

**Listen to The Buzz:
Students Participating in
Local Campaigns**

The Jacket's podcast brings you an episode exploring students interning for school board candidate Jen Corn and the founder of the Civic Leaders.



**The evolution of
unity week: Chaos to
cohesion**

Learn about the evolution of spirit at BHS. Check out a photo spread of this year's best unity week outfits on **PAGES 8 & 9.**

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SINCE 1912

ELECTION ISSUE

HOW TO VOTE

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Online registration has closed. However, you can still do same day voter registration by going to a voting center on Tuesday, Nov. 5th, 2024 Find Berkeley voting center locations on Page 4

Yes

Fill out your ballot and cast it one of three ways

1. Drop ballot in a drop box. Find Berkeley drop box locations on Page 4
2. Mail postmarked ballot on or before Nov. 5th
3. Hand in ballot at a voting center. Find Berkeley voting center locations on Page 4

Meet the BUSD School Board candidates

BY MILA BOYDEN &
KIMIA AZADPUR
staff writers

Jen Corn

Occupation: Director of School Improvement in Oakland. Corn previously worked for thirteen years in Berkeley Unified School District schools as a teacher and

principal. Corn’s approach to academic achievement emphasizes closing achievement gaps and promoting equity through improved core classroom instruction. “I focus on equity and closing the persistent gaps we see in Berkeley schools. I believe the best way to do this is to improve core classroom instruction, ensuring (that) every student receives a high-quality,

culturally relevant education,” Corn said. Corn aims to foster inclusive, anti-racist environments that affirm students with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ students, while also prioritizing strong partnerships between schools and families. “For culture and climate, I think about belonging; creating anti-racist, inclusive schools that affirm students with disabilities and LGBTQ

students. It’s also about building strong partnerships between schools and families,” said Corn. For systems and structures, Corn stresses the importance of stability, supporting educators with well-functioning systems, and ensuring fair compensation so that teachers can continue to live and work in the community. “We need to pay teachers what they need to live and work in our commu-



nity,” she said. Corn highlights her experience as a K-12 educator and her identity as a lesbian as vital aspects of her candidacy. She aims to increase the voices of the LGBTQIA+ community and draw on her background in order to identify potential areas for improvement within schools.

Ana Vasudeo



Occupation: Berkeley School Board President. Vasudeo is also a BUSD parent. “I am running for re-election because our schools face critical budgeting decisions that will require difficult conversations in the next few years,” Vasudeo said on her campaign website, “Having these conversations will take experience and I believe that my continued service on the school board is necessary to ensure that we keep equity at

the forefront for all learners as we make these important decisions.” In her four years as a BUSD School Board member, Vasudeo established the Berkeley Unified Safety Committee and the District-Wide Safety Coordinator position and worked with state leaders from the California Latino School Board Association to draft a resolution in support of school safety. Vasudeo has also managed the hiring of

a district-wide Spanish Language Parental Engagement Specialist and worked with BUSD’s Safe Routes to School partners to create safe routes for pedestrians and bicyclists near BUSD school sites. Vasudeo’s current priorities for improving BUSD include ensuring financial transparency and accountability, maintaining safe schools, closing the opportunity gap for vulnerable learners, and creating safe and sustainable

transportation for all students and education workers. “In my four years on the school board, I have fought for our children’s safety, worked to safely reopen schools with a strong public health focus, advocated to increase safety on our campuses, and focused on closing the opportunity gaps for our most vulnerable students,” said Vasudeo’s campaign website. Vasudeo did not respond to the Jacket’s interview request.

Laura Babitt

Occupation: Berkeley School Board Director. “I wanted to help BUSD align its budget with its priorities, especially in areas like closing the achievement gap, expanding access to career technical education, and

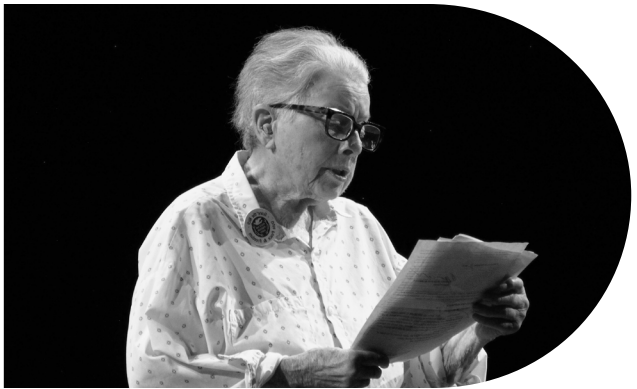
improving mental health resources. The motivation came from my experience as a parent advocate and the desire to elevate the work I had been doing to the next level as a board member,” Babitt said. Babitt’s priorities include increasing efficiency, reducing bureaucracy, and addressing the achievement gap. She also encourages family involvement in student learning. “Addressing the achieve-

ment gap requires high expectations for all students, cultural competency, and family engagement ... I believe in a strong partnership between parents, teachers, and students to create a support system that leads to success,” Babitt, said. Babitt aims to improve after-school programs, special education services and math and reading curriculums to better prepare students for the future.

“I focus on what I call ‘outcome-oriented budgeting,’ which ensures that our budget is aligned with student success. I want to improve after-school programs, special education services, and our math and reading curriculum. These areas are essential to meet the needs of today’s students,” Babitt said. To stay connected in the community, Babitt holds monthly office hours and lis-



ten-ning sessions to get feedback. She plans to expand town halls and Q&A sessions to increase transparency and communication.



Norma J. F. Harrison

Occupation: Retired school teacher. Harrison is also a member of the Peace and Freedom party and identifies as a communist. “I’ve seen over and over the futility of the constant, always unsuccessful reform efforts,” Harrison said on her

campaign website, “We’re still left with school. The reforms do not, cannot, begin to rectify the inadequacy that school is, the role it plays in our singly-minded society directed at continuing our owners’ profiteering by our labor. The problem is school itself.”

While working as a school teacher, Harrison came to believe that school makes children unhappy. Harrison believes that school is one of the main problems within the education system. “It’s this whole thing about the place of school for people, people don’t like it. People don’t like school,” Harrison said, “People have submitted

themselves into a state of amnesia by forgetting how bad school was, because now they have to put up with a job and a job is a very alienating experience. I just wanted people not to be in such pain.” Harrison’s campaign mainly focuses on eliminating oral and written exams, ending “age segregation,” and advocating for equal voting rights.

Abdur Sikder

Occupation: Lecturer Faculty Representative for the computer science department at San Francisco State University. Sikder is also a BUSD parent and has educational experience all around the world.

“Dr. Abdur R. Sikder, a dedicated educator and an advocate for sustainable development of our community, brings an unparalleled international perspective to his candidacy,” said Sikder’s campaign website. “Dr. Sikder combines academic excellence with a global outlook. His distinguished teaching career at several world renowned universities, underscores his

cross-continental living and teaching experiences, providing a unique perspective shaped by diverse cultural, political, and economic systems.” With over a decade of experience as a tax consultant and financial planner in the Bay Area, he supports abolishing the student loan system. Sikder’s main goals include working towards empowering youth, advocating for

free preschool, community college, and four year degree education policies, ensuring equitable funding to public schools, incorporating ethical education into curriculums, and creating partnerships with private companies for practical vocational training and apprenticeships. Sikder did not respond to the Jacket’s request for an interview.



PHOTOS BY LEO SMOCK

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Thousand Oaks on alumna Kamala Harris

BY MAIA ASTERA
staff writer

Kamala Harris, Vice President and current Democratic presidential nominee, credits her time at Thousand Oaks Elementary School with influencing her formative years and inspiring many aspects of her career, particularly her first-grade teacher, Frances Wilson.

“It is because of Mrs. Wilson and so many teachers like her that I stand before you as Vice President of the United States of America and that I am running to be president of the United States of America,” Harris said at the American Federation of Teachers’ 88th National Convention.

Harris attended Thousand Oaks from first through third grade, but participated in Bay

Area schooling programs from 1969 to 1976. She was part of the second integrated class in Berkeley public schools. She was bussed to school through the voluntary bus programs, made in support of movements that aimed to desegregate elementary schools in Berkeley.

Harris’ class was among the first to experience an integrated education from a young age.

“Our experience in elementary school, it was more, you know, everyone was together,” Jenn Radar, a Thousand Oaks alumna and former classmate of Harris, said.

Jen Corn, former principal of Thousand Oaks, spoke on the importance of integration in elementary school. “For many kids, (elementary school) is the first time that they’re away from their fam-

ily and in a community with other people who are different from them,” Corn said.

Harris references this period of her life in speeches, social media posts, and interviews. On a Facebook post in 2019, after introducing a plan aiming to increase teachers’ salaries, she shared a picture of her Thousand Oaks yearbook and how the school was where she first learned the importance of teachers.

“Her vibe was quiet and kind and smart,” Radar said, describing a young Harris. The two were in the same fifth-grade class, and separately had Mrs. Campbell as a third-grade teacher, who Radar remembers as her “favorite teacher ever.”

Though no longer a student at Thousand Oaks, Harris’ legacy remains, and her story is used to invoke a sense of hope and pride within the school. In 2016, when Donald Trump was elected president, many students at Thousand Oaks were upset about the results. Corn, the principal at the time, says she struggled with how to address everything.

“I remember trying to decide how to lead our community in the wake of this election,” Corn said. She resolved to acknowledge the fear and emotions many students were experiencing about the new president, while also highlighting some more hopeful results of the election.

“Our state had just elected an alum of Thousand Oaks school to the Senate, and it was this kind of lovely silver

lining during a really hard time in our community,” Corn said.

Within the school’s community, attention was drawn to Harris’ story. Corn linked that time period to the beginning of the mural at Thousand Oaks and Harris’ eventual place on it.

“We’ve had a lot of press interest in the Vice President’s experience at (Berkeley Unified School District), with many journalists asking to visit Thousand Oaks and see the mural in which she appears,” said Trish McDermott, BUSD senior communications officer. In 2018, a parent received a grant from the board of education for a mural. She approached Corn, suggesting a mural be put up at Thousand Oaks featuring a collection of prominent women.

Students at Thousand Oaks, who were doing projects about Women’s History Month at the time, voted on who would be represented in the mural. Harris ended up being one of the central figures, which she later expressed her gratitude for.

Bob Garrison, a fifth-grade teacher at Thousand Oaks, described Harris as a role model for students. “They can see themselves potentially in her,” Garrison said.

“She’s an amazing example of leadership,” Corn said. “Educators at Thousand Oaks are really happy to hold her up to kids and use as an example of what they can aspire to.”



SAWYER M.B. ERCH

BHS hosts school board candidate forum

BY EVA KATZ
staff writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, the Berkeley High School Civic Leaders Club hosted a school board candidate forum in BHS’s Little Theater, offering candidates an opportunity to answer questions submitted by the Berkeley students and community. Club leader Eva Levenson opened the forum. Winta Clark, Berkeley Unified School District’s Students School Board Representative, and Jules Droz, BHS Civic Leaders Club Vice President, served as moderators.

