

Listen to the The Buzz: Boys Who Cook

For our back-to-school episode, we sat down with the founder and leader of the Boys Who Cook club, who gave us a fresh perspective on what, and how, to pack for lunch.



Appoints new Vice Principal Meet AnnieJae Fischburg, New Overceeing BLHS, VA PA

Berkeley High School

Meet AnnieJae Fischburg, now overseeing BIHS, VAPA, the science department, and working with BRIDGE, RISE and much more. PAGE 2 Berkeley Unified School District Berkeley High Jacket 1980 Allston Way Berkeley, CA 94704

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FEATURES

AfAm Studies Department offers new perspectives

BY CARINA THOMAS features editor

"I'm in my senior year, and I didn't really want ... classes that are just going to fulfill an application," Isabel Eknoian said, "Because realistically, an application is only four years, and I'd rather get a life experience."

Eknoian, a Berkeley High School senior, is taking her first class in the African American (AfAm) Studies Department: Black Government and Economics. Taking classes in the AfAm Studies Department offers a more diverse learning experience for students to engage in a typical course subject from an angle that looks at the role race plays in broader social contexts.

"We oftentimes have one perspective and one

viewpoint that is taught in our schools," Eknoian said, "And I really liked that this class offered a different perspective and one that's not often heard."

Eknoian appreciated how the AfAm department provided a non westernized perspective on economic issues and focused on disparities within the economy.

Studying economics from a perspective focusing on the Black experience is a unique opportunity that provides a more well-rounded view of the political/socioeconomic landscape and how race plays a role in its disparities. Students of other races are also able to connect their racial experiences to that of African Americans. "I'm Middle Eastern, and I think, similarly to Black economics, ours are a little PAGE 5



NEWS

Student Reactions to Harris-Walz Ticket

BY AARON STEVENS news editor

First was President Joe Biden's disastrous debate performance on Thursday, June 27, 2024. Then, Donald Trump was nearly assassinated on Saturday, July 13, 2024. Deteriorating polls for the Democratic Party and concerns about Biden's age eventually led to him stepping aside from the

2024 presidential ticket on Sunday, July 21, 2024, almost immediately endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris. On Tuesday, August 6, 2024, Harris announced her running mate, Governor of Minnesota Tim Walz.

Already, polls have shown a dramatic shift towards a Democratic win for the White House compared to when Biden was running. As of Aug. 22, The New York Times reports Harris is ahead in polls by at least a percentage in crucial swing states, such as Wisconsin and Michigan, and is tied with Trump in Pennsylvania. States like Georgia and North Carolina have been brought back from a potential large-margin Trump victory, pivoting towards a toss-up.

As young voters receive a spotlight in this election, many Berkeley High School seniors will be eligible to vote in the upcoming election.

Zelda Briand, a BHS senior, said she plans to vote. "I was surprised when Biden dropped out, but I was definitely happy and hopeful that Kamala would have a better chance. I would vote for the Democrats no matter what it was, but it's exciting that Kamala is from Oakland," Briand said.

Harris, who was born in Oakland, lived in Berkeley and attended Thousand Oaks Elementary PAGE 2

Berkeley High seniors reflect on Harris-Walz presidential ticket



IRIS LE LIBOUX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which is part of the Berkeley Unified School District. According to the Visit Berkeley website, Harris was in the second class of students bussed from different neighborhoods during the process of integrat-

ing Berkeley's schools. Harris' mother was a cancer researcher at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Amalia Kelterborn, another BHS senior, recently moved to the United States from Germany and made sure to register to vote so she could participate in the upcoming election. Prior to Biden dropping out, Kelterborn was worried about the options. "I was worried about the U.S. in general. I looked at our options basically, and then at the same time the election in Germany was going on. And I was like, damn, these guys are

The question of Biden's age was a huge factor in what led to

the push for him to drop out, and similar concerns remain for Trump, who would be 82 by the end of his second term if he were to win the election.

Kelterborn de-

scribed the Biden-Trump debate as "two old people fighting against each other" and noted how, now that only Trump remains in the race, it could provide an advantage for

Harris. "Now the only elder(ly) person is Trump ... his whole debating point was 'oh yeah, you're old,' and now that Biden is gone, and Kamala is not old, I feel like that whole thing is gone," Kelterborn said.

If Harris wins the election, she will be

the first female president of the United States. Ahva Kipfer, who is also a senior at BHS and

plans on voting in the election, reflected on the significance of that.

"I was worried about the U.S. in general ... I was like, damn, these guys are pretty old."

> Amalia Kelterborn BHS senior

"If she (Harris) became president, it would be in history books. Like, the first female president, I feel like just that

"... the first female president, I feel like just that is such a statement and such a change,"

> Ahva Kipfer BHS senior

is such a statement and such a change," Kipfer said.

