M | The Current

Malibu High School's Student Run Newspaper

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The birth of distraction, and what it means in today's day and age

The pervasive influence of social media on our daily lives, and the urgent need to resist them

Emily Pablo Saavedra, STAFF WRITER

Distraction can be found in our everyday lives; music, sentiments about the future, college applications, phone calls, etc. But, the manifestation it has scoped its way through is most prevalent in the dopamine thief that is, social media. Just look at apps like Tiktok, Instagram, and Youtube, where scrolling for five minutes inevitably turns into half an hour of doom scrolling, characterized by the 15 second serotonin rush each video provides.

We have reached a milestone in our time where dopamine culture is the new abscess for any other kind of drug. The mindless scrolling, swiping, and reposting have led to the absence of enjoyment curated by simple everyday pleasures and replaced by the desire to watch short stimulating videos over and over again, cultivated as means of psychological manipulation.

A ceaseless activity has become the new normal, setting us back years of evolution and self-growth. The ability to think inquisitively and remain focused on one subject over a long period of time has significantly decreased over the course of social media developments.

Similarly, anhedonia, a key factor to the production of depression, has become increasingly significant in individuals who spend a majority of their time online leading to the zombification of our mental state. The decline in natural happiness continues to arise everyday as online dopamine addiction continues to soar. Meanwhile, multi billion dollar companies continue to profit off of this unknown addiction and falsely advertise their brand as means of control.

As Ted Gioia puts it, "You're invited to live as a passive recipient of make-believe experiences, like a pod slave in "The Matrix"

In the face of all these unnatural occurrences, it is important that we fight back against these manipulative tactics and begin to understand the power and influence such companies have over our mental state and lifestyle. This unnatural desire to bandwagon off of trends and receive mindless stimulation are slowly deteriorating everything about us. But, some ways to avoid falling into this deteriorating cycle, could include setting limits on such apps, finding joy in fun open-ended activities like reading, or simply deleting these addicting products from electronic devices.

Instead of spending endless amounts of time on apps that provide fifteen seconds of gratification and immerse you into a world of illusion, advocate for change in areas of much needed reform and seek the resources available to you to ensure your dreams become a reality. It is time to take control of our lives, to steer away from mindless brain rot and expand our knowledge on the world through real life experiences and enjoy all that there is in our limited time on earth.

2024 Formula One predictions through the eyes of Emilia Quinonez

Highlights, insights, and predictions for the F1 season ahead

Emilia Quinonez, STAFF WRITER

The 2024 Formula one season has started and already we have seen massive changes in the drivers market. The time of year in which rumors, speculation, contract renewals, driver swaps and much more happen in Formula One, has been deemed the silly season. It was kicked off by Lewis Hamliton, who joined Ferrari for their 2025 season after a decade with Mercedes. So far, only 8 of the 20 seats have been filled, which leaves 12 seats expiring at the end of this season. Here are my predictions for what will most certainly be one of the silliest seasons in Formula One history.

Oracle Red Bull Racing
Max Verstappen and Sergio "Checo" Perez

Recently there has been much controversy surrounding Red Bull, more specifically their team principal Christian Horner. Some have speculated that this might have caused some rifts between the team and reigning world champion Max Verstappen. However, I believe that Verstappen will go where he is guaranteed a championship winning car. So far the only team that can deliver is Red Bull. After his disappointing 2023 season, many were doubtful of Perez retaining his #2 seats. However, these opening races have seen him secure P2 and if he keeps it up I believe he can buy himself at least another year. It is also important to note the sponsors and huge amounts of money Perez brings in, yet another reason to keep him at Red Bull.

Scuderia Ferrari
Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamiltion

This driver painting is one of the few confirmed for the 2025 season. After Hamiltion's surprise move to Ferrari, many are wondering who will be the teams #1 driver. Will they go for the 7 time world champion or their very own "Il Predestinato"?

Mclaren
Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri

This diver pairing is another confirmed for the 2025 season. Norris recently resigned a "multi year" contract as an extension to his previous one that would have ended in 2025. Piastri also extended his contract to 2026 last September. While there were some rumors surrounding a Norris move to Red Bull, he seems committed to McLaren.

Williams
Alex Albon and Kimi Antonelli

As of February 5th, Albon has been confirmed to have a contract with Williams through to 2025. Sargent on the other hand has only had his contract renewed for the 2024 season and his performance thus far has been nothing short of mediocre. Finishing 21st is the 2023 season, with only one point earned that same season, Sargent has hardly shown any new promise this season, crashing out at nearly every race weekend, it seems that Williams must look elsewhere if they want a more consistent dependable driver which is why I think they will go with Antonelli for the 2025 season. Currently racing in F2, Antonelli has won four championships in two years in single-seater showing great promise. He is a Mercades Academey driver and while some have predicted a direct move to Mercedes for the 2025 season, I do not think they will have Antonelli make that direct of a jump without testing out the waters at Williams which has been infamous for producing Mercedes drivers.

Aston Martin Aramco
Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll

So far only one of the two available Aston Martin seats have been filled by Fernando Alonso who signed a contract extension through to 2026. This came as a shock to some as there were rumors circulating that he would make a move to Mercedes and fill the vacant seat. This was not the case as the Spanish driver reassured his loyalty to his current team in a Video he shared across social media stating he was there to stay. With one vacant seat there is little to no question that it will be filled by Lance Stroll, son of Lawrence Stroll, owner of the Formula One team.

Where's Kate Middleton?

Updates on Princess Catherine's health amid media rumors and AI image controversy

Mandy Mulligan
STAFF WRITER

In recent events, people had been noticing the lacking presence of Catherine "Kate" Middleton, a.k.a. the Princess of Wales. It was said that she would be out of the public eye due to a planned abdominal surgery, and wasn't expected to return until after Easter. Even with this announcement, social media has been flooded with speculations about her health and whereabouts.

Of course this isn't the first time that the Royal family has fallen victim to rumors that spread like wildfires. They have dealt with many generations of rumors about their family, and have been slowly finding a solution to these problems. In recent events they have taken a more direct approach by addressing the obvious, and stating why we won't be seeing much of Catherine. When the image of Catherine and her children were posted on Mothers day as a dedication to the princess, it sent the media into a fit. Many made claims that the image was AI generated, by pointing out bits and pieces of the image that prove it being a fake image of the family.

Of course Kensington Palace released a statement from Catherine about the image, claiming that, as an amateur photographer, she likes to "occasionally experiment with editing".With all of these synthetic and AI-generated images, it seems that the Palace releasing a manipulated image has also ruined the public's trust in the royal family. With the media spreading false information, and creating rumors about where the princess could have disappeared to, the royal family had come to the decision to make a statement about how the princess was doing. In that statement, they said that the results of Catherine's abdominal surgery came back cancerous. At this time the family is refraining from revealing any more information in order to keep Catherine's condition and physical satus private.

