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The Jacket's podcast brings you an episode exploring Puente at BHS where we learn more about the program and people's personal experiences.



Language immersion: Should the BHS Spanish program offer Berkeley, CA 94704 international trips?

While some BHS programs have access to international trips, the Spanish program is not one. Read the story on PAGE 14

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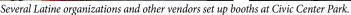
**NEWS** 

### Hispanic Heritage Month event hosted at MLK Civic Center Park









**EMORY ELY** 

#### **BY KIMIA AZADPUR** staff writer

On Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024, the City of Berkeley's Housing Health, and Community Services and Mental Health Division hosted a Hispanic Heritage Month event at the MLK Jr. Civic Center Park. The event aimed to showcase the contributions of Hispanic and Latine communities while providing accessible resources and services. Positioned in a central location for both students and the broader public, it offered an opportunity for attendees

culture and history.

The celebration included Latine music, guest speakers, artwork, and resource booths. Catered by Talavera Taquería and Cafe Platano, the event offered a variety of dishes including pozole, ceviche, and tamales.

Hansel Alidad, the Director of Police Accountability in Berkeley, saw the event as an opportunity to educate the public about Latin American history, which is a central focus of Hispanic Heritage Month.

"This month is special because it celebrates the independence of many

to engage with diverse Latine Latin American countries, including Honduras," Alidad said, "We're very resilient as a people, having faced historical challenges like colonialism in Latin America and more modern struggles in the U.S. That resilience and sense of togetherness are important aspects of our identity."

> Lisa Lieberman Baluch, representing La Clínica de la Raza in Oakland, spoke about the importance of mental health services within the Hispanic community. La Clínica provides multilingual services with a focus on prevention and early intervention. PAGE 4

# NEWS

#### NEWS EDITORS: FINOLA JACKSON & AARON STEVENS

AARONSTEVENS@STUDENTS.BERKELEY.NET

### **Berkeley Public Library hosts Latine author panel at South Branch**

#### BY AUBREY CASPER staff writer

On Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, the Berkeley Public Library Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch hosted a Latine author panel in honor of Latine Heritage Month. In the library's small community event space, the four Latine writers — three fiction authors and one poet - discussed their writings, which ranged from a novel about vampires to poetry about nature.

"Thank you all for being here, and being on this panel. I'm really excited about this panel, especially around Hispanic month," Tomas Moniz, the local Oakland author that organized this event, said,"There's all these kind of formal, bureaucratic celebrations, so I really kind of wanted to open (it) up."

Moniz's newest book, "All Friends Are Necessary," is about how a man, who recently experienced a devastating loss, slowly begins to open himself up again to a new life, with the help of his old and new relationships, both queer and platonic.

"In my novel ... I certainly create characters who could do what I struggled to do - accept all of their people's complexity and contradictions, revel in the fluidity of identity," Moniz said.

Moniz talked about how his identity and the terms he uses to describe his identity have changed over time. "Back in the day, I viewed myself as Chicano. But then I grew, my politics grew, and my sense of self grew," Moniz said. He says he now more often leans toward terms like Hispanic, Latinx, and Latino, using them interchangeably.

"Well, I actually feel like, to me, there is no one best term. It's like, kind of how we define ourselves. We each kind of embody different things," Moniz said.

"Latino is a very, very broad category," said Cynthia Gómez, another Oakland-based author on the panel, "I think there's no way to talk about what 'realism' is. The only reason why it exists is to talk about yet another way to not be white."

Gómez says her short "speculative fiction" stories, which are most often set in Oakland, tend to lean towards horror. At the panel, she read part of her short story "Lips Like Sugar," a lesbian vampire story rich with exposition and full of familiar mentions about things ranging from Azealia Banks to BART.

"I love horror so f----much, because it's just a chance to lift the veil of reality and play with it, and let reality and our imagination kind of blend in and out of each other," Gómez said.

Gómez, however, says she didn't always write horror. She used to think it was just entertainment, not "serious" literature, and not something worth working with. "But I decided to leave behind the idea that I was supposed to be that kind of writer, instead just write the kind of stuff that I love reading," Gómez said.

"Yeah ... I grew up kind of in slam poetry culture," Vania Luna Gutierrez, the only poet of the panel, said. " ... there's a lot of, I think, unspoken expectations around, like, what writers of color specifically are talking about and the ways in which we present things."

Gutierrez explained that they felt like they weren't encouraged to write about things like nature or the people they love, topics they feel white writers have been celebrated for talking about, but for her may have been considered a "trivial" thing by others.

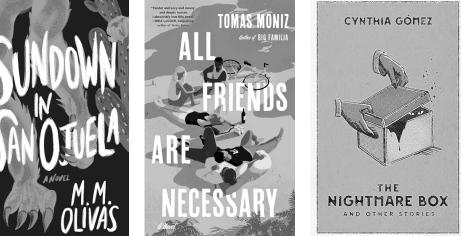
"Then I think as I matured a little bit, I was like, 'well, that's what I care about, and that's what I want to write about," Gutierrez said.

Mara Olivas, the other panelist who said her stories also lean more towards horror, echoed this sentiment - she just writes what she enjoys and hopes others will enjoy it too. Her debut novel "Sundown in San Ojuela," set to be released on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, is a "gothic spaghetti western" about Aztec vampires in California. Olivas says it talks about various issues within the Latino community, such as the "cyclical violence," toxic machismo, and Catholicism that she believes has made many Mexican Americans culturally hostile towards the queer community.

"Because while we are, of course, marginalized here in the United States, due to being, like, people of color, we are also becoming aggressive towards each other," Olivas said, citing colorism within the Latino community. "We

were colonized, so we have a lot of those colonialist ideals still embedded within our current culture. And I guess the message ... is that we need to decolonize ourselves and become more tolerant."

Olivas hopes after reading her debut novel, people become more open minded, "I'm saying that towards my community, but I'm also trying to say that as a whole, that everyone should be looking at ... the limitations and orders we put within our own minds, and how we have to become more tolerant, more accepting of other cultures, of other ways of beings, of other identities."



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**NEWS BRIEF** PROTESTERS SET UP ENCAMPMENT IN RESPONSE TO SWEEP POLICIES

BY EVA KATZ staff writer

As of Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, at the Old Berkeley City Hall, an encampment protest was set up with the words, "Where Do We Go?" written on the tents. Where Do We Go? is a local nonprofit founded by unhoused people in the Bay Area.

The protest follows recent policy changes in many cities due to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in City of Grants Pass v. Johnson, which declared that enforcing criminal penalties for sleeping outdoors isn't considered "cruel and unusual punishment" under the Eighth Amendment. In Berkeley, for example, a recent eight-to-one vote allowed the adoption of a new policy that negates the re-

quirement to provide shelter or other housing during encampment sweeps.

According to the website of Where Do We Go?, The non-profit originally began in 2019 as a protest to the removals of encampments by Cal-Trans and Highway Patrol. An agreement was made with Cal-Trans that evictions would be halted if the land was kept clean and followed safety guidelines.

Andrea Henson, lead attorney for homelessness affairs at the East Bay emergency transportation to anyone in need.

Around the encampment are posters for various boycotts and protests against the sweeping of encampments. homeless One poster calls for a boycott of "Bay Area businesses who advocate for harmful encampment sweeps," namely Boichik Bagels, Covenant Wines, and Fieldwork Brewing. This boycott was organized by the Berkelev Outreach Coalition, an organization supporting those in need of food or housing in Berkeley. According to another poster near the encampment, on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, the organization plans to hold a protest "demanding an end to the war on homelessness" in Downtown Ross, California, where CA Governor Gavin Newsom lives.



Where Do We Go? nonprofit set up tents outside the Old Berkeley City Hall.

**GEORGIA PAULOS** 

Community Law Center and the co-founder and chair holder for Where Do We Go?, worked alongside encampment residents to found the organization. The movement works to advocate and provide aid for the homeless residents of the East Bay. Their mission is to bring tents, food, clothes, or

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### **BHS students participate in mock election**

#### **BY MILA BOYDEN** staff writer

The state of California has hosted mock elections for California students every two years since 2004. In these mock elections, students have been able to vote

presidential on candidates, school board candidates, ballot measures, city mayors, and U.S. Senators.

"The 2024 California Student Mock Election helps young people discover importance the of elections and power of the their vote in our democracy," the California Secre-

tary of State's website said, "It gives high school and middle school students firsthand experience with the electoral process by giving them a chance to make their voices heard on the candidates and issues important to them and their families."

Besides California, other states such as Washington, Tennessee, and Nevada are also participating in statewide student mock elections.

This year, Berkeley High School is participating in the 2024 California Student Mock Election alongside hundreds of other California schools.

BHS has participated in the California Student Mock Election before, dating back to around 2016. In 2020, the CA Secretary of State's website reported that BHS voted in the mock election with 92.67 percent of the vote for Joe Biden and 1.33 percent for Donald Trump, with the

er third-party candidates.

"I do think that (California Student Mock Elections) are important," Clio Wachtel, the media director for the Civic Leaders club and a BHS junior said, "I think that (Mock Elections) give students who choose to vote

"I think that (Mock Elections) give students who choose to vote in them a good experience to get in touch with how you research ... before they are voting for real."

Clio Wachtel, Media Director for Civic Leaders Club

> in them a good experience timent that voting in high to get in touch with how you research for when they truly do need to research before they are voting for real. I think it's a good chance for students to have opportunity an to really research and take the time to practice voting before it actually matters."

All California middle and high students school are able to vote Califorin the nia 2024 Student

Mock Election as long as their schools have registered and have selected a Student Mock Election Coordinator. The Student Mock Election Coordinator for BHS this year is John Villavicencio, the

rest of the votes going to oth- shown an interest in local and national politics, so I think it's a very easy way to get a sense of how students feel about candidates that they can vote for and ones that they can't vote for," Villavicencio said, "It's a way to get their opinions on propositions of which the outcomes

will count towards and affect them ... Voting experience in high school is important because it opens your eyes up to how cities and, in this case, how school boards run. It shows how it affects you and your friends. That's why I hope people will vote."

Many students at BHS agree with Villavicencio's senschool can be a positive ex-

perience. "I think that voting expe-

"We have under a hundred motivated students (who) have completed the mock election ballot on their own, and now we have another 3000 (who have not)."

> John Villavicencio Director of Student Activities

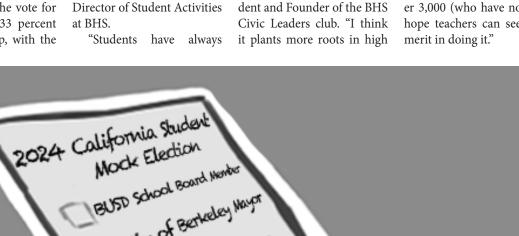
rience in high school gets you on the path to voting sooner, especially when you're part of a community where you're able to get that support," said Eva Levenson, a BHS junior who is also the Presischool than it does in college, ... I think it's cool to be able to learn about what's going to be on the ballot, I think it's a fun thing to see who Berkeley High would have elected in the upcoming elections."

This year, in the California 2024 Student Mock Election, BHS students are finally able to vote on BUSD Board Members, the City of Berkeley Mayor, California's Senator, the U.S. President, and propositions 2-6 and 32-36.

BHS students are able to vote from Saturday, Sept. 21 to Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024. This year's Preliminary Mock Election results will begin to be released on the Student Mock Election website starting at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, while the final results will be posted on Friday, Oct. 11, 2024.