Kipfer said she's hopeful

about the election but feels that the very liberal political climate in Berkeley makes it

hard to gauge what the rest of the country looks like regarding who they will vote for.

"I'm in such a bubble in Berkeley where I can't really see what other people's ideas are. Here, I'm just watching little clips of the news, like, wow this looks so great,

and I see crowds of people cheering Kamala Harris and everything. But I don't really know what it's like," Kipfer

said. "It feels like it's been a while since we had good luck in this country with that sort of thing."

In California, you must be registered to vote 15 days prior to the election: no later than Monday, October 21, 2024. You can do so at register-

tovote.ca.gov. As Kelterborn said, "It's not that hard. It took me literally 10 minutes."

Berkeley High appoints new vice principal, Annie Jae Fischburg

BY FINOLA JACKSON

news editor

This fall, Berkeley High School appointed Annie-Jae Fischburg as a new Vice Principal to oversee Berkeley International High School

(BIHS), the Visual and Performing Arts Department, and the Science Department. Fischburg will also be working with the technology department, BRIDGE, RISE, and the College and Career Center to support various programs at BHS.

Fischburg previously worked at Albany High School (AHS) for 12 years, serving as a math and science teacher and director of the AHS theater program. For Fischburg, the experience as a teacher and director were key to her decision to pursue an administrative position.

"As you teach for longer and longer, your scope of the

systems that you're looking at and the ways in which you understand the schooling experience tends to expand," Fischburg said. "I'm really excited about this job ... and using these different systems to support students in different ways."

"I'm really excited about this job ... and using these different systems to support students in different ways."

> AnnieJae Fischburg BHS Vice Principal

This year, Fischburg is focusing on understanding the needs of various programs under her oversight.

"My biggest project for this year is just learning this school, meeting students and getting a sense of who they are, and meeting teachers and getting a sense for what they need in their programs," Fischburg said.

On a day to day basis, Fis-

chburg will be juggling interpersonal duties and administrative tasks.

"There are important interpersonal pieces for me to be intentionally spending time on (such as) walking into classrooms, watching teachers teach, watching students learn,

building relationships one on one with teachers and students being around the school and making sure that it's a safe and effective learning environment," Fischburg said. "There are (also) many on the computer pieces

that I need to accomplish. You know, answering emails, making sure that all the classrooms have all of their supplies and nothing is broken, (working on) budget spreadsheets and calendar spreadsheets."

Fischburg also emphasized using creative solutions to build functional systems.

Fischburg will also be managing grants and funding for different departments at BHS. She is currently working with other BHS administrators to use Proposition 28 funding to support the arts programs at BHS. This includes potentially funding guest arts instructors, according to Fischburg.

"Money interacts with all the other funding sources that this school has, district funds and grants and parcel taxes and all of those pieces and (we try to focus on) really thinking intentionally about spending money with a purpose to help students find their love of the arts," Fischburg said.

Long term, Fischburg says she wants to "build and formalize systems that function smoothly and work for everyone who interacts with them." Ms. Fischburg is very excited to work with the BHS community.

"I am really excited about the distributive leadership model that this school uses and building connections with all of the teacher leaders and each department to really leverage that structure to help me understand the strengths and needs of each department and small school," Fischburg said.



Ms. Fischburg is excited to build connections with teachers throughout BHS.

QUINCY MORRIS-FRY

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NEWS FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024

BUSD experiences impacts of over 7 million in budget cuts

BY SYDNEY LEHRER investigative editor

"I've been with the district since July of 2019. This was the first year we've had to do layoffs," Samantha Tobias-Espinosa the Assistant Superintendent of Berkeley Unified School District said. This 2024-25 school year, Tobias-Espinosa explained, BUSD cut \$7.2 million from the district budget, resulting in staff cutbacks.

Of the positions reduced, the biggest reductions

occurred in the cooking and gardening program, with multiple positions having hours cut, according to Tobias-Espinosa. Based on lower student enrollment numbers, multiple School Campus Aide positions, who supervise at

lunch and recess, were reduced as well, Tobias-Espinosa added.

The smaller budget this year results from multiple factors, Tobias-Espinosa explained, such as certain grants not coming through and smaller student attendance numbers.

The California Education

Code requires that school districts initially alert staff members on March 15 if there is a threat of their job being terminated or their hours cut back. This past March, BUSD sent out 83 initial notices to staff members around the district, according to Tobias-Espinosa. These notices can later be rescinded, and final notices are due by May 15 each year.

"When we got to the final notices, ... we were down to 31 final notices, and so we had rescinded all of those (other past notices)," Tobias-Espinosa

"I've been with the district since July of 2019. This was the first year we've had to do layoffs,"

Samantha Tobias-EspinosaAssistant Superintendent of BUSD

said. For all of the other positions that had received notices, she added, funding was able to be found so their hours didn't have to be reduced.