Ready Player One
Movie Review

Avery Matthews
STAFF WRITER

Among the hall of fame of famous movie directors sits arguably the greatest director of all time, Steven Spielberg. Spielberg has directed 34 movies in his career and most of those are of amazing quality. He has produced a number of some of the greatest movies of all time, E.T, Jaws, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Saving Private Ryan, and Jurassic Park to list a few. Although, Spielberg does have his fair share of commonly considered duds. Among the Spielberg movies considered less than good is his 2016 flick, Ready Player One.

Ready Player One was a commercial success grossing over $600 million at the worldwide box office with a budget of $175 million. However the success didn't fully carry over to the critical reviews. Currently, Ready Player One is sitting at a 72% critic score on rotten tomatoes, and 72 is a pretty low number for a Spielberg film, but why is it rated this, and does it deserve that rating?

The short answer is no, Ready Player One is an underrated film that is too heavily criticized. The movie has a couple of minor flaws but is an overall very enjoyable movie with a lot to offer to fans of video games and pop culture. It feels like a modern day blockbuster with easter eggs a plenty. Almost feels a bit ahead of its time. Something to take into consideration though is that the movie is a big picture adaptation of the book of the same name. Readers of the book might have a more negative opinion. However for someone who hasn't read the book, the movie doesn't have a whole lot weighing it down.

Ready Player One is a love letter to popular culture and was made with love for the many things it references. Unlike other movies which might reference stuff in pop culture at a surface level to try to get people to watch their film, Ready Player One respectfully and lovingly presents many things across all of pop culture. The references and easter eggs are everywhere and bring the movie up instead of bringing it down.

The movie is also enjoyable as a person who enjoys video games. The big subject of contention in the film is The Oasis, a virtual reality headset that everyone has and everyone basically lives in. Ready Player One is a love letter to videogames as well. There are many game franchises that are referenced and it's really fun to watch closely to try and catch all the video games you can see. The movie is about the world coming together to save the video game Oasis from an evil corporation, it's a reminder why we love video games, single and multiplayer. We form tight knit communities around the games we love and connect with others because of the games. Most of the movie is spent inside of the Oasis with characters who are video game nerds and fanatics. It's a great representation of video games and gamers and it's very enjoyable to watch as a well versed gamer. Although all of the insane amount of references and easter eggs might be overwhelming for those who don't know them, that's not the movie's fault. Ready Player One is a lovingly made homage to pop culture and videogames that's incredibly enjoyable to those who get the references.

Despite all the love poured into the easter eggs there are still some small flaws the film has. Most notably the pacing. The pacing is very fast although somehow manages to feel incredibly slow in some parts. All of the character arcs and plots feel slightly rushed and it's a little weird when the two main characters fall in love with each other when it feels like they just met each other. The villain and side characters also feel a little one dimensional and underdeveloped.

Beside the few, and in my opinion, minor flaws, the movie is great. It is a thrilling movie made for lovers of movies and videogames. It is very entertaining and has a big scale with a message of defeating powerful and corrupt corporations. Ready Player One is a movie worth your time and attention.

Groundhog Day

Romy Lescure
EDITOR

In Malibu after a slow rainy winter and before a hot crowded summer, spring is the perfect season for the locals. It gives a little taste of summer with the days getting warmer and longer with more trips to the beach! But oddly enough, this arrival of the long awaited spring is determined by a groundhog.

This tradition started in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania when a group of German immigrants settled in the 18th and 19th centuries and brought their traditions with them. The Groundhog tradition began with the European weather beliefs that certain animals had the ability to predict weather. While in Europe they used hedgehogs, in this case, they believed that the groundhog's behavior is supposedly a sign of the changing seasons. The groundhog's hibernation is an indication that it is still winter.

With these beliefs, they created a day on February 2nd devoted to this groundhog. If the GroundhogPhil,named after King Phillip), comes out of his burrow and is able to see his shadow, that means that winter will last for another dreadful six weeks, but if Phil cannot see his shadow that means that spring is arriving early.

While the accuracy of Phil's predictions is controversial, Groundhog Day is still a beloved celebration and tradition. It brings communities together and gives people anticipation and something to look forward to.This year, Phil thankfully predicted an early spring for us. So look forward to spring and enjoy the warm weather!

Is Easter Being Forgotten?