BHS is aiming for 75 percent participation from students in the Mock Election, although as of Monday, Oct. 1, 2024, only around 100 students have voted, Villavicencio said. "There's a lot of information that is being directed at students," said Villavicencio. "It's just like when can they find the time, and so the principal time when everyone can do it is in a class, then that becomes up to the teacher to allow and to men-

tion it and to help create the space where people can vote on it ... We have under a hundred motivated students (who) have completed the mock election ballot on their own, and now we have another 3,000 (who have not). We hope teachers can see some



### THE WONDERS OF SHARKS: SHARKS AND HUNTING

ALEX SOKULSKY



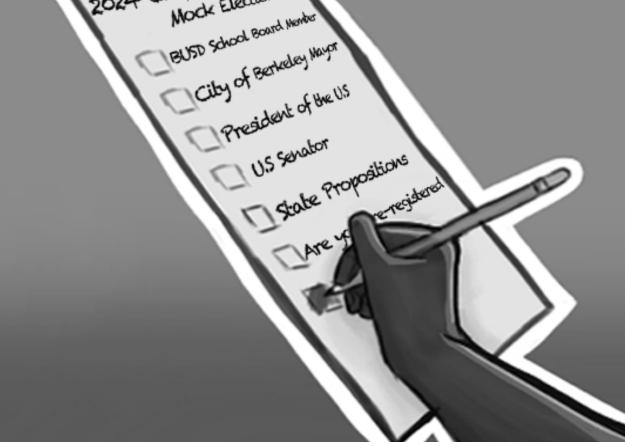
All animals eat differently. Cheetahs chase down their prey at 60 miles an hour, while giraffes munch away with their heads way up in the air. We know of six strategies employed by animals to catch their food, and like the difference between a house cat and a cheetah, they can range widely. One kind of shark can also use multiple of these strategies at once. The strategies they use are speculation, ambushing, stalking, luring, opportunism, and aggregation.

Which strategies sharks use are decided by the sharks size, camouflage, environment and what they are trying to catch. The first strategy used is speculation. If you've seen the TikTok trend of the sound of sharks patrolling the reef, they are referring to this strategy. Speculation is when a shark patrols the area where they know their prey likes to hang out. So they might not even know that the food they want is there, but they have seen it there before or heard about it from their friends.

The second kind is ambushing. A lot of flat sharks, or angel sharks, use this strategy. These sharks hide using their camouflage, often in rocks or sometimes sea grass and then when a fish swims by they lunge out at it, like a frog catching a fly. One type of shark that uses this strategy is the swell shark, which sucks in its prey while it is going by.

Next is stalking. When stalking, the shark follows its prey, and then attacks when it feels best. This strategy is used by great white sharks, which follow their prey for up to eight miles! Sometimes sharks follow their prey just to wait until it gets tired so they don't have to work as hard, and to avoid getting injured themselves. They would rather swim miles than have a big fight with the fish they are hunting.

Fourth is luring. Luring uses an aspect of the shark that attracts the fish, and then when the fish gets close enough it can lunge and eat it. For example if you've ever seen a picture of a lanternfish, with its light above its head. Fish, like bugs, are attracted to the light, and then the lanternfish can snatch it and gobble it up. Some sharks have special features for the same reason, like an Australian wobbegong shark. These sharks are small, only growing up to four feet. They blend in well with rocks and have little whisker-like things that come off of their snouts. These whiskers are meant to be like kelp, and they sway in the current to imitate kelp-like movements as well. Fish go to the kelp, expecting to find shelter, and instead find themselves as the wobbegong's dinner. Our next strategy is opportunism. These are the sharks that are like goats. Goats eat anything and everything they come across, even if it isn't very good for them. Some sharks are the same way. They swim along and eat, and don't pay much attention to what is going into their mouths. The tiger shark is a good example of opportunism. In studies of their stomachs, scientists have found fish, car license plates, food wrappers, glass bottles and more.



Lastly, there is **aggregation**, which is when many sharks work together to "herd" fish. If you've seen pictures of huge schools of fish, with sharks weaving in and out, then you've seen aggregation.

**KAELO HICKMAN** 

### **City of Berkeley hosts Hispanic Heritage Month celebration**

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We use traditional healing and ancestral practices for well-being (and) we hold a lot of celebrations in the community and promote mental health through these

traditional practices," Baluch said.

In the Bay Area, finding spaces or rethat sources reflect His-Latino, panic, and Indigenous

cultures can be a challenge, according to Baluch. Events like this offer a space for representation.

"People of Hispanic descent, Latinos, Indigenous folks, we're here (in the Bay Area), living our traditions and culture. I love to see these types of events, because the students walking by can see the food, hear the music, smell the aromas, and take in the colors. I remember coming here at age 11, searching for people

who looked like me and spoke my language; things that connected me to home," Baluch said, "These events can offer that for young people and adults who are going through the same experience."

#### "People of Hispanic descent, Latinos, Indigenous folks, we're here"

Lisa Lieberman Baluch La Clínica de La Raza

Alex Tadari, an artist with the Bonita House, an arts program supporting adults with mental health challenges, shared his perspective on the impact of representation. cultural Tadari creates surrealist and magical realist art, driven by his Latino heritage.

"I feel like there's a pressure for Latinos to assimilate into American society, and that's something I actively resist ... It drives me to create art and paintings, it's all about celebrating my culture and the deep meaning it holds for me," Tadari said.

Tadari emphasized the importance of cultural events in fostering representation, allowing artists like him to showcase their identities and celebrate their heritage.

Vanessa Serakos, representing the Pacific Center for Human Growth, an LGBTQIA+ mental health cen-

ter, also spoke about representation. "I don't think events like this were as common in the past, so having this kind of representation today is important," Serakos said. "People can come here and learn about the resources available to them, whether it's related to their culture, race, or even their subcultures, like being both queer and Hispanic. It's crucial for them to know that support exists, which wasn't always the case in the past."

The City of Berkeley organized a booth offering community resources.

EMORY ELY

# Berkeley Fix-It Fest inspires sustainability and collaboration

#### BY MAIA ASTERA staff writer

On Saturday, Sept. 28, Willard Middle 2024, School hosted the first of three Fix-it Fests to be

held this year. In collaboration Transition with Berkeley, Fixit Clinic, Nimble Repair, and Culture of Repair, a mix of local environmental justice and repair groups, Berkeley

Unified School District's first ever Fix-it Fest was a success with almost 100 estimated participants receiving help.

Τhe Fix-it Fest is part

a growing movement towards encouraging waste reduction through engaging with and connecting communities. Efforts to reduce waste grow increasingly important as people continue to default towards replac-

"When something doesn't work, we throw it away, and there's nothing around us to tell us not to."

Linda Currie Transition Berkeley Co-Director

ing or getting rid of broken items.

"When something doesn't work, we throw it away, and there's nothing around us to tell us not to," said Linda Currie, co-director of Transition Berkeley.

val of Maintenance and Repair Cafés which are community repair events held throughout the world.

"We started planning this when we wrote a grant back in February, and we got a five thousand dol-

lar grant to help fund the costs of doing this," Debbie Lenz, Makerspace teacher at Willard and one of the main organizers of the Fix-it Fest, said. The money went towards custodial support, repair supplies, and advertising that would need to be provided for the

event. Experienced volunteers offered their help free of charge to people with items in need of repair. The Fix-it Fest was an opportunity for play how acting together can make a difference. "This kind of event is really awareness raising," Currie said.

For students, the project was a blend of the climate lessons that have been taught since the climate literacy resolution in 2021 and skills they may have learned in the Makerspace. The Makerspace is an elective class offered to anyone enrolled in Berkeley Unified School District middle schools. Lenz describes the class as a "technology, engi-

towards the goal of developing problem cal thinking skills through hands-on

Leading up to the Fix-it Fest, students in the Makerspace there will participate in the same unit. According to Lenz, students are "learning how to take something apart, put it back together and make it work." Some Makerspace students volunteered at the Fix-it Fest, working as assistants to repair coaches, carrying signs, and directing confused participants. Each time an item was fixed, a designated bellringer sounded a bell.

After seeing a flier at a Berkeley Zero Waste commission meeting, Terri Han-

"I got a screwdriver when I was six years old, and I started taking things apart."

> Terri Hannon *Repair Coach*

for the event, "We're turning away coaches because we're like, only 10 people signed up, but then, as of this morning, 90 people had signed up to bring things," she said.

Planning for these events requires a lot of work, and organizers met every week during the six months leading up to when it was held. Although it was a brand new project for BUSD, and Lenz and Currie had no prior experience to guide them, the event ended up being a suc-

> cess "It's just heartwarming," Currie said, "you know, people are so busy they don't know each other ... we're all rushing

neering and design lab," which works

solving and critiexperience.

NEWS



Students repair a sewing machine in the Willard Middle School Cafetorium.

program completed a weeklong unit focused on repair. Before the remaining Fixit Fests are held at Longfellow and King Middle

non signed up to be a repair coach. "I got a screwdriver when I was six years old, and I started taking things apart," she said, "I was always curious. You never know what's inside." Hannon showed up early to help classes set up and was able to repair an old watch before the event even started.

"People have these skills and they come, they give up their time, and come and help out," Currie said. 30 volunteers signed up to be repair coaches, and another 20 signed up to assist with event coordination.

While the turnout for coaches was high, Lenz was worried initially that there weren't going to be enough participants bringing items here and there, but this kind of event, it sort of slows us down a little bit."

With the strong response to the first Fix-it Fest, attention now turns to the next two in the series. Organizers are focused on the continuation as well as refining of event operations.

King Middle School will be hosting the next Fix-it Fest on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024, and Longfellow on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025. After a successful first event, Currie has high hopes for the following two. "I'm feeling very confident after doing this first one ... it was a lot to get to this point, but I feel like we have a lot of things in place now for the next two coming up," Currie said.

**ZIVA AMENDOLA** 

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grading system, some ob-

stacles arise from a dual

grading system at BHS. It is

not fair that students evaluated in the SBG system are

allowed to revise their work

and seek a higher grade,

whereas students in the tra-

ditional system might not

have that option thus being

stuck with a lower grade.

Given that having two

grading systems coexist is

problematic and SBG is the

better option, BHS would

heavily benefit from adopt-

ing SBG as its only grading

system and transitioning

away from traditional grad-

BHS is an important and

necessary change. It's cru-

cial that students find ways

to enjoy the process of dis-

covery, and SBG is the best

option to facilitate that.

When you learn something

just for a good grade, you

are likely to forget it once

you get your score. If the fo-

cus is on development, then

you are much more likely to

remember the content, and

your interaction with the

material is more profound.

ing system, but SBG gives

students the best shot at a

meaningful education and

shapes students into the

best version of themselves

possible.

There is no perfect grad-

A unified SBG system at

ing systems.

OPINION EDITORS: ADITYA SRIDHARAN & OHAD AVIRAN-FINKELSTEIN

### **Standard-based grading fosters growth**

#### **BY ALESSIO GILABERT-**PAPAGNI staff writer

Throughout the history of education, many different grading systems have emerged for different reasons and purposes. The primary or traditional system that we know today emphasizes determining how good a student is at a certain subject. In the post-2000s era, this long-accepted system has been questioned and criticized for its outcomefocused approach with little to no emphasis on learning and personal improvement besides getting a desired score. These concerns have led to a new grading system alternative: standards-based grading (SBG). This new

wave brings with it hope for an education focused on student development that is capable of fostering creativity, drive, and an appreciation for academics.

Yale College claims that they introduced the first grading systems in the United States in 1785 with a four-tier ranking system: Optimi — best, Secondi Optimi — second best, Inferiores Boni — less good, and Pejores - worst. This system was applied at the end of a student's senior year to rank them by performance. A brief glance at today's general education system is enough to see that these values have persisted to this day. Students are defined by an outcome that disregards individual academic growth, creates dis-

passion for knowledge, and discourages skill building. In such an environment, learning becomes a tedious profit-based endeavor. All this being said, student evaluation has its place and is important for college admissions.

The SBG system offers a new approach to teaching and learning with an emphasis on growth and progression over time. SBG uses a four-point scale where a four or an A is 85 to 100 percent, a three or a B is 70 to 85 percent, a two or a C is 45 to 70 percent, a D or a one is 20 to 45 percent, and finally a zero, or F is equivalent to a zero to 20 percent. Along with the flexibility of the extended percentages, these evaluative standards allow students to receive precise feedback based on numbers or percentages that give students more room to improve. SBG should not be easier than traditional grading, but rather the percentage value shifts to more accurately represent a student's mastery level. Additionally, SBG allows and incentivizes students to actually learn and grow, allowing them to become the students that the traditional grading system demands.