The 2024 school board director candidates are Laura Babitt and Ana Vasudeo, seeking re-election, as well as Abdur Sikder, Jen Corn, and Norma J.F. Harrison. They were asked questions on topics such as achievement gaps, budget cuts, sexual harm, and more.

“I am running for re-election to keep championing your concerns,” said Laura Babitt at the forum.

Babitt is a parent of three daughters who attended Berkeley public schools.

“I deeply understand the issues and care for all our students, families, teachers, and staff,” said Babitt’s website.

Jen Corn worked in Berkeley public schools as a teacher at Sylvia Mendez Elementary, a literary coach at Rosa Parks Elementary, and principal at Oxford and Thousand Oaks Elementary for 13 years. She is currently the Director of School Improvement for Oakland schools.

“My many years of experience in education mean

that I am uniquely prepared to anticipate how the school board’s budget, program, and policy decisions are actually going to play out in your classrooms,” Corn said.

Norma J.F. Harrison is a “Born-again communist, fundamentalist Marxist, and devout atheist,” according to her X profile.

“My position is that all people who have an issue on the ballot should be able to vote regardless of age, incarceration status, citizenship,” said Harrison.

Abdur Sikder is currently an educator at San Francisco State University. He teaches computer sci-

ence and business and has attended schools all around the world. “I have a very diverse educational background and knowledge and expertise to make efficient decisions,” said Sikder.

Ana Vasudeo is the current President of the Berkeley School Board and has been a member for four years. “I’ve worked hard for our students in schools,” Vasudeo focused on safety, budget, and improving engagement for Latinx students in BUSD.

2024 is the first year that 16 and 17 years old in Berkeley will be able to vote in school board elections.



School board candidates speak at a forum run by the BHS Civic Leaders Club.

LUCAS THOMPSON

THE WONDERS OF SHARKS

ALEX SOKULSKY



Although sharks are not anywhere near being a real threat to humans, there is still a lot of fear around them. There are two types of threats sharks face. The first is natural threats. Even though sharks are considered by many to be the strongest sea animal and top of the food chain, they do have natural threats.

Most of the threats that kill these big animals are actually quite small. The biggest natural threat sharks face are diseases and parasites. However, these have been studied very little so it isn’t clear what exactly it is about them that is so lethal. The other natural threat sharks face are other animals. These are bigger sharks, orcas and sea lions. Orcas are known to attack and eat even the largest and most aggressive species of sharks, and especially because they are so smart they pose a large threat. The fact that sea lions are a threat might be a bit surprising. Sharks are supposed to eat sea lions, not the other way around! Sea lions actually can band together and attack sharks, and it is actually pretty common.

The second threat sharks face are anthropogenic, or human threats. These are a lot more dangerous, and a lot more fatal to all species of sharks. Among these are fishing and hunting, pollution, and habitat destruction.

Let’s start with fishing. Commercial fishing has killed over 70 percent of the shark population around the world, and most of it isn’t even on purpose. Sharks are very often caught as bycatch, which is when fishing boats aren’t intending to get sharks at all, but they end up caught in their nets. When bycatch happens, the sharks are usually dead by the time they get to the boat deck, so even though they are thrown back in they will no longer be able to swim the seas.

Pollution and habitat destruction are also extreme dangers to sharks. Surprisingly the pollution that affects sharks the most is medical waste. For many years hospitals dumped waste into the oceans that was too dangerous to have in landfills. This includes needles, samples, and biohazardous waste. Because it was too dangerous for humans to have this waste in landfills, sharks and other fish are dealing with it now. Habitat destruction consists mostly of coastal development. Restaurants, houses, hotels, on the coast are often very sought after, and therefore a lot of coast is taken over by these types of buildings. But by putting them in it destroys the waters around it, changing the shape of underwater terrain, putting chemicals and toxins in the water, and adding new species to the environment that weren’t there before.

So how can we help save sharks? One key thing you can do is educate the public. This is talking about it, writing about it, really anything to help dissolve the myths and get people on board to help with changing laws and rules around protecting sharks. These laws and rules are ultimately what helps sharks the most.

Sharks are amazing creatures and the oceans and by extension our lives would be very different without them. Even the small things like telling someone a fun fact can end up making a big difference in the future of sharks, and they are really beautiful creatures!

California’s 10 propositions for the 2024 election

BY TEJAL DOPMAN & OSCAR BALASUBRAMANIAN
staff writers



Proposition 2

Prop. 2 proposes a ten billion dollar bond for public schools and community colleges. If passed, the bond is expected to cost the state’s government \$18 billion, at about five hundred million dollars per year for 30 years. This money would go towards renovating school buildings and improving the safety and health of classrooms. A vote “yes” would deliver funds for school facilities, and better building safety. The California Federation of Teachers, California Labor Federation and the Los Angeles Times are all supporters of “yes” on Prop. 2. A vote “no” on Prop. 2 prevents California from being able to borrow ten billion dollars for building new public school and community college facilities. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and the East Bay Times are both opponents of Prop. 2. Supporters of Prop. 2 say that it would greatly benefit the school districts with lower incomes that do not have the means to get modern equipment and upgrades. Opposing sides say that Prop. 2 would increase California’s bond obligations too much, and disapprove of the increased taxes required to pay for the bond.



Proposition 3

Prop. 3 proposes changing the language of the California constitution to formally recognize same-sex marriage in California. If Prop. 3 wins, Prop. 8 — which changed the California constitution to say that marriage is only between a man and a woman — would be repealed, which would mean a removal of that language. Gavin Newsom, a supporter of Prop. 3 and California governor, said that Prop. 8 has no place in our constitution and that California stands with the LGBTQIA+ community and their right to live freely. San Francisco Chronicle has also endorsed Prop. 3 saying that “it merely confirms and upholds existing law.” The California Family Council, a right-wing Christian organization, opposes Prop. 3, claiming that it could lead to incest, child marriage, and polygamy.



Proposition 5

Prop. 5 would allow local governments to pass housing bonds with a 55 percent approval. As of right now, to pass a county or city bond, a two-thirds majority vote is required. Prop. 5 intends to change the California Constitution and lower the required amount to 55 percent for local infrastructure and housing bonds. Jesse Arreguin, the mayor of Berkeley, said that Prop. 5 will make it easier and give more control to voters on how our money is spent. Opponents of Prop. 5 argue that when the local government borrows money, it ends up being property owners who pay for that bond because of higher taxes.



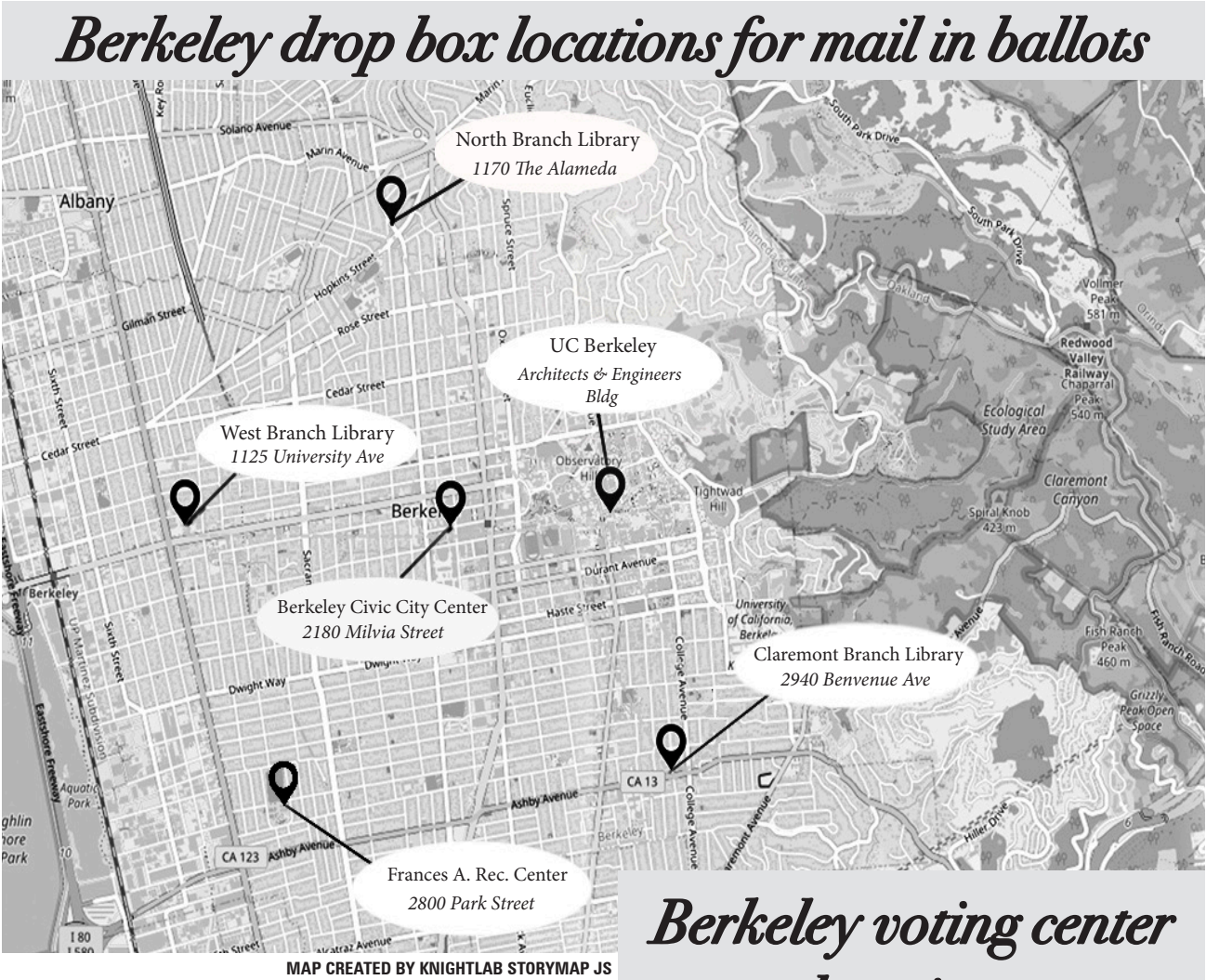
Proposition 33

Prop. 33 would repeal the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act, which prohibits cities from setting rent control on single family homes or apartments built after 1995. The Act also states that landlords can change pricing rates when a new tenant moves in. Over the past eight years, California has tried variations of this proposition and have failed. Some arguments in support of Prop. 33 are that the average rent within California is way too high, and increased rent control would alleviate that. Those opposed say that increasing rent control disincentives new housing construction.



