isabella Alfonso, William Kan, and Aidan Bar-Cohen. The most Royal Tiger will be announced on Friday, Oct. 22 during the halftime show at the Homecoming football game San Marino.



CORONAVIRUS POLICIES

Tiger examines pandemic policies and student perspectives on the administration’s handling of safety on campus since the return to school in August 2021.

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SHAKESPEARE ADAPTATIONS

The removal of William Shakespeare’s unfamiliar early modern English literature reveals the emotional weight and overall timelessness of his work.

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SIBLINGS IN SPORTS

A significant number of SPHS siblings are teaming up on varsity rosters this year, including on the basketball, volleyball, football, and water polo teams. Tiger highlights these dynamic duos in a spread.

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NEWS

Voter registration drive encourages youth engagement

STORY KAHLEN MIAO
PHOTO SARAH LEE

The Student Voter Registration Committee (SVRC) is holding a voter registration drive during which SPHS students will have the opportunity to pre-register to vote throughout the week of Monday, Oct. 11.

Banners, balloons, and streamers were hung up on the Tiger Patio alongside tables complete with computers and forms for students to register with. Students had the option to register online through the California Secretary of State's website or fill out physical forms that committee members would then mail out. In order to pre-register, students must be 16 years or older and have a state-issued ID, drivers license, or the last four digits of their social security number.

The SVRC utilized social media and posters around school to publicize the week-long event to SPHS students. It also made sure to emphasize the fact that in order for students to receive a ballot when they are eligible to vote, they must be pre-registered.

The drive is a part of a larger program started by the Civic Center, a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage youth to become civically engaged. Earlier this year, the Civic Center reached out to SPHS administration offering to send them a voter registration starter kit called "Democracy in a Box."

Following the administration's decision to host the drive, Civics teacher Alisia Englehard and A.P. Government teacher Maryann Nielsen agreed to run the event.

"Our goal is to register as many students as we can, because research shows that once you're registered to vote, you have a much higher chance of actually voting," Nielsen said. "And young people ages 18-24 have the lowest voter turnout of any age group in the country. We know they have a lot of beliefs and views, we know they care about the country they live in, so there's no time like the present to let students know they can make a difference by getting registered."

Englehard and Nielsen advertised the opportunity to students in their classes and were able to form a team of about nine volunteers. The SVRC began meeting weekly in early September to plan and organize the drive. Members of the committee also attended a training session with the Civic Center, where they were presented with various ways they could host the event at SPHS.

Students in the SVRC are passionate about civic engagement and believe in the importance of getting youth politically involved early.

"Registering to vote is pretty easy to do online, but it's a really random thing to remember to do sometime between when you turn 16 and 18," senior volunteer Ava Dunville said. "If there's an opportunity present at school, it makes it a lot easier for students to hop on to do it."

Although the committee does not have an exact number of students they hope will pre-register to vote, they anticipate the week-long event will prove successful in helping SPHS students on their path to civic engagement. The drive will take place everyday at lunch on the Tiger Patio until Friday, Oct. 15.



EARLY YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN POLITICS is important to the Student Voter Registration Committee (SVRC), who helped students pre-register to vote at lunch.

Anti-Bias Club finalizes design for Black Lives Matter mural



CENTERED ON DRAWING THE COMMUNITY INTO THE ANTI-RACISM MOVEMENT, the Anti-Bias Club's BLM mural chronicles the centuries-long struggle for Black liberation via famous figures. (Only the right half of the design is pictured above.)

STORY ALISON WANG
IMAGE COURTESY OF ZACH BROWN

The Public Arts Commission approved the Anti-Bias Club's updated designs for a Black Lives Matter (BLM) mural at Orange Grove Park during its meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22. This approval follows the more than year-long effort by members of the club to design and find a location for their mural promoting anti-racism.

Seniors Noah Kuhn and Lulu Talesnick founded the Anti-Bias Club in October 2019 after attending a school-sponsored Anti-Defamation League training, and have recruited equity-minded students to make SPHS and the greater community more inclusive. In June 2020, club officers formed a five-member committee — comprised of Talesnick, Kuhn, junior Alexa Morales, senior Maya Turun, and Class of 2021 alumnus Khalil Murdock — to create a mural following the murder of George Floyd and subsequent nationwide BLM protests. The committee began the process by soliciting community input via Zoom, before settling on a vision of intersectionality, resilience, and celebration. A Public Arts Commission ad hoc committee led by Chair Phung Huynh helped the students put out a request for proposals to local artists.

From about 20 submissions, the top three were selected and given interviews.

The group chose Zach Brown in November 2020 for his experience as a visual artist, teacher of incarcerated youth, and an activist at the California African American Museum, plus his interactive design. Collaborations to finish the design hit a temporary roadblock when the City put a stop to the initial location at City Hall for liability concerns. The group pivoted to the Orange Grove Park site and successfully requested permission for use from the Parks and Recreation Commission. The new location necessitated an updated design, so the group returned to the Public Arts Commission for a fifth time on Sept. 22.

The mural is a celebration of Black people and Black power, with the overall goal to promote anti-racism in South Pasadena. Rather than focusing on the victimhood of Black people, the mural chooses instead to uplift influential Black figures, such as Marsha P. Johnson, Ida B. Wells, and Angela Davis.

"The goal of the mural is to educate and to bring awareness to important Black figures and the Black community in general," Talesnick said. "[We want] to

highlight and celebrate the many different aspects and the intersectionality of the Black community."

Sunrays in the mural's foreground represent South Pasadena's past as a sundown town, which meant BIPOC were not allowed within the city limits at night. South Pasadena was virtually all white until the early 1960s, when federally-funded Monterey Hills was mandated to be open to everyone.

The mural also includes local BLM protestors London Lang and Fahren James, who catalyzed conversations about racism in South Pasadena. Furthermore, the far right end of the mural is intentionally left blank for people to stand in, signifying that everyone has a role in the anti-racism movement.

"Hopefully this can usher in a new era of change in South Pasadena," Turun said. "And educate about the city's history as a sundown town [which is] a major part of our history that not many people know about."

The Anti-Bias Club will soon present the BLM mural to the City Council for approval, after which it can begin fundraising \$10,000 for the project to be painted.

NEWS SNAPSHOT Library Services

The South Pasadena Public Library is holding writing workshops, book clubs, and reading programs throughout the month of October. The library has been open since late June with modified in-person services and a limited indoor capacity.

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, nationally-acclaimed writer and South Pasadena Poet Laureate Ron Koertge will share his expertise in a creative writing workshop. Presented by the library's Teen Advisory Board and sponsored by the Friends of the Public Library, the event will take place in the library's Community Room

from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Registering on the library's website prior to the event is required for those interested.

In the spring, the library launched the Everybody Talks Thematic Book Club, which meets monthly to discuss a book from that month's respective theme. Members are instructed to read a book within the theme in preparation for a roundtable discussion with fellow attendees. The club's next meeting will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 27 from 4 to 5 p.m. in the community room with a spooky and scary theme in celebration of Halloween. Prior registration on the library's website is also required in order to participate.

"The Everybody Talks Thematic Book Club provides opportunities for teens to discuss books around a theme,"

librarian Maida Wong said. "Teens get together to share thoughts about books and to connect with others."

From late October to early November, the library will be holding its annual One City One Story event. In honor of this year's theme Navigating Nature, the chosen book is Octavia E. Butler's *Parable of the Sower*. There will be community book discussions and themed programs with an in-person meeting on Thursday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. Those interested in participating must register ahead of time on the library's website.

Address: 1100 Oxley Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030
Hours: Monday to Thursday 1 - 7 p.m., Friday to Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., and closed Sunday.

Senior Ava Feldman selected for Rose Court

Senior Ava Feldman will make over 100 public appearances in her role as a princess on the Rose Court.

STORY ANAYAH MEHDI
PHOTOS SOPHIE YEUNG

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association announced senior Ava Feldman as a princess on the 2022 Tournament of Roses Rose Court on Monday, Oct. 4. Feldman will make over 100 public appearances before representing South Pasadena in the New Year's Day parade along with six other court members from Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, La Cañada High School, Arcadia High School, Marshall Fundamental Secondary School, and Pasadena High School.

Feldman began the interview process in early September, in addition to several other seniors from SPHS. Fellow senior Samantha Molina was also a top contender in the selection process, placing in the final 29. Candidates from over 40 schools went through multiple rounds of interviews spanning across the month of September.



After each round, candidates were eliminated and those remaining were given interviews with increasing amounts of time.

At the ceremony on Oct. 4, Chair of the Queen and Court committee, Stephen Perry commenced the widely anticipated celebration at the Tournament House. Shortly after, President of the Tournament of Roses Bob Miller, announced the seven finalists who were presented with a bouquet of roses, photographed, and interviewed by local media outlets.

"Being selected from the incredible 29 finalists was surreal," Feldman said. "All of the girls were more than qualified and all had incredible resumes. I was completely shocked when my name was called because I did not think I stood a chance after talking to some of the applicants during the interview process."

As the only princess from SPHS on the court, Feldman is expected to stand for and embody the South Pasadena community through her role. Feldman's acceptance onto the court continues a three-year trend of princesses from South Pasadena, with the most recent being alumna Cole Fox in 2019.

"I know that there are so many amazing people in this city and I hope that I am able to represent our town to the best of my abilities," Feldman said. "I have been able to reach out to some past members of the court as well as SPHS alumna Cole Fox. She was there when I was selected and has been there for me through the process. Her guidance and knowledge has been comforting and given me great advice on how to balance all the different aspects of my life now."

Rose Court princesses are given the opportunity to represent their communities through philanthropic organizations and hands-on volunteering. On a more personal level, princesses are able to develop their public speaking and etiquette skills. Each of the seven princesses will also receive a \$7,500 educational scholarship.

There are numerous qualities that panel judges look for in applicants for the court. These include qualities relating to the theme of the parade; this year's being "Dream. Believe. Achieve." The princesses are selected based on their involvement in youth leadership, public speaking ability, academic achievement, and community and school positions.



REPRESENTING SOUTH PASADENA
is one of many things that senior Ava Feldman is excited to do in her role on the Rose Court.

Feldman has a strong presence at SPHS, playing on the girls varsity tennis team and leading Copa de Oro as Editor-in-Chief. Along with activities on campus, Feldman also takes part in outside programs including Girl Scouts and National Charity League, where she volunteers with local organizations.

On Tuesday, Oct. 26 one of the seven princesses will be announced and crowned as queen at the Tournament of Roses coronation ceremony. The Citizens Business Bank-sponsored event will be held on the front lawn of the Tournament House and will also be live-streamed via the Rose Court's YouTube channel.

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Evolution of the dress code

The conversation surrounding school dress codes and whether or not they provide a safe, distraction-free learning environment, or if they stifle personal identity and harm students, is a contentious one. This issue, Tiger explores recent pushback at SPMS, the development of SPHS' dress code, and the effect these changes have had on students.