While SBG is a better CLARA SPINRAD

**Different dialects benefit Spanish classes** 

#### **BY HAZEL LUTZKER** staff writer

Walking into a Spanish class, you'd think you're about to dive into learning the full language, but Berkeley High School limits students to learning just one version, leaving the rich diversity of Spanish dialects out of the curriculum. While BHS teaches Central American Spanish, over seven major dialects of Spanish are spoken worldwide, each with unique nuances, expressions, and grammatical structures. BHS must improve its Spanish education by integrating other dialects, which would not only enhance students' ability to connect with the broader Spanish-speaking world but also ensure they fully benefit from the language education offered. "I don't have anything against learning a Mexican dialect," said Lucia Ortiz Lage, a BHS freshman who has spoken Spanish at home her entire life. Ortiz Lage speaks the Castilian dialect

of Spanish, originating from school classes. Spain, "I think it would be nice to not take that away but to add more different dialects. It would be good for students in the future if they could learn the 'vosotros' tense," she said. Vosotros is a pronoun only used in Spain which can be best translated to "y'all."

"I'm only just now being

"I do understand why there is a focus on Central American Spanish, given the majority of Latinos being Central American or Mexican in Berkeley," L'Esperance said.

One of the main reasons students enroll in Spanish classes is to be able to communicate with those around the world. While learning Central American Spanish is undeniably useful, the exclusion of other dialects from the curriculum can be viewed as a failure in comprehensive language education.

Central American Spanish instead of others like Argentinian, Chilean, and Castilian Spanish, is practical given its demographics, the lack of dialect diversity limits students' understanding of the language. By broadening its Spanish instruction, BHS can equip its students with the skills to thrive in diverse Spanishspeaking environments. Adding dialect diversity is not just about teaching a language - it's about opening doors, making connections, and preparing students for a future where they can confidently engage with the world.

#### ADITYASRIDHARAN@STUDENTS.BERKELEY.NET

### **BOOK TEXTURE:** CATHERYNNE M. VALENTE

#### SYLVIA BURNS



Catherynne M. Valente is a weird writer. "The Orphan's Tales" is told as a girl telling a story about a prince listening to a story about a witch hearing her grandmother's story, and deeper it goes. One short story that I tried very hard to read, "A Buyer's Guide to Maps of Antarctica," is in the form of notes on hypothetical maps of Antarctica. Valente is fond of writing in bizarre forms; not all her books are gimmicked, but her saturated, ridiculous style of writing is what her gimmicks are all about. Sometimes it's fun, and sometimes it is way too much

In my mind, a gimmick story is any writing that has some sort of idea behind the structure: stories within stories, a choose-your-own-adventure, a book whose paragraphs get longer the longer you read it. Valente writes gimmicks that require an immense focus on detail. In "The Orphan's Tales," her prompt is to write stories within stories within stories. In order to write so many stories, she needs a hundred characters in a hundred predicaments. She pulls backstories and world building out of a seemingly bottomless magician's hat to fulfill the task she's set for herself.

In "A Buyer's Guide to Maps of Antarctica," each map is named, numbered, dated, condition noted and professionally described. I can barely name the town my characters live in! The gimmicks she writes demand that she comes up with piles of information, lists of stuff, and she is very good at it.

Her list-writing seeps into all of her works, even when they have no particular gimmick calling for it. The opening line of her children's book "The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making" reads, "Once upon a time, a girl named September grew very tired indeed of her parents' house, where she washed the same pink-and-yellow teacups and matching gravy boats every day, slept on the same embroidered pillow, and played with the same small and amiable dog." Not only has Valente listed some four drudgeries upon September's existence, but each is flushed out and given measured time in the sentence. The book is a story about a child who is spirited off to a magical land, with no structural calling for detail, but thick with it anyway. Some of her writing is so convoluted with stuff that it becomes increasingly difficult to read. I will never read "Radiance," a novel that contains, among other things, a ship's manifest, detailing the contents of a hypothetical cargo ship. But while some of her writing is so syrupy with piles of nonsense that most can't wade through it, the imagery she deploys in her more tame novels turn her prose to opulent word-pictures. Her lists become just as necessary to her traditional format of stories as the bizarre ones, painting tales about the fullness of the world and the peculiarity of living in it.

taught 'vosotros," Raquel L'Esperance, a BHS sophomore who has gone through the Two-Way-Immersion (TWI) program since middle school, shared, "I'm in AP Spanish and my teacher does come from Spain, so we are getting taught the 'vosotros' form." L'Esperance's family speaks the Argentinian dialect of Spanish.

"In Argentina, they do use vos, but they don't use vosotros, so it's kind of a mix," L'Esperance said. "Everybody speaks Spanish differently no matter where you come from."

'Vos', a pronoun used in Argentina, is another form of 'you' with different conjugations but is rarely taught in the TWI program or high

While BHS's focus on

ALISA KARIN KOLPAKOVA

# Spanish classes should offer educational international trips

nior, shared her opinion

on the benefits of a trip

abroad. "I think that a lot

of students quit Spanish

because they just want to

get their credits and be

done with it. But trips ...

are very motivating for

students to stay in the pro-

gram," she said. Geis, who

has spent time in Spain,

can testify to the benefits

of going abroad to study

a foreign language. "Go-

ing to a Spanish-speaking

country allows students

who aren't native speakers

to immerse themselves

in a culture. I know that

A study by Rustic Path-

ways reiterated these aca-

demic advantages. They

found that approximately

80 percent of students

who studied abroad had

greater interest in what

helped me," Geis said.

#### **BY LUCY GRIFFITH** *staff writer*

Curiosity and exploration are often prioritized in elementary school; frequent field trips and time outside reflect the value that adults place on adventure. However, as students get older, the value placed on academic excellence overshadows exploration. As a result, Berkeley High

School students stay in classrooms for six hours a day, five days a week. While international field trip opportunities exist at BHS, with the jazz program going to Cuba and Mandarin classes to Taiwan, none are available for the Spanish program. Offering a trip to a Spanish-speaking country for higher-level classes is crucial for students seeking to take their understanding to new heights.

With 14 teachers, the Spanish program is thriving at BHS. Many students take Spanish because it is widely spoken in California and is the fourth most spoken language worldwide. For the 2024-25 school year, there are 10 Spanish one classes, 14 Spanish two classes, 14 Spanish two classes, 10 Spanish three classes, six Spanish four classes, and four AP Spanish classes at BHS.

Kate Geis, a BHS ju-



they were learning in school. Kiernan Rok, the vice principal for the World Language Department explained the ben-

ment, explained the benefits he saw in this opportunity. "It is the best way to put what you're learning into practice ... you are immersed in it which accelerates your learning and gets (students) excited and motivated

about being able to keep going with the language," he said.

AP Spanish Language teacher Susi Lopez said, "I think it helps the kids realize that knowing another language is a gift and that you have to do everything you can to maintain it." Lopez hopes to take students to Ecuador, Bolivia, or Colombia. "We are close to Mexico and a lot of people know things about Mexico. I think getting a little bit further away and exposing the kids to other dialects, other ways of speaking Spanish, artists, and foods would be terrific," Lopez said.

An article published by the University of Chicago found that students who studied abroad showed higher levels of empathy for others. According to the article, students were more aware of the limits of their knowledge and more willing to learn from and about others.

One roadblock to the bence trip is funding, making and sure the opportunity is dent equitable for all students BHS offered the opportunity nect to go. Rok explained that ally.

compensation for teachers organizing the trip would be interwoven into budget goals and fundraising efforts.

The trip would take a lot of planning and would need to get approved by the school board. Rok explained the administrative steps to making this happen, "The first step is coordinating with the teacher leaders and deciding whether it's in-school or out-of-school facilitation," he said. "If it was in school, (we would need to get) the correct permission slips and (solidify) the details." He continued by urging students to get involved. "A lot of things at Berkeley High happened because students and families advocated for it. If they help put it together that would be the first step," Rok said.

Ultimately it is up to the student body to advocate for a Spanish program trip to a foreign country. The numerous benefits are undeniable and achievable. If students take the initiative, BHS can continue to connect students internationally.

EDEN MIDDLESWART

### Cazadero Music Camp serves as a model for future school retreats

#### **BY REECE FONG** *staff writer*

At Cazadero Music Camp, students' lives are transformed. Through immersive musical instruction, deeply personal experiences, and chances to connect with nature, Cazadero makes students into better musicians and better people. Cazadero Music Camp was founded in 1957 by former Berkeley High School Band teacher Bill Lutt, to get more students interested in music. The first-ever Cazadero summer camp had only around 60 students, but word got around quick-

ago, no other Cazadero-like summer camp for disciplines such as engineering or art has been created by the City of Berkeley. Because of the real positive impact that Cazadero has on so many young aspiring musicians, Berkeley Unified School District should invest in creating similar summer camp retreats for other disciplines. Creating these new retreats will help nurture a passion within youth to pursue their interests.

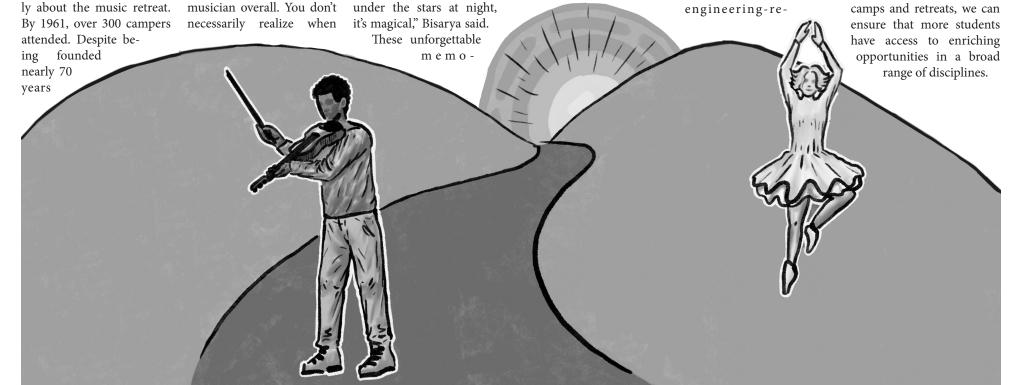
Cazadero is one of the best opportunities for many Bay Area students interested in pursuing music as a hobby or profession. "It really just makes you a better you're there, but when you come back to people that heard you before you went, they just hear the huge difference in how you play," Vikram Bisarya, a BHS sophomore, said.

The outdoor experiences and close personal bonds made at Cazadero are also essential in what makes the camp so amazing. "I really enjoy going there, learning a lot, and meeting new people, because I share a deep passion for music with the people there. We sleep on outside decks. There's this deck we have that we sleep on with a whole group of people and a counselor, and we get to fall asleep ries should be shared with students pursuing various interests, not just music. "I think if you had a similar camp for other activities, people would get to experience real hands-on exponential growth in that field, and that would be a great thing for people to have. I want people to feel the joy I feel at Caz," Bisarya said.

Unfortunately, a major concern in the building of camps like Cazadero is the cost. Not only would it cost enormous amounts of money to construct another camp, but amidst the recent seven-million-dollar budget cut by the BUSD School Board, the funding needed would be challenging to receive. However, nothing should get in the way of the intimate connections and invaluable learning that students gain from these camps. "Your network gets extended because of Cazadero. Nothing should prevent students from gaining what there is to have at Caz," Bisarya said. BUSD could attempt to utilize money from extracurricular education grants to generate enough funds to start at least one other retreat like Cazadero.

One example might be an engineering retreat. It would be a similar experience in the woods but with lated projects. With a blend of science, creativity, and raw materials, students could use their innovation to create products that benefit others. The fun elements of Cazadero would remain, but with a building oriented twist. Students would still sleep under the stars and hang out by the creek and pool, but there would be new complexes and structures for building things.