Proposition 35

Prop. 35 would create a tax to fund Medi-Cal Health Care, which provides health insurance for low income, undocumented or disabled California residents. The government of California gets federal money to help fund Medi-Cal, however, only part of that money is actually used to fund Medi-Cal as the other part of the money goes to balance the state budget. People that use Medi-Cal are finding it more difficult to find doctors, since there is not a reliable or permanent way that Medi-Cal is funded. The payment to doctors that take Medi-Cal patients has not kept up with the expansion of Medi-Cal users and inflation. Both the Democratic Party of California and the Republican Party of California support this proposition. Opposers say it is not fair to make voters decide on complicated healthcare tax policy.



Proposition 4

Prop. 4 proposes a ten billion dollar bond for environmental and climate projects. \$1.9 billion of this would be allotted for drinking water improvements. Prop. 4 requires annual audits. Supporters such as Clean Water Action and National Wildlife Federation have said that, since California continues to have threats from wildfires, water pollution, and extreme heat, the need to spend more money on climate is urgent. The California Republican Party opposes Prop. 4 and argues that bonds are the most expensive way to fund government spendings and that issues such as climate change should already be in the state budget.



Proposition 6

Prop. 6 would amend the California Constitution so the state cannot punish incarcerated people with unwanted work and discipline assignments, essentially abolishing involuntary servitude for incarcerated people in the state. Instead of forcing inmates to do labor, California prisons and jails would make work for incarcerated people optional. If Prop. 6 were not to go forward, involuntary labor assignments could still be used as a form of punishment. Supporters of Prop. 6, including the American Civil Liberties Union of California, say that it is inhumane to be forced to do long hours of work with little pay, and that incarcerated people frequently face punishment for refusing dangerous work. The only filed opposer to Prop. 6 is the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, who say that Prop. 6 gives grounds for incarcerated people to ask for higher pay, which they believe would burden tax payers.



Proposition 34

Prop. 34 would require certain participants in the Medi-Cal Rx program to spend 98 percent of revenues on patient care. The Medi-Cal Rx program is a program where healthcare providers are given a low price drug that they can provide to low income homes. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation is one of the biggest users of the Medi-Cal Rx program. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation in the past used some of its money on funding propositions and other non patient care related things. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation argues that this proposition was created by the California Apartment Association with the goal of silencing them and prevent them from sponsoring future propositions to expand rent control. Supporters of the proposition claim the goal is close loopholes that allow corporations to spend millions of dollars on things such as “stadium naming rights” and “CEO salaries.” A vote “yes” on this proposition would mean that the AIDS Health Foundation would have to spend 98 percent of its money on patient care. A vote “no” would mean that these new rules would not go into effect.

Berkeley voting center locations

- 1) UCB Public Service Center 2465 Bancroft Way
- 2) Ed Roberts Campus 3075 Adeline St
- 3) Berkeley Arts Magnet School 2015 Virginia St
- 4) Willard Middle School 2425 Stuart St
- 5) Epworth United Methodist Church 1953 Hopkins St
- 6) Rosa Parks Elementary School 920 Allston Way
- 7) Malcolm X Elementary School 1731 Prince St
- 8) West Campus Oxford Gym 2112 Browning St
- 9) YWCA Berkeley 2600 Bancroft Way



Proposition 32

Prop. 32 would set the minimum wage in California to be \$18 per hour by 2026 for employees and would adjust that wage based on the annual rate of the increase in the cost of living. A vote “yes” on Prop. 32 would help those in the service industry and single parents be able to afford living in California. The California Democratic Party endorsed this proposition. A vote “no” on Prop. 32 would mean that the minimum wage that is in place at this time would stay the same, except for adjustments for inflation up to 3.5 percent annually. If Prop. 32 does not go forward, the minimum wage in California is expected to be around \$17 per hour by 2026. Some arguments opposing Prop. 32 are that it will increase the prices of running a small business because employees will require higher pay.



Proposition 36

Prop. 36 has to do with certain theft and possession of drugs being classified as misdemeanors or felonies. In 2014, Prop. 47 was passed by California voters, which changed certain theft and possession crimes from felonies to misdemeanors. Prop. 36 would reverse Prop. 47, changing the misdemeanors back into felonies. At this moment it is a misdemeanor to steal anything under \$950. In Texas, for example, that number is \$2,500. If Prop. 36 were to go into effect, stealing anything under \$950 would turn into a felony if the offender had two prior theft convictions. The proposition would increase prison sentences, and classify certain drug offenses as “treatment-mandated felonies”. The proposition is supported by the Republican Party of California. California Governor Gavin Newsom is opposed to Prop. 36, and says that the proposition would fuel mass incarceration.

OPINION

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Identity politics: Divisive yet necessary

BY KARIM MELEIS
staff writer

Identity politics can be a very divisive topic, but what exactly is it? Identity politics consists of socio-political movements that focus on the interests of a specific group of people. While some claim that it estranges people from one another, identity politics focused on raising awareness of the prejudicial and discriminatory reality of how some people are treated actually unifies people and should remain a significant part of American politics. However, identity politics that split people up along partisan lines is damaging to the stability of American democracy.

Oftentimes, opposers to identity politics will invoke what is called Universalist rhetoric. Universalist rhetoric is language that doesn't tap into any specific group or ethnicity and attempts to hide the discrimination that exists in our society. It pretends that everyone is actually treated equally, or at least discriminated against in equal measure, hiding the endemic racism that exists in our society. Despite the best efforts of social justice movements, many groups of people are still marginalized and discriminated against, and Universalist rhetoric only serves to mask it.

Although some allege that Universalist rhetoric has the power to unite and therefore strengthen

groups, this isn't true. Amy Chua, a lawyer and writer, describes in her book "Political Tribes," that critics of identity politics often claim that focusing on the differences between people causes division. These critiques allege that universalist language, such as "All Lives Matter," is better suited to be the rhetoric of social justice movements because it unites people under a shared human identity. However, this race-neutral language makes race and racism superficially invisible while simultaneously allowing white people to dominate our economic and political systems.

Other critiques of identity politics occur when it splits people up along partisan lines. According to the

Springtide Research Institute, many younger Americans do not identify strongly with the Democratic or the Republican Party because they feel alienated by both. In addition, some believe that adopting a party identity can close one off from other viewpoints. In today's political climate, this is all too true. The "us vs. them" mentality of both American political parties has caused extreme polarization hampering political dialogue. This critique points out the potential for identity politics anchored around party lines to become an unstable factor in our democracy.

While the identity politics that allows marginalized populations to take pride in their identities is incredibly vital, not all forms of identity politics are equally as helpful.

Identity politics that divide people around political parties can cause them to develop biases against anyone who is different from them. That kind of identity politics leads to political divisiveness and is a threat to our democracy. In contrast, using identity politics to cultivate diversity, unity, and compassion will both mitigate partisan conflict and foster inclusivity and respect.



EMIKO ARONEN

Curriculum must integrate current events

BY KAITLYN FISCHL
staff writer

All over the world, impactful events happen that influence our day-to-day lives. When major events like these happen, teachers often hold class discussions to address the event. In some English classes, however, teachers take it a step further by embedding current events into their curriculum. English classes should always tie class content to current events because it is highly beneficial for students.

Incorporating current events into English classes can help students make stronger connections to the literature they are studying. "My AP Lit seniors are going to start reading *The Handmaid's Tale* next week. I think it would be a big disservice to teach that book and not talk about the implications of women's rights and what's happening, especially in today's world," said English teacher Ashley Cunningham. Students

can apply what they read, and see how the plot in the books is reflected in the current events and social movements around us.

When current events are tied into classwork, students can grasp why reading literature is important. It helps students understand larger ideas and issues in their books as well as the state of those same issues in our current society. "Having a class discussion after an event takes place is essentially reactive. There's a place for that. But we can't always be learning in a reactive state, and I think it's important to be proactive in showing students how to connect their learning to what's going on now," said Berkeley International High School (BIHS) Global Literature teacher, Melissa Jimenez.

Students also develop a better understanding of the events that took place by learning what occurred, and exploring why and how the event happened. Cunningham talked about her education and class when she was a student. "I would

have loved it if we could have dived deeper into the events, like reading newspapers, magazine articles or watching news clips, something that could have let us have more knowledge than what was being given," she continued. "Another reason you might look at current events is to teach students how to understand what's happening around them," Jimenez said.

Having a platform to discuss currents as an embedded part of the curriculum also creates a safe environment for students to talk about the issues that are important to them. Cunningham said, "It's important to have those discussions in class and allow a safe space for students to talk about things that are happening in the world that they find important."

Teachers, primarily those in the humanities, must include current events in their curriculum. Tying novels, films, and lectures to current events helps students with their analysis skills while creating a community that cares about what is happening around the globe. So, teachers and students, what current world events do you want to explore?



Posters displayed in the Politics and Power classroom. WILLOW PIMADA-LY

BOOK TEXTURE: MADELINE MILLER

SYLVIA BURNS



When a story is good, people tell it again. The retelling is compelling for the same reasons as the original — be it mountainous monsters, impossible trinkets, or ridiculous fumbles — but it also matters how the story is told. Madeline Miller is an author of the Greek myth retellings "The Song of Achilles" and "Circe." Some retellings, while from the same family of fantastical stories, aren't very enjoyable to read. Miller's characterizing imagery and abundant details keeps myths alive for modern readers.

Miller's two books are narrated in first person by Achilles' companion Patroclus, and the goddess Circe. Both narrators are given an unusual characterization as weak, slow and generally unimpressive compared to those around them. Miller shifts their characterizations with the use of imagery. When Circe describes her powerful father, light comes from "everywhere at once, his yellow skin, his lambent eyes, the bronze flashing of his hair." Throughout the book, Circe's weakness is derived in part from her father's authority. The gods' power is equated with their beauty, so because her father is described as oozing light, something inherently good and beautiful, and compared with strong, luscious bronze, her father's strength is established by Circe observing him with elegant description. Miller's imagery highlights the qualities of those surrounding her narrators, making the narrators oddly helpless in comparison.

Miller also fills her writing with interesting tidbits from mythology and history. "The Iliad" (source material for "The Song of Achilles") has a multitude of named characters, and hordes of them are found in Miller's retelling. Patroclus notes that "the kings of Agamemnon's innermost circle followed him, dispersing back to their ships — Odysseus, Diomedes, Nestor, Menelaus, more. But others lingered to meet the new hero: Thessalian Eurypylos and Antilochus of Pylos, Meriones of Crete and the physician Podalirius." Or Patroclus is happy to inform the audience that "raiding was typical siege warfare — you would not attack the city, but the lands that surrounded it that supplied it with grain and meat."

The canonical Circe and Patroclus are terrifying, a witch and a warrior. But Miller's imagery and observation holds the books together. Because Circe always loses against the higher gods, she can free herself of hunger for power to better love her the people she cares about.