"We haven't had this issue (of permanent positions being terminated), because the last four years or so (BUSD has) had money," Frank Hernandez said. Hernandez is president of

the Berkeley Council of Classified Employees (BCCE), a labor union which represents classified employees within BUSD, employees whose jobs don't require teaching credentials.

Layoffs, or threat thereof, have not been the only effect of the reduced budget for this school year. Sifora Kahsay, a BHS student representative on the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) committee, explained that one impact of the smaller budget could be more programs requesting money from

BSEP, which is a smaller BUSD revenue stream coming from a local tax.

"We were hoping that the school budget would grow this year so that (larger revenue streams) could fund more big stuff," Kahsay said. "Reducing the budget will make bigger

programs, like the (College Career Center), to still stay on BSEP. And my guess is it will definitely affect the smaller programs, because they're not going to get (as much) money from BSEP, because BSEP has to fund those big projects in school and prioritize them." While there is a possibility of smaller programs getting less



funding, it was not able to be confirmed by Principal Juan Raygoza.

In the case that smaller programs aren't able to receive adequate funding from BSEP, they can also elicit funding from other programs such as the Development Group. While budget cuts may be forcing certain funding streams to spread their resources along more programs, alternatives do exist that programs seeking funding can turn to.

For BUSD's Office of Family Engagement and Equity

(OFEE), five people were sent notices, according to OFEE Supervisor Lydia Gebrehiwot. The office itself has 12 total staff members working across multiple school sites.

"Many of the school staff who see the work OFEE does with families on a daily basis were vocal against the termination of OFEE positions and expressed the loss their schools and families would experience without OFEE. Many of them wrote letters to the Board or attended Board meetings to express their thoughts," Ge-

brehiwot added. All notices to OFEE staff members were rescinded, though OFEE has had threats of layoffs in the past, according to Gebrehiwot.

Moving forward, Tobias-Espinosa explained she can't discernibly say if layoffs will occur in the future, though if that is the case, it will be done "so that it impacts students the least, and that it is respectful and honors all of our employees and implements all of our strategies to make sure that we are doing what's best for the students of Berkeley Unified."

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OPINION EDITORS: OHAD AVIRAN-FINKELSTEIN & ADITYA SRIDHARAN

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CCC counselors offer resources to students in need of support

BY ADITYA SRIDHARAN opinion editor

As the college admissions landscape becomes increasingly competitive, students from wealthy families often enjoy a clear advantage a reality that has harmed those from less privileged backgrounds. For applicants with the same SAT or ACT score, those in the top one percent were 34 percent more likely to be admitted into a college than an average applicant.

All students who are at a disadvantage — be it lowincome, first-generation or foreign students — need access to as many resources as possible. Berkeley High School's College Career Center (CCC) offers tools to help all students navigate college applications. By guiding students through the financial aid process and providing individualized support, CCC counselors are an especially crucial resource for those at a disadvantage.

Each year, college counselors Yasmin Navarro and Joanne Dumbrigue write a

grant to get funding for the CCC through the Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP). These funds allow the CCC to support 100 percent of students.

Because students are not asked to disclose income information, both Navarro and Dumbrigue provide everyone with as much information as possible. "At Berkeley High (School) we see students from all ends of the income spectrum," Navarro said. "We won't know if all the information is pertinent (to a student) until they self-identify," she continued. "That's why it's up to the students to advocate for themselves," added Dumbrigue. If a student identifies themselves as lowincome, the counselors can then provide specific support for things like financial

Seniors who worked with college counselors were 3.2 times more likely to attend college and two times more likely to attend a bachelor's degree program.

From the FAFSA form to the CSS profile, the process of applying for financial aid can be confusing and misleading. Last year, the updated FAFSA form was delayed by three months and many families had trouble accessing the form. A cascading set of problems ensued, as colleges didn't have the data they needed to allocate aid. College counselors are essential to navigating this process. A student is 6.8 times more likely to complete a FAFSA form if they are helped by their school counselor.

Navarro and Dumbrigue help students explore as many different kinds of financial aid as possible. "There are so many sources of aid and it's important for a student to know all of those sources," Navarro said. "Just because you don't qualify for federal aid doesn't mean you don't qualify for state aid or a city grant," she continued. Navarro also stresses that aid is not always money. Students can receive support with food, housing, and materials.

Dumbrigue, who worked for 10 years in a financial aid office, describes financial aid as an "umbrella." She works with students to explore different channels



ELLIOT SCHRAG

for aid: from loans to grants and scholarships.

It is not only low-income students that benefit greatly from support at the CCC. Both first-generation students and foreign students may be unfamiliar with the college applications process.

"As a first-gen college student, I found myself in situations that I wish someone had told me about," Navarro said. "We don't know if a student has someone in their immediate circle that they can reach out and ask questions to," she said. Students and families who are preparing for their first college experience may not know what information to seek out or what questions to ask. Counselors can anticipate questions and provide information to students who are unsure about where to start. "You have to take it step by step and not overwhelm people with information," Navarro added.