Cazadero Music Camp showcases how hands-on experiences can transform students' lives. Berkeley must consider developing similar programs for fields like engineering, visual arts and dance. By prioritizing



### **Student literacy proficiency must be a priority**

In 2022, less than 40 percent of US students from fourth grade to twelfth grade were reading at grade level. But what can we do about this? In high school, students take English classes meant to educate them on influential literature and effective academic writing in order to build their language skills. However, this still doesn't combat another important problem that is preventing literacy proficiency from improving — students' dislike of reading. According to Pew Research Center, "Only 14% of young teens say that they read for fun daily." While reading in one's free time isn't generally viewed as something highly academic, it is an integral way for stu-

dents to learn how to both read and write proficiently.

This issue did not begin at the high school level for many students; learning to read and enjoying the act of opening a book and finishing it is something that must be ingrained in children from a young age. Starting as early as third grade, according to Berkeley High School Special Education Teacher Rachel Manandhar, there is a transition for students from "learning to read to reading to learn." If students are unable to learn to do so in younger years, the gap between students still struggling to read and those that can actively apply knowledge learned from reading grows. As they progress to higher grade levels, these students may continue to develop a resistance to reading difficult text and shy away from doing things that require reading. This doesn't only impact learning in English classes, it can affect one's understanding of material in math, science and history classes.

On Oct. 10, 2024, the California Department of Education released the results of the 2024 Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) tests. The results showed that 30% of BHS students performed below grade-level standards when tested on English language arts (ELA) skills. This disparity in achievement is even more pronounced in students of color, English learners, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students. Roughly 58% of socioeconomically disadvantaged students performed below grade-level standards on ELA skills. This isn't only an issue in Berkeley, the scores of all juniors in the state of California have declined below regular levels recently due to the pandemic and have yet to rise again on a state-wide level.

Manandhar focuses on literacy intervention at BHS. She provides direct instruction to a small number of students in the special education program two to three times a week, focusing on their decoding fluency, reading comprehension, vocabulary development and knowledge building skills. "The structured literacy practices involve a definitive scope and sequence for skills and then using data to drive instruction on those skills," Manandhar explained. "So at the elementary and middle schools, teachers are increasingly utilizing these practices, and therefore I think as our students come to Berkeley High, we will see a change."

Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) needs to help address the issue of literacy rates dropping among students by implementing a district-wide structured literacy curriculum for students of all grade levels. This curriculum should emphasize literary fluency and immersion for students in order for all scholars to be able to successfully advance to the next level of their educational journey.



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# SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT Installing internship-based programs like Biotech is vital

#### **BY KARIM MELEIS** staff writer

At Berkeley High School, internship opportunities are rare. There are almost no programs that directly connect students with summer internships. However, BHS's Biotechnology (Biotech) program is a notable exception. Biotech is a two-yearlong career technical education (CTE) class that, in the summer between the junior and senior years, provides students with many internship opportunities. Judging by the success of the Biotech program, BHS must implement more internship-providing classes as they help students learn about fields they are interested in, get real-world job experience, and learn life skills.

Biotech focuses on laboratory skills in the context of chemistry, biology, and data analysis. "In Biotech 1/2 students are introduced to all the basic laboratory equipment and techniques that would make them successful in an internship in the summer between junior and senior year. In Biotech 3/4, we build on those experiences to introduce more advanced lab techniques,

more independent lab work, and advanced biological engineering," Nick Pleskac, a Biotech teacher, said.

While Biotech internships are highly beneficial to BHS students, they only represent a very narrow segment of the STEM field. Biotech is specifically designed to help underprivileged students enter into the STEM field, so by providing students with more internship opportunities like those given by the Biotech program, a more diverse group of BHS students would be interested in more STEM subfields in the future.

"Kids who sometimes shy away from STEM might be a lot more interested to do it (STEM) if they had that two year pathway because in Biotech you get a lot of support," Ori Boozaglo, a BHS senior in her second year in the Biotech program, said. According to the Pew Research Center, Hispanic Americans hold 17 percent of all jobs in the United States, but only nine percent of the STEM jobs. While women hold only 14 percent of all engineering jobs, white men hold 49 percent of all STEM jobs. This inequality is unfair to people in those groups and helps to

perpetuate wealth inequality and our patriarchal society, and the creation of more Biotech-like programs can help stop this.

Some students believe that the Biotech program widely-encompassing is enough to not merit creating additional programs. "Biotech is not just biotechnology ... each of the internships vary widely," Boozaglo said, explaining that there are internships through the Biotech program in areas a myriad of areas, like medicine, environmental science, and even forensic science. "Biotechnology is doing an amazing job of providing a wider array of these opportunities in STEM fields," she added.

Even though Biotech covers many topics within STEM, there are still many areas it does not cover, like mechanical engineering and computer programming. More internship opportunities and new two-year CTE programs could help improve diversity in the STEM field. BHS must improve access to internship opportunities for underprivileged BHS students to ensure STEM does not remain a field dominated by a specific demographic.

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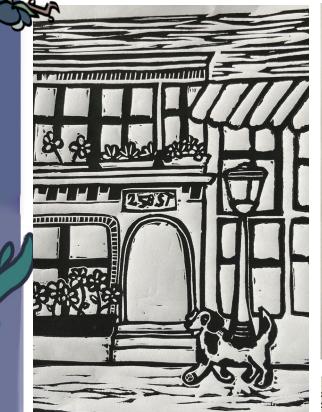


Students in Biotech program working in classroom G306.

JULIAN NATHAN



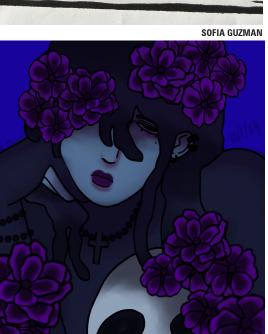
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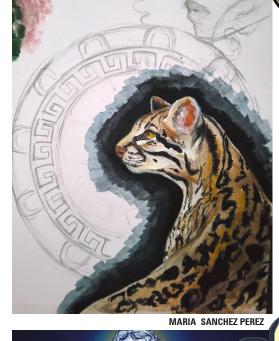


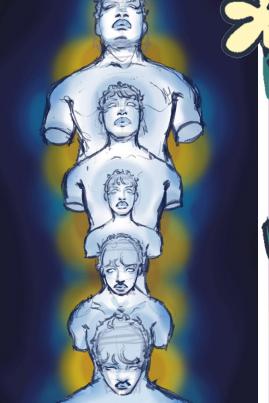
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# **BUSD students walk out in support of Palestine**



At 11:00 a.m. students and community members move to Shattuck Avenue and Allston.

MAREN MATTHEWS BHS students carry posters.

MAREN MATTHEWS



tudents and community members block Shattuck Avenue and create a speaker area.



MAREN MATTHEWS

**BY AUBREY CASPER** staff writer

On Tuesday, Oct.



IDA MARSHALL LAPPE



Students gather at Civic Center Park at 10:40 a.m. MAREN MATTHEWS



2024, Berkeley High School students and other Berkeley community members walked out of class to rally and urge the Berkeley City Council to pass a resolution on the ongoing war in Gaza.

The students, teachers, admin, and general Berkeley community members met at Civic Center park at approximately 10:15 a.m., where several members of the Jackets for Palestine club, the organizers of the event, spoke about the current conditions in Palestine, what actions Israel is taking, how the U.S. is aiding the war, and Palestine's "75 years under occupation," according to Sonali Mascarenhas-Swan, a BHS junior who spoke at the event.

After the initial speeches, approximatly 60 students and community members walked up Allston Way at 11:00 a.m. — passing a small group of Berkeley community members and Berkeley Unified School District students who gathered to show support for Israel - eventually ending up on Allston and Shattuck, where the mass of people concentrated itself to block traffic on the single block.

Julio Gonzalez-Cotorruelo and Emma Knisbacher, the co-presidents of the Jackets for Palestine club, led the crowd in chants in between the speeches. A wide array of people spoke: students of all grades, teach-



Community members gather in support of Israel.

ers, a Berkeley middle school student, and even state senate candidate Jovanka Beckles.

At around 12:40 p.m., the walkout dispersed from Shattuck and Allston, and students headed back to class.

Note: This article has been shortened for print. Find the full version at our website, berkeleyhighjacket.com

MAREN MATTHEWS







MAREN MATTHEWS Walkout gathered on Shattuck aveune as speeches began.

### MORE THAN TOAST: A VERY SWEET NEW YEAR

HAZEL WOLFF



L'Shana Tova, Jackets! The Jewish new year has just passed, and today I want to share a recipe and a cultural tradition of eating apples and honey on Rosh Hashanah to indulge in the sweetness of the next year to come. Honey is eaten as an expression of hope for a good year, and apples are eaten to represent good health and a taste of a fruit not yet eaten during the past year. The first record of this practice was recorded in the 14th century, when a legal text mentioned German Jews eating apples and honey on the first day of the High Holy Days. Rosh Hashanah is a very important time for practicing Jewish people, when we will begin to read the Torah from the beginning and consider our actions of the previous year. Many delicious foods are enjoyed during the holidays, and families all over the world will be celebrating over meals with loved ones. What could be better than freshly sliced apples dipped in sweet, golden honey? Well, I have the answer: caramelized honey apple cake! This is one of my favorite family recipes of all time, and it's on our holiday table every year.

#### Hazel's Caramelized Honey Apple Cake:

For the apples: four tart apples, lemon juice, two tablespoons butter, one to two tablespoons white sugar

For the cake: One cup flour, 3/4 cup sugar, two eggs,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup canola oil, three tablespoons dark honey, one teaspoon baking powder, one teaspoon vanilla, 1/2 teaspoon salt, two to three tablespoons demerara sugar (optional)

Instructions: 1) Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease and flour a nineinch cake pan. 2) Peel, core, and slice the apples into around 12 slices each. Sprinkle the apple slices with lemon juice to prevent browning. 3) Heat butter in a pan over low heat and add apples and one to two tablespoons of the white sugar. Stir for around 10 to 15 minutes until the apples soften. Some of the liquid will soak into the apples, but turn the heat down if too much of it starts to evaporate. 4) While the apples are cooking, mix together the sugar, eggs, canola oil, honey, and vanilla until well combined. Mix in the flour, baking powder, and salt. The batter should be quite thick. 5) Add half of the warm apples, liquid and all, to the batter and mix. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and spread evenly with a spatula. Arrange the remaining apple slices on top in a decorative circle pattern. 6) Bake the cake for one hour. As it bakes, the high egg content causes the cake to rise up as the heavier fruit sinks slightly and the demerara sugar helps create a crackly crunchy crust that caramelizes slightly at the edges and where the liquid from the apples will pool. 7) After taking the cake out of the oven, let it cool in the pan for 20 minutes before transferring to a rack or plate to cool. Before serving, generously drizzle honey over the top of the cake.

### Puente club supports under-served youth

discover the type of col-

lege that interests them

is through field trips. Pu-

ente goes on field trips bi-

monthly to tour different

colleges. "I get to know the

college (and) I won't have

to visit the college next year

... I think that's the biggest

benefit-I know what the

campus is like, I know what

the school is like," said Pu-

leges including University

of California (UC) Davis,

UC Santa Cruz, and Cali-

fornia State Universities.

"Right now we're trying to

have a field trip in late Oc-

tober where we go down to

San Jose State," Garcia said.

sophomore and junior year,

the Puente program has a

unique opportunity: English

class is replaced with Puente

World English, which is es-

sentially the same class but

with a smaller Puente co-

Puente

hort for both years.

members gather

Every week,

For students in their

Puente has toured col-

ente member Indi Many.

#### BY KESL HUMPHREYS staff writer

"Since (Puente is) a club and a program, I see kids being in a more tight knit community than maybe any other club," said Samantha Garcia Mendoza, co-president of the Puente club.

First founded in 1981 by Felix Galaviz and Patricia McGrath at Chabot College in Hayward, California, the Puente program was created to tackle the issue of low academic success of Latinx students. The program has since been wildly successful, and has expanded to over 100 middle schools, high schools and colleges. Several years ago, the program came to Berkeley High School.

Although the Puente program was initially founded to help Latinx students, the program, more than 40 years later, has branched out. "We're here for those who are educationally under-served, like students of color, students who are in a financial struggle, or (who's) parents didn't go to college," said Martin Maciel Metal, co-president of Puente club.