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ILLUSTRATION PENNY ABOUD

Intentions

School dress codes have always been a controversial topic as students argue that there is no correlation between what a student wears and their education, while administration has historically disagreed. Recently, the thought of abolishing dress codes has become more mainstream. While there are no concrete records documenting its evolution, SPHS' dress code has been through many iterations over the years.

In the early 1940s, when SPHS was still conjoined with San Marino, a dress code that harshly contrasted today's was still in effect. It is unclear what the exact regulations were; however, Class of 1949 alumnus Norm Ono recounts that there was a social standard for what students were expected to wear.

"This might've been a carryover from what they had [prior], but it was a white blouse and a navy blue skirt [for girls]. The shoes were white and the laces navy blue," Ono said. "And the boys wore t-shirts and maybe if it was a cold day they'd have a dress shirt over that. The most common thing was Levis."

After SPHS separated from San Marino in 1955, enforcement of the dress code varied year to year. In the 1970s, Class of 1972 alumna Lorraine Gutiérrez recalled how administration prohibited female students from wearing shorts or jeans. However in the 1980s, they became more lenient and students dressed considerably less formally. Girls would wear jeans in place of skirts and more casual hairstyles.

Alterations

Ranging from extremely strict guidelines in the 1960s to a teacher uprising in the 1970s — throughout SPHS' history, students have advocated for the alteration of unfair dress codes.

In the 1960s, female students were prohibited from wearing "tight," sleeveless, or "low-cut" clothing and any form of pants. The dress code was enforced most strongly among girls, but male students were also prohibited from having facial hair and were only allowed to wear collared shirts. By 1970, one student grew so fed up with SPHS' dress code that he took principal F.S. Thompson to court. In *Alexander v. Thompson*, then junior Claude Alexander called for studies of high school dress codes throughout the San Gabriel Valley to examine their effects on student education and socialization. Alexander's efforts proved effective.

After the verdict, SPHS made swift changes to the dress code, allowing for girls to wear pants and shorter skirts. Male students could grow their hair longer, but rules regarding facial hair were still enforced.

Continuing a history of youth activism, a group of students successfully revamped the apparel policy in 2018, spearheaded by previous Commissioner of Internal Affairs Caleb Waters. Prior to the changes, the dress code was described in the Tiger Guide as being instituted to "ensure a focused learning environment on campus that fosters physical cleanliness and mutual respect amongst students and staff." Self-expression is encouraged, but a line must be drawn when "it may intrude upon the rights of others to a comfortable school setting."

The old dress code outlined that the range of skin from the armpit to "The Bottom Line" — a hand's width below the bottom of the buttocks — must be covered at all times when a person is standing straight.

"Students were unhappy about the dress code before it was revamped. Not only did it restrict a lot of their style and identity, but the way it was enforced made many people uncomfortable," Waters said. "Having administration persistently searching for [scantly] dressed teenagers seemed like an inappropriate way of accomplishing their goal for a more conservatively dressed campus. There were many cases where students would be pulled out of class in front of their peers, which seemed like an unnecessarily embarrassing way to treat students."

Students had expressed frustration with the dress code prior to the reform in 2018 as well. In 2010, then senior Laura McClain gathered around 100 signatures for a petition protesting the unfair enforcement of the dress code on campus. The students' overall goal was to change the dress code to be more inclusive, and to encourage self-expression. While that effort failed, the student-driven 2018 dress code reform is still in effect.

"It was only by a specific teacher. They yelled at me in front of the class and told me to, 'put on some clothes.' I'd say it was handled poorly, considering there were many other students wearing similar clothing on a hot summer day."

"Tank tops are not inappropriate. A playboy logo is part of streetwear culture, it is not suggestive or slutty, girls have boobs, shoulders are normal, crop tops are worn for style not sexual attention."

"I have been told to cover up. It doesn't make sense, it's just a shirt. I was showing my skin but nothing inappropriate. We shouldn't have to cover each and every part of our skin because others can't act right."

"Clothes aren't what's distracting people, it's the people who are choosing to look at them instead of the class. No one is responsible for how someone else looks at them."

Quotes taken from a survey of 179 SPHS students



Enforcement

Issues surrounding dress code have also popped up at the middle school. In early September 2021, a sixth grader garnered 84 signatures on a petition calling for a change in the middle school's dress code, directed towards Principal Cheryl Busick and district administrators.

"At the Sept. 7 SPMS PTA meeting, a concern about the way dress code is enforced was raised," the petition stated. "As a 6th grade girl, it's important to me to be able to dress myself without worrying about what boys will think or whether adults will judge me. During the meeting, adults talked about how the dress code exists because they don't want kids to be 'distracted' by others' clothing."

Despite discontent with SPMS' policy, it has not been amended at all. SPUSD dress codes apply to students on campus during school hours as well as at school functions both on and off grounds. At SPHS, students are required to wear shorts or skirts that cover their buttocks and genitals at all times — including when they are sitting, standing, walking, and bending over. Students are also required to wear tops or shirts, which are defined as having an opaque fabric in the front, back, and on the sides under the arms. Shoes or sandals are required at all times, and student's ears must be visible in class, with exceptions for health, religious, or cultural needs.

Currently, SPHS does not permit students to wear undergarments below the shoulders, any clothing that generates a disturbance in class, or is deemed unsafe. No clothing, jewelry, or other items may advertise drugs, alcohol, or tobacco or contain obscene, vulgar, or sexually suggestive content. Since these regulations have been added to the Tiger Guide, this aspect has proven to be the most violated section of the dress code.

"I have had to enforce a trend of male students that were wearing clothing that depicts alcohol brands and drug use," Vice Principal David Speck said. "I have had to ensure that students do not wear that, but it has mostly been first offense warnings. We have other shirts they can change into or, alternatively, they can wear their shirts inside out. But besides that, we have not really had to enforce the new dress code. All adults on campus are responsible for enforcing the dress code and noting any violations."

SPHS' current guidelines — outlined in the Tiger Guide — state that for a student's first offense they will be given a verbal warning and loaner clothes from Student Services, unless a parent or guardian can provide them clothing. The rules state that the loaner clothes must be washed and returned within a week, otherwise the student will be assigned Saturday school. For future offenses, the same Saturday school punishment will apply, parents or guardians will be notified, and the student could face suspension or further discipline for continued willful disobedience.

THE TIGER

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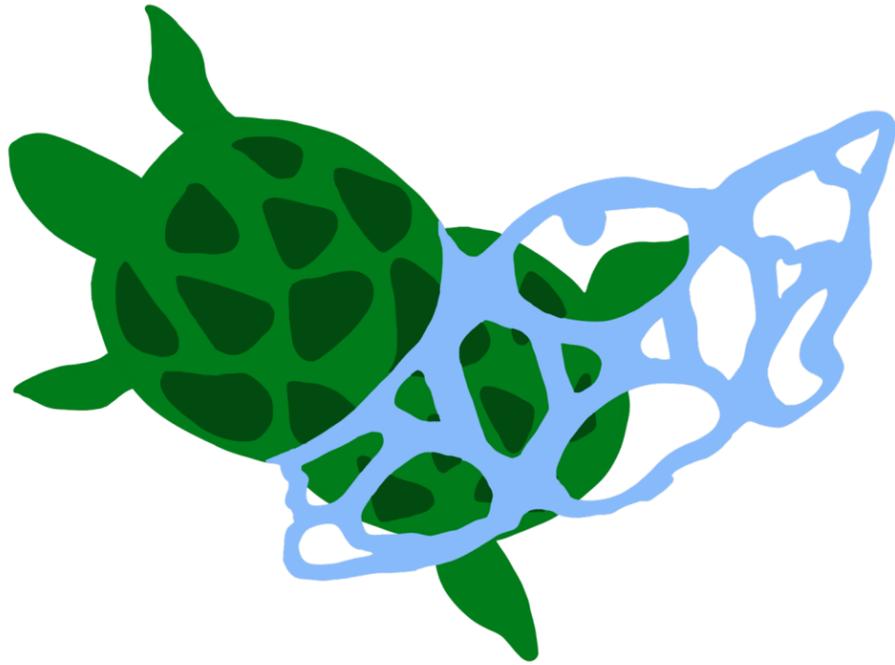
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STAFF EDITORIAL

OPINION



The myth of plastic Recycling

Investigating the truth of a plastic recycling industry shrouded with secrets.

This is the introduction to a longer article that can be found online at tigernewspaper.com.

Each year, approximately 35,680 tons of plastic are produced globally. Of that, it's estimated that 75 percent of plastic sits in landfills. Of the remaining 25 percent, 14 percent end up in oceans: suffocating turtles, starving seabirds, entangling octopi, and destroying marine life. In fact, scientists estimate that in under 30 years there will be more plastic than fish in oceans. The world is dealing with a glut of plastic material, much of which isn't recyclable, and recent financial disincentives caused recycling companies to abandon the already weak plastic recycling industry. Yet, this problem cannot be solved by recycling. Plastic consumption and corporate production must be reduced.

The plastics industry established itself as one of the world's leading industries post World War II, contributing to improved healthcare, faster transportation, better military equipment, and essential inventions like the helmet. It wasn't until the late 1980s and early 1990s that the environmental effects of plastic were questioned. Recycling PSAs were prevalent, claiming that if individuals put recyclable plastic material in the blue bin, the world will prevent a plastic pollution crisis. However, what actually happens to plastics once in the blue bin has been a mystery to many. Plastics are identified and distinguished by numbers based on the type used in a given item. For upwards of 25 years, the United States sold China plastics numbered 3 through 7; the vast majority of which are unable to be recycled. 92 percent of the plastic waste shipped overseas was not recycled; it was being sorted by low-wage workers and found its way into rivers and oceans.

"Many illegal companies popped up and started taking the waste," Cheryl Auger, President of the Ban Single-Use Plastics, a local advocacy organization said. "[Much of it is] burned, dumped, or is used for insulation."

In 2018, China and other countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia decided to no longer accept plastics shipped from the United States.

This caused a collapse in the plastic recycling industry for the U.S. With higher costs per ton for plastic waste, there were no buyers for plastic blocks, meaning that they are going straight to the landfill.

Another culprit on environmentalists' "most wanted" list are single-use plastics (SUPs). Made from petrochemicals, the 150 million tons of SUPs produced each year amounts to half of all plastics produced globally and 20 percent of the world's total carbon footprint.

They are used for seconds and take centuries to break down.

"Micro-plastics are everywhere," Auger said. "They're in our air, water, animals, babies, etc."

With their use rapidly increasing throughout the pandemic in the form of takeout packaging, there is too much waste for the decreasing amount of landfill space and no recycling programs to depend on.