After years of working with students, Dumbrigue has learned to catch frequent mistakes and remembers things that people always seem to forget. "I'm always thinking about how I can set this student up for success," she said. "Not only first-generation students, but all my students."

Looking forward, both Navarro and Dumbrigue wish there were more college counselors to support students at the CCC. "It would help to build a college going culture," Navarro said. "We want to foster that space of possibility," she added.

All in all, despite only being two college counselors, Navarro and Dumbrigue make the CCC a vital resource for all students, especially those who are at a disadvantage in the college applications process.

Youth school board voting rights: A step in the right direction

BY OHAD **AVIRAN-FINKELSTEIN** opinion editor

Berkeley is known nationwide as a hotspot for political activity, which is unquestionably echoed in Berkeley High School. Whether they are protesting about foreign politics or climate change, BHS students are extremely vocal and proud of their political opinions. However,

dents are 18, they cannot vote in many elections, but this is changing. This year, all Berkeley residents older than 16 will be able to vote in an official election, specifically for the district superintendent. This addition of voting rights to 16 and 17 year-olds was spearheaded by Vote16USA, a national campaign geared at providing American high school students, and others, with a

Youths' voices are imporas relatively few BHS stu-tant and should be heard. Our world is changing fast, and in order to shape the future of society, the current generation of high schoolers must have some political power. Achieving the right to vote for superintendents for those 16 and above is the first step to gaining more control over our future.

Alameda County is the first county in California history to allow individuals under the age of 18 to vote in an election involving a government official. This is a step in the right direction.

By allowing Berkeley residents aged 16 and older to vote, more will be inspired to educate themselves about politics. BHS already offers several popular politicscentered courses, specifically Politics and Power, Law and Social Justice, and AP United States Government. By changing the voting age to 16, students will be able to directly use information from these classes as they are learning it. This also means that students will likely be more educated

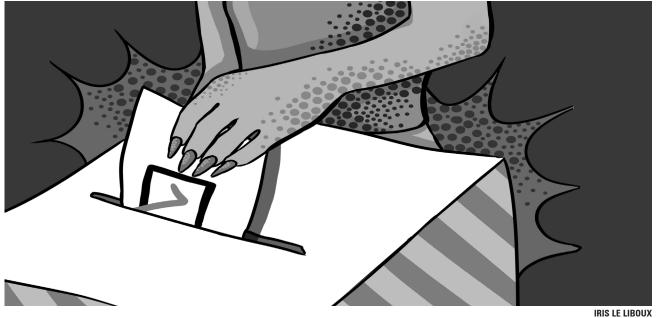
about politics while they are voting because the coursework will be fresh in their minds.

The 2022 national election had the lowest 18 to 25 year-old voter turnout since 2014, at 23 percent. By inviting younger Americans to vote, the US can counteract this downward voter turnout trend. According to a research paper published in the National Library of Medicine, "In the long term, this higher level of participation at a young age may then facilitate the early development of a habit of voting." By allotting youth the power to vote, the US would build a stronger base for future politics.

One of the largest problems Americans have with lowering the voting age to 16 is their belief that individuals aged 16 to 18 aren't mature enough to grasp politics logically, but this isn't true. According to Vote16USA, "A study comparing the qualities associated with voting — such as civic knowledge, political skills, and political interest among citizens 18 and older and citizens below 18 found no significant differences between 16-year-olds and those above age 18.

16 and 17 year-old Americans are ready and able to vote and have more direct resources to learn about politics than their older peers, making them ideal candidates to receive voting

By allowing 16 and 17 yearolds to vote, more Americans will be able to vote, and our democracy will also strengthen. According to another research paper conducted at Tufts University, "only 56 percent of young people, ages 18-24, choose to affiliate with the Democratic or Republican parties." Although the United States currently runs as a two-party system, it doesn't have to. By allowing a broader array of political ideas in government, not only can the American democracy accurately portray the country's wants, but it will also unite Americans. Although this isn't a guaranteed outcome of lowering the voting ages, providing the future with a broader voice is the first step towards diversifying politics in the US.



FEATURES

FEATURES EDITORS: VIOLET MILLER-BRADY & CARINA THOMAS

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Advice from seniors: What to know your freshman year at BHS

BY VIOLET MILLER-**BRADY** features editor

The beginning of high school can be a nerveracking, exciting time for freshmen as they make their way through a completely new, often overwhelming environment. Luckily, many seniors have walked the hallowed halls of Berkeley High School before them and have useful pieces of advice to offer.

common way of branching out at BHS is by

participating in activities like clubs, sports, and leadership. Even if you haven't previously played sports or don't have leadership experience, pushing yourself out of your comfort zone and trying new things can be incredibly rewarding.