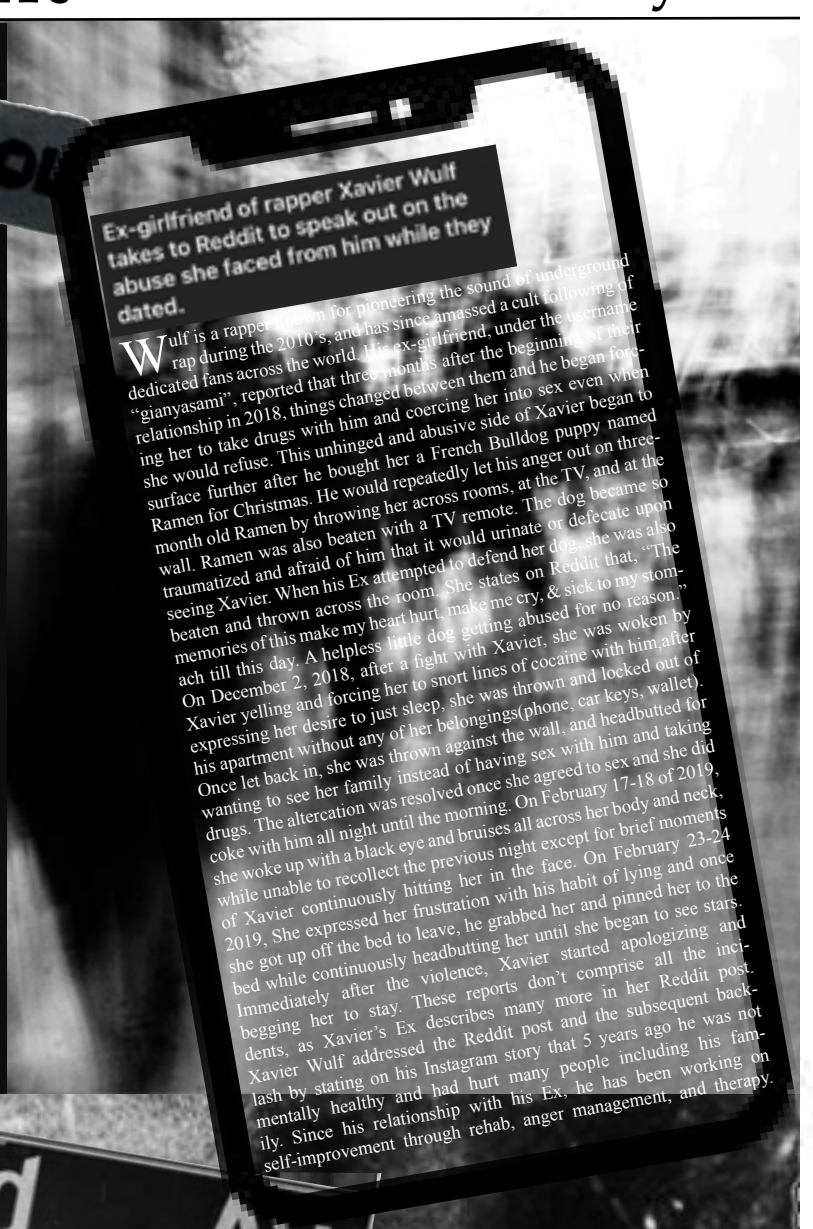
Dominique Elwes
STAFF WRITER

Easter is a holiday that holds deep significance for Christians all around the world. It marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ, an event in Christian religion that symbolizes hope, renewal, and new beginnings. The story of Easter is one of victory over darkness and death, as Jesus overcame sin and rose from the dead to offer redemption to anyone who believes in him. While Easter may be rooted in religious tradition, it has also become a cultural phenomenon celebrated by people of all faiths. From colorful Easter egg hunts to decadent chocolate bunnies, the secular aspects of the holiday have taken on a life of their own. However, it is important not to lose sight of the true meaning behind Easter and its message of redemption and grace. For many Christians, Easter is a time of reflection and spiritual renewal. It is a time to contemplate the sacrifice that Jesus made for humanity and to give thanks for the gift of eternal life. Churches are filled with worshippers singing hymns of praise and gratitude, while families come together to share meals and fellowship. As society becomes influenced, the true meaning of Easter can be overlooked by commercialism and consumerism. While Christmas may get more attention in popular culture, Easter stays the most important of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, there would be no Christianity. Regardless of the reasons behind this shift in focus, it is important for Christians to reclaim the true meaning of Easter and to share its message with others. By keeping Jesus at the center of our celebrations and reflecting on his sacrifice for us, we can ensure that Easter remains a time of spiritual growth and renewal for generations to come

ONE LOVE

BY AVA NICCOL

The recent release of "Bob Marley: One Love" has gotten a range of reactions from audiences and critics. Directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, the film is trying to capture Bob Marley's life and music offering a tribute that celebrates his legacy. Kingsley Ben-Adir's portrayal of Bob Marley is an amazing performance that brings life to the legendary musician, capturing his passion for reggae. Ben-Adir's dedication to the role, including learning to play the guitar and mastering Marley's Jamaican accent, adds depth to his portrayal. Alongside Ben-Adir, Lashana Lynch plays as Rita Marley, bringing to life the strength and grace of Bob Marley's wife and bandmate. The film's focus on specific moments in Marley's life shows parts of the man behind the music, showcasing his struggles, triumphs, and commitment. Behind the scenes, a talented team worked to bring "Bob Marley: One Love" to life. Producers like Cedella Marley and Brad Pitt to the music department led by Kris Bowers, every person played a crucial role in creating a film that pays respect to Bob Marley's legacy. The attention to detail in recreating key moments from Marley's life, such as his return to Jamaica after an assassination attempt, shows the dedication of the entire production team. While some critics may say the film could have dug deeper into his beliefs and impact on society, I found "Bob Marley: One Love" to be a touching tribute. The relationships shown in the movie, especially with his wife Rita, add the humanity aspects that make you appreciate him as a person even more. In my opinion, "Bob Marley: One Love" is a must-watch for anyone who loves Bob Marley's music and wants to feel closer to his story. It's a moving film that captures the essence of Bob Marley's music and message in a way that will leave you feeling inspired and connected to this musical legend. To sum up, "Bob Marley: One Love" is a work of love that pays tribute to the music and spirit of Bob Marley, This film is a testament to his enduring legacy of a forever iconic musician.



Unveiling The Orpheus Project

One of the most frustrating parts of life is witnessing talent but knowing that it is not getting the credit it deserves. It seems that the universe is holding something against them by not giving them the attention they should be receiving, and most of the time, there is nothing we can do about it. However, in the case of music, artists can be supported by simply listening to their songs and sharing their work with others. The time has come for the Orpheus Project to be revealed to a broader audience, because remaining in the dark for any longer would be a crime against humanity. This band was started by Cole Zampas-Klean and his friend, Michael Gatto, when they were nine years old. They attended the same music school and got two other guys to join, forming the Orpheus Project, named after the Greek God of music. The genre of music their band plays is rock, "but recently it's been going to a heavier side, being more punk or metal". Their musical inspirations include Royal Blood and Muse, both artists for whom they performed covers at Masque this year. They played "Out of the Black" by Royal Blood and "Plug In Baby" by Muse, roaring up the audience with their talent. When it comes to creating their own music, Cole stated that "Michael usually walks in and says, 'Hey, everyone, shut the f– up, I got a cool riff", and he starts playing it. Guy Hillel, our drummer, puts a beat down, and then Erick Bozzi, our bassist, just starts playing a bass line for it, and we'll start jamming on different ideas. Once we get something that we like, Michael and I will get together and write the lyrics and polish it up." So far, the most memorable experience for the band has been recording their EP, Oxford, which is out on most streaming platforms and includes five original songs. Even though they recorded it with a different bassist and drummer than their current ones, "Being in the recording studio and hearing our sound actually come out of speakers was really fun. My dad is a music supervisor—he does music for HBO, so we have been able to use his office on occasion, and Chris, our music supervisor, set us up with a recording studio in Northern Hollywood, which is where we recorded our EP". As for upcoming projects, the band has been working on writing some new songs, a process that can be followed on their Instagram @ TheOrpheusProject_Band. They are looking forward to writing a full-length album, with the end goal of hopefully being able to tour at some point and make money from their hard work. "We want to start by getting a following and being able to say, 'Hey, we're gonna be at this show', and have people other than the ones we invited show up." When preparing for performances, Cole admits to quickly memorizing the lyrics because "I usually don't have them memorized until right when I go on. I also get really bad anxiety right before we start. Like, at Masque, at the beginning of our first song, my leg was shaking; but then once I get into it I'm all good". If the Orpheus Project was to open for any band in the world, Cole says that it would have to be Slayer or Korn, and his dream Coachella would include performances by Deftones, Polyphia, Goldfinger, Linkin Park, and Alice in Chains. "If I were to give advice for other students who might want to start their own band, I'd say just find people that you can spend a lot of time with and that aren't flakes. You want to have people who actually want to play music with you. If it's just temporary, then nothing's going to come from that". Cole is also "doing a lot of solo stuff on the side", but he hopes to keep this band well into the future. All in all, The Orpheus Project is certainly a band you should check out if you enjoy listening to rock and if you want to support a fellow MHS musician.