"We need to reduce, reuse, recycle," Hammes said. "By skipping the reduce and reuse steps, we've increased our consumption of single use plastic products, and that's not environmental. The recycling step is our get out of jail free card."

The California state legislature attempted to address this overflow of plastic in the summer of 2019 by drastically reducing the amount of SUP's produced in California. Enter bill AB1080/SB54. Authored by State Senator Ben Allen, the bill proposed a reduction of SUP's by 75 percent and demanded that they be entirely recyclable or compostable by 2032. The bill failed by four votes.

Boos & Bravos

Tiger's cheers and jeers for the month of October

BOOS

BOO to the sophomores who act like they're not the same as freshmen right now.

BOO to Mr. Wulf for grading on speed. Let's see you run a 7:30 mile.

BOO to autocorrect. I don't mean to say "duck you."

BOO to Squid Game. There are literally zero squids in this game.

BOO to anyone who didn't dress up for Color Day. You look more stupid than we do.

BOO to underclassman buying tickets to Hoco. We feel so sad you missed your 8th grade promotion dance.

BRAVOS

BRAVO to Mr. Whitney's overwhelming confidence in his 5/6 Honors students. We're totally not struggling.

BRAVO to Tiger's successful boba fundraiser. Loving all the student support!

BRAVO to the bathroom stall doors for being shorter than I am. If there's one thing this school has taught me, it's how to pee in fetal position.

BRAVO to admin for showing students they empathize with our mental health struggles. We love having to tirelessly advocate for our own wellbeing.

BRAVO to early Halloween decoraters. We can't all be stay-at-home parents!

My body hair is none of your business

My experiences with body hair have shaped my understanding of gender norms since puberty. Now, I have the context to look back and understand my experiences as part of a broader pattern of misogyny.



STORY ANIKA EBBERT
ILLUSTRATION PENNY ABOUD

“Anika, I see you still have the arm hair.” Imagine hearing that. Only three weeks ago, it was just one of the many comments I have received regarding my body hair. I genuinely want to know: Is the natural hair growing on my body offending you? Are you implying that I am embarrassed of my arm hair? For generations, society has been forcing women to shave as part of meeting beauty standards and being accepted by their communities. I’m no exception. Nobody I know is.

From the time we are nine years old, it’s not just our male counterparts who are telling us about the new need to shave. Our mothers and female role models are some of the main proponents of shaving. They create social

pressures ranging from how “boys won’t like girls with body hair,” to “how everyone your age does it,” explaining how gross and unhygienic body hair is.

However, by the time we reach eleven, boys our own age suddenly feel the need to comment on our body hair. I remember they would have full conversations about how I have more underarm hair than a man. How unattractive and gross it was. I find no reason to take it personally, but I’m peeved that society has decided that my body hair is even worth commenting on.

At my eleventh birthday party, my aunt commented on my underarm hair. How it was “patchy” and what a poor job I did shaving, and how I needed to improve in the future. Following this, I’d hear comments about how society would view me with underarm hair, how it was

“important” for me to do a good job shaving. Someone I looked up to made me feel pressured to meet beauty standards at such a young age.

For me, fitting in included shaving. Most boys and men only pressure women into shaving as a result of these beauty standards. Maturity isn’t desired on girls, only youth and innocence, and visible body hair distorts that idealized perception.

I find that people of many genders comment on body hair, usually to imply the crudeness of making the decision to leave it on one’s body. It stuns me that people my age have such intense reactions regarding women’s underarm or leg hair, everything from general disgust to confusion.

A few weeks prior to middle school, I was 11 years old and at sleepaway camp. When in my swimsuit, a girl asked me how I wasn’t embarrassed to go a week without shaving. Insult clearly intended.

I don’t understand why people feel the need to even comment on underarm or leg hair. Body hair is just one of those things that exist, and we shouldn’t shame people for having it.

There is no line that can be drawn for why you should shave or not. Ideally, you should be comfortable leaving hair on or off your body. But is that comfort drawn from the fact that if you shave you are fitting into society’s beauty standards? Society needs to understand that it isn’t their decision to pressure or influence someone to remove their body hair or not, and to respect that person’s decision. The key takeaway — do what makes you feel comfortable, and just know not to let what anyone else says alter your decision.

America is responsible for the immigration crisis

STORY MICHAEL MAYEMURA
ILLUSTRATION MARTIN WALSH

The migrant crises in the U.S. of the early 2010s was a catalyst for discussion the West, as more and more people flocked to the political right in an attempt to quell the “problem.” In the West’s blissful ignorance, people conveniently overlooked the political turmoil and wars sparked by the U.S. and its European allies that forced these migrants to flee. While the U.S. proposed walls and the EU left refugees to suffer in camps, the rest of the West effectively refused to take responsibility for its actions. Our wars and our decisions have decimated countless nations and we must repent for our past mistakes.

Most of the U.S.’s interventions in Latin America were rooted in the Cold War as paranoia around the spread of communism “in the U.S.’s backyard” swept the nation. In turn, our government invaded or intervened within many South American nations, such as Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, and many others. Operation PBSuccess saw the CIA overthrowing Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz on the grounds that he posed a communist threat to the Western Hemisphere, leaving Guatemala with a deadly civil war that would stunt the nation’s economic growth and leave it reliant on American handouts. The U.S., in the long run, is the root cause of its own migrant crisis.

Despite this, many nations throughout the West refuse to help desperate migrant families searching for a better future. The United States left people in cages, tore families apart, proposed enormous walls, and mounted

arm patrols on the Mexican-American border. Even the EU — the West’s makeshift bastion of progress — left hundreds of thousands of refugees in camps to rot, shut down their borders, refused asylum, and left hundreds of thousands stranded. These “Warehouses of Souls” were filled with millions of dreams for better lives safe from the horrors of war. Moreover, the West adopted a largely anti-immigrant rhetoric to shift the terms of the discussion. Stranded, West must find answers.

These answers are not impossible. To start, the U.S. could help modernize many South and Central American nations as well as tackle the rampant political corruption throughout Latin America. The U.S. must work to improve foreign infrastructure. Programs like those in Columbia that encourage farmers to plant fruits and not coca leaves — used to make cocaine could certainly flourish with U.S. aid. If the U.S. could revitalize industries throughout South and Central America, people could find ways to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.

Of course, these are oversimplifications of complex issues rooted in generations of exploitation and suffering. But, were the West to take a step forward and do just a little bit more to help developing nations adapt to the consequences of oppression in the modern era, the right wouldn’t have to complain about these “plagues of migrants.” Ultimately, the suffering of billions of people across the world are the result of centuries of wars and manipulation at the hands of the West. The U.S. is the cause of our migrant “crises” and we must mend the scars our predecessors have caused.



Quinnie’s Opinnies

QUINN
MANZO



Sympathy is Unhelpful

Sympathy makes me really uncomfortable. It’s difficult to tell when it’s coming from a genuine place, and when I receive sympathy from someone, I feel an obligation to thank them profusely for offering me nice words. In the end, I don’t feel any better.

Most of the time, except in interactions between coworkers and acquaintances, sympathy is an ineffective form of solace. Sympathy is saying things that are logically or factually true, but with a soft tone to mask the fact that what is being said has no real feelings.

Perhaps I’m biased. Growing up in South Pasadena, it is entirely possible that I hate sympathy because I am used to being watched, used to being surrounded by people who have seen each other’s worst moments since we were six years old. There’s not much to do here besides

eat pizza and talk about each other. So, I could see that my hatred for sympathy comes from the fact that when something bad happens to me, I can assume other people already know, and already feel bad for me, and I do not need to be reminded.

How did sympathy become the default response to pain instead of empathy? Knowing that someone feels for you, that someone feels bad for you, does nothing but add extra weight to my negative emotions. I find no comfort in being pitied.

I get a disappointing score on a test. “It could have been worse,” someone says. Wow. An astonishing revelation. It could have been worse! I could have gotten an even lower score. I could have walked into the classroom, prepared to take my test, and an iron clad man from my dark medieval past could have waltzed into the room, demanding a rematch on our life-altering duel. My overconfident self could have taken him up on this offer, underestimating the way his combat has improved in the past eon. I could have been humiliatingly bested, forced to complete my assessment with the remaining three-quarters of my right arm. There is an endless list of things that could be worse — just like that, pointing out the obvious has washed all my anxieties away.

I can’t, with a clean conscience, denounce sympathy entirely. I know that it comes from good intentions, from the desire to make someone feel better. There’s no evil in

that. Sometimes, even if someone uses sympathy and it doesn’t make a person feel better, that person can see past the words, and merely the fact that someone is trying is what comforts them. However, one can never guarantee the way their good intentioned actions will be received. Plus, I believe there are certain situations in which it will always be inappropriate to use sympathy. It’s absolutely awful to try and tell someone who is depressed, someone who is grieving, or someone who feels betrayed, to look on the bright side.

It can be extremely uncomfortable to watch someone you love, to watch anyone at all, in emotional distress. It’s difficult to come up with a good thing to say, let alone the right thing. If nothing comes up in your head, don’t fall back on a script because that’s exactly what it is — a script. It’s a list of phrases that are so general and so emotionless that they can be applied to any situation, and are therefore unhelpful. My solution when the air gets sad is to sit in the silence. Oftentimes, people don’t need you to say anything. They just need you to be there. It helps to sometimes look at the fact that you can’t come up with something helpful to say as a sign that you shouldn’t say anything at all.

Above all, and like sympathetic phrases you can go ahead and apply this to every situation, think before you speak. If you really let a moment marinate before speaking, you will be able to recognize when sympathy or empathy is the appropriate response.

SPUSD's coronavirus policy is lacking

SPUSD is failing students and faculty by prioritizing the appearance of safety over actual student health.

STORY CHARLOTTE DEKLE &
RALUCA TUDUSCIUC
ILLUSTRATION MARTIN WALSH

For more detail, find the full version of this article online at tigernewspaper.com.

The return to in-person schooling marked the end of an era filled with uncertainty and chaos. However, what was supposed to be a step back into normalcy is proving to be a continuation of the chaos present throughout the pandemic. Through unclear instructions and nonexistent plans for maintaining the education of COVID positive students, the SPHS administration is failing to offer students and faculty the support that is crucially needed.