When a Greek myth is retold exactly, with no creative liberties, the story can be too familiar, or too far removed from modern readers. The myths can also provide sparse source material, and if you don't mix in ample thoughts or details, the prose becomes tedious. Madeline Miller's books can be enthusiastically re-read or introduce you to Greek mythology with no prior knowledge. Regardless of the story, she is sure to tell it well.

From Kamala is brat to Trump’s MAGA cats: Has social media usage in politics gone too far?

YES

BY LUCY GRIFFITH
staff writer

Presidential candidates have one mission: to win elections. Through rallies, speeches, and the use of social media, they persuade voters that they are the best choice for the future of the United States of America. President Obama was the first “social media president,” meaning he was the first to have the POTUS account handle on Twitter and to livestream from the Oval Office. Since Obama was elected in 2008, social media has only become more popular. Trusting candidates to appropriately use social media is difficult, especially when their goal is to persuade voters, thus it is crucial that candidates’ access to social media is limited.

Social media was originally created as a way to connect people with their friends, but now, social media’s emphasis has shifted. According to a joint study between Reuters and Oxford University, 57 percent of American 18-24 year-olds, roughly eight million people, use social media as their first contact with news in the morning.

Clickbait has become weaponized. It is aimed to trigger an emotional response from the user, and such has become more popular with politicians because it can quickly influence users while they are scrolling. Using clickbait as a marketing tactic is unethical because it engages users to

post “whatever it takes” to get attention rather than accurate information. The clickbait phenomena gets questionable when we allow U.S. presidents to use social media platforms to promote themselves. For example, in 2020, Twitter flagged former President Trump’s tweet claiming that mail-in ballots are fraudulent, issuing a “fact-checking warning.” Trump accused Twitter of “stifling free speech,” even though he spread misinformation through his clickbait to more than 80 million followers on the social media platform.

Presidential candidates not only manipulate statistics but also wholeheartedly adopt social media trends into their campaigns to engage younger voters. Kamala Harris adopted the “Brat” identity which originated from Charli XCX’s latest album titled “Brat.” Charli described it as, “(a) girl who is a little messy and likes to party and maybe says some dumb things sometimes, who feels herself, but then also maybe has a breakdown, but kind of parties through it,” on TikTok. It is unsettling to equate a POTUS candidate with informal social media trends, especially considering the importance of their job.

Another way of engaging with citizens on social media is memeification, the process of turning everything into a meme. Recently, Trump shared artificial intelligence-generated memes on his social media that depicted a cat holding an automatic weapon and wearing a branded “Make America Great Again” (MAGA) hat. It went viral quickly along with a couple more images. This makes a joke out of critical issue of gun control as well as the army, rather than seriously thinking of solutions.

Generally, social media does allow candidates to engage with younger audiences. An article published by Harvard states only 54 percent of young Americans will “definitely be voting” in the 2024 election which proves that candidates need to improve their outreach to this age group. However, this issue of voter engagement is deeply rooted in American educational systems. A better and more sustainable solution is for high schools to have mandated discussions surrounding a voter’s responsibility and non-biased politics in the curriculum. Thus, when students turn 18 they thoroughly understand how to filter out fake news and clickbait that is attempting to persuade them on social media to make informed decisions before voting.

Using social media can be seen as unprofessional and juxtaposes the standard of formality that is usually expected in politics. If citizens base their vote on popularity or news they see online, the elected president could be unfit for the position. Further, the electee has the ability to decide people’s rights in America, and form Americans reputation in foreign affairs: in other words, irreversible political effects.

NO

BY REECE FONG
staff writer

As election day draws closer, political candidates scramble to secure all the votes that they can. Targetingspecificvoter demographics with tailored campaign tactics is common. Kamala Harris and Donald Trump are taking their outreach digital, using social media to connect with the younger electorate. By using memes and tapping into viral trends, both candidates aim to resonate with the young generation, who thrives on online engagement and quick, relatable content. These social media campaigning tactics attract a younger audience to vote for the candidate, which can change the course of the whole election, as young adults make up a good portion of eligible voters in the United States.

In early June 2024, Charli XCX released her album “Brat.” The album’s massive success led to it become a large part of modern pop culture, because of the model it set for young women. On Saturday, July 21, 2024, Charli tweeted “Kamala IS brat.” This celebrity endorsement was a perfect opportunity for Harris to gain a significant amount of younger votes, as many young women look up to Charli and the idea of being “Brat.” Soon after, Harris leaned heavily into this endorsement; changing the picture on her X account to a “Brat-themed” background and posting edits of her speech clips mixed with Charli XCX’s songs.

These strategies seem to have been working for Harris. In a USA Today/ Suffolk University poll, Gen Z voters went from supporting Trump when pitted against Biden by 11 percent on Sunday, June 30, 2024 to supporting Harris against Trump by 13 percent on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024. While several differences between Harris and Biden could have led to her greater Gen Z support, one factor behind the 24 percent difference could definitely be her willingness to and talent in utilizing social media.

Similarly, Republican candidate Donald Trump is also attempting to use similar social media methods to appeal to younger voters. Hours before the presidential debate, Trump tweeted artificial intelligence-generated memes of a cat with a firearm and a “MAGA” hat, followed by one of himself surrounded by cats and ducks on a plane. These attempts to reach a younger audience were also apparently met well, with many

people responding positively to his tweets.

Some may argue that strategies like these on may detract from a presidential candidate’s credibility. After all, seeing a candidate post an AI-generated photo of a cat with a firearm before the presidential debate isn’t super reassuring. However, the power of these posts to create more engagement with potential voters typically outweighs any damage they can inflict on a candidate’s campaign. Others may argue that social media has no accountability and that politicians can spread fake news or false personas of themselves. While social media may be able to spread misinformation, it also encourages users to fact-check and hold politicians accountable. In addition, many social media platforms are actively implementing measures to remove fake news from their servers.

There is an untapped potential in Gen Z voter support for presidential candidates. In the 2020 presidential election, voters under 25 were half as likely to vote as voters over the age of 65. An efficient way to reach this denomination of people is through hopping on social media trends, such as “#bratsummer,” on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and X. This would greatly help in getting the younger generation out to vote, while not affecting the opinions of the older generations too badly.

The use of social media by politicians like Kamala Harris and Donald Trump illustrates a strategic effort to engage younger voters. By tapping into pop culture and celebrity endorsements, such as Charli XCX’s support for Harris, presidential candidates can create and post content that resonates with Gen Z. The shift in Gen Z voter preference for Harris following her usage of social media campaigning methods highlights the effectiveness of these tactics. With over half of young adults relying on social media for news, this trend presents a crucial opportunity for candidates to enhance political participation among younger voters across the nation, shaping the future of elections in the United States.



EDEN MIDDLESWART

EDITORIAL

New encampment sweep policies are not the solution

Berkeley’s approach to solving its high rates of homelessness has, over the past few years, been something to boast about, with a January 2024 count showing a 45 percent drop in unhoused people in Berkeley, according to Berkeleyside. Yet, Berkeley’s new approach to encampments, reflected in a policy passed at the beginning of August, 2024, does not seem to be prioritizing the best interests of those experiencing homelessness. In the past, “sweeping” of homeless encampments, which results in the removal of all people and items in encampments, could only occur when alternative shelter was able to be provided. Berkeley’s new policy changed that, allowing for six exceptions under which the city is no longer required to provide shelter for those displaced by sweeps. Providing the city more freedom to sweep encampments, displacing the people living there as well as their belong-

ings, ignores the underlying causes of Berkeley High School’s homelessness rates and the problems that come alongside it, and the policy is not a long-term solution. Berkeley has significantly fewer shelter beds than are needed, which is one of the main reasons there’s a need for homeless encampments to begin with. As of January 2024’s point-in-time count, there are 844 unhoused people in Berkeley. In comparison, according to a report from the city manager’s office, in the beginning of 2023 there were less than 350 shelter beds in the whole city, with an additional 108 open only during the winter months. When comparing the need for both short and long-term shelter to the supply that Berkeley provides, it becomes clear that there is a discrepancy between the amount of beds needed in Berkeley and what is currently being provided. As a result, there is no alternative for many of Berkeley’s own experiencing homelessness except to live in cars, parks, other public spaces or in encampments. When policies are put in place that limit where people experiencing homelessness may go without providing alternatives, there becomes a problem where people can be repeatedly pushed from one location to another without ever being able to find more long-term shelter. Sweeps are not the solution to this problem or to the many other problems encountered by people experiencing homelessness, and do not solve the underlying problems. For the people forced to live in encampments, sweeps can be

dehumanizing and traumatizing. The removal of belongings that oftentimes comes alongside sweeps, according to a report from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC); sweeps can destroy tents, bedding, food, and other items necessary for survival. Berkeley’s new policy, by allowing for further situations in which sweeping encampments can and will occur, will hurt people living in these encampments in more ways than can be anticipated. The lack of available shelter beds limits the living options available to displaced people, and will inevitably create a cycle of encampments being shut down before reappearing elsewhere and being shut down again. Proponents of the updated policy often point to the unsanitary conditions that homeless encampments can foster, through lack of proper running water or toilets, and possibly unsafe practices for storing food. These concerns are valid and necessary to address, though sweeping encampments is not a long-term solution when there is still a lack of available shelter for people experiencing homelessness to move into when encampments are shut down. Berkeley’s new policy perpetuates a cycle of forcing people experiencing homelessness from one public area to another. This cycle is harmful, dangerous, and inhumane. Berkeley needs to reverse course, placing less emphasis on sweeping encampments and instead addressing the underlying causes that force people into these encampments in the first place. Only then can real lasting change and progress occur.

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A later school start time is imperative for student success

BY ERIN LIAO
staff writer

Schools often push their students to perform at their academic best, yet most ignore one of the biggest factors for improvement: sleep. Teenagers should be getting at least eight to 10 hours of sleep a night, but most are unable to allocate the time to it. This has a heavy impact on students’ abilities to learn and focus in school. Changing the Berkeley High School start time to 9:30 a.m. from Tuesday to Friday would help align teenagers with their natural sleep schedules, which would help students focus in school and improve their overall health.

“Sometimes it’s hard for me to go to sleep earlier than a certain time,” Lucia Sweet Fuentes, a sophomore at BHS, said. “So even if I’m in bed earlier, I don’t actually fall asleep till later. I get about the same amount of sleep every night and it’s just not enough.”

Circadian rhythms start to slow down when puberty hits, affecting teenage brains by around two hours. This causes them to have trouble falling asleep earlier and

waking up early. Because of melatonin production, a teenager who wakes up at 7:00 a.m. is like the equivalent of a grown adult waking up at 4:00 a.m.

This problem is even more emphasized for students who take zero periods. Attending class at 7:26 a.m. for zero period may mean waking up at 6:00 a.m. Sleeping late and waking up early causes many teenagers’ circadian rhythms to fall out of sync, which can lead to insomnia and narcolepsy. If school were to start an hour later, it would be easier for students to wake up and get to school on time, as well as prevent possible sleep disorders.