Why Should Young People Vote

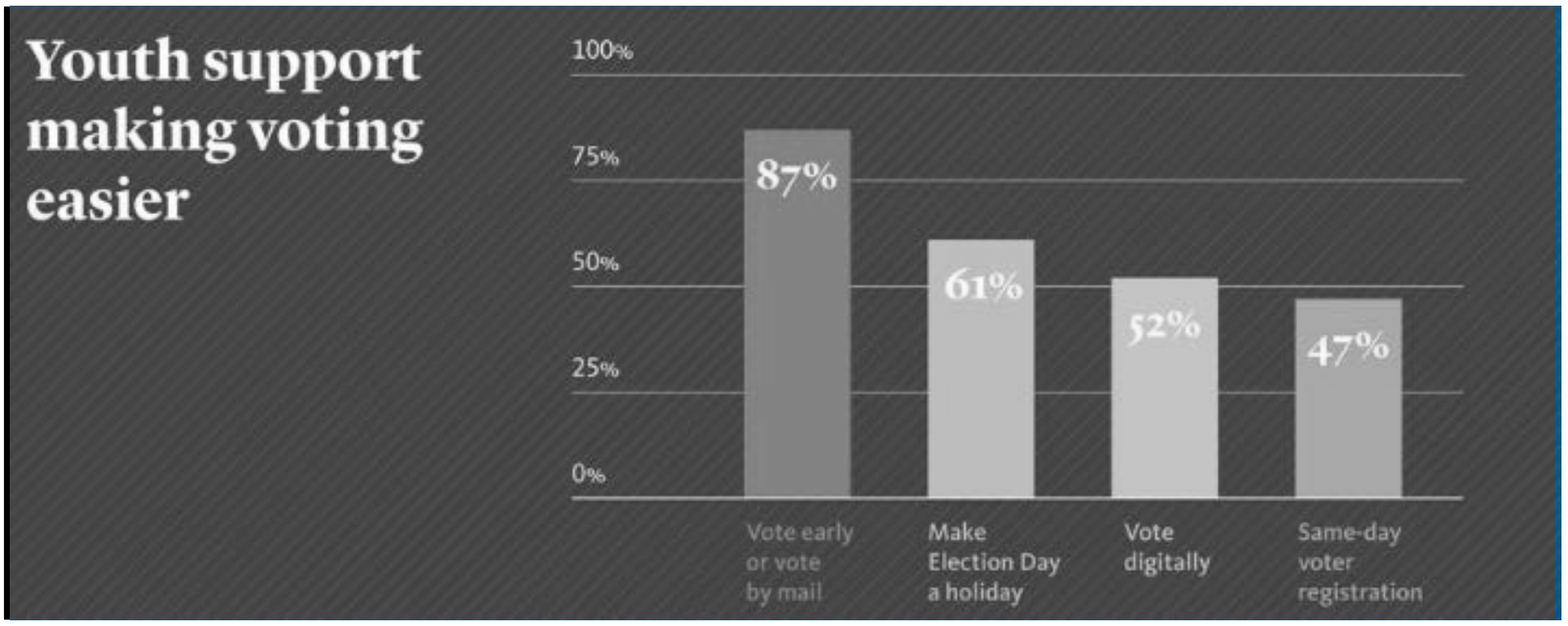
Willem Kline
STAFF WRITER

Thomas Jefferson said "We do not have government by the majority- we have government by the majority who participate." We have the privilege of living in a functioning democracy. However, a government "by the people" relies on the participation of the people to function. I think that people in the United States take for granted how well our government works. People in our country don't seem to appreciate the luxuries and freedoms we enjoy. In many countries in the world dictatorships are the main source of power. In Sudan, Zimbabwe and North Korea dictators rule and the people's freedom is very limited.

In the United States it was not always the case that everyone was able to vote. Women were not allowed to vote until 1920 and while African Americans men were allowed to vote in 1868 there were many laws and restrictions to their ability to vote. And, voting rights were fought for until the 1960s for African Americans and still continue to be fought for today. So, young people have the responsibility to vote to honor the people who fought for and even gave their lives and their freedom for our democracy and our rights.

A government will not function without participation of the people. We as young people have a responsibility to vote if we care about the country and the direction that it is going to take. We also have the responsibility to watch our government carefully and make sure that leaders are not abusing their power. The insurrection that occurred on January 6th is the absolute wrong way to handle our responsibility as citizens. We cannot respond with violence and law breaking when something does not go the way that we want it to go in our government. If we want to see change the most powerful tool that we have available to us is the power to vote.

The League of Women Voters states "Young voters' diversity across race, gender, class, sexuality, and other intersections of identity leads them to speak to a wide-ranging, representative set of issues. Their multifaceted perspectives also allow them to bring fresh approaches to topics like the economy, gun reform, and abortion justice. Mobilizing them to vote empowers them to use these fresh approaches to introduce innovative solutions into our democracy." We as young people hold a great deal of power and need to acknowledge our importance in our society. There is often talk about President Joe Biden's age and his mental clarity. If we feel that our leaders are too old we as young people have to get involved. Every vote is equal but, voting is a sacred privilege that we must take seriously if we want to make changes to our government and the larger world.



The Life and Death of Rachel Corrie: Student, Activist, Martyr

Frankie Little
STAFF WRITER

Rachel Aliene Corrie was born on April 10th, 1979 in Olympia Washington and was the youngest of three children born to Craig and Cindy Corrie. She grew up in a typical middle-class family in a suburban environment, and attended Capital High School in Olympia before enrolling at The Evergreen State College, where she took a year off of her studies to volunteer at the Washington State Conservation Corps; a program that employs young adults to enhance the nature of the state of Washington. As well as helping to conserve nature, she also spent three years making weekly visits to mental patients.

While in college, Corrie became a devoted peace activist, and joined the International Solidarity Movement, a Palestinian-led movement protesting the policies of the Israeli army in Gaza and the West Bank. In her senior year of college, she proposed an independent study project where she would travel to Gaza, join the ISM team, and protest the bulldozing of homes in Rafah.