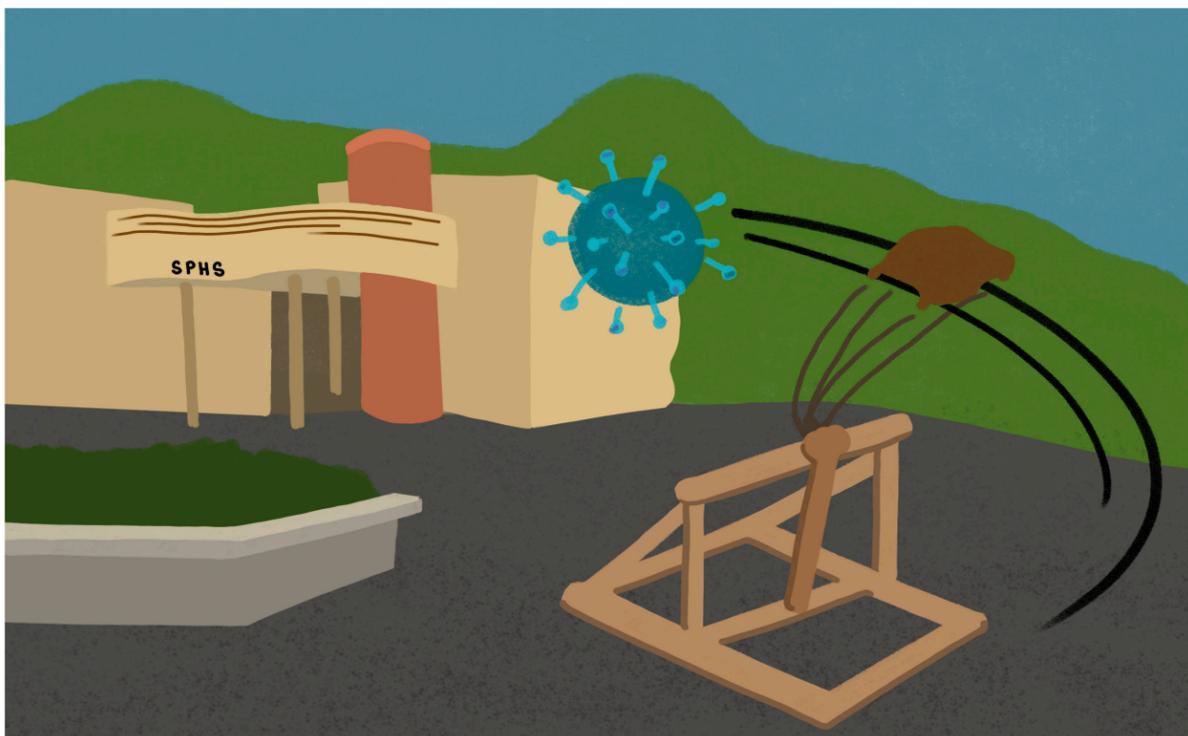
SPUSD's current plans, which are outlined on the district website, highlight the importance of safety on campus. A clear requirement for face coverings while indoors is closely followed by a set of instructions for quarantining and exposure, with emphasis on maintaining personal hygiene throughout. Unvaccinated individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 are required to quarantine for 10 days, while those who are fully vaccinated may continue to attend school as per usual. Students and staff displaying symptoms or positive for the virus must stay home for the mandatory amount of time. These procedures are often ignored or unclear, leading to confusion within the school's community. Members of staff have frequently been known to remove facial coverings while in lessons, despite the explicit requirement that "face coverings are required for all K-12 students and employees."

There are no repercussions for these actions, though they jeopardize the safety of the many students these individuals come into contact with.

"Some teachers turn off the air filters and close doors. Some even take off their masks. So enforcing that. Please," an anonymous student said.

While some prefer an authoritarian approach, this would be equally inadequate as inaction. Limiting students' freedoms and bodily autonomy is counterproductive as it would perpetuate the idea that students' learning environments must be dictated by an administration. The fast-and-loose interpretation of the COVID scripture isn't the only unfulfilled promise left by the district. Communication between the high school and students has been praised by the principal and other staff, but students disagree.

"I think we're doing a pretty good job of messaging to students and parents in the community, and our staff, about safety measures: how to protect yourself, how and



where to get tested, and when. Warning signs to look for and then steps to take if you are positive or if you've been exposed. There's been literally an avalanche of information on all of this sort of stuff to assist people," Principal Eldred said.

Guidelines for what to do in the event of exposure have been sporadic and unclear. In a survey conducted by Tiger, respondents voiced their opinion on the school's response and communication of various restrictions. 62.6% of respondents viewed the school's response as average. But when asked to elaborate on their answer, they tell a different story.

"Personally, I have not received any information on what to do in case I test positive," said senior Jaequon Santos.

Santos' experience is not an isolated incident.

"[I] don't know what they do [when someone tests positive], so I'd say pretty poorly considering that I, as a student, don't even know anything about what they have people do," said an anonymous 10th grader.

The policies currently in effect place great emphasis on remaining home for minor symptoms, regardless of

whether they be indicative of COVID-19, stating, "Anyone (including visitors) who has symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, must stay home and seek testing and care." Despite assuming this stance of support for excessive caution, SPHS has offered no methods to allow students to actually follow through on this without falling behind on classwork. Treating COVID-related absences as regular sick days is not enough.

Since the campus fully reopened in August, 21 members of both staff and students as a collective have contracted COVID-19. SPUSD should acknowledge these infections as a major concern and construct a suitable plan to allow education, the school's ultimate purpose, to continue while students are in quarantine.

The fact remains that missing a full 10 days' worth of school isn't comparable to an ordinary sick day. Students are expected to catch up on work alone when they return and do not receive the missed instruction that is necessary for their academic success. The additional stress of catching up on these vast amounts of missed work, especially when lacking instruction on the material, provides an incentive not to stay home but to ignore any slight symptoms of unwellness; the opposite of what the school should be trying to achieve.

The problem with modern parasocial relationships

STORY ELSIE WATERS
ILLUSTRATION MARTIN WALSH

The relevancy that parasocial relationships have attained in this day and age is a threatening issue. While they are neither inherently good nor bad, their prevalence has heavily altered the dynamic between fan and celebrity, leaving individuals to face the fine line separating fan from fanatic.

Parasocial relationships are one-sided relationships, often between a fan and a celebrity. While the fan is emotionally invested in the life and career of the celebrity they admire, the other party is unaware of that person's mere existence.

The celebrity only knows that fan as part of a whole, not as an individual. Social media gives fans unprecedented access to their favorite celebrities. Today, a fan can get a seemingly unfiltered view into a figure's life without an intermediary. One doesn't have to appear on MTV or Rolling Stone magazine to address their audience like they did just a decade ago. They can simply open their cell phone.

Because it is direct, the content shared by a celebrity can feel more intimate. Whether it is when a celebrity posts a picture with a long, emotionally revealing caption or an Instagram story where they simply talk to the camera, the line between superstar and friend blurs. Individuals must understand that no matter how personal these

interactions may feel, it is still a one way conversation. These celebrities are in complete control of the narrative and the information they are sharing is curated, just as the persona they are presenting is. These parasocial relationships foster a false sense of closeness. In many cases, one may link their own identity to that of the celebrity they idolize. This leads one to feel they need to defend that figure's name, upholding a sense of loyalty which is often misguided.

Take Shane Dawson for example. He was one of the first stars of YouTube who grew his channel espousing conspiracy theories. His videos attracted a high subscriber count and, as the years progressed, his internet popularity only increased. He managed to build a loyal fandom, unwavering until his many mistakes were called into the spotlight. Dawson's videos often featured blatant racism, humor surrounding pedophilia, and even an instance in which he made a joke involving his first sexual experience with his cat. Dawson, in his defense, claimed that all these instances were merely for "shock value."

These videos left his fans in a questionable predicament. While Dawson lost up to 600,000 followers on YouTube, his celebrity status hardly fluctuated as he still has 20.2 million subscribers on the app today. Dawson has proved time and time again that he is at the very least a poor influence, yet many have stayed "loyal" to their favorite Youtuber, even saying that he does not deserve the losses he has faced. This situation perfectly illustrates the dangerous moment when a fan's fanatic obsession clouds their judgement. With their ego so completely intertwined with the celebrity they idolize, they feel the need to defend this figure even when they are so clearly in the wrong. Many argue that parasocial relationships are productive, if not healthy for an individual, as they ultimately satisfy a longing for connection.

"[Parasocial relationships] are meaningful, sometimes as meaningful as actual social relationships, because even people we don't know can have profound significance in our lives, as inspiration or reassurance," said Dr. David Giles, a professor in media psychology at the University of Winchester.





ASB COLOR DAY JUDGES enthusiastically viewed the Costume Competition.



SENIOR DANCE CAPTAIN TEJA MOE takes center field during the SPHS' dance program's color day assembly performance.



CELEBRATING THE 83rd ANNUAL

COLOLO DAY

STORY QUINN MANZO

PAGE DESIGN CHARLOTTE COHEN, TERRY SONG, & SOPHIE YEUNG

PHOTOS ERIN LEE, SARAH LEE, DANIELA RODRIGUEZ, MICHELLE SHADMON, SAMANTHA SHIROISHI, & SOPHIE YEUNG

ILLUSTRATIONS PENNY ABOUD, ISOLE KIM, ALLISON LEE, TERRY SONG, & MARTIN WALSH



SPHS TEACHERS SHOW THEIR STUFF to Butter by BTS, choreographed by Dance Captains Teja Moe and Stephanie Law, and George Hong Sheng.



A wave of SPHS students dressed in orange and black excitedly filed into the bleachers of the football field on Friday, Oct. 1 to celebrate the 82nd annual Color Day. Color Day is the most spirited school event of the year, hyping up the student body in anticipation for the football game against Temple City. It was the first Color Day in two years for junior and seniors, and for the freshman and sophomores, it was the first Color Day ever. ASB kicked off the day with a costume competition, where students and staff show off their elaborate costumes and complimenting props. Host and Commissioner of Assemblies Andrew Kowal announced the winners; a group of seniors (including Tiger's very own design editor Terry Song) covered by one tarp to form a gigantic Garfield, who had been planning their costume since their freshman year. The English department, dressed as various celebrities in this year's Met Gala, were given the staff award. Kowal included multiple grade competitions during the assembly, including a tug-of-war and a three-legged race. At the end of the assembly, Kowal announced the senior class as the winners for the poster competition, and Commissioner of Spirit Audrey Xie announced the 2021 homecoming court nominees. The day of celebration and school spirit ended with a victorious football game against Temple City with a score of 41-12.

SENIORS FROM THE LAND OF FAIRIES AND ALICE IN WONDERLAND celebrate their final Color Day at SPHS.



FLIGHT ATTENDANTS OF TIGER AIRLINES pose for a spirited staff photo.



FEATURE



Shakespeare's timelessness

The many adaptations of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew* are a testament to the author's immortality.

STORY CHARLOTTE DEKLE
ILLUSTRATION ISOLE KIM

Within the pantheon of English Renaissance poets, William Shakespeare is by far the most prolific and the one that most teenagers dread. In high schools, the Bard's work is only read with the archaic and distancing language. Though this is important to understand his wit and contextualize his pieces, to truly see the genius of Shakespeare's work, one has to view the plays and sonnets in the conditions of their many adaptations.