Changing the school start time would make students more focused and engaged in classrooms. Students’ attention levels would be higher in the morning if school started at a later time. Attention also plays a big part in students who drive to school. When school start time was delayed from 7:55 a.m. to 8:25 a.m., car accidents in 16 to 19-year-olds also decreased by 65 to 70 percent.

Because a regular school day would end at 4:30 p.m. instead of 3:30 p.m., some

argue this change would interfere with after-school commitments. Although there is less time to do activities, students would be more confident and focused during the fewer activities they could do. Studies have shown that lack of sleep leads to trouble making decisions, solving problems, and controlling your emotions and behavior, all of which affect one’s ability to participate and learn.

Being able to get adequate sleep has a heavy impact on the health of all BHS students. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, sleep affects your hormone balance, decreases your risk of health problems, supports your growth, and much more. By starting school later, students will be able to get more fulfilling sleep, which will therefore help support their health.

Students aren’t programmed to function at the crack of dawn. A later start time wouldn’t just allow students to get more sleep, it would set them up for a successful future. By changing the clock by an hour, our student body would be more productive, engaged, and energized in classrooms.



SAWYER M.B. ERCH

"Country vs. Country Club" on Tuesday of Senior Spirit Week.



LILA HALLWARD

Pajama Day on Tuesday.



MAREN MATTHEWS



MAREN MATTHEWS



THE EVOLUTION OF UNITY WEEK: FROM

BY AUBREY CASPER
staff writer

In recent years, Unity Week has been rebranded to promote peaceful enthusiasm and school-wide pride, but past Rally Days have become notorious for the hectic energy and at times, riot-like activity. But many students don't know very much about the evolution of Unity Week over the years, and why there has been such a focus on togetherness recently.

Jake Disston, a Universal 9th Grade math teacher at Berkeley High School who graduated from BHS in 1987, recalls his own experience on rally day as very intense. "There were, you know, 3500 students and all the teachers and everybody in it. So it was just raucous and loud and crazy," Disston said. When he was a student, Unity Week was a large competition between all grades at BHS, creating an added level of animosity. "The ad-



ministration kept track of points through the week, and then (whichever grade) was loudest at the end got a certain number of points, and then the Spirit Cup was awarded," Disston said.

Now that he's returned to BHS as a teacher, Disston has re-lived the Unity Week experience through a different perspective. Freshmen are typically the students who are the most worried, as BHS has a culture of social hierarchy that each grade falls into. Freshmen are new to the school, and with the exception of stories passed down from older siblings or friends, there is generally little knowledge about Rally Day, adding a sense of paranoia to many spirit-related activities. "As a freshman teacher, or (having) mostly freshmen in my classes, they don't know really what to expect," Disston said.

According to Philip Halpern, an Art of Video teacher who's worked at BHS for 32 years, the school's pivot

school-wide togetherness was fairly recent. From his early years at BHS, he recalled masses of students packed into the same area, due to BHS' large student body. "My first memory of rally day was 3000 kids jammed into the Donahue Gym screaming their lungs out and stamping their feet. I feared a bleacher collapse," Halpern said.

While Unity Week and Rally Day have always been fairly intense, John Villavicencio, the Director of Student Activities at BHS who has worked at the school since 2004, commented that there was a very intentional transition to create school-wide unity after the 2012 Unity Week. That year, the school had a high amount of alcohol and substance use among students, as well as many public safety concerns. BHS ultimately decided to cancel the entire week in 2013 due to the previous



ous
year's
catastrophic
events.

Rally Day hasn't been canceled since 2013, but staff are still fairly concerned about the potential outcome each year. "(Rally Day is an) outlet in a sense, which is fine,

but what it's done, unfortunately, is it's made a lot of adults on campus very hesitant about creating a space for students to celebrate," Villavicencio said. While it's always possible that students will get out of hand during Unity Week, BHS admin has tried different activities throughout the week to direct school spirit in a different direction. This year, each class decorated a certain floor in a different building.



ZIVA AMENDOLA



EZRA PAYNE



SUNNY BEVIS LIPTON



SYLVA ROUBINIAN



ALEX TRIPCEVICH



Decades Day on Thursday.

"BBQ Dads vs. Soccer Moms Day" on Wednesday of

"Adam Sandler Day" on Thursday of Senior Spirit Week.



USNEA MCEWEN



WILLOW PIMADA-LY

Rally Day on Friday.



SUNNY BEVIS LIPTON



SUNNY BEVIS LIPTON



MAREN MATTHEWS



ALEX TRIPCEVICH



TOSCANA GIRARD MAXON



SUNNY BEVIS LIPTON



MAREN MATTHEWS



JULIAN NATHAN



TOSCANA GIRARD MAXON

FROM CHAOS TO COHESION



There was also a pep rally on Thursday, October 17, 2024, which hadn't been done before. According to Villavicencio, the planning that went into the pep rally this year made Unity Week and Rally Day feel more official, and a little less disorderly. "(The pep rally is) a new angle that we haven't tried in a while to this level of preparation, because we actually have set things up, and ... got a lot of people involved weeks ahead of time," he said.

In recent years, students have responded relatively well to Unity Week's new focus. While there can always be new problems and recurring issues each year, according to Halpern, most of what he has seen recently has been fun and positive. Halpern found that the recent focus on school unanimity has improved student behavior over unity week. "(The rebrand) has certainly helped. Back in the old days, too many kids used Spirit Week to do really stupid stuff," Halpern said. One of the things Villavicencio expressed hope about is students utilizing the opportunity to express



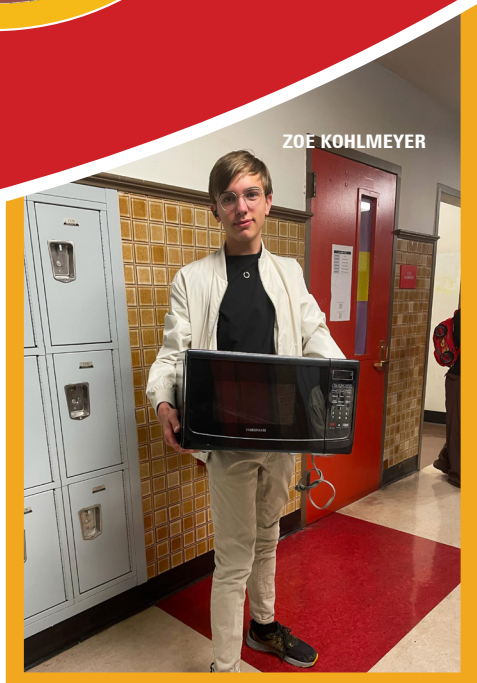
themselves during Unity Week and Rally Day. "I do think students need this creative outlet. They need some prodding, some motivation, some inspiration, and opportunity to do something that's bigger themselves," he said. Even though Unity Week and Rally Day have caused a lot of mistakes, students have learned from the past. And the more attention is put on unity, the more BHS can grow and leave the past perceptions of Rally Day behind.



JAHAN INGRAHAM



LUCAS THOMPSON



ZOE KOHLMAYER



LEO SMOCK

Senior Spirit Week.

Anything But a Backpack Day on Wednesday.

INVESTIGATIVE

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History in the making: Berkeley and Oakland allow 16 and 17-year-olds to vote for school board

BY ANNA WILLIAMS
staff writer

BACKGROUND

In November of 2024, 16 and 17-year-olds in Berkeley will be able to vote in the Berkeley Unified School District School Board elections for the first time. This measure was also passed in Oakland. This new legislation came into place after Measure Y1 was passed in 2016, with over 70 percent of voters electing to have students be able to vote for school board elections, according to the BUSD website. This system will work using California's pre-registration system, meaning that any 16 and 17 year-olds in Berkeley are eligible to register as a youth voter, according to a BUSD press release. However, to vote in the BUSD election, you must be a resident of Berkeley, meaning that transfer students and non-Berkeley residents are not able to vote for BUSD's school board, the press release explained.

This measure is the result of the work done by the Registrar of Voters, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, the City of Oakland and the City of Berkeley as well as their respective school districts, and many community-based organizations, according to the BUSD press release. The press release adds on, writing that despite the bill being passed in 2016, it has taken years to implement due to the complexity of organizing voter registration, ballot mailing, ballot counting, all of which needed to be programmed and tested especially for youth voters.

SIGNIFICANCE

Students and teachers believe students having the ability to vote for their school boards is very important for a number of reasons. First of all, students are able to decide who will be making important decisions for Berkeley High School, Eva Levenson, president of the BHS Civic Leaders Club, explained. Civic Leaders is a club intended to empower BHS students to understand and participate in local and federal elections. "I think it's super important. School board members have the ability to make huge changes in our education and it's really important and really awesome that a greater percentage of the student population can vote for them," Levenson said.

According to Oakland Youth Vote, a coalition aimed at gaining the right to vote in school board elections for Oakland students, the school board is the district's highest in command, above the superintendent, school principals, teachers, school directors, and students, meaning they have the majority of the decision making power. According to the BUSD

website, the school board is responsible for advocating for the needs of the school district, for creating and voting on policies, managing district funds, and overseeing the superintendent, who is implementing the goals of the school board. The members of the school board are elected for four year terms. Within the BUSD school board there are five voting directors and two student directors, although they do not get a vote.

IMPACT

According to the U.S. Census on voter turnout, the age group of 65 and above have the highest voter turnout percentage of 74 percent. Additionally, voters are 71 percent white, 81 percent high income, and 79 percent have a college education. Students voting in school board elections will help address voter disenfranchisement, Jules Droz, vice president of BHS Civic Leaders Club, explained.

"We really hope that the sooner we get students to go vote, the more they'll vote in the future. And so it becomes a habit. By implementing this, we also want them to vote when they're 18 and older," Droz said. According to Droz, there is very low engagement from young voters in elections outside of the school board election such as general elections, presidential elections, and congressional elections.

"I hope it will lead to increased empowerment, increased political engagement and civic engagement, and more youth influence and agency. But that will only happen if students opt in and take advantage of the opportunity," Kendra Lubalin, an Academic Choice World History teacher, said.

The results of this election will also affect key issues that the school board are currently working on, like the achievement gap, Longfellow relocation, lack of teacher diversity, teacher retention, and budget cuts.

ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO VOTE

Berkeley residents voted that students should be able to vote for their school board members. However, there are 30 percent of voters who oppose this idea. "I think some people oppose these measures because a lot of people don't think that children's brains are ... developed enough to form fully fledged opinions. But I think since it directly correlates to what the children are learning, I think it's more important what the children think than what the adults think," Kelly Boylan, the club sponsor of the BHS Civic Leaders Club, said.