Because Puente is both a club and program, anyone can show up to benefit from college resources. Puente plans bake sales, community service opportunities, field trips, and hosts guest

speaker events. During club meetings, Yasmin Navarro, a college counselor, is regularly brought in to assist students in the college application process.

"At the end of our junior year, our teacher was helping us complete our (University of California Personal Insight Questions (PIQ))," Maciel said, "We completed four of the PIQ's before our senior year, which really helped us get a good head start."

Elias Miranda Chavez is a freshman who recently joined Puente. "I thought it would be fun to go on field trips, and also to learn about college," Miranda Chavez said. He has been to several meetings, which have discussed different aspects of the program

"I feel like our cohort is a lot more knowledgeable about college application stuff than a lot of kids our age," Garcia said, "Like in sophomore year, we already knew the (application) process, and I feel like a lot more kids need that."

One



Puente members call themselves "Puentistas."

### Hobbies teach educators valuable lessons

#### BY NIALA LENZ-RASHID staff writer

One of the biggest mysteries as a student is wondering what lives teachers lead outside of the classroom. Several beloved teachers on the Berkeley High School campus gave an inside perspective into their lives when they're not acting as a teacher.

Along with other educators at BHS, during CO-VID-19, Menaka Gentle, a Universal 9th Grade Ethnic Studies/Social Living teacher, felt relentlessly unproductive. With little to do, she wanted a hobby. "I moved back in with my mom ... and I had just graduated from college ... I needed something," Gentle said. "I pursue a lot of passions gardening,

bread-bak-

ing, (and)

I , 1 1

make

pasta from scratch," Gentle said. Gentle integrates what she has learned through her passion into her methods of fostering and educating her students. "Sometimes you can fertilize and do everything and that works or sometimes a plant grows way more than you would ever think," she said.

As a teacher, she feels it is of the utmost importance to cater to each student's individual traits.

partment teacher, revealed how her unique interest sprouted with the pandemic too

"I've always wanted to be on a game show ... but there was more accessibility with Zoom," Marshall said, "I started applying because I was home all day ... I just kept applying until I got on 'Let's Meet a Deal."

What Marshall learned through her experience on the show shines through in her education methods. "I think being on a game show, you have to be personable, be able to talk to anyone. I think it (has made) me have a joyful, lighthearted spirit in class," Marshall said. For these educators, however, having a passion or hobby is not just for amusement, but also grants teachers the time and space to be their authentic selves. It can often be difficult to separate work life and personal life as an adult, leading to many teachers seeking refuge in a place where they can fully express their personalities and interests without the constraints of a classroom. "I genuinely just enjoy disconnecting from everything, especially technology ... It's nice to just go be

in nature, and just not be around anyone," said Ashley Cunningham, an Academic Choice World Literature teacher. Cunningham, who adores experiencing nature, specifically through camping, has seen her passion impact her quality of education for the better.

"If I take the time to reset myself and my mindset, it helps me show up as a better teacher," Cunningham said.

Cunningham strongly relates to the struggle of not

to tutor each other on different subjects. "It's not even one person tutoring another person, it's kind of like we're all in a big group helping out each other," Maciel said. Puente members spend

significant time together. They can be in the same English class for two years, and participate in bake sales and field trips together.

"I feel really close with our other members ... (It's) cool seeing everybody from where we started, especially looking back at photos and stuff, seeing everybody grow up, seeing everybody mature," Maciel said. Puente students benefit from academic resources and a supportive community. "It's really important to have something like (Puente) ... (students) can feel like they're lost, like they don't know what they're doing," Maciel said, "... it's really important to just have that community where people really care about you."

"They're like a concrete rose situation where they're growing between a crack of concrete ... and yet look at them and look at how great they are," Gentle said.

Jenell Marshall, an African American Studies De-



Ms. Marshall's other passion is world travel.

**TESS PETT-RIDGE HENNESSY** 

allowing her work to consume her as a person. To prevent this, she prioritizes the activities that connect to her unique personality.

"It just allows me to be my true authentic self, because as much as I love my job, it's not what defines me," Cunningham said. Like other educators, Cunningham is adamant about preserving her passions. It's clear that time to herself is just as, if not more, valuable as time spent in the classroom.

BHS teachers possess passions and hobbies that resonate with their own character and perspective. Like everyone else, they value time and space to partake in the things they enjoy, as their true genuine selves.

# **WORD ON THE STREET**

#### BURRITOS OF THE BAY AREA, WHICH ONE REIGNS SUPREME?





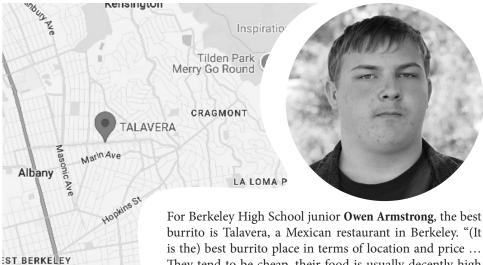
Cailey Claudeanos, a Berkeley High School freshman, opts for Taqueria La Venganza, a vegan taqueria located in downtown Oakland. "They make a lot of really good types of burritos. They have a bunch of different options, and it's just generally really good," Claudeanos said. She enjoys La Venganza's quality and variety.



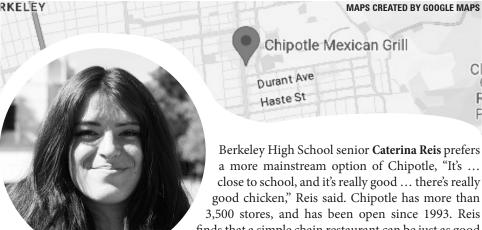


Benjamin Melodia, a Berkeley High School freshman, loves Comal Next Door, a Berkeley based taqueria. He recommends it to others, even picky eaters, because of their wide range of options. Their food is good and it has stuff for everyone," Melodia said. With a diverse and delicious menu, he finds it to be the superior burrito spot in the Bay Area.

INTERVIEWS BY SORAYA JUNE BERENT staff writer



burrito is Talavera, a Mexican restaurant in Berkeley. "(It is the) best burrito place in terms of location and price ... They tend to be cheap, their food is usually decently high quality," Armstrong said. Armstrong takes both price and value into account when choosing his favorite burrito place.



finds that a simple chain restaurant can be just as good as an upscale establishment if the food is high quality.

> PHOTOS BY JAHAN INGRAHAM staff photographer

### Henry Stroud: Nationally recognized violinist and concertmaster

#### **BY NOA OLSER** staff writer

Some students spend their free time doing homework, or hanging out with friends, but a unique few use those extra hours to do something different, something special. Henry Stroud is a Berkeley High School junior, and in the moments where he is not at an orchestra rehearsal or studying for an AP Biology test, he practices the violin.

Stroud can be seen hustling around the campus carrying an overflowing backpack and a decorated violin case. Much never leaves his side.

Stroud began his musical journey around 14 years ago, and has played violin for most of that time. He has taken private violin lessons since his mom introduced him to it when he was a mere three years old, and six years ago, Stroud joined the Young People's Symphony Orchestra (YPSO).

YPSO is California's oldest youth orchestra, and has been running for almost 90 years. YPSO's members range in age from 11-21 years old, and they have performed at prestigious locations including Carnegie Hall in New York City, the the Musikverein in Vienna, Austria. As a senior member of YPSO, Stroud plays a large role in the orchestra.

"I feel like I help bring the younger kids up," Stroud said. Stroud is one

of YPSO's concertmasters, a label that holds a lot of respect among the musical community.

Stroud has been concertmaster for YPSO for two years, and

his job in this position is no simple task. His main role is to lead the string section, and

Stroud advises in decisions that influence the orchestra's overall performance and expressiveness.

He is well-versed in solo performances and was se-

"I just know that I'm doing my best. I'm gonna have fun and make other people have fun as well,"

> Henry Stroud Violinist and BHS junior

lected to train and perform at Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra this past

days he attends afternoon rehearsals for the San Francisco

> for private lessons. On school days, he practices for two to three hours, and during the weekends, it is not uncommon to for his practice sessions to last up to five hours

Aside from the musical talent he possesses, Stroud's experience from playing the

has changed. When he began with YSPO, Stroud would experience what he describes as a "blast of nervousness." Nowadays, he has learned techniques that ease his preperformance nerves, and his anxiety due to uncertainty is now anxiety rooted in how much he cares. Stroud's main tools to deal with his nerves include breathing and visualization. By picturing what is about to unfold, and thinking about the best possible outcome, he is able to manage his stress

"I just know that I'm doing my best. I'm gonna have fun and make other people have

Symphony Youth Orchestra. To maintain his level of skill, Stroud practices individually for hours each day and travels to San Francisco

of his life is taken up by this

Sydney Opera House in Aussmall instrument, so it almost tralia, and the Golden Hall of in command to the conductor,

the general orchestra. Second



BHS junior Henry Stroud plays a tune on the violin.

summer. He played alongside 89 other 14-17 year olds from around the United States. The experience of meeting so many people with

a shared passion from around the U.S. is one that he treasures. In addition to playing with

YPSO, Stroud is also a recent member of the San Francisco

Symphony Youth Orchestra. Balancing his commitments to both orchestras has proven to be a necessary skill in order to stay afloat as he takes on demanding classes at BHS. Monday evenings, Stroud has rehearsal for YPSO from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m, and on Satur-

violin has contributed to skills such as time management and work ethic which have influenced other parts of his life,

"Start at the basics, work your way up,

and practice a lot."

"I think biology is really

Over the years, the level of

one of my strong suits because

of the memorization aspect, it's really similar (to memorizing

anxiety that Stroud feels prior

to a concert or performance

fun as well," Stroud said.

Stroud has a goal to attend a college with respectable music and academic programs, and wants to pursue a double major in music and another undecided subject. He encourages students of all ages to experiment with music and suggested YPSO as an incredible

opportunity that should be taken advantage of by those looking for rigorous musical opportunities.

Regardless of the passion one decides to pursue, Stroud's advice resonates: "Start at the basics, work your way up, and practice a lot."

**Henry Stroud** Violinist and BHS junior

including school.

music)," Stroud said.

EORGIA PAULOS



### OBSCURE MOVIE REVIEWS: THE GLORIOUS GIALLO

JUDY SCHWARTZ



In this edition of Obscure Movie Reviews, we'll be talking about my favorite genre, giallo. The agreed upon definition is a stylish murder mystery, but it's so much more. Starting out as cheap paperbacks, the films quickly showcased a combination of horror and mystery with vibrant colors and disorienting music. It's not about acting or scriptwriting, but about cinematography, impactful murder scenes and scores ranging from jazzy to downright spooky. In fact, it inspired the slasher film genre!

I'll be reviewing my all-time favorite, "Deep Red." Coming out in 1975, this movie was ahead of its time. It's often considered the best film of influential Italian director, Dario Argento. It deals with a medium who is murdered after she senses a killer at a conference she was part of. Pianist Marcus Daly (David Hemmings) witnesses the murder and sees something at the scene that he can't figure out. He enlists the help of Gianna (Daria Nicolodi), a crime scene photographer, to investigate.

The film looks gorgeous. The sets are beautiful and the cinematography is outstanding. One standout scene is when a victim is jumpscared by a creepy doll placed by the killer. There are many murder scenes that are not for the faint of heart, however the blood used is deliberately unrealistic.

The cast is good in their roles, especially the supporting characters, all with eccentricities; from a little girl who likes to kill lizards to a mother who was a former actress. The film is notable for featuring a queer relationship (supposedly), but that is left unclear. The acting borders on the melodramatic at points, which only adds to its charm.

The script is well-thought out, with a growing relationship between the two main characters. One moment that stands out is when Mar-

### Putting the "pro" in product placement

#### **BY CECILIA TILES** *staff writer*

When Tom Cruise wore Ray-Ban brand sunglasses as part of his iconic aviator outfit in the 1986 hit film "Top Gun," Ray-Bans Sunglasses sales increased by 40 percent within seven months of its premiere. Marketed product placement still remains a common aspect of nearly all high-budget films and tvshows. Unlike straight-forward commercials, product placement is subtly integrated into this media type. Through payment or trade, brands will partner with the production company in exchange for their products to be used and shown on screen. Today, the most commonly seen products tend to be cars, makeup, alcohol, or tech brands; like Apple or Samsung.