The *Guinness Book Of World Records* calculated that feature-length adaptations of William Shakespeare's works total 410. Of that sum, around 25 of them are recreations of *The Taming of the Shrew*, which he wrote between 1590 and 1592. *Shrew* and its many iterations reflect society's views on women during the time of production, and show Shakespeare's immortality by reflecting the values of the period of the adaptation.

Shrew tells the story of a courtship between tempestuous bride-to-be Katherine and the nomadic Petruchio, who attempts to domesticate the volatile Kate through mental and physical abuse. In Act 2, Scene 1, Petruchio proclaims, "For I am he am born to tame you, Kate; and bring you from a wild Kate to a Kate conformable as other household Kates."

The original production of *Shrew* took place during a time when arranged marriages were losing relevance. G.B. Hibbard, in his book *The Taming of the Shrew: A Social Comedy*, argued that in Shakespeare's day, arranged marriages were giving way to more modern protestations of love and the state of marriage, and thus a woman's role in relationship to men was fluctuating. At face value, *Shrew* may seem misogynistic. Playwright George Bernard Shaw in 1897 called it "disgusting to modern sensibilities." But, in reality, it could be interpreted as quite the opposite.

"Shakespeare sets up Petruchio as a ruffian and a bully, but only as a disguise – and a disguise that implicitly criticises the brutal arrogance of conventional male attitudes," Philippa Kelly, author of *What Women Want: The Shrew Story*, argued in 2013.

More recent Shakespeare interpretations grant Katherine more agency in the relationship. In Cole Porter's 1948

musical *Kiss Me, Kate* (a meta show-within-a-show), Kate is portrayed as a headstrong and shrewish misandrist which she proclaims in torch song "I Hate Men." The doubtful eye cast on the taming evokes the burgeoning women's rights (albeit white women) movement during World War Two, when women had an unprecedented amount of freedom due to men fighting abroad.

The final scene's (Act 5, Scene 2) call for female obedience and "place your hand beneath your husband's foot" is characterized as more tongue-in-cheek, and elevates Katherine to an equal partner. Similarly, in the 1929 *Shrew* film, actress Mary Pickford winked during the female obedience speech, further cementing the obvious irony that Shakespeare originally put forth.

The romantic comedy *10 Things I Hate About You* is less well-known as a *Shrew* adaptation. It transplants the characters from *Shrew*'s setting in Padua to Seattle-based Padua High School, and includes many allusions to the original show, like the inclusion of the line "i burn, i pine, i perish." This film came out in 1999, the height of the post-feminist era. Post-feminism is the ideal that second-wave feminism accomplished what it needed to, and that institutional sexism had been eradicated.

Katarina "Kat" Stratford is a staunchly contrarian feminist. She is pegged by her town as a "difficult woman," specifically one in need of domestication. But, similar to an interpretation of the final scene in both *Kiss Me, Kate* and the 1929 film, Kat becomes a more equal partner to her suitor and evolves into a more complex version of herself. The fact that Shakespeare's work can still evoke modern feminist or post-feminist attitudes is a testament to Shakespeare's strength as an author.

The removal of the archaic Shakespearean language exemplifies the fact that the distancing verbiage is the only barrier to the emotional weight. No other author's words could be retold hundreds of times and still ring fresh and true.

Each new iteration of Shakespeare's work sparks new discussion over the timelessness of his themes. Obviously, he wrote more than *Taming of the Shrew*, but that alone demonstrates a wider trend of the fluidity of the Bard's work. As Cole Porter penned in his musical *Kiss Me Kate*, "the poet of them all who will start them simply ravin', is the poet people call the Bard of Stratford-on-Avon."

Hey, put that down!

CLOE MAURER



My Youtube recommended has been spitting up a lot of *Vice* videos as of late. Most recently, a video titled "What It's Actually Like Trying to Make it in Hollywood" popped up, and I gave in to the sweet hypnosis of digital content.

The video follows budding influencer Sky who is trying to make it as a DJ/dancer/actress/model/designer. She is also a student at UCLA. The rise of the multihyphenate is a technically wide range that all weirdly blends together in a very recognizable way when condensed into an Instagram grid.

Multihyphenates, in the L.A. influencer sense, are people who are trying to "do it all," but the "all" is the creation of a digital footprint so large it feels indelible. This aligns with the "internet is forever" paradigm, but is at odds with a realer one; that the internet is modeled around the presentation and subsequent tucking away of cyclical trends, listening closely to, and sometimes deciding, what the public imagination deems relevant. A trace of Sky's Instagram live DJ set might forever exist in some neon pink, fish netted corner of the internet, but if a holographic corset top is never seen by the blinding light of an L.A. summer, did it ever even happen?

I, not uniquely, examine the L.A. multihyphenate as a bizarre cultural phenomenon. I'm content to observe them through a screen or overhear fragments of their conversations in plant-filled cafes, but it's always ironic and half-amused. I watched "What It's Actually Like Trying to Make it in Hollywood" with too much morbid fascination, sensationalizing my version of perceived internet tragedy even more than *Vice*.

I assume that the DJ/dancer/actress/model/designer suffers from a syndromic cultural sadness; the accidental byproduct of a city that lives and dies by the consciousness of the collective. I forget the same rules of human intricacy apply to the multihyphenate.

Glimpses of Sky's personhood cut through the situational absurdity and had a sobering effect.

Suddenly, I was forced to confront why exactly I thought all of this was so awful and insane. What I realized was "What It's Actually Like Trying to Make it in Hollywood" is sad for much smaller, more tender reasons than the sadness produced by projecting a superiority complex onto members of the mid-level influencer sphere. Underneath the faux fur bra top and rimless reflective sunglasses, Sky read as a familiar strain of confused.

She talked to the camera about her situationship with her influencer mentor — a self-described "creative director" with perfectly-tousled hair. Sky vacillated between near professions of love and energetic connection to conceding that it mattered much more to her to have him in her life at all than it did to be with him in any officially romantic capacity. The video cut to a clip of him explaining to the interviewer in a bored L.A. drawl that they never dated.

Sky met up with her dad on a corner of Sunset Boulevard. He was dressed like a hair metal rocker with eyeliner and thinning, teased, bleached hair. Her dad asked her what she'd been up to and she said she had been partying with friends. He said he had been doing the same. She laughed uncomfortably and spent most of what was shown of their rendezvous trying to convince him to do something other than start another band. I'm not completely sure what to make of "making it" or of Sky's predicament, but I'll continue to pretend this quiet, bass-heavy, glittery internet sadness is more foreign than it actually is.



Valdimar Johansson's directorial debut is muddled

Lamb's mesmerizing filmography and landscape do not compensate for its overly complicated plotline.



STORY MICHAEL MAYEMURA
ILLUSTRATION ISOLE KIM

A24's newest horror film, *Lamb*, offers a horror story as desolate as the rural Icelandic landscape it is set in. *Lamb* follows two sheep farmers, María (Noomi Rapace) and Ingvar (Hilmir Snær Guðnason), in their attempt to raise a half-human, half-lamb hybrid child. The movie, which remains in its original Icelandic language, builds off the increasing popularity of foreign films in the United States. Although the film delivers on the oddities and mysterious ambiance promised in the trailer, when plot is taken into account, the movie as a whole is middling at best.

According to an *LA Times* interview with Valdimar Jóhannsson, the story's writer and director, the movie was a product of his childhood fascination with sheep.

Among the film's more redeeming qualities were its striking filmography and the originality of the story. The film's adjective cuts were gripping and added to the mystery of the entire movie. The camera angles and the many shots of the untouched Icelandic landscape gave the story and its characters a very eerie and isolated feeling. Hauntingly pastoral scenes of only the sheep added to a mystifying ambience. Besides the beautiful filmography, the film cultivated a lingering air of mystery. Jóhannsson built suspense and preserved an element of unpredictability by challenging the audience's application of reality to their understanding of the nontraditional plot.

Rapace and Guðnason gave a convincing performance and although the movie lacked major dialogue, the chemistry between the two was fantastic. They sensitively portrayed the desperation felt by couples who face fertility problems and the silence between the two added to the film's unsettling atmosphere. In particular, Rapace's depiction of an anguished mother desperate to raise her child in peace infused the story with more tension — especially when dark forces try to take Ada away from her and Ingvar.

Despite the movie's dynamic performances and captivating filmography, it had its fair share of shortcomings, one of the biggest being its pace. The movie takes time to get anywhere remotely interesting. Although it does a great job of building suspense, it fails to do anything with the suspense once it's built and remains fairly stagnant until the end of the movie. Even with a plot twist and quickened pace, the movie failed to capitalize on the audience's piqued interest in the final third.

The plot itself was a jumbled mess of confusing revelations and detours. The dialogue was tonally ambiguous and left a lot for the audience to decipher. *Lamb* is comparable to a puzzle without a picture, in the sense that one could not understand key pieces of María and Ingvar's backstory. The ending was left frustratingly ambiguous and did not provide the audience with anything to reach a reasonable conclusion with. These convoluted plot points took the audience out of the immersive world and made it hard

to follow everything happening on screen. *Lamb* had multiple opportunities to flush out characters' story arcs, giving the audience a better understanding of each of their intentions. The movie is filled with moments built off the understanding of a previously puzzling plot development and continuously leads the audience one way, but abruptly changes direction, leaving the audience dumbfounded.

The movie prides itself on its allusion to Icelandic mythology, yet bears no real connection to it. The lack of explanation for how the hybrid was born and the twist ending made the plot very confusing. If the movie had been based on an Icelandic tale, it could have provided the audience with a better understanding of the context for the story. Instead, the movie leaves the audience with more questions than answers and, honestly, does not make much sense - although, to their credit, it added to the eerie atmosphere of the film. Ultimately, the entire movie was baffling and a little disappointing.

Lamb was a hit or miss film. While it delivered on certain things like ambience and filmography, it just about failed everything else, particularly its plot. While the movie's beautiful scenery is captivating, it was not enough to compensate for its impenetrable storytelling. The film is noteworthy for its one of a kind idea and its mesmerizing tone, but otherwise its plotline is a tangled mess of twists and turns that do not make any ounce of sense.

Julia Shadmon: Creating a space for understanding and acceptance

STORY LEXIE DOIG
PHOTOS MICHELLE SHADMON

SPHS senior Julia Shadmon has made a name for herself as an enthusiastic member of Youth and Government and a South Pasadena Girl Scout since kindergarten. Her extroverted personality, opinionated nature, and interest in activism influenced her extracurriculars to reflect her desire in making the world a better place, a tenet of the Girl Scout law.

For her Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, Shadmon created *The Dear Parents Podcast*, which seeks to bridge the gap between parents and teens by delving into issues younger generations are passionate about in a format that is digestible to listeners. The podcast can be found on multiple popular platforms, including Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

"I was having trouble deciding what issue I wanted to focus on [for my Gold award], because I have a lot of different opinions about multiple social issues," Shadmon said. "[The Dear Parents Podcast allows me to] talk about everything that I want to."