While in Rafah, Corrie stood in front of armored bulldozers, in an attempt to impede house demolitions which were being carried out against the Palestinians. Israeli authorities claimed that demolitions were necessary because Palestinian gunmen used the structures as cover to shoot at their troops patrolling in the area, or to conceal arms-smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border, which many human rights organizations deemed as collective punishment. Corrie was a member of a group of eight activists from outside of the Palestinian territories who attempted to prevent the Israeli army's activities by acting as human shields.

On March 16th, 2003, the IDF was engaged in an operation involving the demolition of Palestinian houses in Rafah. Corrie placed herself in front of a Caterpillar D9R armored bulldozer, which weighs about 108,000 pounds, in an attempt to act as a human shield. She was then run over by the bulldozer, and fatally wounded. She was rushed to the emergency room but ultimately succumbed to her injuries. She was 23 years old.

In a letter sent to her family from Gaza, Corrie described the Palestinian suffering she had witnessed shortly before she was killed: "No amount of reading, attendance at conferences, documentary viewing and word-of-mouth could have prepared me for the reality of the situation here. "You just can't imagine it unless you see it."

Corries family attempted to sue the bulldozer company and the IDF for her wrongful death, but each time had their damage claims rejected, most notably in the Haifa District court in Israel, in which Judge Oded Gershon ruled that there was no basis to demand the state pay any damages since she consciously put herself in harm's way.

In 2011, 9 years after her death, a street in Tehran was named after her to honor the sacrifices she made in the name of resistance.

What's the best NYTimes game?

Athena Rem
EDITOR

The Mini, Wordle, and Connections have grown immensely in popularity recently, especially because of TikTokers who post themselves playing the games. Recently, however, a new game was added and is currently in beta testing. The Mini is a smaller form of the crossword, Wordle has players guess a word in six tries by telling them which letters they have right, and for Connections people have to group 16 words into four separate categories. The new game, Strands, is a word-hunt style game where players fill up the board without overlaps, with all words falling under a single theme. So, with these four games in mind, this is my professional ranking of the NYTimes games, from best to worst.

1) The Mini: Classic, fun, interesting, flawless. I love the Mini so much.

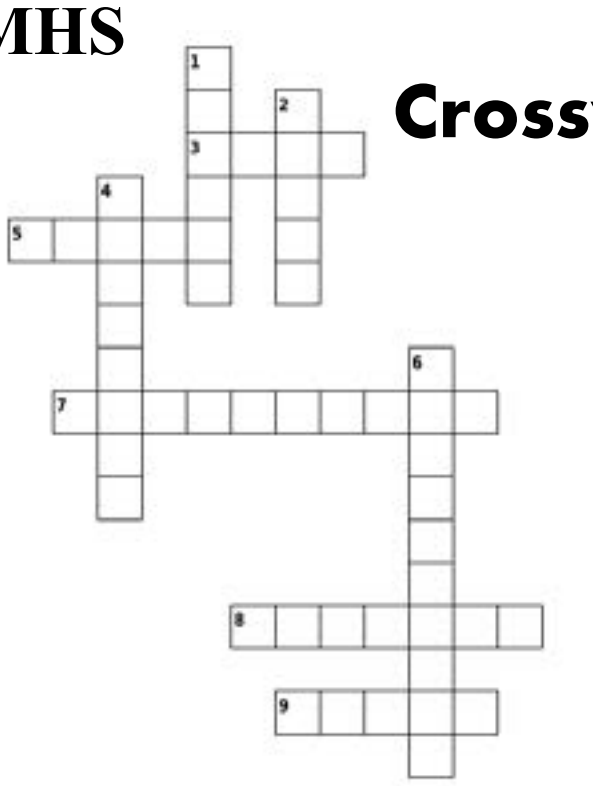
2)Strands: Maybe it's just because it is new, but I find Strands much more interesting than the Connections and Wordle. Even though the game is much harder than the other three, the hints it gives are very useful and it is so satisfying to figure out the theme and theme words.

3) Connections: Connections is fun, but it definitely used to be better. Some of the categories now, like "words you can write on a calculator," are too obscure to be in the game and don't make much sense. Finding a balance between challenging and comprehensible is important, and Connections needs to do a better job.

4) Wordle: The Wordle is definitely reliable, but it is not as interesting as the other games. I wouldn't play it if I didn't have the tab open for the other ones anyway. It's whatever.

Still, I think all four games are really fun and think their rise in popularity is well deserved. It's a fun part of my daily routine and I'm glad NYTimes has expanded their repertoire.

MHS Crossword



Across

3. Spanish Teacher
5. Days with less than six periods
7. Stevie Sturges
8. AP English
9. Stowell's favorite snack

Down

1. A predator of the ocean
2. The morning announcements joke aftermath
4. Coordinated outfits daily
6. InDesign

Festival Season

Siena Smith
EDITOR

After a very gloomy winter, spring has finally arrived. Aside from the beautiful warm weather, spring gives people something even more exciting to look forward to. Festival season is finally here and in action. Starting in the months of March and all the way through summer, festivals are rolling into states all across the country. Especially California which is famously known for Coachella and Stagecoach, along with Rolling Loud which has taken place in California twice. Coachella has a wide variety of music bringing in all types of people.

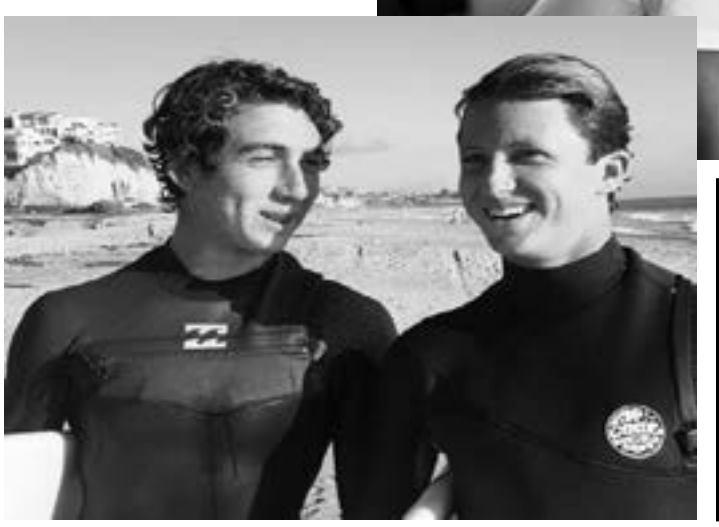
From rock and indie music to EDM and Hip hop, coachella takes place from April 26th to April 28th in Palm Spring. It is influenced by the indie aesthetic, and has flairs of many different styles. Several influencers, specifically James Charles are known for their unique and outgoing outfits. Coachella has seen many popular artists in the years like Tame Impala, Kid Cudi, Drake and Travis Scott. Although tickets are known to be expensive, Rolling Loud is another Festival that is much more affordable.