According to Boylan, many BHS teachers are encouraging their students to vote. "In class, we are learning about the school board race, talking about the different candidates, and I did give students some extra credit if they went to the forums," Boylan said.

Shoshana O'Keefe, a BHS AP Computer Science Principles teacher who is running for the Berkeley City Council, said that she encourages students who she knows to vote. "Just the students I know well who are of age. I've asked them if they are doing it and if they have any questions about how it works, offering my support," O'Keefe said.

"I want students to learn how to know what's on the ballot, how to know what those things mean, how to know who supports them and who they will impact, and then decide how they want to vote on them ... By Nov. 5th my students will know everything on the Berkeley ballot, including school board, but not only school board," Lubalin said.

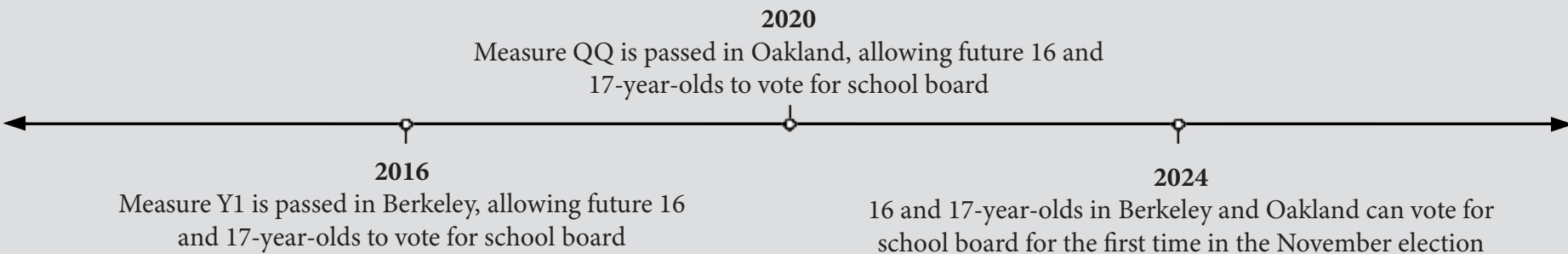
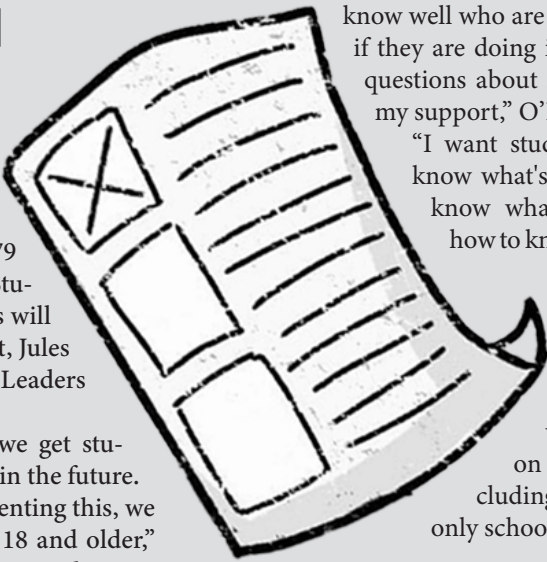
OBSTACLES

While many BHS students believe that the changes being made surrounding the school board elections are great steps in the right direction, some students, such as Levenson, believe that there still needs to be more progress. To register to be a candidate for the Berkeley School Board you need between 20 to 30 signatures and need to pay \$150 (or collect more signatures to pay less), Levenson explained. "I feel like they should make it a lot harder to get on the ballot for school board elections... I think they should raise the twenty signatures to at least a hundred," Levenson said.

Lubalin also believes that there are still obstacles blocking students' right to vote. Students who want to register to vote either need their driver's license or ID card, which if students don't have, is a lot of work to obtain. "I wish the steps for students to register were something they could do easily, because the more students who take advantage of the opportunity to vote, the more it will show those in power that voice is something youth want in politics," Lubalin said.

In general, people are happy students are able to make decisions about the school board candidates. "I am so glad that the school board has to have to answer to students as their constituents because they make decisions that affect students," Boylan said.

O'Keefe added, "I hope students really feel the power that they're given by being asked to weigh in directly on who they're representing. I think it's a really wonderful thing, and I hope everybody who is eligible takes advantage."



FEATURES

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WORD ON THE STREET

WHY IS YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN VOTING IMPORTANT?

INTERVIEWS BY AMARA KAPUR
staff writer



Jessica Hipona,
a BHS senior, emphasizes the importance of taking advantage of the availability of democracy, “I think the democratic process is a very important part of deciding what happens to us in the future, and (the government) directly impacts us.” Voting is also personally important for Hipona. “Having been involved in different kinds of government myself, I think it’s really important to have especially youth voices (involved),” Hipona said.



Linus Hohmeyer,
a BHS sophomore, highlights the importance of being able to choose government representatives. “People who are being governed should want the people they are being governed by,” Hohmeyer said. “It’s important to me because then I’m really participating in democracy, and I think it’s just a really cool system.”



Joseph Hegarty
is a junior at BHS. Hegarty believes in acknowledging one’s reasoning for making the decision to vote or not. “I feel like not voting is actually a completely fine thing,” Hegarty said, “Except if you do want a change, but you decide not to talk about it. Then that’s when there’s an actual loss happening.”

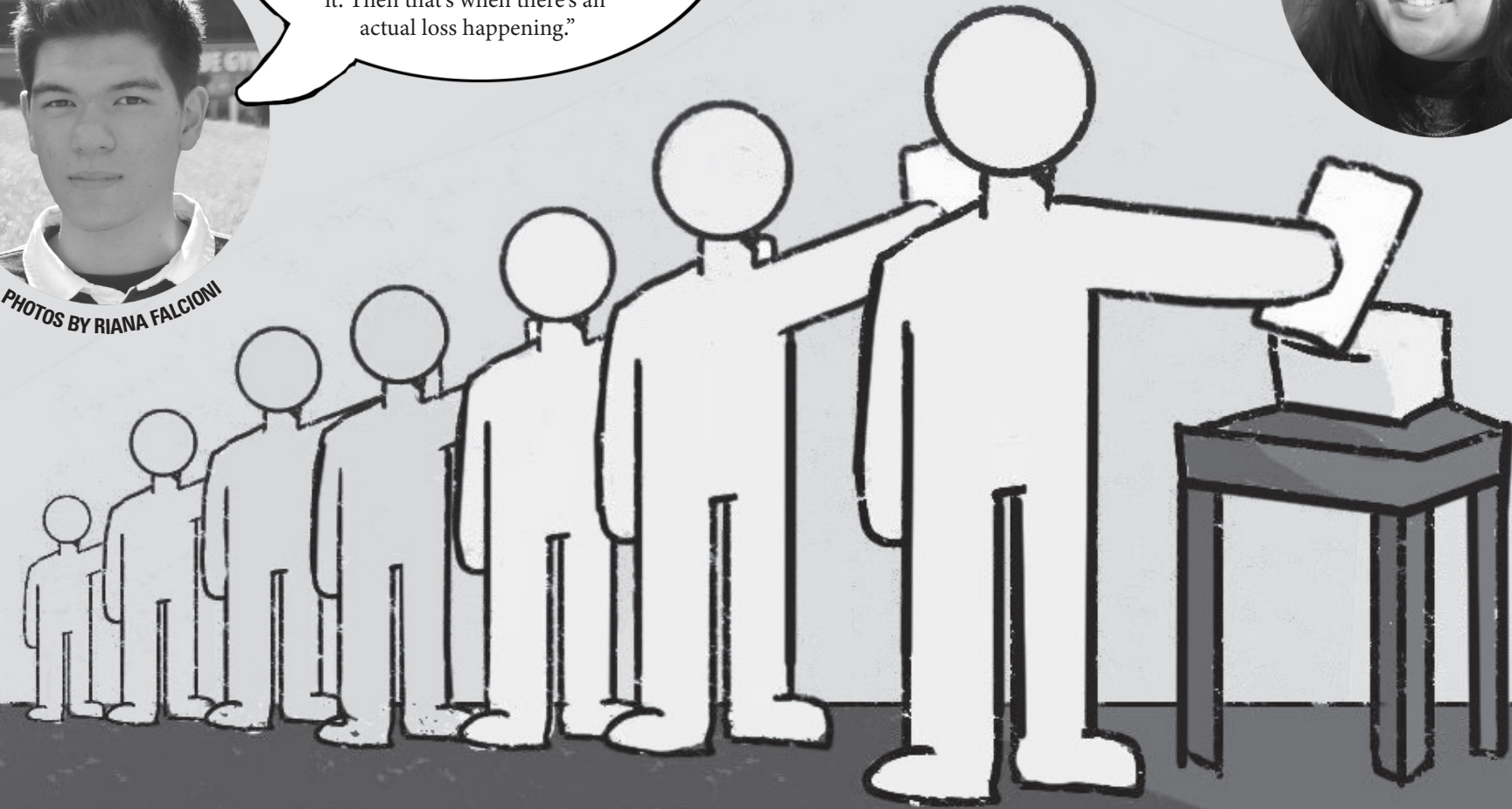
Taylor Kelso
is a Berkeley High School junior who believes voting correlates to social change. “I think voting is important because it helps you see and make the changes that you want, and helps improve ... people’s lives.” On the topic of not voting, Kelso said, “You personally don’t have a voice to make change, and that means sometimes (your voice is) left out of the picture.”



Elijah Suring,
a BHS junior, said, “I don’t think (voting) is important. I think the system is inherently rigged against the people and voting will not change anything.” The effects of not voting, Suring says, depends on what you do instead. “If you join a party and organize, and bring power to the community, then you can achieve a lot more. But if you do nothing, then you do nothing,” Suring said.



Yancy Alegre-Pacheco,
a BHS junior, speaks to the importance of voting as a means to enhance one’s political voice. “Voting is important to me because I can get my voice out there, and even the smallest little increment helps me have representation,” Alegre-Pacheco said. Speaking to the importance of voting for the whole community, Alegre-Pacheco said, “Voting is important because everybody has their own point of view ... and if you don’t vote, what you think is not going to be represented.”



PHOTOS BY RIANA FALCIONI

ENTERTAINMENT

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ALBUM REVIEW: LONERISM BY TAME IMPALA

LAWRENCE BAUNACH



In the 1960s, the metaphorical trips of psychedelic rock had their renaissance, with many bands in the San Francisco area jamming out while under some ... less than reputable substances. Even so, the idea of psych-rock never ended; to create a trance of mesmerizing, colorful music, which was continued beautifully by Kevin Parker. In 2007, the Australian musician created Tame Impala, a musical project. Having developed his love of music from a young age, Parker started by releasing two EPs in 2008, which immediately gained airplay, before releasing his first album, “Innerspeaker,” in May, 2010. The album immediately established Parker’s very personal songwriting, expressing his questioning, intrusive thoughts. After the success of “Innerspeaker,” Parker moved on to bigger and better projects with his next album, “Lonerism.”