The three episodes released so far cover mental health during the pandemic, gender identity and pronouns, and sexual orientation and homophobia. In the future, Shadmon also plans to release an episode on the importance of contraception availability in schools, and possibly an episode on abortion, which she believes is particularly relevant given the new restrictive abortion law in Texas.

In order to represent the diverse perspectives on these nuanced topics, Shadmon prioritizes inviting peers as guests on her podcast, though she will occasionally invite parents to offer an additional outlook. The episode on mental health featured former SPHS Health and Wellness Officer Tonalli Garcia-Rodriguez and Peer Mediators Noah Kuhn, and Aurelia Olguin.

The Dear Parents Podcast's longest episode so far covered gender identity, reaching just over fifty minutes. Shadmon admitted that it was "a super complicated issue," that warranted deeper clarification. The episode includes guests Saida and Hannah Staudenmaier, a local parent-child duo and members of Shadmon's Girl Scout troop, who were invited to discuss their journeys with gender identity and pronouns. Sadia Staudenmaier empathized with parents who may struggle to keep up with new terminology, saying that even inclusive parents may be resistant to change out of confusion.

Shadmon is responsible for all aspects of the podcast's production, from research and editing to advertising, and though the project has been challenging, she's found its independent nature gratifying.

"I think it's been really cool for me to have this project, because I know I'm doing it all on my own" Shadmon said.

Shadmon occasionally hosts listening parties for parents over Zoom to celebrate the release of new episodes. After playing the episode, listeners have the opportunity to ask additional questions about the episode's subject.

"So far I've had comments saying I've made it easier to understand certain topics," she said. "The [community] response has been very positive."

Shadmon's persistence, cheerful disposition, and empathy shine through in her episodes. She hopes that her podcast will have a lasting impact on the community by creating an environment of acceptance.



A PASSIONATE MEMBER OF Y & G AND GIRL SCOUTS, SPHS senior Julia Shadmon has extended her advocacy to podcasting.



Social media magnifies disparities in crime coverage

STORY HANNA BAE
ILLUSTRATION ALLISON LEE

Social media has had an undeniable effect on modern generations. From wholesome social interactions to cyberbullying, all aspects of life are shown on and influenced by social media and its users. Social media's impact has even ventured into criminal investigations. Yet, users and national news outlets also direct a disproportionate amount of attention to cases that involve white women, and take away from cases involving people of color that go unnoticed for years on end.

This August, aspiring social media influencer Gabby Petito was reported missing while on a cross-country road trip with her fiancé, Brian Laundrie. She documented her journey in YouTube vlogs and a regularly updated Instagram and TikTok. Her remains were later found in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, in the Spread Creek Dispersed Camping Area. Her social media presence assisted her local police department in finding evidence and also attracted a larger-than-average amount of media coverage.

The North Port Police Department was able to analyze a video posted by a Youtube vlogging family that unintentionally captured Petito's and her fiancé's van while on the road on the day that Petito supposedly went missing. Their interactions are documented on all of her personal platforms as well, giving clues as to what her last days may have looked like. Social media's assistance in Petito's case was not abnormal. In fact, social media has come to have an indisputable impact on investigations across the country. In a 2014 survey conducted by LexisNexis, 73 percent of investigators believed that information obtained via social media helped them solve investigations more quickly and 67 percent agreed that social media is a valuable tool in anticipating crimes as well. Police departments use various social platforms to conduct sting operations, track locations, and reach out to the public.

Although social media can be extremely helpful in investigations, missing persons cases involving white women are more marketable for news outlets. In turn, they take attention away from similar cases that involve indigenous people. A report by Wyoming's Taskforce on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons found that



over 700 Indigenous people went missing in Wyoming from 2011 to 2020 alone. It also found that 76 percent of articles among local news outlets in Wyoming covered missing white people while they were missing, compared to 42 percent of articles on missing Indigenous people while they were missing. The disappearances of multiple Indigenous women go undetected, their cases unnoticed and swept under the rug. The lack of attention these cases receive stems from the idea of the missing white woman syndrome, as dubbed by the late PBS anchor Gwen Ifill nearly two decades ago.

The missing white woman syndrome describes how white women are continuously depicted as gentle and caring while women of color are seen as loud and reckless, insinuating that they contributed to or caused their own disappearances. Crimes involving young, thin, conventionally attractive, white women often receive the most media coverage. This contrast is particularly visible in Petito's case in the extra attention she is receiving as a white woman with a social media platform. A study by Northwestern Law in 2016 of four national and local news outlets found that, in comparison to the total number of FBI cases, Black

people were significantly underrepresented in coverage of missing persons.

This inequity raises the question of how influential social media can truly be in investigations. Many have expressed frustrations in how missing person cases involving white women are more visible, and cases involving women of color are almost completely disregarded. Although publicity is effective and valuable, it is unequal.

Ana Navarro, a political commentator for CNN commented on Twitter that while she was grateful Petito's case was getting a lot of attention, "I just want there to be same interest and energy [for] every disappeared young woman in America — Brown, Black, Native-American, transgender."

Social media has proven to be a critical tool in investigations, providing coverage on many different cases that would go unnoticed otherwise. However, media coverage is not entirely equitable, and "missing white woman syndrome" engulfs news outlets around the world. More publicity should be geared towards missing Indigenous women and biases that influence a user's consumption of media should be reassessed.

Dear Evan Hansen does not translate to the big screen

STORY CHARLOTTE DEKLE
ILLUSTRATION ISOLE KIM

When the *Dear Evan Hansen* musical arrived on Broadway in 2016, it struck a chord with many audience members who felt connected to the universal themes of self-discovery and acceptance. Unfortunately, *Dear Evan Hansen's* film adaptation's inconsistent theme and storytelling leave an uncomfortable viewer squirming.

The switch from stage to screen is not an unseemly leap; multitudes of musicals have successfully accomplished it. Unfortunately, this translation only amplifies *Dear Evan Hansen's* faults.

On the first read, *Dear Evan Hansen* is about anxiety-ridden Evan Hansen getting caught in a maelstrom of expectations and misunderstandings after the suicide of his classmate, Connor Murphy. However, a closer inspection reveals the tale of a liar who fabricates the personality and life of a troubled classmate for personal and social gain. *Dear Evan Hansen* will no doubt leave you emotional, possibly for different reasons.

Ben Platt originated the role of Evan Hansen on Broadway and ably inhabits his many quirks. Platt's performance on Broadway was critically acclaimed, winning him a Tony, Emmy, and Grammy Award. Unfortunately, Platt's Evan Hansen's twitchy nature translates better on stage. The tics, twitches, and doe-eyed despondency are far too overwrought for the subtlety of celluloid. Additionally, Platt's age has been a topic of criticism among fans. Platt is 28 but his

hairdresser and make-up artist did him no favors, aging this late-20s actor into his early 40s.

His fellow actors carried their weight and then some. Julianne Moore, who portrayed Evan's mother, is the standout performance that brought warmth and depth to an underwritten character and performed her single song (the heart-aching "So Big/So Small") with heart and earnestness. Additionally, as Connor's grieving mother, Amy Adams was multi-faceted. Despite Adams and Moore's phenomenal performances, the film's portrayal of single mothers is insulting.

The film positions Evan's mother, Heidi, as an inept mother because she works night shifts in comparison to Connor's stay-at-home and attentive mother, Cynthia Murphy. During Evan's breakdown song "Words Fail," Evan attempts to excuse his behavior with the line "[I never had a] mom who just was there because mom was all that she had to be." The film ultimately sides with Evan's view of his mother, having the mother concede that she hasn't been as present in Evan's life due to her job. The blame is also placed on Evan's mother as the reason Evan wreaked havoc on the Murphy family.

The film's most tremendous disservice belongs to Connor Murphy (Colton Ryan). Connor is mainly absent from the film, even though he is the catalyst for the plot and is mentioned in practically every scene. Evan's fabrication of Connor's life story removes any realism or humanity from the character. If the film wanted to redeem Connor, which is the assumption, they would never provide any depth or reason to care. Instead, the movie sketches

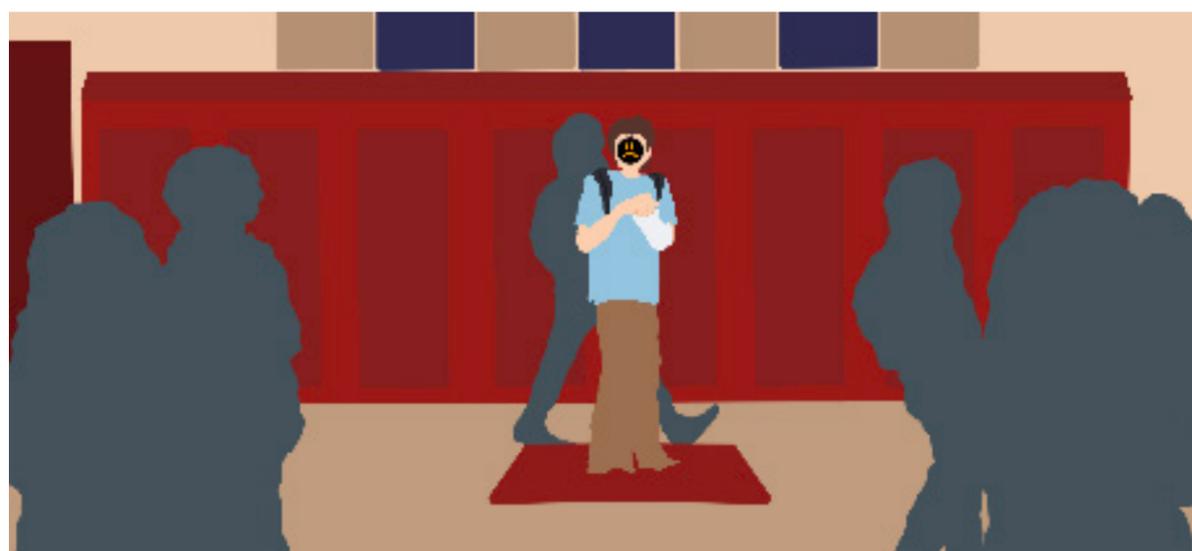
around Connor's mental health issues, showing (but mostly telling) his unbridled rage without providing context for his behavior. Instead, he screams at his peers, damages property, and threatens to kill his sister for the sake of it.

Detecting a theme in this film was close to an impossible task. Three valid motifs are conducive to themes, but none came to fruition, which contributes to the film's overall tonal incongruity. First, the Broadway show's theme of 'You Will Be Found' attempted a resurgence. Still, it was ultimately squashed by repetition during a new song, "Anonymous Ones," about how everyone is battling personal demons. The third theme is one of 'You Are Not Alone,' coupled with a pastiche of social media outlets sharing Connor's story via a speech Evan orates. The irony of the latter theme is that every character ends up solitary and alone by the end of the film. All of these themes are, while intertwined, definitively different and make the movie slightly discordant.