Rolling Loud has taken place in many different locations all around the world. Taking place from March 14th to March 17th in Englewood. Rolling loud is a rap music festival which hosts some of the best artists. Rolling loud is much smaller than Coachella with fewer stages and activities. However, the tickets are more affordable and the California location is more convenient. With many other great festivals taking place soon, these seem to be a few of

who is 2%?

Dylan Mendez
STAFF WRITER

If you surf and keep up with the news of the surf world you must have heard of 2% by now. This group has been gaining extreme amounts of attention over the past couple of years with no signs of it slowing down. But what exactly is this new group, who's a part of it, where is it based, and what is its purpose? 2% is more of a community rather than a group first off. All surfers from the San Clemente area are a part of this group, even if you didn't know it existed. I know that might be confusing so let me put it this way. 2% isnt a group that you join or are initiated into. It is a group that represents the San Clemente surf community overall. This means you could be a 6 year old from San Clemente who just caught their first wave yesterday or a 70 year old local legend from San Clemente who continues to charge every day. It doesn't matter as long as you are a surfer from San Clemente you are a member of 2%. Obviously they're a couple of notorious big name surfers from this area who have been repping their community in recent times. Most notably Kohole Andino and the Cola bro's who have brought a lot of attention to the 2% community. The pair has rallied up a specific group of 2% surfers from San Clemente, creating a YouTube channel to document there travels around the world.. They're are 5 current 2% surfers competing on the Champion Tour including, Griffin Colapinto, Crosby Colapinto, Kade Matson, Cole Houshmand, and Eli Hanneman. 4 of these 5 are brand new to the tour, and fighting against each other for the Rookie of the Year. However Griffin has already established himself as a title contender after making it the the Final 5 last year. Overall 2% is the next big thing and will continue to produce big name surfers. They are a force to be reckoned with and definitely a group to watch closely as they rise to the top of the surf world.



Summertime Approaching

Brody Graham
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of the year and summer is on its way, how exciting is that! When it comes to taking in those nice sunny days, Malibu locals are set. Let's talk about those beach days first. I mean, sick waves to surf, salty hair, and sandy toes. There's nothing quite like spending a day at Zuma Beach or 1st point, whether you're catching some waves or just lounging with your friends. Not to mention those incredible beach bonfires where we... till the sun comes up, all beneath the stars.

However, the beach isn't the only summer activity in Malibu. There are a ton of other awesome things in Malibu to do over summer. Think about taking the hike up to Malibu Creek State Park vistas. Or maybe visit the Malibu Pier to enjoy some seafood that has fresh and breathtaking views of the coast?

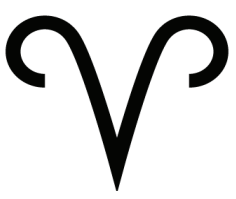
In addition, there are plenty of amazing road trips to take if you're feeling like getting out on the town. With the windows down and your favorite music blasting, drive up the Pacific Coast Highway, making stops along the drive. There's always something fresh and fascinating to discover, from roaming through beautiful seaside towns to searching for waterfalls in the surrounding canyons.

So yes, Summer is almost here, so It's time to start making plans for trips with your friends and family and to make some unforgettable memories on the way.

April Horoscopes!

Tallulah Quartararo
STAFF WRITER

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19): This month points to a lot of focus on your physical appearance, attitude, and outward expression, you might have thoughts on changing your appearance. There is also potential for deep emotional exploration and healing. This month can be a turning point for self-confidence, physical healing, and self-esteem.



Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20): This month is characterized by deep introspection and solitude, take this time to rest and recuperate. It's crucial to prioritize spiritual health and well-being, this may involve personal style and attitude changes. Focus on meditation and embrace your uniqueness.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20): Friendships and health are the focus of April. This is a time of reviewing your place in your community, focus on friendships and family-time. Self care is also very important this month. April may also bring changes in

school, work, and home routines.

Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22): Cancer, this month you will feel a boost of creativity. This month will remove creative blockages and boost your charisma. You may find it easier to make friends this month. Focus on open communication with loved ones and

keeping up self-care routines.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22): During this month, you may review your personal philosophies and start reassessing your worldview. This is a good time to review your educational goals and plans, and perhaps reassess the direction you are heading. Introspective thinking and prioritizing time alone are recommended this month.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22): This month, an emotional cleansing is in store for you. Deep conversations with friends, family, or even yourself can lead to a deeper understanding of yourself. This period is a healing time, especially for those buried in issues. Focus on self-care and let go of the past to move forward with a clean slate.

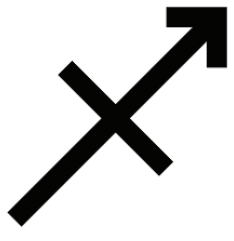
Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22): This month is all about communication for you. April is a great

time to focus on any strained relationships or anxieties you may have. This is a time to reflect on your stress levels, friendships, and worldview.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21): This month brings thoughts of significant changes in your physical appearance, attitude, and social life,

you may decide to make changes to your personal style this month. It is crucial to remain grounded and avoid extreme behavior in your interactions and actions.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21): This month is a time for vulnerability, creativity, and innovation.



It may be preferable to be alone as you will feel more introspective than usual. Take this time to rest and prioritize your mental health, as it is a time for self-discovery and self-awareness.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19): This

is the time to express your vulnerabilities and reassess your views and perspectives. April will give you a boost of creativity and charisma, making it easier to start new projects, get things done and communicate with others.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18): April

may cause you to become more irritated, but this is a potentially healing time for you, so use your words wisely and show your vulnerabilities. Clear communication is important at this time, be sure to focus on self-care and give yourself some alone-time.

is Tik Tok getting Banned?

Cade Harper
STAFF WRITER

Recently there has been a lot of discussion over the possibility of being banned. Tiktok is one of the most popular apps with around 2,00 million active users. If you ask a classroom of students or adults, a vast majority of them use Tiktok. In March,the House voted to approve a bipartisan bill that would require ByteDance, the company that owns tiktok, to sell the social media app or face a ban on all U.S devices. This vote resulted in a great victory which was 352-65. People have mixed feelings about this decision, some are afraid for the loss of TikTok while others are celebrating.. Although the legislation's fate is unclear in the senate, Many lawmakers have suggested that the senate should restrain themselves and take more consideration into this big decision.