Released on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012, “Lonerism” is more of a concept album, revolving around the experiences of people experiencing isolation and distancing socially from others. The reverb heavy psych-rock sound is mellowed out with the use of more synthesizers and samples, often cherry-picked from pieces of media Parker liked. The themes of loneliness pervade heavily on songs such as “Why Won’t They Talk To Me?” The narrator contemplates his difficulty talking to others, and he begins to resent other people, pledging that he will defy them and become a star. The songs give characters multiple dimensions, not just saying that someone is depressed, but how they cope with it, positively or negatively. There is also the ambient nature of “Keep On Lying,” featuring cryptic lyrics about a secret between two people that the narrator guesses the other person already knows, but is trying to prolong the reveal, which is interspersed with sounds of a dinner party happening several feet away. The ambient noises create a sense of calm, but also a sense of isolation, like time enjoyed only by oneself. The album climaxes with “Sun’s Coming Up,” a slow piano ballad about someone who can only think of the past as he slowly withers away, until the middle of the song, where it transforms into a dreamscape of sound, using ocean waves, and children’s voices, possibly referencing the man “finding peace.”

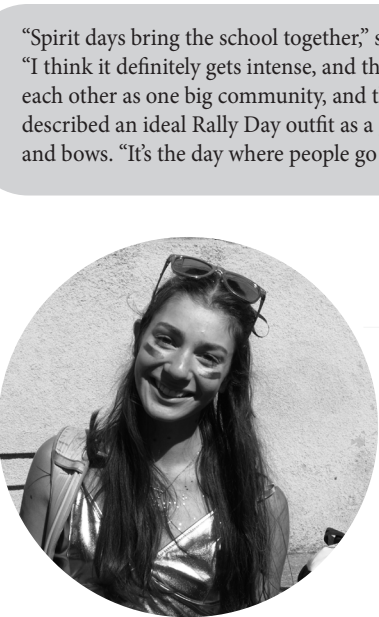
“Lonerism” was critically acclaimed, being named one of the best albums of 2012 by music critics, and winning multiple awards. It brought Kevin Parker more fame to a wider pop audience, leading to future collaborations with people such as the band Justice. “Lonerism” is an intimate project, made more so by the fact it was recorded entirely in Parker’s home, and it is a must for mind-opening albums.

RALLY DAY RUNDOWN 2024

INTERVIEWS BY SOPHIE MIRZA
staff writer



“Rally Day’s a classic, it always goes hard,” said **senior Paulina Unrue**, “I love the little gold skirts and accessories. Love all the paint, all the face paint, the glitter, and everything. I love when people show out and actually participate and show school spirit.”



“Spirit days bring the school together,” said **junior Kylie Chew**, “I think it definitely gets intense, and that people should just treat each other as one big community, and that isn’t always the case.” She described an ideal Rally Day outfit as a gold sequin skirt or top, glitter, and bows. “It’s the day where people go all out, it’s really fun.”



“I do enjoy the school spirit,” said **senior Alyssa Raimi**, “But it can get difficult when people wanna show their school spirit too much and there’s hazing, and that’s not a good thing.” Raimi’s advice for a great Rally Day outfit includes, “Red and gold, both of them are a must, maybe some face paint and body paint.”



“They’re definitely are some chants that aren’t good expressions of school spirit, like not kind. But for the most part, I think that a lot of people are very spirited in a nice and inclusive way,” said **senior Nuala Caygill-Walsh**. Her vision of a Rally Day outfit is an eccentric mix of “glitter, sparkles, anything shiny, and metallic.”



“I think it’s really fun,” said **junior Naomi Cohen**, reflecting on the spirit of Rally Day. “I think you just have to let it happen and not fight it. And I don’t think it’s too extreme. Like if you want to get in the middle of it then you can, and if you don’t, you can stay in the shadows,” Cohen said.



Jin Jones poses in rally day outfit.

SYLVA ROUBINIAN

Rudy Beusner wears BHS long sleeve and gold shorts for rally day.

JULIAN NATHAN

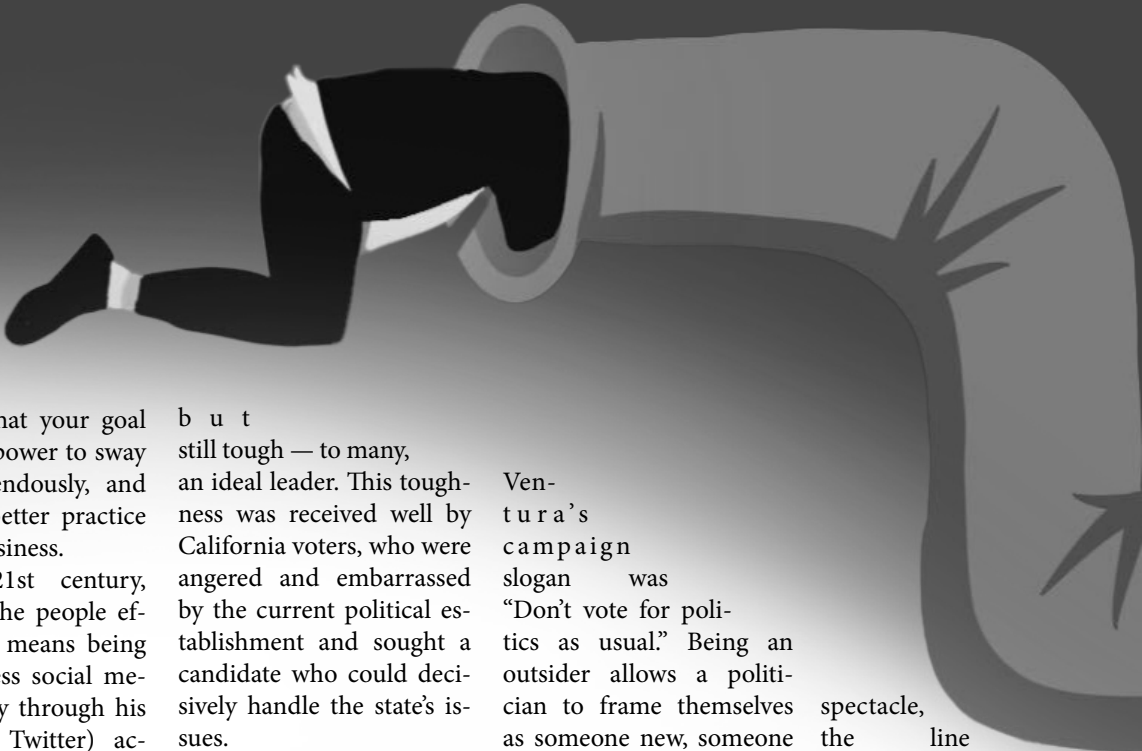
Arson Ormsby and Jonah Fleisher with red and gold body paint for rally day.

EZRA PAYNE

Eloise De Valpine poses in her red and gold outfit.

IDA MARSHALL-LAPPE

Public personality in media to political figure pipeline



BY ELI LIECHTER-WILSON
staff writer

In June 2015, a 69-year-old Donald Trump announced his candidacy for President of the United States. Before then, he had held no office at any level and had never officially campaigned. Despite this, 17 months later in November 2016, he was elected, beating Hillary Clinton and becoming the most powerful man in America. What allowed Trump to assume office with so little prior political experience? The answer may lie partly in his past as a television star, including an 11-year stint as the host of the reality show *The Apprentice*. Trump certainly is not the first politician to get his start in politics this way — other examples include former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, former U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy. It is no coincidence: the characteristics of being a television or movie star are exceedingly applicable to politics.

The most obviously pertinent skill of an actor

The most obviously pertinent skill of an actor is the ability to simply address an audience ...

ways that resonated with the average American, using anecdotes rather than dry facts or policy details. This skill earned him the nickname “the Great Communicator.” Though not as talented an orator, Donald Trump uses similar techniques in his speeches, appealing to his audience through emotion rather than political minutiae. Just by speaking loudly and passionately, Trump has managed to convince otherwise rational, intelligent Americans that the 2020 election was stolen, Haitian immigrants are eating pets, and that Wednesday Jan. 6, 2021 was a “day of love.” Fundamentally, strong oration is essential in politics

is no matter what your goal is. It has the power to sway people tremendously, and there is no better practice than show business.

In the 21st century, speaking to the people effectively also means being able to harness social media. Especially through his X (formerly Twitter) account, Trump directly and quickly communicates with voters while avoiding the risk of being censored by professional news outlets. Trump’s social media presence also keeps him constantly relevant. By unleashing short, provocative posts, he consistently remains in the public consciousness; his posts make regular headlines, even when he is not giving speeches or holding rallies. For Donald Trump and many politicians, any press is good press.

In addition to their speaking and media skills, an actor’s persona can also be useful in connecting to an audience. The version of Arnold Schwarzenegger we see in “Pumping Iron,” “The Terminator,” and “The Predator” certainly contains aspects of the real-life actor, but this manufactured character pushes his personality to the extreme. Through his acting and bodybuilding career, Schwarzenegger created a persona that was charismatic and likable

but still tough — to many, an ideal leader. This toughness was received well by California voters, who were angered and embarrassed by the current political establishment and sought a candidate who could decisively handle the state’s issues.

16 years later, Volodymyr Zelenskyy would leverage his image in a similar way. Voters inextricably associated the actor with his character on the television show “Servant of the People,” an everyman history teacher who is elected president after a rant against government corruption. His role framed him as a humble idealist opposed to the political elite, exactly what many Ukrainians were looking for at the time. As a result, he was elected.

One might assume that having no political experience would be a hindrance when running for office, but in some cases, it can surprisingly be an advantage. When electors are frustrated with current political leaders, a fresh, unorthodox candidate can be extremely appealing. In 1999, Jesse Ventura, a “Predator” co-star, Navy SEAL, and professional wrestler, managed to secure office as the governor of Minnesota. He was able to do so by wholly embracing his outsider status;

Ventura’s campaign slogan was “Don’t vote for politics as usual.” Being an outsider allows a politician to frame themselves as someone new, someone unlikely to play the usual political games. Like Ventura, Trump was successful in 2016 partly because he marketed himself as a president who would shake up the status quo and fight the political elite, promising at one point to “drain the swamp” in Washington. In 2020, rapper to presidential candidate Kanye West received a troubling 70,000 votes during his own bid

A fresh, unorthodox candidate can be extremely appealing.

for the White House. Was there ever a real concern that West could have won the election or even pushed the needle? Almost certainly not. But the phenomenon is definitely indicative of larger societal changes.

As politics becomes an increasingly media-driven

spectacle, the line between politician and performer starts to blur. It reflects a shift in what voters are seeking: a personality they can get behind, not just a policy expertise. In the age of social media and constant news coverage, not being talked about means that you are falling behind. Soon, successful politicians may be those who can combine substance with showmanship to appease a media-driven electorate.