Director Stephen Chbosky, who also directed the similar *Perks of Being a Wallflower*, positions the characters as solitary in their frames, an understandable choice for the isolation between Evan and his peers. But considering community was an attempted theme, the static shots of a single person crying did not amplify their endeavor.

The score by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul is catchy and hummable, though tonally inconsistent. "Sincerely, Me" is an upbeat and jaunty number, immediately followed by "Requiem," a heart-wrenching song about complex grief and mourning a supposed monster. Pasek and Paul also cut multiple Broadway songs that provide an outside perspective and critique of Evan's actions. These include "Good For You," an entire song dedicated to denouncing Evan's actions.

Dear Evan Hansen is overwrought in its book, its score, and its titular performance. Moreover, the emotionally compelling nature of the story leaves much to be desired, essentially because the flaws of the source material went unnoticed by many.



Dear Evan Hansen



Genre	Musical/Drama
Director	Stephen Chbosky
Score	Benj Pasek, Justin Paul

TAAGLAA: The Haunted Hayride

TIGER'S AWESOME ADVENTURES IN THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA



STORY ANAYAH MEHDI & ELSIE WATERS
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THIRTEENTH FLOOR ENTERTAINMENT

Elsie: Since last year's coronavirus spike had pretty much ruined any chance of a normal Halloween, Anayah and I thought a trip to the recently reopened Haunted Hayride would be the ideal opportunity to start this season off with some good old-fashioned horror.

The Haunted Hayride is a horror-themed attraction located in Griffith Park that runs from the end of September through October. During the ride, a group of about twenty people are seated in a cart full of hay that moves throughout a course designed with a diverse array of scary themes, including punk rock and circus. Along the way, actors dressed according to their section's theme jump out in an attempt to scare off-guard passengers.

Each year, Haunted Hayride grounds take on a new theme. This year, it took shape as a spooky town, Midnight Falls, complete with roaming actors dressed as werewolf jocks, businessmen with pig heads, themed booths, and food trucks. The actors casually saunter towards unaware visitors and scare them from behind.

Upon buying our tickets, we anticipated the looming jumpscare and the excitement we'd feel riding on the rickety cart. Although, \$30 and some hours later, our enthusiasm dwindled.

Standing outside of the Haunted Hayride entrance, we immediately regretted our decision when we caught a glimpse of what was to come. A large arch lined with towering statues of murderous skeletons marked the entrance, separating the dirt dunes of Griffith Park from what we initially had hoped would be the scariest way to spend our Saturday night.

As more people entered through the arch, we realized that the statues were not statues at all, but people. Whatever confidence remained inside of us quickly diminished. I was half an hour late, it was dark and cold, and now we were about to willingly enter a park where actors are paid to terrify us.

If it were not for our pride, and of course our \$30, Anayah and I would have turned around. As we prepared for the inevitable jumpscare, we waited for a nice family to enter, hoping we could disguise ourselves as their company and walk through unbothered.

Unfortunately, we ended up walking much quicker than our chosen family. Trying to deter the actors, I presented an image of calm indifference as we marched through. Anayah screamed.

Once inside, our fear had slightly worn off and gave way to a sense of adrenaline, only heightened by the elaborate scene before us. Anayah and I immediately ran to the line of people waiting for their turn on the hayride; the fencing and crowd offering some blessed reprieve from the horrifying idea of being startled.

Little did we know, what feelings of safety we associated with the line would gradually turn to resentment over the next hour. Surrounded by mostly adults (although the occasional five-year-old would run through the line every now and then), Anayah and I had to shout to hear one another over the mass of people.

As time progressed, we noticed the smaller details that had contributed to the transformation of a patchy spot of Griffith Park to the horror fest before us. There was a massive stage in the center of the area where "townspeople" would give live performances. Exactly what those performances were remains a little hazy. I recall seeing a werewolf holding a bloodied body part, but I swear it was also singing at one point.

While in line, we also observed the more traditional Halloween decorations that painted the area. From humongous spiders that dangled from trees to pumpkins and webs lining the floor, the space was perfectly on theme. There was even an actor dressed as a pumpkin adorned with rows of pointed teeth and a mouth that occupied over half of their face. Haunted Hayride perfectly encapsulates all things spooky and although Anayah and I were terrified, we wished for a seasonal experience and we surely received one.

Anayah: After what seemed like an eternity, Elsie and I had finally reached the entrance. Once the staff signaled

that it was our turn, we squeezed through the line in pursuit of two seats in the middle of the hay filled cart. Unfortunately, Elsie and I ended up on the tail end. Seated next to three slightly tipsy grown men about three times the size of us, we began shivering, perhaps from how cold it was, or out of fear — maybe a little bit of both.

As the ride started moving, our suspense increased. While approaching the first section, we were immediately startled by actors dressed in frightening costumes. Whether the section theme was circus or punk rock demons, our fear was constant throughout. We were eager to jump off the ride when we saw the guillotine and actors with chainsaws coming at us. Obviously, that was not an option, so we gritted our teeth and acted like we were not scared to death. Luckily, the 30 seconds in between each section gave our voices a rest from screaming.

Not long after the ride began, we were already nearing the end. We realized how dramatic we were being, and promptly started laughing at our irrational fear. In retrospect, we realized that underneath the costumes were regular people, and suddenly we felt humiliated. After we came to terms with this, the workers in costume were sometimes hard to take seriously. They would shout and pose with their head tilting in an attempt to be scary — which was really just slightly embarrassing and painful to watch.

The heavenly smell of freshly baked pretzels from Auntie Anne's food truck beckoned us to the eating area after exiting the ride. As we explored, we saw other food trucks and booths like 'Spooky Sweets n Treats' and 'The Creepy Creperie'. The booths, props, and decorations all contributed to the Midnight Falls theme.

After hiding in the giftshop where actors were not permitted, we made sure the coast was clear and booked it towards the exit.

As we reflected on our night on the way back to our car, we appreciated how entertaining and lively the night really was. Despite constantly being on our toes, the adrenaline-induced suspense was enjoyable. The Haunted Hayride was a perfect introduction to the Halloween season and was a perfect way to get into the spirit of autumn.



AN ICONIC HALLOWEEN STAPLE, *The Haunted Hayride* reopened this September after a year of closure.



Super Sibling Sports Synergy (say it four times)

This year at SPHS, sibling duos dominate their respective varsity sports. With them, they bring unique skillsets and a sense of unity, helping them interact with their teammates on a different level. Tiger interviews five varsity siblings to see what their relationships bring to the teams.

STORY KAHLEN MIAO & ALISON WANG

PHOTOS ERIN LEE, MICHELLE SHADMON, & SOPHIE YEUNG



Abby & Jenna

The Garner sisters, senior Abby and sophomore Jenna, are key components of the girls varsity volleyball offense. As an outside hitter, Abby is a strong leader and exercises absolute mastery of the ball. Jenna, setter and outside hitter, keeps her cool and steps up her performance in high pressure game situations.

“We’re like two parts of a moving car; if one person isn’t doing something, the other person is and vice versa. It never feels like either of us are stepping on [each other’s] toes,” Abby said.

The girls are close outside of sports and spend a lot of time together. This season is especially important to them as it is the last time they can play competitive volleyball together in high school.

Being siblings makes working together on the same team easier for them since they can pick up on each other’s mannerisms. However, it also comes with expectations that Jenna will assume Abby’s leadership role when she is not there. Both siblings hope their parallel passion and expertise will propel their team far into CIF.



Olivia & Isabella

For varsity basketball sisters, senior Isabella and sophomore Olivia Alfonso, being called by each other’s names and numbers is not uncommon. However, on the court they are quite different.

Both sisters entered the sport through different channels. Isabella started through a Japanese basketball league in kindergarten, whereas Olivia began through a separate program in fourth grade.

Although they both play point guard, they display different strengths, enhancing each other’s expertises. Isabella is a stronger shooter and Olivia is better at building a good defense. In a similar sense, their mental strengths also balance each other out as Isabella is on the optimistic side, while Olivia is more realistic.

“When you play sports, you see a different [more competitive] version of your sibling,” Isabella said.

Being on the same team, they have bonded more by spending a majority of their time together. Both sisters are always encouraging each other on and off the court.



Jack & Luke

Senior Jack Riffle has always been involved in as many sports as he could handle, but ultimately settled on football and baseball. His brother, sophomore Luke Riffle, would often watch Jack’s games and eventually followed in Jack’s footsteps, deciding on football and baseball, too.

While Jack plays running back and linebacker positions in football, and shortstop in baseball, Luke plays cornerback in football and outfield in baseball. Although they have different positions, the two brothers constantly face the same expectations. Luke is often pushed into positions that Jack performs well in, despite them not always being a good fit for Luke.

“Sometimes [the] coaches try to change [Luke’s] position to what I play, just because they think that since I play [that position], it must be what he plays, when that is not always the case,” Jack said.

The brothers have found it easier to bond with teammates because they benefit from each other’s established friendships. This, in turn, brings them and their team closer together.



Egan & Blix

Senior twins Blix and Egan Hadsell-Florin dominate the boys varsity water polo team. Blix plays left driver (2) or left wing (1), while Egan plays right driver (4) or right wing (5). Their relationship as twins have given them an advantage in the pool. Since they spend most of their time outside water polo together, they can better read each other’s cues and create more effective plays.

“I think one of the best things [about playing water polo with my brother] is I always have someone to rely on and someone to blame if he does bad,” Egan said.

Not only do they work well together, but their unique strengths make them essential parts of the water polo team.

Both brothers possess unique skill sets that complement each other from different sides of the pool. Egan’s strong suit is in his passing skills, while Blix is known for his speed and driving ability. In a team setting, their complementary skills contribute greatly to an overall environment of trust and open communication.

“They know that we work well with each other, but they also expect us not to always rely on each other and [instead] on other people,” Blix said.



Allysan & Dylan

Sisters Allysan and Dylan Tse are a powerful duo on the varsity basketball team. Senior Allysan primarily defends as a guard and sophomore Dylan normally plays point and shooting guard.

They credit their participation in basketball to their parents, who both played competitively in their youth. Since then, the sisters have participated on both club basketball teams and on the SPHS varsity team.

As sisters, they spend a lot of time off the court in the same friend groups. Their bond gives them an upper hand in basketball in many ways.

It makes communication between them easier than between their teammates. Additionally, they motivate each other on the court.

“When [Allysan is] really down, I try to pick her up, encourage her, and keep feeding her the ball so her confidence goes up,” Dylan said.