The house mainly has an issue with ByteDance, the owner of Tiktok. Gallager told the NPR station, "The Tiktok user experience can continue and improve so long as ByteDance doesn't own the company." One of Tik Tok's arguments was that banning the social media platform of Tiktok would amount to a violation of the free speech rights of millions of Americans. A big problem The house has with Tiktok is that they believe the Chinese Communist party is using Tik Tok for surveillance or propaganda purposes, although there is no clear evidence that this is true whatsoever. Experts believe that it is possible that Beijing government officials could be using Tiktok to push its "agenda". As of right now it is unclear whether Tiktok is getting banned, Tiktok is providing app users a method of putting an end to this by letting users enter their zip codes and contacting their House representatives. Would you rather have Tik Tok banned or not?

UC Schools: Channeling Ivy League Vibes?

Allegra Barzan
STAFF WRITER

In the realm of higher education, The Universities Of California (UC) schools have undergone a remarkable transformation over the years. Once viewed as safety schools, they have emerged as a whole new breed of institutions, renowned for their academic excellence and innovation. Not too long ago UC schools were often seens as a fallback option for students who couldn't secure admission to more prestigious universities. Their reputation as once safe schools stemmed partly from their emphasis on accessibility and affordability, making them appealing choices for California residents seeking a quality education close to home. However this perception has shifted dramatically in recent years as UC schools have made significant strides in enhancing their academic capabilities and overall prestige. UC schools have elevated their standing in the world of higher education, challenging the notion of what it means to be easy to get in schools. One key factor is the increasingly competitive nature of admissions to UC schools has played a pivotal role in reshaping their image. With acceptance rates plummeting and GPA requirements soaring, UC schools are no longer viewed as fallback options but as highly selective institutions that attract top talent from across the country and beyond. The GPA average for UC schools are as follows: UC berkeley: 4.3 UCLA 4.3 UCSD 4.2 UCSC: 4.0 UCR 4.1 and lastly UCSB: 4.2 Today the influence of social media cannot be overstated. Platmorse line Instagram, Tiktok, and YoutTube have transformed the way we perceive and interact with the world, shaping our aspirations and desires in the process. And when it comes to higher education, few places hold as much appeal as California, with its sunny weather, vibrant vibes and diverse culture. The pressure to gain admission to a UC school is also felt by students and their families across California. From relentless studying to extracurricular activities, California residents are doing everything they can for acceptance. As these institutions have become increasingly competitive, local students find themselves grappling with intense pressure and uncertainty in their quest to secure a UC education. To all the MHS seniors and juniors feeling stressed and overwhelmed: I am right there with you. Wether it may be UC colleges, out of state institutions or alternative paths we got this!

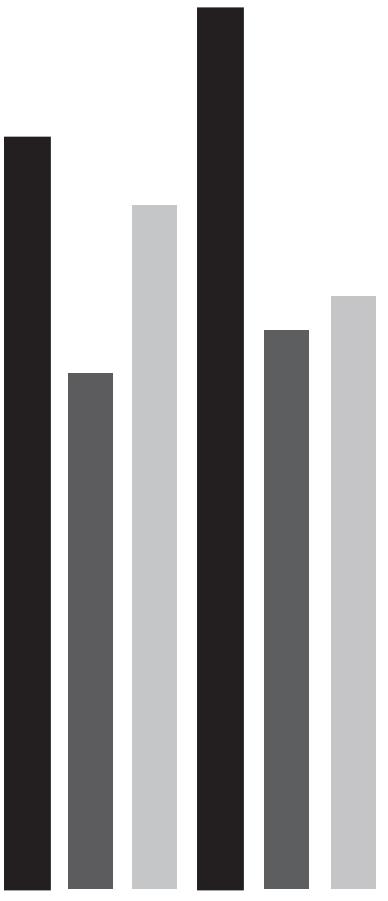
Handling the stress of college admissions during your final year of high school

Advice on dealing with stress around college admissions and why you should prioritize enjoying your senior year

Harlow Rocca
STAFF WRITER

Seniors… I know it is easier said than done, but STOP stressing about college decisions. As a victim of college stress, I know that every time we hear the dates that certain universities release decisions, there are constant pits in our stomachs. Checking our portals, minute by minute. If the UCs release decisions are at 4 and we haven't heard anything by 4… 4:01, 4:10, 4:15, 4:30… finally at 4:35 we can open our portals. Those 35 minutes of suspense and stress are not healthy for our well-being! We need to start living the rest of our senior year as if there is nothing more we can do about what colleges want us or not. Finding the perfect fit for college is not always based on where we want to go, but it is based on where we get in, and possibly financial factors, along with living factors. We have to understand that if we do not get into the school of our dreams, life does not stop. That just means it was not the school meant for us, despite how much we thought it was. If a college does not want me, I do not want that college. Another aspect of decisions that is important to remember is that you will still be successful if you aren't going to one of the most expensive schools in the nation or a school with a very well-known name. I do not have a single doubt that every one of us seniors will do something useful with our lives despite what school we go to. For example on Pennant Day, if some students are going to very popular schools, and some are not, this does not change the success they will accomplish in their lives. Popular schools are not ALWAYS better.

Lastly, college DOES NOT define who you are or the way people view your character. Just because some students care about their college ranking more than others does not mean that those who attend colleges with higher acceptance rates are less than the students who attend colleges with lower acceptance rates. As someone who has always been crazy about where I go to college, I have realized that my happiness and success after college matter more than college itself. The more we stress about college, the worse of an attitude we will have about this incoming chapter of our life that should be made the best of. Moving on from high school is positive in every way, so as long as we graduate… This is a positive experience. Keep an open mind when it comes to choosing a college because not everything works out the way you expect it to, but it can be even better.



The Importance of Doing Well in School: Building Work Ethic for Future Success

Kane Rocca
STAFF WRITER

As students, we often hear about the importance of doing well in school, but have you ever stopped to think about why it's so crucial? Beyond just getting good grades, doing well in school actually helps us develop important skills and habits that will benefit us in our future careers and life in general. One of the key reasons why doing well in school is important is that it helps us build a strong work ethic. When we consistently put effort into our studies, complete assignments on time, and strive for excellence, we are developing the discipline and perseverance that are essential for success in any job or endeavor. By learning to prioritize our responsibilities, manage our time effectively, and push ourselves to do our best, we are laying the foundation for a strong work ethic that will serve us well in the future. Employers value employees who are hard-working, reliable, and dedicated – qualities that are often cultivated through years of academic diligence. Another important aspect of doing well in school is learning to meet deadlines. In the real world, meeting deadlines is a critical skill that can make or break a project or job opportunity. By consistently turning in assignments on time and managing our workload effectively, we are honing our ability to meet deadlines – a skill that will be invaluable in any career we choose to pursue. Meeting deadlines not only demonstrates our reliability and commitment but also shows that we can handle pressure and deliver results when it matters most. Whether it's submitting a paper before the due date or completing a group project on time, mastering the art of meeting deadlines in school prepares us for the demands from our jobs when we are older. Doing well in school also teaches us about taking on responsibilities. From juggling multiple classes and extracurricular activities to balancing academic work with personal commitments, students learn firsthand the importance of being responsible and accountable for their actions. By taking ownership of our education and actively engaging in our learning process, we develop a sense of responsibility that extends beyond the classroom. This sense of responsibility prepares us for the challenges of adulthood, where we will be expected to take charge of our careers, relationships, and personal growth. In conclusion, doing well in school is not just about getting good grades – it's about building a foundation for future success. By developing a strong work ethic, learning to meet deadlines, and taking on responsibilities, students are preparing themselves for the demands of the professional world and beyond. So next time you find yourself struggling with an assignment or feeling tempted to procrastinate, remember that the effort you put into your education is an investment in your future. Embrace the challenges of school as opportunities to grow and develop the skills that will set you up for success in whatever path you choose to pursue.