"(Clubs) are a great way to meet people outside of your classes and outside of your small school because everyone can join them. You can start a club if you want, if you have a passion like that, which is amazing," said AC senior Finn Whaley.

There are a variety of

academic paths available at BHS, some more rigorous than others. Rigor is highly dependent on the classes students choose and the level of seriousness that they take in their studies.

"Do more than you think you can do ... You shouldn't be scared to take harder classes, even if it's a subject you don't like because chances are you'll do fine," said BIHS senior Chloe Crowther.

The Small Learning Communities (SLC) BHS include Berkeley International High School (BIHS), Academic Choice (AC), Communications Arts and Sciences (CAS), Arts and Humanities Academy (AHA), and Academy of Medicine and Public Service (AMPS). BIHS and AC are the two largest SLCs, each with about 300 students per grade, and CAS, AHA, and AMPS are the three smallest SLCs, with about 60 students per grade.

Although freshmen won't have to rank their SLC choices until the spring, it is a decision that they are aware of now. According to Whaley, even if you aren't placed with your friends, you will be able to maintain relationships, and also form a new community and support system.

"There's always new people for you to meet. There's always a chance to escape if you're not happy where you are. And you know the size-it feels really big, but you only see a certain part of it every day and so in the end, it doesn't feel massive," said Whaley.

With a student body of nearly 3200, BHS holds a wide array of people and communities in which to find a place in. The school's elective classes, specifically, give students the opportunity to explore their passions with the benefit of the school's many resources such as dark rooms for film photography, kilns for ceramics, supplies and tools for carpentry, and much more. "Even if you come in not knowing anyone, there's so many classes and so many people in your classes to meet, especially in your electives when you're



Crowther recommends pushing yourself academically QUINCY MORRIS-FRY

with upperclassmen," said Crowther.

Self-advocating is crucial during high school as students are forced to take accountability for their own success. The change from middle school to high school gives young adults increased freedom but also increased responsibility. "Make sure that you communicate your needs... There's a lot of people that you can talk to," Amir Khushal, AC senior, said.

BHS offers many resources to students including the Health Center, the College and Career Center, and academic counselors. They help ensure that students are receiving adequate support and have their needs met.

"(In my experience,) the best resource at Berkeley High (School) has been the CCC, because after school, you can go in there and you can get your work done," Khushal said.

Crowther would give this piece of advice to her freshman self: "Just have fun, try to make friends and be outgoing, even if it's hard ... It's a great time to just meet people and try new things you wouldn't normally do."



Whaley encourages students to try out clubs

AfAm Studies Department inspires students, fosters growth

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bit different. We prioritize different things, we face different challenges," Eknoian said, "I thought that this class was a connecting point."

Another course offered by the AfAm Studies Department is Black Psychology. Ryann Brown, a senior, has the goal of studying psychology in the future. Learning about the field of psychology with an emphasis on

race can lead to a more well-rounded understanding of the topic. "The class I'm taking, this is like the only one I'm actually interested in. The other ones are academic and

you're just learning random stuff, but this one's actually focused on what I want to do," Brown said.

The unique environment that is a safe haven for Black students and other students looking for a more personal connection to classroom topics, engages Brown and more effectively empowers her interest in learning psychology and using that knowledge to become a more supportive peer and friend. "I know friends that are going through stuff, but I don't know enough

knowledge to actually talk to them and actually be there for them. So (by) learning psychology, I can actually be a good person to talk to and give them good advice," Brown said.

Brown hopes Psychologists in order to

AfAm History class last year as a junior.

The class taught Tse something," Tse said.

have similar figures to relate to and learn from. Rey Tse, a senior, took the

learn about other Black

"I really liked that this class offered a different perspective and one that's not often heard.

> Isabel Eknoian BHS senior

about Black historical elements that tie into more generic historical topics, such as notable inventions. "I learned about many things Black people actually did invent (and) I feel like I didn't know that we created so much because it just gets overridden by White people," Tse said. "Our history was really shown to me in that class, and I liked it a lot."

Building on knowledge learned previously about Black history, Tse enrolled in the AfAm Government and Economics class this (and) even more passionate," year as a senior in order to continue his studies

in the AfAm Studies Department. "I feel like that makes a lot of sense — to learn how the economy relates to you as a black person, not just like a person in general, because the system treats

us totally different than your average White male or

Along with knowledge gained from taking the class, its contents can strengthen the existing thoughts and passions about social issues that students may already have.

"Being in that class made me feel even more validated

Tse said.

"Being in that class made me

feel even more validated (and)

even more passionate."

Rey Tse BHS senior

and **Economics** class' enlightening nature is accompanied by a workload that can be appealing to students. "It's not mentally taxing to do the work, because I'm interested in it,' Tse said. "It's a class where it's not so rigorous that it makes you lose your desire to take the class, but it's (also) not too easy to where you just want to leave the class."