Within the team, Dylan offers strong shooting skills, and Allysan aggressively drives the ball down the court. Filling different roles grants them individuality and varied expectations from players and coaches.

Normal or Tangent

LILIAN ZHU



Lilian v sandwich: Who will win?

I ate a sandwich on Sept. 3, 2021 that destroyed all my hopes and dreams. Admittedly, it was my fault since I decided to eat a questionable turkey sandwich that had sat out in my car on a 90 degree day for all of first and third period. And while I have moved past the denial and anger part of the five stages of grief, I have yet to stop mourning and start the healing process.

In the weeks leading up to this day, I put almost all most of my focus into running (whether my motivation was actually caring about the sport or because I needed to escape from the black hole of misery known as life I decline to say). I countlessly compared different times and distances of 3200 meter PRs I ran in track four months ago and my sophomore cross country season times. My 40-minute pool workout streak for over 21 days and stubborn adamanace of getting at least eight hours of sleep every day, even if it meant sacrificing my grades, were my two most prized intangible possessions. All my efforts to keep a consistent training regimen were in my control, except a bacteria-swamped sandwich. So with a few innocent bites, I got food poisoning on the day of the first cross country invitational in nearly two years.

However, just my luck, the incubation period of the bacteria lasted from noon, when I consumed the sandwich, to exactly 8:40 p.m., when my race was scheduled to go off. So I still warmed up, stretched, and prepared for the race with zero premonition that I could possibly run a time I wouldn’t be satisfied with.

Read the full article online at tigernewspaper.com.

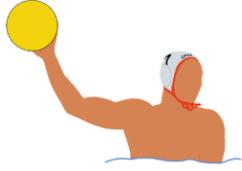
Fall Sports Check-Ins

STORY HANNA BAE, MICHAEL MAYEMURA, ANAYAH MEHDI,
KAHLEN MIAO, BENJAMIN REGAN, & ZOE SCHLAAK

GRAPHICS ETHAN LYONS & TERRY SONG

SPHS' fall sports are back in full swing after a shortened, irregular season last year and many teams are on the path to CIF runs. Tiger's sports writers look into fall sports' progress as teams near the end of league season. All information is accurate as of press time.

Boys Water Polo



Despite a new coaching staff led by Lindsey Garcia, boys water polo has not strayed from past seasons' undefeated league records, standing 4-0 so far. The team built a solid preseason lineup, competing in 13 games, preparing them well for league. The team is composed of mostly seniors; only three players will not be graduating in June, including freshman **Theo Hilger**. The Tigers blew past rivals La Cañada and San Marino, scoring 19-11 in both games, putting them on the path to another unbeaten season and CIF run.



Girls Volleyball

Finishing its season off strong, girls volleyball is now wrapping up league standing 6-1. The Tigers had a packed schedule, totaling 39 games with an impressive 33-6 overall record. In league, they defeated all rivals with the exception of La Cañada after an intense fifth set, losing 15-10. A strong defensive foundation from senior libero **Ally Sokolow** and sophomore libero **Mia Ramos** slowed many teams' advances this season. Holding second place in league, the Tigers are hoping to ride that momentum into CIF.

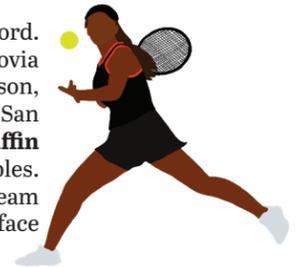
Girls Golf

Girls golf has started its season off steadily, currently holding a 5-3 Rio Hondo League record. Senior captain **Lauren Calderon**, freshman **Sophia Gwin**, and senior **Audrey Biggar** are leading the team into a promising year. In their first league game, the Tigers defeated San Marino 208-227. Shortly after, the team stumbled to Temple City although it made an impressive comeback with victories over Gabrielino, La Cañada, and Alhambra. The team fell to San Marino in a rematch but is looking to triumph against Alhambra once again on Thursday, Oct. 14.



Girls Tennis

Girls tennis flew through its preseason with a 9-2 record. The Tigers won their first league game against Monrovia with a score of 16-2. However, after a victorious preseason, the team dropped to La Cañada, Temple City, and San Marino. Juniors **Sarah Chung** and **Charlie Kami-Duffin** are proving to be a strong duo while playing doubles. Currently standing 2-3 in the Rio Hondo League, the team is hoping to redeem itself against La Cañada when they face off again on Thursday, Oct. 14.



Football



Football is primed for a CIF run after a mid-season winning streak turned its year around. The season started off rough, standing 4-3 in preseason, but after beating Temple City and La Cañada, South Pasadena is undefeated 2-0 in league play. Senior captains **Jack Riffle** and **Noah Aragon** have commanded the Tigers' offense. Riffle holds 400 yards more than the next highest rusher in the league, while Aragon has thrown almost 1,000 yards and 10 touchdowns so far. The Tigers hope to advance to CIF after the remaining three league games.



Cross Country

Cross country has mirrored its past streaks of success so far this season. The girls team is led by talented seniors including **Sydney Morrow**, who placed first in the white B division varsity race at the Woodbridge Classic. Boys cross country has not fallen short either. Senior **Brady Nakamura** placed seventh in the Woodbridge Classic and secured the top position in the first league meet shortly after. Both teams are on track to reach CIF Finals, and are aiming for state qualifications.

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SPORTS

James Dowd: Talent weaving through the generations

STORY BENJAMIN REGAN
PHOTOS DANIELA RODRIGUEZ

When the SPHS football team needs a defensive spark or first down catch, they turn to 6 foot 4 inch freshman James Dowd for the answer. Combining height, strength, and speed for a unique skillset, Dowd moved up from JV to Varsity two weeks into the season.

He has made an immediate impact on the team on both sides of the ball, with a touchdown reception against Alhambra, critical tackles against Heritage Christian, a forced fumble against Marshall, and a game-sealing sack against La Cañada. Dowd has racked up an average of three tackles per game, and has added four tackles for a loss and two sacks to his early high school football statline. All of the football abilities and instincts Dowd has demonstrated on the field are in his DNA.

Dowd inherits much of his talent from his grandfather, the late Merlin Olsen, who was a Hall-of-Fame football player for the Los Angeles Rams. Olsen played 15 years as a defensive tackle and earned a spot on the NFL's All-Time Team Top 100 Players in League History. Although he passed away early in Dowd's life, Olsen's accomplishments left a strong impact on him and sparked his interest in the game.

"I want to keep the legacy going," Dowd said. "[My grandfather] influenced my family and my family taught me football. He inspired me to play."

Dowd's football lineage continues as two of his great uncle's, Phil and Orrin Olsen, played in the NFL. Another of Dowd's uncles, Nathan Olsen, was a standout defensive lineman in high school and college; he also gives advice to Dowd after games to help him improve.

Dowd started playing flag football five years ago in a local league and continued throughout middle school. The pandemic interrupted his eighth grade season, which made him even more eager to get back on the field. When he finally did, it was in full pads for tackle football.

"Even only playing tackle [football] for a few months, some of the best memories have come this year," Dowd said. "Scoring the touchdown [against Alhambra] and hanging with my teammates stands out."

The adjustment from flag to tackle football is often a difficult one, with tackle football requiring immense physicality not seen at lower levels. For Dowd, however, the transition amplified his appreciation of the game.

"Tackling makes the game more fun...it feels real," Dowd said. "To see the quarterback running to the outside, knowing you can stop him from getting to the sideline, that's real."

Dowd used frequent workouts and casual games with friends to prepare him for high school football. For Dowd, football at its finest was often nothing more than tossing spirals to friends at the park during the pandemic, but those throws and casual pick-up games also acted as a form of training.

"I just really love the game," Dowd said. "I'm excited to try to play well this year and improve."

Although he follows in the footsteps of his Hall-of-Fame grandfather, Dowd has not felt forced to live up to Olsen's unrivaled career.

"It's not really a pressure to play football," Dowd said. "It's more of here's something he did, you can do it too."



DEFENSIVE BACK JAMES DOWD hopes to follow in his grandfather's victorious footsteps as a freshman on varsity football.

UPCOMING GAMES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 @ 7:00 PM, FOOTBALL VS. POLYTECHNIC AT HOME

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19 @ 3:30 PM, BOYS WATER POLO VS. TEMPLE CITY AWAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 @ 3:30 PM, GIRLS TENNIS VS. BURBANK AT HOME

Girls volleyball flies past Monrovia in three strong sets



SOPHOMORE OUTSIDE HELENA FOORD'S (21) commanding presence at the net was vital in securing the Tigers' win.

STORY ELSIE WATERS
PHOTO MICHELLE SHADMON

All information is accurate as of press time.

South Pas easily crushed Monrovia in three sets on Tuesday, Oct. 12. It seemed as if the easygoing late start mentality bled into Monrovia's court during the girls volleyball game as the energy from the Wildcat players was nonexistent. The Tigers contrasted them starkly.

The first set was a foreshadowing of the next few sets as the South Pas won 25-11. Monrovia was utterly defenseless against the array of attacks from senior outside **Abby Garner**, and could do nothing but watch.

South Pas was just as sharp defensively, while Monrovia's efforts were consistently dull. Through her impactful digs, senior libero **Alyssa Sokolow** paved the way for the Tigers' commendable defense. Additionally, senior middle-back **Evelyn Dowd's** dominating blocks contributed to their unwavering front.

The game picked up speed in the second set. Monrovia's competitiveness increased as the set progressed, as the lead traded off with every play. After a streak of Tiger serves landing out of bounds, the Wildcats gained the lead for the first time, 8-7.

Eager to make up for being down, the Tigers' hustle increased tenfold. Kills from sophomore outsides **Jenna**

Garner and **Helena Foord** quickly brought the Tigers back on top, 13-12. Sophomore opposite **Ingrid Zahn** and senior opposite **Kennedy Taylor** followed suit until the score was 17-16 in South Pas's favor. After multiple attacks by J. Garner, the set finished 25-19.

The game reached its climax midway through the third set. After 15 minutes of short rallies, the Wildcats upped their offensive plays and brought the score to 10-7. The Wildcats' shift in attitude took the Tigers by surprise as a spike from Monrovia brought the score to 10-9, and another serve tied the game.

South Pas gained the lead after numerous tips by both A. Garner and Taylor, but Monrovia was quick to catch their fumbles and gained possession of the lead 15-17 in a neck and neck race. South Pas delivered numerous kills while Monrovia's attempts were hindered by the net. Another J. Garner tip brought the score to 24-20, and in the final minutes, an out-of-bounds Wildcat serve secured the Tigers' victory 25-20.

"We let them score a little more points than we wanted to, but ended up pulling it together and finishing in three," Taylor said. "Next time we just need to stay [more] focused and worry about the controllable things and execute those."

The Tigers hope to take revenge on the La Cañada Spartans at their rematch and senior night game on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

BUT WAIT!

There's more...

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