Spotlight Athlete of the Month: **Graydon Phelps**

Hank Norby, STAFF WRITER

This month's spotlight athlete is Graydon Phelps, a senior and captain of the Shark's golf team. Graydon is the highest ranked golfer on the team and has been on varsity all four years of his high school career. Graydon is currently the team's leading shooter in the Shark's two matches. The Sharks are currently 2-0 and coming off a win in a match hosted by Nordoff, winning by 21 strokes. Graydon held the best score on the team, shooting a 38 which put him in second place out of the 35 golfers at the match. He had this to say about the win: "The match went well and we were all locked in and playing really good. It wasn't an easy course and it was windy so we were happy to all play good golf."

Graydon started golfing four years ago with his dad, and is now a member at Sunset Hills Golf Club. He said that his dad got him into the sport and now he can't stop playing. "My dad is the reason for my golf career. He got me into it and would take me to play rounds and hit at the range and I just always wanted to go." His favorite golfer is Phil Mickelson and when asked why he had this to say, "I'm a lefty so him being a lefty made me like watching him. Also, his swing is just super smooth and I've always liked watching him play." Graydon said that he spends lots of time watching golf tournaments and hopes to keep playing in tournaments after high school.

The team will need Graydon to continue to win this season with hopes of winning the Citrus Coast League. He said, "eEveryone needs to stay focused and worry about one match at a time". Graydon has been very happy with how the team played in the first two matches and has high hopes for the season. "This is the best team we've had since I've been here so I really think we can win it all".

Baseball Updates

Josh Spiess
STAFF WRITER

An update on the Malibu Sharks 2024 baseball season. The sharks of had a slow start to the season with a 2-5 record in the Citrus Coast League sliding them into 4th place. The Sharks are looking to make a push and secure a spot in the CIF playoffs. The sharks have 4 games remaining coming against the tied for 4th place Fimore and the 5th place Carpinteria putting them in a good position to clinch a CIF appearance.

SHARKS STAT LEADERS

BATTING AVERAGE Travis Lapinski, 476

ON BASE PERCENTAGE Travis Lapinski, 500

HOME RUNS Grant Folkerts, 1

STOLEN BASE Travis Lapinski and Shane Perl, 4

EARNED RUN AVERAGE Grayson Polatin, 1.71

FIELDING PERCENTAGE Travis Lapinski, Tanner Kies, and Joaquin Hosfeld, 1000

RUNS Travis Lapinski, Tanner Kies, and Brody Graham, 6

HITS Travis Lapinski and Sean Perl, 10

RUNS BATTER IN Shane Pearl, 7

2024 **Formula One** predictions through the eyes of **Emilia Quinonez**

continued from page 1

Mercedes: George Russell and Carlos Sainz
Like Aston Martin, Mercedes has only confirmed one driver for the 2025 season; George Russell who has a contract through the end of 2025. After the surprising departure of their #1 driver Lewis Hamilton, many are left wondering who will fill his seat and I predict Carlos Sainz will do just that. So far his 2024 season has been nothing short of spectacular, he has been on the podium for all but one race (when he has appendicitis) and even won the Australian Grand Prix. I don't think he will sign a multi year contract with Mercedes because he has been eyed for a seat at the coveted Audi F1 team in 2026, he will most likely sign a 1 or 1+1 year contract with Mercedes.

Visa Cashapp Racing Bulls: Yuki Tsunoda and Liam Lawson
So far this team has not confirmed any drivers for 2025 but my prediction is that they will keep Japanese driver Yuki Tsunoda and bring in reserve driver Liam Lawson. Their current driver pairing is Tsunoda and Daniel Ricciardo, however Riccardo's seasons with the team have been lackluster, pedestrian at best. Ricciardo's return to Formula One during the second half of the 2023 season replacing Nyck De Vries was surrounded with great hype that he has failed to live up to. Lawson showed stupendous results in the 2023 season after replacing Ricciardo for five races because of a broken wrist and team management showed great interest in giving him a fulltime seat for 2025..

Haas: Kevin Magnussen and Oliver Bearman
Haas F1 Team like Racing Bulls have no confirmed drivers for the 2025 season. After the departure of their team principal Gunther Stiener, many predicted the team to be in disarray. Surprisingly the team has started off on a high with four points to their name, thanks in part to their current driver Nico Hukenberg. While Hulkenberg has produced the most points for the team since joining in 2023, he has been a top candidate for the upcoming Audi seat in 2026. I believe that Haas will stick to their veteran driver Kevin Magnussen and bring in rookie Ollie Bearman for the 2026 Season. After a remarkable debut at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, replacing Carlos Sainz because of his appendicitis, Bearman finished P7, catching the eye of Haas.

Alpine: Esteban Ocon and Pierre Gasly
This may be a controversial pick but I do believe that Alpine will stick to their current driver pairing for the 2025 season. While I don't believe that either of the contract extensions will be more than a year, both drivers don't really have a better place to go. Even though Alpine has by far the worst car on the grid, neither of these drivers has promising connections with other teams that would guarantee them a seat. Ocon and Gasly have also been known to have a difficult relationship but I think they stick it out and focus on 2026. Stake F1 Team Kick Sauber: Valterri Bottas and Nico Hulkenberg While Sauber hasn't had the best results these past 3 years, it has become a coveted team to join because of the Audi takeover in 2026. Audi have expressed their interest in having at least one German driver on their team and some have predicted it to be Mick Schumacher but I believe they will bring in Nico Hulkenbery for the 2025 season and keep him on until 2026 if not longer. I also predict that they will keep Valiterri Bottas as a driver for the 2025 season because he offers them the consistency that will help in the long run. However I do believe they will almost certainly replace him with Carlos Sainz for the 2026 season.