The AfAm Government



Students listen to lesson led by AfAm Lit teacher Jenell Marshall Spencer

This balance is struck not only by the curriculum

> but by teachers as well. Tse elaborated on this explaining the importance of the teachers in the AfAm Department and the role they shaping have in positive classroom experiences.

> > As the school

year starts, students are excited to begin their studies within the AfAm Department either once again or for the first time. The AfAm Studies Department continues to play a central role in the BHS community, allowing students to follow their passions and see themselves reflected more fully in the curriculum.





MADELEINE WILSON

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024 **ENTERTAINMENT**

The complicated truth behind reality TV: Person vs. persona

BY ANNIKA JOY entertainment editor

Reality television is one of the most dramatic and captivating forms of media, with on screen fights, romances, and scandals enticing millions across the globe. From The Bachelorette to Survivor, there's something for everyone. However, it can become problematic when audiences perceive the cast as characters rather than real people.

One reason that reality TV is so popular is the platonic and romantic relationships that a viewer watches form over a season. The intense environment of being on a reality TV show causes intense relationships to form very quickly. The ability to witness these connections form in real time creates a level of personal

investment unique to reality television. Younger generations are by far the majority viewers of reality TV. When producers are orchestrating the plots of a season, it's teenagers and young adults who they have in mind.

When a reality show ends, the subjects don't disappear, but instead continue their lives, without constant video coverage. The fans don't disappear either, and many choose to keep up with the lives of their favorite people via social media. "I go on Instagram to see how the couple's doing, and TikTok for sure," said Corina Blanton, a Berkeley High School junior and reality TV fan.

Social media plays a large part in the overall success of reality TV, "That's how I started watching Love Island, was TikToks and stuff recommending it to me" Blanton said. Leah Kateb, a fan favorite from the most recent season of Love Island USA, has faced a drastic increase in followers across all social media platforms, gaining over 2.5 million Instagram followers during the show's six week runtime. However, this sudden rise to fame can come with serious downsides. Shortly after the show's conclusion, certain fans began circulating her address as well as images found of her home in Calabasas, Califor-

There has been a continuous issue with the lack of privacy paid to reality stars. This is rooted in the fact that some fans feel a sense of entitlement towards information about these people's lives, despite the fact that they have no obligation to share anything more about themselves after the show finishes. This mindset can be very harmful, especially in cases where a person is perceived negatively by the general public. Megan Wolfe, of Married at First Sight UK 2021, spoke of the hate she received online to the Daily Mail, saying "It got to the point where people were sending me fivepage emails explaining why I deserved to be dead."

While the plot is based in truth, a lot of what happens on reality TV is impacted by producer involvement behind the scenes "Editors and producers usually try to put a certain perspective on characters" said Kayla Topel, a BHS junior. "A lot of the time the way that shows are cut makes certain people look better".

It is important for viewers to watch critically, however this is difficult when personal biases are established, "I'm sure my perception is a little bit off. If you're looking at my favorites, I

have a certain affection for those people" Blanton said. She used Love Island USA season six as an example, "I don't like Rob, so if they portray him in a bad light, I'm gonna be like, boo Rob. But if they were to paint my girl Leah in a bad light, and I love her with my entire heart, I'm gonna be like, no that's fake."

Reality TV is a very

unique area of pop culture, which comes with pros and cons. It is so captivating because the viewer is able to watch real relationships grow and change. But these are also real people who deserve the right to boundaries and privacy, and it is important to remember that there is more going on behind the scenes than what may be shown.

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Music of the Olympics



<u>-[[]][[]][[]][[]][[]</u>

Le Marseillaise -*Musique de la Garde* Républicaine

Pookie - Aya Nakamura Hymne à l'amour - Edith Piaf

...Baby One More Time

- Britney Spears

Can't Stop - Red Hot Chilli Peppers

Together - Ray Barretto

Mon Truc En Plumes -

Zizi Jeanmaire

Imagine - John Lennon

...Ready For It? - Taylor

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

- Billie Eilish

Lisztomania - Pheonix The Next Episode - Dr.

ELLIOT SCHRA

Dre, Snoop Dogg



ENTERTAINMENT

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Passion for Fashion: Berkeley High School students reflect on back to school fashion trends reminiscent of summer styles

BY AMAR WALKER entertainment editor

In the midst of the summer season, as students swarmed the halls of Berkeley High School on Aug. 14th, the perpetual dilemma of summer fashion returned: what to wear to school? The transition from summer time styles to school fashion can be daunting for some, but for others, the fresh slate of the new school year be-

"I get inspired by the people who I see in my classes, because there's a lot of people who have really good style at this school. So I'll see an accessory they have and maybe try to copy it in different ways," Sophie White, a BHS junior, said.

comes a boun-

tiful source of

fashion inspira-

What people decide to wear to school each day can be greatly influenced by the season, trends, practicality, and their peers. For many students, going back to school makes an impact on how they express themselves, whether they focus more on dressing comfortably or embodying a particular style. Especially after summer break, getting into a daily school routine can alter one's personal style in more ways than one.