"In the new Mean Girls movie. I saw that there were a bunch of E.L.F. products placed," Berkeley High School sophomore Sofia Dodge said, "It really just made me focus on the product rather than actual storytelling and I think that's kind of the point."

As shown in the Ray-Ban example, or when Reeses Pieces' popularity skyrocketed after they were advertised in Steven Spielberg's 1982 hit film E.T., product



placement has proven to be a successful way to advertise and sell products. In fact, in a 2023 study done by the entertainment and AI company BENlabs, it was discovered that around 75 percent of viewers searched up a product after seeing it on TV. Consequently, 57 percent of those people ended up purchasing a product from that brand.

What seems to make product placement so successful is the emotional aspect that the given product creates with the viewer. By cleanly integrating sponsored products into a character or storyline, specifically ones that have high approval ratings, it subconsciously creates a positive connection between the consumer and the brand.

"If there's a really good TV show or movie and people wanna be like the characters from that TV show, then they'll want to get the products or the clothes they're wearing," BHS freshman Sophia Nachman said.

This technique is especially productive when a brand focuses on advertising to a targeted audience. This includes the presumption that makeup or clothing brands are more likely to pay for product placements in a teenage rom-com rather than more cinematic films.

There is a fine line in advertising when the products become too frequent and the media begins to feel heavily promoted. What makes product placement successful is that they do not feel like commercials, which are generally not as well received as product placement. In a 2021 study by Sharethrough, journalists discovered that over 50 percent of viewers don't watch commercials on TV. People dislike watching ads due to the feeling of irrelevance, and the interruption of the chosen content.

"I enjoy funny commercials, but they can get a little bit annoying, especially if it's not something that applies to me," BHS sophomore Aliya Schorr said. When product placement becomes too obvious in television, it can begin to affect the quality and credibility of the film. It can be distracting, and therefore viewers often lose interest in the product and the media.

Product placement has been a relevant part of advertising since the 1920s, and it is proven to work; whether consciously or subconsciously. Nevertheless, it's important for brands to remember how to advertise their product, without seemingly shoving their merchandise into viewers' faces.

LEDA WATSON-LAMPREY SINGER

# Coppola's Megalopolis is a mega-flop-olis

### **BY ELI LEICHTER WILSON** *staff writer*

Francis Ford Coppola's 2024 behemoth Megalopolis is the first and likely last film of its kind. It follows Cesar Catilina (Adam Driver), an architect with a dream of a utopian society, his assistant/lover Julia Cicero (Nathalie Emmanuel), and his rival, Mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito), who seeks to stop Cesar's work. It also stars Grace VanderWaal, Shia Labeouf, and Aubrey Plaza as various citizens of New Rome, the movie's futuristic version of New York. It is a film nearly fifty years in the making, delayed first because of the director's debts and later due to issues concerning 9/11. In 2019, the 80-year-old director sold part of his California winery for five hundred million dollars to fund the movie he had dreamed of since 1977. After the film was delayed further by the COVID-19 pandemic, production fi-

nally began in 2022. It was plagued throughout by issues including mass resignations of the art and visual effects teams, a trailer pulled due to fabricated critic quotes, and even allegations of on-set misconduct by Coppola. An extra, Lauren Pagone, reported to Variety that the director had kissed and touched her without consent. Coppola then filed a lawsuit against Variety for libel, which is still pending. An odyssey in its own right, filming concluded in 2023. Despite being a decadesold project, Megalopolis feels surprisingly modern. It has a self-deprecating humor and awareness that is distinctly 21st-century. To Coppola's credit, it is clear he has refined the film over time to keep it up to date with current aesthetic sensibilities. Visually, it is relatively polished; characters are bathed in a constant golden-hour light and drift between carefully composed set pieces wearing elaborate costumes.

The performances are nothing to write home about, though, the actors are not given much to work with. Esposito, Driver, and Emmanuel deliver cartoonish dialogue that sounds like it was written by a writer of a much lower caliber than Coppola. Emmanuel's character is practically non-existent; she has no discernible motive, personality, or beliefs despite being the secondary protagonist. It is as if each actor thinks they are in a different movie: Driver is still stuck as Kylo Ren, Esposito is in a political drama, and Plaza and Emmanuel are in an oddball, tonguein-

edy. Tonally, the movie is all over the place. Is it about class struggle? Is it about the dangers of technology? Is it about police brutality? The movie is extremely heavyhanded without really being about anything, two qualities that inherently contradict each other. Sometimes, it veers into left field and turns into a superhero movie-Driver's character has time-stopping powers that are never quite explained. More than anything, the movie is confused. Coppola experiments with split-screens, non linear storytelling, and even a live-intheater fourth-wall-breaking scene. Overall, the film comes off a jumbled mess, one five decades and 120 million dollars in the making.

cus is challenged by Gianna after he explains his (untrue!) views on women, stating they are weaker than men. It is satisfying as the pianist is put in his place as the movie continues, especially after Gianna saves him on multiple occasions.

It is worth noting that "Deep Red" was one of the less "objectifying" films of the time period, as it disagrees with Marcus's beliefs and doesn't exploit women or people under the queer umbrella.

It is also worth exploring the use of symbolism in this film. A main object featured in the film is dolls. They make frequent appearances, seeming to torment the characters.

Overall, this film has something for everyone (except those afraid of blood!) The cinematography is divine, the scares are there, and the score is magnificent. If you want to watch the film, you can find it on Apple TV, Amazon Prime, and Shudder. With a score of 9.5/10, I highly recommend this movie! cheek com-

# 'Monsters:' Are true crime TV shows ethical or explotative?

#### **BY SOPHIE MIRZA** staff writer

Every few months, a new true crime series rises to the top of most watched charts, alluring audiences through unsettling mystery. Most recently, Netflix released the next season in the anthol-"Monogy

sters: The

Menen-

come with its fair share of controversy, both from audiences and those connected to the story it portrays. This is not a surprising, as a similar situation arose in response to the first part of the "Monsters" anthology, "Dahmer."

dez Brothers." Aside from

being another engaging,

almost addictive series in

the true crime genre, it has

This new series ex-

amines the real life case of Erik (Cooper Koch) and Lyle Menendez (Nicholas Alexander Chavez), two brothers who acted in the planned murder of their parents, Jose (Javier Bardem) and Kitty Menendez (Chloë Sevigny). The series delves into the context surrounding the case, personal perspectives, and the court decision that

followed.

of communication with families, factual incorrectness, and overall insensitivity. A Variety TV critic also described it as having "no idea what it wants to be." This is not the first time, as the "Dahmer" series, by the same directors, was criticized similarly a couple of years back for being too focused on the perspective of the killer, a lack of consent from the families of the victims, glorification, and the way the show was marketed by Netflix.

The concerns are largely based around personal discomfort and ethical questions of what constitutes glorification or exploitation in entertainment. Additionally, the Menendez family posted a more general statement that the series is "a phobic, gross, anachronistic, serial episode nightmare that is not only riddled with mistruths and outright falsehoods but ignores the most recent exculpatory revelations." When creating true crime or biography entertainment in general, it is imperative to communicate with those involved in the real life story. Considering this, it is natural to wonder if the creators' intentions were for financial gain rather than valuable commentary.

True crime is an immensely popular genre, with a survey by YouGov Today stating that over 50 percent of Americans consume true crime content. It is worth considering that a show like "Monsters," taking into account both seasons, is a form of entertainment, and thus can be fairly read as exploitative of the stories of those involved. Profiting off of murder events — and in the case of "Dahmer," the traumatized victims and their families — is not in the slightest an ethical practice. One must consider the "why" when a true crime series is created. That is, both why it was made and why it is being watched. "Monsters" appears as another instance of warping and contorting complex and indeterminate real life murder, and turning it into sensationalist entertainment.

The show plays out in an almost low-key environment where, in an attempt not to villainize any one perspective, it can fall flat in offering meaningful commentary. The dialogue between the brothers can feel shallow at times, with no other real purpose than humanizing the characters. The inclusion of incest appears to be bluntly contrived for entertainment's sake, added purely as a shock-value ornament.

The factual and ethical concerns circle back to a key question of how and when it is acceptable to fictionalize real world events, particularly of this grim nature. When considering the mindless entertainment value of a series of this sort, lack of communication with those involved, and distortion of facts for shock value, the existence of "Monsters" may be unsettling to some. Lacking careful creation and critical consumption, "Monsters" feels glorifying at best, and grossly exploitative at worst.

### Latin music fosters cultural connection at Berkeley High School

#### BY SIMON VAN DUSEN staff writer

In 2023, about 8.1 percent of the top streamed songs globally on Spotify were sung in Spanish. In total, that was an increase of 19.4 billion streams of Latinx music. In recent years, Latinx music has been spreading and blos-

soming to become one of the most popular genres in the world. At Berkeley High School, many students also listen to Latinx music.

BHS junior Nico Smok Blanchard said, "I like a wide variety of artists, such as Bad Bunny, Grupo Frontera, and some older artists too, like Diego Torres." Bad

of their culture are always represented. For Smok Blanchard and others, listening to music in Spanish helps them to stay in touch with previous generations.

"I mainly listen to music in Spanish, and for me it's

#### In 2023, about 8.1 percent of the top streamed songs globally on Spotify were sung in Spanish.

a way to keep connected to my roots a little bit. What I listen to right now is kind of a spinoff of what my parents used to listen to, so I just gravitate towards that," Rafael Piedra, a Universal Ninth Grade Ethnic Studies teacher, said. Musical traditions that have been passed down for generations carry on, even if they have a newer twist. "Another reason I enjoy Latinx music is how they use all these different instruments to create a sound, and take things from everywhere," Piedra said, "You have trumpets, you have guitars, you have accordions, you have beats, and I think it goes to show us how the new wave is bringing things from all these different genres and making it into one." As a result of the diversity in California, Latinx music is not solely listened to by people of Hispanic descent. "I see a ton of people who aren't of Hispanic descent listening to Latinx music," Smok Blanchard said. In the

Bay Area, the mix of people allows for the sharing of many different cultural aspects. This includes all types of music, which is a reason why many different demographics enjoy listening to Spanish music.

One of these people is Tasnim Ait Djebara, a junior at BHS. "I like to listen to a lot of music from different cultures. Part of the reason I like to listen to music from other cultures is curiosity," she said.

While Ait Djebara does not

identify as Latinx, she still enjoys listening to Latinx music. She feels it helps her connect, due to the soulful sound and

lyrics. "I listen to Selena Gomez, Amy Winehouse, Anita, Ivy Queen, Shakira, Jennifer Lopez, and Rosalia," Ait

soul and R&B music, and it is something that calms her

"There's also a lot of emotional expression in music that's written in Spanish and it's a language that you can

"I like Latinx music because it keeps me grounded ... I'm half Latino so it reminds me of that part of myself,"

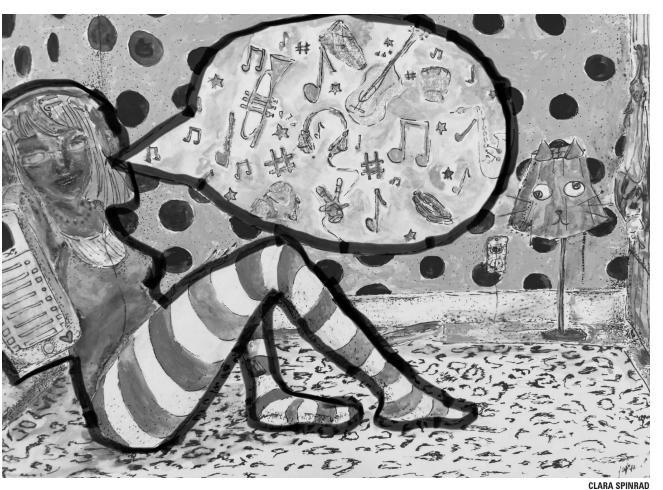
> Nico Smok Blanchard BHS junior

Djebara said. She prefers hear a lot of emotion out of," Ait Diebara said.