"In the summer I wear more bright colors, but (in school) I kind of bundle up a little bit more," White said. "I always take notice of people's outfits and try to incorporate their styles, there's a lot of cool people here." Similarly, Bodie Oakley, a BHS junior, shared the transition his fashion sense took at the beginning of the school year.

"I spent all summer biking across Europe, so really I was cycling through like three pairs of clothes," Oakley said. "I think coming back really made me appreciate having my full wardrobe."

Classmates are often the best models of new fashion trends, and the beginning of a school year is when trends come back to life. Babydoll tank tops are a common sighting, along with the typical baggy jeans, or even an occasional denim skirt.

"I've seen a couple blundstones in school, and oversized shirts with shorts. I've seen a lot of people wearing tennis shoes with ankle socks,"
White said.

Minimalist fashion is a great option for BHS students who prefer to keep it simple while still achieving a cute and cohesive look.

poses in

back to

"I like baggy pants on a smaller top, and I really like to be sort of minimalist but with a pop of personality," White said.

This "pop" could be a fun accessory, or a sprinkle of color in an otherwise neutral outfit. It can be tricky to come up with outfits everyday, so sticking to



IRIS LE LIBOUX

the basics with a little twist of your own style is often an easy path to take. This stylistic preference is easily adapted to the seasonal changes occurring in the school year as well.

But recently, some students are leaning in a different direction. Maximalism; including bright color combinations, maxi skirts, and lots of accessories.

"I'm definitely trying new styles," Gabby Johnson-Rizzo, a BHS senior, said. "Especially for this year, since it's my senior year, I'm trying to show out more." Many students at BHS use the hallways to showcase their individual style, while others prefer to

dress more comfortably for the six hours spent at school each day.

"I feel like I wear more practical clothes," Noa Forney, a BHS sophomore, said. "And it's influenced by

what other people are wearing that year too."

As the year goes on and people get to know their peers, it can become easier to experiment with new styles and bring out their own

personality through fashion.

"I get a little bit weirder when I'm more comfortable with people I met that year, so I'll start putting on some crazy clothes just to throw people off," Oakley said. "Sometimes I like to wear suits and then some more country attire as well." Forney echoed a similar sentiment.

"I experiment more at the end of the year because I'm more comfortable with everyone around me," Forney said. Students may even put extra effort into the way that they dress to make a certain impression on their peers and build a reputation for having a good style.

"It's a much more performatory thing coming to school and dressing." Oakley said, "When I'm not surrounded by my peers, I really don't try. I like to dress in a certain way when I'm surrounded by people I know."

From minimalist to maximalist and all areas in between, fashion continues

to be a performance art. It is ever evolving, adapting, reverting, in a recurring cycle. While approaching fashion from this performatory perspective may excite some, the pressure of every outfit being "art" can become anxiety producing to others. Voicing a rather familiar

producing to others. Voicing a rather familiar feeling of this stress, Johnson-Rizzo explained that "Yesterday I was overthinking what I was gonna wear and I literally was going through my clothes and I threw so many clothes on the ground just to figure

Eventually, Johnson-Rizzo decided "you know what, I can't find anything so I'm just gonna grab stuff and go."

out what to wear."

Sophie White

poses in

back to

school

There are thousands of students at BHS, each with their own unique wardrobe coming to school every day in the outfit of their choice. Even just taking a walk through the breezeway, the C1 hallway, the M building, or the campus green during passing period could provide a dozen new styles for students to take inspiration from.



PHOTOS BY MADELEINE WILSON

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SPORTS

SPORTS EDITORS: CLARA TJEN & LULI GALINSON

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WORD ON THE STREET

WHAT OLYMPIC GAME(S) DID YOU ENJOY WATCHING THE MOST?



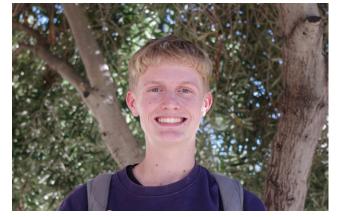
Basketball and synchronized diving were the most entertaining Olympic sports for Berkeley High School senior Sachi Reading. Reading noted, "Basketball was fun because it was all the best NBA players on one team." Reading enjoys watching the Olympics for the intense games between the "best competitors from around the world." Reading also enjoyed watching synchronized diving and was impressed by the tricks the athletes were able to pull off in the air before splashing into the water.



As a water polo player and swimmer herself, BHS junior Margaux Rocha found herself captivated when watching water polo and swimming. "It was just a whole different game in the Olympics. There was just a lot of movement and I just enjoyed the energy of it," Rocha said. Rocha was not only entertained, but also felt a sense of inspiration from some of the Olympians, saying, "It's insane just to see people going that fast who are literally like, 20, and that's really not far from my age."