Without the diversity and keeps her grounded. of California, this culture sharing couldn't exist. The beauty of living in a place like California relates to this, and how many are able

to share their traditions. For many, Latinx music is something important to them, whether or not they identify as Latinx. At BHS, Latinx music is valued because

of the way it helps people connect with culture, and appreciate the beauty of an evolving genre.





**COURTESY OF NETFLIX STUDIOS** 

Bunny has amassed over 65 million monthly listeners on Spotify. Grupo Frontera is a Mexican band that plays traditional music, but has fused the cumbia sound to be more modern, and appeal to young listeners. Diego Torres is a Latin pop artist from Argentina, who always keeps the messages of his songs positive.

"I like Latinx music because it keeps me grounded in a way, I'm half Latino so it reminds me of that part of myself," Smok Blanchard said. For him, listening to music in Spanish can be a good way to celebrate and connect with his culture. While roughly 30 percent of the Bay Area identifies as Latinx, not all aspects

### Latinx superheroes underrepresented in film

#### BY AKHILA NARAYAN staff writer

In 2018, "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" was released, with Miles Morales as the first Afro Latino Spider Man. The film was a huge success, receiving critical acclaim and making more than 690 million dollars at the box office. Morales became what Marvel called their "most recognizable Latinx character." This seems to have been Marvel's first big step towards rectifying the glaring underrepresentation of the Latinx community in their superhero films, a problem Marvel has still not completely solved.

The year "Spider-Verse" was released, the significant cast of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) was 61 percent white, and only four percent Latinx and Hispanic. These numbers match up closely with Latinx representation in the U.S.'s highest grossing movies. According to a USC Annenberg report on Latinx

15. Improvise

16. Lightbulb that goes off

18. Wine in a Nina Simone song

representation in the 2022 film industry, four percent of leads or co-leads across 1600 films were Hispanic or Latinx.

Recently, Marvel has taken further steps to boost the diversity of the casts and characters of their movies. In 2022, Oscar Isaac played "Moon Knight," becoming one of the first Latino lead actors in a Marvel live-action TV series, and Xochitl Gomez portrayed America Chavez, the Marvel comics' first LGBTQIA+ Latina superhero. Most recently, the TV show "Echo" starred Alaqua Cox as Maya Lopez, or Echo, a half Native American and half Latin American anti-hero. The sequel to Spider-Verse introduced Miguel O'Hara, who was the first Latino Spider Man in the Marvel comics.

One might wonder why it took the MCU so long to introduce these Latinx superheroes. Most of the live-action superheroes mentioned above were only added in the past two years. Some minorities are simply not represented in the comics, and so it is hard for the MCU to include characters from those minority groups unless they change the background of a preexisting character. There is no such excuse with regards to the Latinx community. Although the percentage of Latinx superheroes in the comics is wildly disproportionate to those of White superheroes, there are still plenty of Latinx superheroes readily available for inclusion in the Marvel movies

The White Tiger, or Hector Ayala, was Marvel Comics' first Latinx superhero. Ayala was Puerto Rican and he first appeared in 1975. Ayala also has several descendants who take on the mantle of the White Tiger. Roberto Da Costa, or Sunspot, a mutant with the ability to harness the power of the sun first appeared in 1982. Victor Mancha is Ultron's child and Vision's brother. It would seem perfect to incorporate Mancha into the part of the MCU's main storyline where the Scarlet Witch grieves her husband Vision's death. Similarly fitting for the storyline of the MCU is Bonita Juarez, or Firebird, who was accidentally given the power to control fire by aliens. She would have been perfect for Marvel's Secret Invasion, released in 2023, which largely centers around human and alien interaction. All this is to say that Marvel certainly has missed opportunities to add more Latinx characters into their movie franchise.

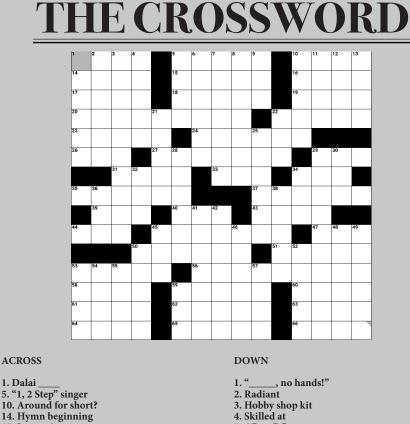
It is worth noting that more Latinx superheroes are featured in MCU spinoffs than their main storyline. Anya Corazon was in the Spider-Man spin-off Madame Web that was set in a different universe from the main MCU storyline, much like Miles Morales. Other examples are the Latinx superheroes Slingshot, or Yo Yo Rodriguez, and Ghost Rider, or Robbie Reyes, who are characters in the noncanonical TV series "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." While Marvel's wider range of spin-offs and solo projects may have more Latinx representation,

their main MCU storyline certainly does not. But one cannot entirely blame the film franchise for this.

The relationship between the Marvel comics and the movies creates some limitations First of all, a lot of Latinx superheroes in the comics are mutants and fight alongside the X-Men. The MCU has not yet built the mutants' story into their overarching storyline. Similarly, in the Marvel comics there are many Latinx superheroes who have taken up the mantle of an originally white superhero, such as the great number of Latinx Spider-Men. This is an easy, and perhaps superficial way of diversifying the

LUCA IONESCU ZANETT comics, instead of creating new Latinx superheroes.

Unlike the comics, the MCU can't infinitely redesign and remake old superheroes, or endlessly add new mutants to their future X-Men team. But perhaps we don't want that. Just because the Marvel comics have many Latinx reiterations of popular white superheroes and Latinx additions to the X-Men team, doesn't mean the MCU should overlook the less-known Latinx superheroes from the comics. Marvel should dig deeper and bring to the screen the vibrant and original Latinx superheroes that, conveniently enough, already exist in their own comics.



- 3. Hobby shop kit 4. Skilled at
- 5. AB or BC
- 6. Like the phrases "a bed of roses" or "easy 7. Mixed tin and copper, for example

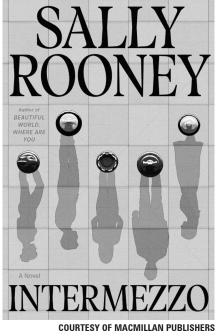
### **Intermezzo: Gambits and grief**

#### BY ZOE WHITMAN staff writer

Sally Rooney, author of "Normal People", "Conversations with Friends", "Beautiful World, Where Are You?," and some short stories, has just released her highly anticipated fourth novel, "Intermezzo". Rooney, in the past, has written novels with a focus

on relationships and complicated protagonists. This new book has similar themes, but this time with the addition of the mourning process. Intermezzo compiles the stories of our two main characters, older brother Peter, a barrister in Dublin, and younger brother Ivan, a talented chess player, as they both battle with the grief of their fathers passing and struggle with their own complex relationships. Intermezzo has a more joyful tone than

With two of her books being made into slower TV shows, "Normal People" starring Paul Mescal and Daisy Edgar-Jones on Hulu and "Conversations With Friends" on Apple TV featuring Alison Oliver and Joe Awlyn, she has accumulated an even larger fanbase just in time for her new release. The attention that Rooney has gained made room for launch parties at bookstores



ed critiques of her books being too autobiographical and only representative of her personal experiences. With a lack of communities being represented her books often feel very similar in topic. On the other hand, her books can be read as a longer body of work together creating a rather cohesive structure. With similar themes popping up, the books feel connected in-

stead of disjointed.

In the novel, the structure of an awkward self aware chess prodigy juxtaposes the rambling of an aging and vulnerable older brother. These brothers are connected by the grief of their father, while they both have their own individual griefs. Peter is mourning a relationship that ended by means outside of his control while Ivan mourns the life he thought he had secured. The task of falling in love with the protagonists is easy throughout the narrative. Readers are allowed inside both brothers' relationships, but the audience can also view their rapports as external spectators. While her books may seem a bit "copy and paste", Rooney is good at connecting with her readers. There is no way to tell what Rooney's next move will be, it is essentially an elaborate chess game.

19. Turn quickly 20. What one does in a heat wave 22. Former one direction member Horan 23. Valetta's country 24. Like the story of Orpheus and Eurydice 24. Diffe the story of orpheus an
26. Guitar's plug-in
27. Flowery perfume ingredient
29. Difficult classes Graceful jump
 "Spring forward" quickly?
 What holds your genes 35. Gum arabic producer 37. Leaves a bad taste 39. Lennon's former wife 40. Quid pro 43. "Game of Thrones" actress Bianco 44. Female sheep45. Those who do track47. Cub Scouts' organization 50. Phoebe Bridgers or Gracie Abrams on Taylor Swift's Eras Tour 51. Buenos 53. Together (with) 56. Like Madonna's or the 1975's debut albums 58. One who tells falsehoods 59. Spanish national art museum 60. Quickly concerning?61. "Moral of the Story" singer62. What taking lots of 29-across can help get you into 63. Right now! 64. Potato65. Abrupt66. Play backgrounds

8. Movie theaters in Elmwood and elsewhere 9. It's easy as 1-2-3! 10. Compact Honda Brainstorming product (again?!)
 Instagram short
 San Francisco fog
 Abrahamic matriarch's birth name 22. Zilch 25. Designated (baseball team member) 28. Not transparent 29. "The Tenant of Wildfell Hall" author 30. Tough gently 32. Green prefix34. What it's like when the lights are low 36. Milk-producing farm animal 38. Laboratory measuring procedure 41. Enervate 41. Enervate 42. Hold 'em hand 45. DnD, for one 46. Slowly wears away 48. "The Bathers at Asniéres" painter 49. Possessions, in a will 50. When you can't 52. "Did\_ \_ something" 53. "Oh no!" 53. On no:54. Speak like Daffy Duck55. Third-largest Hawaiian island57. What smells? 59. Area up close to a concert

— Violet Kessler

Rooney's past novels. The book as a whole is hopeful in a way that "Normal People" was not. Even though characters tackle feelings of grief, the tone remains light. The deep dive into the emotional turmoil of these two brothers creates a more intense read than her usual style. While the themes could be characterized as sad, the mood is overall uplifting.

around the world, "spoiler free reviews" from online "booktubers" who had advanced copies, and an overall buzz of excitement. Rooney is what you would now call a celebrity author, think J.R.R. Tolkien, who is almost a household name.

Rooney has become an almost polarizing author, you either love her or you hate her. She has often field-

### Girls water polo faces off against rival school Bishop O'Dowd

#### **BY CID FRYDMAN** staff writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, Berkeley High School's varsity girls water polo team faced off against Bishop O'Dowd High School. BHS came off with a strong offense from the jump. Through working together, and keeping a consistent defensive and offensive stance, the BHS girls water polo team were able to claim a victory over O'Dowd. The victory marked a notable moment for BHS, following losses to O'Dowd last season that had left the team determined to prove themselves this time around.

Last year, Bishop O'Dowd was the team to beat, and BHS didn't have the successes they hoped for. This season, however, has turned

out differently in part due to key strategies made by Coach Logan Hennessy and the team maintaining their control over the game. Cocaptain Morgan Ostrer, who finished the game with three points and two assists, commented on the win saying, "O'Dowd is a team that beat us last year in this very pool, and I think that this year we've come together a lot more as a team. We're a lot sharper and we beat them," Ostrer said.

BHS started the game with a quick interception of the ball which led to a goal almost instantly. At only a few minutes into the game, BHS offense had the score to 3-0 and O'Dowd was fighting for a chance to catch up. The ball raced back and forth from either side of the pool, but defenders from both teams didn't allow any shot past their goalies. By the end of the first quarter, the score was still 3-0 and O'Dowd was ready to make a comeback. The second half started with two quick back to back goals for O'Dowd. BHS's defense, led by senior goalie Cecelia Lutz, worked to regain control of the game and increased their lead by the third quarter.

Lutz said, "I think we started off strong, and then there was a moment where we sort of lost control of the game a little bit. But I think in the second half, we really refocused and got it back and I felt secure in our win."