While watching a little bit of each Olympic sport, junior Pheona Bun found herself appreciating gymnastics the most. She specifically named Simone Biles as someone inspiring and said, "I feel very empowered seeing women like me because I noticed that she's really short, but she's really talented." With the 2024 Olympics being Bun's first time having an interest in watching, she shared that she got into it because "it kept popping up in my feed" and felt that "maybe it's worth watching."



BHS sophomore Thelonious Holmes was most drawn into watching swimming and shooting during the Olympics because of the excitement during these sports. "There's a lot of medals and different races in swimming versus, like basketball, there's only two. And I think it's more entertaining." As for shooting, Holmes "saw a buzz around it" and the intrigue around the Turkish shooter caught his attention.



BHS junior Giovanei Gaspar's favorite sport to watch during the Olympics was one of the four new sports: break dancing. Gaspar said, "It's pretty new and I loved seeing all the moves that the Olympic dudes did. It was really interesting." Gaspar stumbled upon break dancing while watching a different sport, saying, "I was watching the wrestling Olympics ... and I just saw the break dancing, and I was like, sure, it looks cool."



Jack Reber, a BHS sophomore, watched wrestling the most during the 2024 Olympics. He enjoyed this particular sport the most because of the "fierce competitors and just a pure determination to win." Reber is a wrestler at BHS and values what he can learn from U.S. Olympian, Spencer Lee. Reber said he respects "his whole mentality when it comes to sports and in general. He says, "Excuses are for wussies."

INTERVIEWS BY CLARA TJEN sports editor

PHOTOS BY QUINCY MORRIS-FRY

Pay to play: Club sports steep costs create inequity for students

BY LULI GALINSON sports editor

School sports are, with some exceptions, free to play. Trying out for teams does not require any fee, and players can borrow sports gear from the school athletic department. On the other hand, club sports for high schoolers all around the Bay Area are often expensive and require big-time commitments and long commutes for players. This affects how accessible sports are for many young people since only those with disposable income are able to afford to play for sports clubs with few exceptions.

Areyto Paredes-Akimoto is currently a junior at BHS, and he has been playing school volleyball since his freshman year. He also plays for Red Rock Volleyball Club

in Redwood City. The club generally costs four-to-six hundred dollars a month, along with a mandatory five Berkeley High hundred dollar uniform fee. Last year, Paredes-Akimoto worked at a restaurant in order to pay for the summer club. He feels that club volleyball teams only cater to middle or upper-class players. "The coordination for going abroad for these tournaments is really bad, and they expect the parents to be able to just drop whatever they're doing for a week to come take their kid to a volleyball tournament in Chicago, which almost all of my friends couldn't do," Paredes-Akimoto said.

While most players on the BHS volleyball team play outside of school, Paredes-Akimoto thinks the coaches for BHS have done a good job of giving everyone equal opportunities regardless of whether they play in club

teams. "The coaching staff right now at Berkeley High Volleyball is really good and is helping all players, varsity and (junior varsity) get better by some margin, even though it's only a two-month season," Paredes-Akimoto said.

BHS junior Benjamin Rivera Pon has played soccer with Eastshore Alliance Football Club since it formed in 2022. However, he hasn't been playing with his team for the past few months. "I made the team, but my family wasn't able to pay, so I've been trying to find more options for financial aid," Rivera Pon said. The full price for a season of Eastshore Alliance is around three thousand dollars. Even with assistance, club sports teams in the Bay Area often come with steep prices that many families can't afford. Rivera Pon feels that wealthier players often have more opportunities. "If you want to go to tournaments and fly places, obviously you need money for that. If you don't have the money for that you'll miss out, and get less time playing soccer, which puts you at a disadvantage," he said.

Crew is a BHS sport that costs money, due to being considered a club sport. While the price is lower than that of rowing clubs in the area, it is still a \$200-\$495 monthly fee for the 10-month school season. The club does offer need-based "rowerships" for students unable to pay the fee. BHS senior Allison Toan rowed for BHS freshman year, then switched to Oakland Strokes. She believes the high prices affect the demographics of rowers. "I think it definitely makes it so that crew is not a very diverse sport. It costs so much money to participate in," Toan said.

While she feels BHS crew has a broader range of people than her club, it's still geared towards wealthier students. "It's not perfect. It's not super diverse, but it's getting there. I think (crew) also tries to make itself accessible by telling people about the sport, and trying to get as many people to join it." Toan explained.

An obvious component of these high costs for local club sports is the rising prices of living in the

Bay Area. These clubs need to have the ability to fully fund equipment, gym/field spaces, and coaches' salaries, which are funded by donations and memberships.

However, that does not change the serious inequity that costly club sports create. Financial aid for club sports must continue to improve, so the ability to play is not dependent on money.



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