At the start of the third quarter. BHS defense tightened up, holding off O'Dowd and maintaining their lead of a score of 5-4. Meanwhile, key offensive plays were made by top scorers like senior Eden Barnes.



Eden Barnes prepares to throw ball.

Teamwork was especially apparent in this game, and the team played as one strong united force. Reflecting on the game afterwards, Barnes noted, "It felt like a really good team dynamic," when emphasizing the importance teamwork held in their performance.

Shot after shot was fired at O'Dowd, and BHS offense

BY CEDAR GILMOUR

staff writer

Sports

was giving it everything they had. Hennessy commented, "They played with grit. They kept playing hard." Their offensive strategies remained consistent throughout the end of the third quarter going into the fourth with a substantial lead of 9-5. With seven seconds left in the game and BHS clinging to a four point lead, they made DANIELA SIERRA ROMERO

a final shot and finished the game 11-6.

Hennessy and the rest of the BHS girls varsity water polo team are not afraid to take on the challenge of facing competition. "Come prepared for a tough challenge when you play against us. We're ready to play against anybody in the league," Hennessy said.



Evita Geisler attempts to carry ball past defenders.

**HOME 33 GUEST** 6 **Girls flag football wins against** Hayward in momentous game

#### **BY NATALIE GROSS** staff writer

The Berkeley High School girls flag football team faced off against the Hayward High School Farmers on Friday, Oct. 4th, 2024. They won by a significant margin, ending the game with 33-6.

point, BHS then attained 6 safeties for a total of 12 extra points to make it 19-6, ending the first half with the Jackets holding a strong lead.

In the second half, BHS continued to dominate the game. Quarterback Sydney Boone threw the ball from the 20 yard line to wide receiver Ahmirah McElroy-Dent at the five yard line, who ran to the endzone and made another touchdown with an extra point. They completed the route with another touchdown late in the game for a final score of 33-6. BHS freshman McElroy-Dent described her team's supportive nature and said, "I think they're a great team. They act like a team, you know, a lot of support. They're just always there for you. You know that when you're down, when you're hurt, they'll always be there for you. So I say they're a great team, like one of the best I've ever been on." McElory-Dent also emphasized her role in motivating

teammates, saying, "I rally up my team. Let them know that I'm here, I'm supporting them, and that they can support me as well." This sense of unity and the positive team environment are driving forces behind their recent victories.

The team's inclusive atmosphere has drawn many

### ATTICUS LABANG

for young athletes, but also allow a glimpse into the reality of competing at a higher professional level. They highlight the beauty of athletic achievement and competition, while also underscoring the hardships and sacrifices made along the way. For young athletes, it can be extremely motivating to see representation of their sports and examples of success on the screen.

not only offer inspiration

documentaries

For Sebastian Hyde, a sophomore football player at Berkeley High School, the movie "The Blind Side" humanized football. "The Blind Side" is a biographical movie based on the true story of football player Michael Oher, following him throughout his early life and the start of his professional

dia a lot," Hyde said, "But it's often denoted as a violent game." Hyde believes there are many more complex aspects to the sport, which are brought to light in the film.

**Sports docuseries inspire teen** 

athletes, tackle complex issues

Running is a sport that is far less depicted in the media. The movie "McFarland USA" is a sports drama film based on a true story about a high school cross country team set in the 1980s. BHS senior Magnolia Hougan has competed in both the North Coast Section (NCS) Championships and the State Cross Country championships. She holds key leadership positions on the BHS cross country and track teams as well. "McFarland USA' is the quintessential high school cross country movie, and sort of the only one." Hougan said. The film highlights the team aspect of running, which is often overlooked due to popular belief that running is an individual sport. In addition to "McFarland USA", the

documentary "Race" also

perfectly

time Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens with his personal struggles with racism as a black athlete in the early 1930s. "It's such an incredible and inspiring story to watch," Hougan said.

Davis Bove, a BHS junior volleyball player named several sports documentaries that stood out to him personally, including "The Last Dance", a basketball docuseries about the Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan's dynasty, and "Untold", a docuseries featuring a collection of lesser known sports stories, including ones from baseball and college football.

"Even though these documentaries aren't about my sport specifically, I think it was really important to see competition at the highest level," Bove said. Bove believes it is important for athletes to watch all different varieties of sports documentaries because every ambitious sports player

While both teams scored touchdowns early in the first half, BHS recorded the next 27 points alone.

Coach Israel Carrero expressed some concern going into the game, saying, "I was worried about how our team was going to react, coming off two emotional games, then coming into this game ... which the Farmers were number one in their division." But he was thrilled with how his team performed. "Offense started rolling, defense started getting better, and we had our first defensive touchdown of the season. The team played fantastic today. I couldn't be happier," he said.

After getting their first touchdown with an extra

players who are new to the sport. "You don't need any prior athletic experience to play," BHS sophomore Evita Geisler said. "It's an incredibly inclusive sport that welcomes everyone, and you'll find your place on the team." Carrero has seen growth

from several players this season. He praised Boone, stating, "She is throwing with more confidence, better than she's ever thrown, and running like no other." With this third consecutive victory, BHS improved their overall record to 5-9, and their league record to 3-3. Carrero hopes the team continues this momentum. "I want them to have a memory that they can cherish for a lifetime," he said.

football career. The film details his impoverished childhood and how despite his lack of privilege, he made it to the NFL

with the help of his adoptive family. "The family aspect of football is something that really stood out to me in this movie, both on and off the field," Hyde said, "It inspired me to create further bonds with my teammates." Hyde, То bonding with teammates creates communication and trust on the field, which are key aspects of football. "Football is already in the mecan relate to this athletic achievement and competitiveness.

inspired Hougan. The film combined the great athletic achievements of four

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### BHS students tackle and complete various types of marathons

#### **BY ALANA CORTES** *staff writer*

Running a marathon is a physical feat that not many people achieve in their lifetime. At Berkeley High School, student athletes take on the challenge amidst their hectic academic schedules, proving their athletic and mental resilience.

BHS senior Madeline Bramwell spent five months training and preparing for a marathon, which she completed in April of 2024. As a BHS track and cross country athlete, Bramwell chose to do a marathon her junior year, despite having a full plate of classes. "I figured, young body. Pretty resilient. I felt like I could do pretty good," Bramwell said.

Bramwell also wanted to achieve something only for herself. While track and marathon are sports concentrated on competition with others, for Bramwell, the marathon was a personal race to work towards, where she didn't have to compete with anyone but herself.

A habit of success that brought Bramwell to the

ing school and training was time management and not getting in her head about immense amounts of school work and training. Anxiety about having an overwhelming amount of tasks was a mental struggle for Bramwell as well. Being able to push past the mental block and complete what she set out to do was huge for Bramwell. "When I'm anxious about something, I can get in a cycle of being scared about getting the work done to achieve it, so then I won't do it. So I'll get a cycle of just not doing it. So just, kind of pushing past that initial fear," Bramwell said.

finish line while balanc-

While most runners spend months in preparation, another student at BHS ran a marathon spontaneously. Emmett Price, a senior at BHS, impulsively turned a 16 mile run with his friend, Samuel Sutton, in Tilden Regional Park into a marathon. "It's cross country season, we got to go on a run. And so he was like, I'm trying to get 16 miles, And so I said, okay, sure. 16 miles, whatever. And then we ran 20. Then we were like, we should just finish it out and do a marathon," Price shared.

While unplanned, a marathon was something on Price's bucket list. Price said that both him and Sutton pushed each other to finish out the full 26 miles, despite many challenges. Physically, the terrain and trail in Tilden is very difficult, more so without enough water or food. "We kind of pushed each other, and there were various times where each of us wanted to bail. I think he pushed me to finish, and I pushed myself to finish," Price said.

Another physical feat achieved was that of BHS junior Hani Khayatei Houssaini, who walked one hundred thousand steps in one day. The walk took well over 12 hours to complete. Walking was a daily activity that Khayatei Houssaini found pleasant, on the contrary to his primary sports, track and cross country. Running had been a source of mental health issues for Khayatei Houssaini, and completing one hundred thousand steps felt like a nice change of pace. "My mental health at the end of the year was pretty bad, and I felt like I was kind of bored and everything felt very similar every day. And so, I was eager for something a bit different," Khayatei Houssaini said.

Taking on the challenge with friends and support was vital for Khayatei Houssaini. Khayatei Houssani shared the differences between having a step goal and a distance goal. For his step goal, it was harder to determine when the walk would end, because steps are self determined by speed and size. Khayatei Houssaini's motivation was to complete his goal. "It's momentum. Really, that's what it is. Some people call it the sunken cost fallacy, once you're in it, you can't really quit. But I think in this case, a step goal, it doesn't make sense to quit. It really doesn't, because you'll feel defeated for the rest of the day," Khayatei Houssaini said.

Although these students took on different feats, the challenges they faced were similar. Both the unofficial and official marathons took great tolls on the students bodies. While generally physically prepared, all athletes mentioned nutrition as something they would hope to better prepare for next time. Their final consensus was the positive mental impacts and self pride in finishing marathons. "I think more people should run marathons, I think everyone can benefit from it," Bramwell said.



Madeline Bramwell ran a marathon on April 28th, 2024.



Emmett Price and Samuel Sutton pose for a photo.

ALEX TRIPCEVICH

MILES MIÑO Athlete Profile



### **Professional Latinx athletes need increased representation**

**BY AVA QUANDT** staff writer

Representation of Latinx athletes in professional sports is astonishingly low, often as little as one to four percent of professional athletes identifying as Latinx; the same can be said for high school sports. According to the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), only about six percent of all student athletes and two percent of coaches in the U.S. identify as Hispanic, despite making up for nineteen percent of the American population. This disparity can cause many young people to feel underrepresented in their sport. Senior

Estevan

Tirado-

Rodri-

guez

plays

w a

ter polo at Berkeley High School. While Tirado-Rodriguez feels welcomed in the water polo community, he said that it can be difficult to find Latinx athletes represented in professional sports. "They're not shown in the media as much, but they're still out there," Tirado-Rodriguez said.

Senior Oona Capristo is a Latina athlete who plays softball at BHS. Capristo representing Latinx athletes and Hispanic culture as a whole. Capristo said, "I feel like it's a big community at Berkeley High, (and) I feel represented amongst the little groups. Highlighting people in history, (Latinx) or in general, it makes me feel included, it's nice."

Pablo Sweet Fuentes is a BHS senior on the boys varsity soccer team. He looks up to the Mexican national soccer team players, however, he has noticed that they are not often shown in popular media. "Even if Latino athletes are really good in their sport, they don't get as much coverage as they would as a white guy or a European guy," Sweet Fuentes said. Sweet Fuentes believes there's a lot BHS could do to improve representation, but that celebrating Latinx Heritage month is a great start. It is crucial that rising athletes have professionals to look up to, as this helps BHS students to gain a sense of confidence and community when playing.

#### KAI HANSCHEN

Ever since Berkeley High School junior Miles Miño was three, throwing a baseball around in the backyard with his dad, he has felt a deep connection to the sport. Proud of his Ecuadorian roots, Miño is inspired by the talented Latino players in the MLB. "It's good to model the type of player you want to be to the players that are already in the league that you look up to," Miño said. Miño has been part of the BHS varsity team since his sophomore year and has felt a sense of brotherhood with his fellow teammates. To him, he sees his teammates almost as family. "The thing I appreciate about our team is the family we have built together at Berkeley ... The bond baseball has created is special. We are really close off the field," Miño said. His journey has been greatly influenced by his father who has been his coach since the beginning. Miño said, "He's always been supportive along with my mom. They've always wanted the best for me in baseball." For Miño, baseball is more than just a game; it's a significant part of his life that teaches him valuable lessons and opens doors for him. He currently coaches an under 12 team, an opportunity he values. "(Coaching) has made me a better person, strengthened my friendships, and provided amazing sporting opportunities," Miño said.

— Miles Wise

shared similar sentiments, saying, "I just feel like there's not enough said about what (Latino athletes) have done compared to other groups." Both Tirado-Rodriguez

and Capristo agree that celebrating Hispanic Heritage monthis important f o r

SUNNY BEVIS-LIPTON