In the 21st century, the question is no longer what entertainers can bring to politics, but whether traditional politicians will need to become more like entertainers to succeed.

Why we watch political debates: Information vs. entertainment

BY CECILIA TILES
staff writer

As November grows closer, so does the impending presidential election. It seems that every news outlet is juicing every last moment of this election cycle, quoting every slip-up and creating catchy headlines. Recently, there was a political event that had over 67 million people tuning in — the presidential debate between candidates Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. Televised presidential debates date back to 1960, when the first one was held between the U.S. President hopefuls John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

Debates exist to help inform voters, give candidates the opportunities to explain their policies, and respectfully debate their competitors. But over the last 60 years, it appears that debates almost never fulfill that purpose.

“We have never had a country where people watch presidential debates to learn about policy issues.” BHS senior Elisandra Moulitsas said. “Dating back to the Reagan era, presidential debates were adjudicated, and the person who won was based on vibe.” It appears that it’s become a common idea, that voters watch debates for entertainment rather than information.

While politics has always been a divisive subject, as of lately, it seems that there is an even more distinct separation between the two political parties and their candidates. Rather than a debate filled with information and explanation, recent debates have been more focused on candidates seemingly deflecting answers, and “subtly” insulting their opposition. It was particularly relevant in the Harris-Trump debate, as well as the June Biden-Trump debate, whether it was calling the opposing political party

“these people,” or insinuating that their opposition is a disgrace. According to Freshman BHS Speech and Debate team member Jaren Gaines, that’s exactly what makes modern debates entertaining.

“Candidates are using more logic, less evidence. And evidence debates are honestly kind of boring,” Gaines said. “Logic debates are very interesting, especially because they let you see people’s arguments. A lot of candidates crack jokes, and you really get to see the actual work of a person. Evidence debates are much more accurate, but really boring.”

While it appears that watching the debates for entertainment is a common thing in the Bay Area, it is important to note that this is not the reality for a lot of places in the United States. Voters who live in more politically divided places, or are unsure who to vote for, are more likely to



JULIAN NATHAN

watch the debates to inform themselves and better get to know the candidates rather than for entertainment. It is a symptom of the Berkeley bubble, that students and voters alike watch the debates for entertainment—because they already know who they are voting for.

“People, especially in Berkeley, are so well educated on candidates’ views,” Gaines said. “It’s to the point where locals would go into a presidential debate already knowing what’s gonna happen, especially if it’s ridiculous.”

Still, interest in watching debates for entertain-

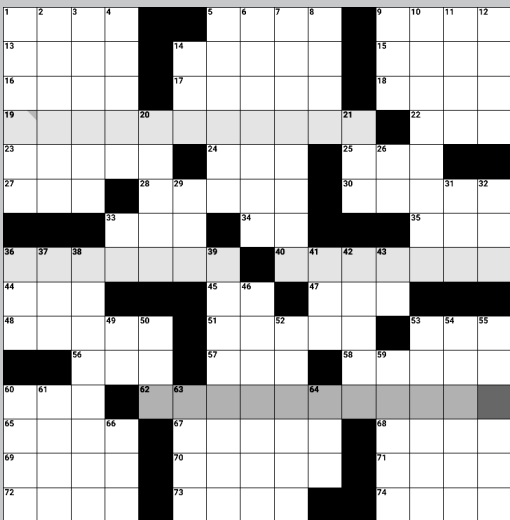
ment is likely also aided by social media’s involvement in politics. Aside from news outlets, social media platforms and their users now pick apart every moment of every debate. Specifically memes or trending taglines arise over things that candidates say or do. It almost feels like, for some, the debates are a place to make fun of the candidates and post about it online. Especially if the opposing candidate is somebody that they strongly dislike.

“Debates have now turned entirely into publicity stunts,” BHS junior Maya Babij-Ross said. “The

debates are so entertaining because of the polarization, and people find it entertaining when both sides don’t know what they’re talking about.”

Decided voters have no real obligation to watch the debates. But it’s possibly in human nature to find things that are wrong about candidates or politicians, almost in a self-righteous way. As well as the fact that laughing at these disgruntled and defensive debates helps distract people from the fact that in January, a new President and Vice President will be sworn in, and everything could change.

THE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Red flag in a race?
- 5. Norwegian capital
- 9. Harvard’s rival
- 13. Develop a skill
- 14. Last of the Mohicans
- 15. “Oh dear!”
- 16. Neon sign in a shop
- 17. Members of a league
- 18. Food for pigs
- 19. *Scary metal band*
- 22. Government-issued ID
- 23. “____, I’m Adam”
- 24. Downs’ counterpart
- 25. Most important section?
- 27. When one is expected
- 28. Eight-person group
- 30. Set ____ (leave for later)
- 33. Eye in Spain
- 34. Email response abbr.
- 35. Get-together for comics enthusiasts
- 36. *With 40-across, scary indie rock band*
- 40. See 36-across
- 44. Mathematician Lovelace
- 45. Option-oriented small school
- 47. Aged
- 48. Arrogant
- 51. Puget or Long Island
- 53. One of eight on an octopus
- 56. Clerk in “The Simpsons”
- 57. Cozy lodging
- 58. Descriptor of a beaver
- 60. Sisters’ org.
- 62. *Kind of song made by 19- or 36- across? (or a 1962 Bobby Pickett hit)
- 65. Fencing weapon
- 67. Marketplace in ancient Greece
- 68. ____-bitty
- 69. AP English class taken junior year
- 70. Metric weights
- 71. What hairless cats don’t do
- 72. Beige ____
- 73. Scottish prune
- 74. “Smooth Operator” singer

DOWN

- 1. Command given
- 2. Head to your tails?
- 3. Five Nations tribe
- 4. Fifth prefix
- 5. Baseball status
- 6. Hurry away
- 7. Irish staple
- 8. Bone prefix
- 9. “____ queen!”
- 10. What, contrary to its name, isn’t a combination of cinnamon, cloves, etc.
- 11. Vientiane’s nation
- 12. Intl. sports channel
- 14. Potato chip brand
- 20. Emoticon’s successor
- 21. “Only Murders in the Building” actress Longoria
- 26. As-____
- 29. British exclamation of surprise
- 31. Put on (as clothes)
- 32. Last word in a fairy tale
- 33. The one who started the thread, online
- 36. Little vacuum?
- 37. “Without further ____”
- 38. Popular song for line dances
- 39. Going into the pool down the stairs, for example
- 41. Ages and ages
- 42. Like one who is 47-across
- 43. Singer-songwriter Lang
- 46. Comfort
- 49. Cleanup duty, for short
- 50. “Don’t yuck my ____”
- 52. Like a road less traveled by
- 53. Detective author Christie
- 54. Chillaxed
- 55. Dr. Jekyll’s partner
- 59. Off
- 60. Word with love or loathing
- 61. This month’s birthstone
- 63. Climbing gym in a former Solano movie theater
- 64. “____” in easy
- 66. Projectile on freshman Friday

— Violet Kessler

The function of federal fashion

BY ZOE DILWORTH
staff writer

Suits are a universal symbol of power, denoting authority and professionalism. This association is so widespread, it sets the typical look for a U.S. presidential candidate that few have deviated from. Now more than ever, image is crucial to presidential candidates and those in politics. Women in politics know this importance more than anyone. In a political landscape that to this day pushes out and heavily scrutinizes women and especially women of color, it is critical to visually project an image of power.

Color is a common visual cue. Blue suits on democrats, red ties on republicans, and a lot of patriotic red white and blue all around. These patterns could be seen in the fashion at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in August of this year. The DNC was also filled with pinks and greens to give support and a nod to candidate Kamala Harris’ sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, which is the oldest historically black sorority. Women wear these colors to celebrate the new firsts they hope to see if Harris is elected.

Another big factor is formality. A candidate that dresses casually will often come under fire; Obama was criticized for wearing an “unpresidential” tan suit during his presidency. Dress

too expensively, however, and a candidate is seen as unrelatable and frivolous. Vice President Harris has notably paired blazers with jeans at points during her campaign in order to strike a balance, and presidents in the past have been photographed in more casual wear in an attempt to show a more down-to-earth side to themselves.

Simplicity can also be beneficial. September’s presidential debate between former president Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris saw both candidates dressed in formal yet familiar suits in serious colors. At an event where the focus is on what the candidates are saying, flashy styling choices can serve as distractions.

Women in politics are also forced to consider the balance between appearing feminine and likable, and being seen as assertive and powerful in a field that automatically assumes the opposite. One will not

often see women running for leading positions wearing skirts and dresses, with the popular choice being to instead sport the pantsuit. The presidential pantsuit can be personalized, however. Throughout Hillary Clinton’s campaign, she was known for her brightly colored wardrobe, and similarly other women in politics have paired pantsuits with pearls and ruffles.

The styling choices of politicians serve as a way to project an image and subtly indicate character. But sometimes, these choices will end up on the front cover of magazines, like with vice president Kamala Harris’ appearance in Vogue this month. This feature served to align Vogue with Harris and her campaign as well as portray her in a way that both displays power and femininity. Central to the photo was the gold brooch of the American flag pinned to her lapel, under the text, “The candidate for our times.”



NATALIA LUNDIE & IRIS LELIBOUX

BHS football faces loss against O’Dowd

BY CID FRYDMAN
staff writer

On the night of Friday, Oct. 11, 2024, Berkeley High School’s varsity football team took on Bishop O’Dowd High School. The energy was high and the student section filled the air with deafening cheers as the football team emerged onto the field.

O’Dowd’s offense got off fast, and during the first quarter scored a quick touchdown giving the Dragons a 6-0 lead. BHS was eager to put some points up on the board and after receiving the ball made a massive play. With under a minute left into the first quarter, the ball was thrown to junior Jayceon Atkins who raced past O’Dowd defend-

ers and scored a 32-yard touchdown, which evened the score. “My proudest moment was being able to catch a touchdown and score for my team,” Atkins commented.

Bishop O’Dowd responded with a touchdown halfway through the second quarter, and defense was starting to dwindle. According to BHS junior Kaio Finau, “In the first half, we were getting punched in the mouth and we punched back.” Finau felt his team was trying their best despite O’Dowd’s frequent touchdowns.

Throughout the second quarter, key offensive plays were made by quarterback Idan Wade-Curiel and wide receiver Dailen Clark. Still, O’Dowd’s defense pushed back and kept the score 27-

13 going into halftime.

In the latter half of the game BHS came on freshly rested and ready to fire back for the third quarter. “Our offensive strategy was to be aggressive by taking shots downfield and capitalizing on big-play opportunities. Defensively, our focus was on neutralizing their key players, shutting down the run game, and putting consistent pressure on the quarterback,” BHS Head Coach David Perry explained. The third quarter ended with zero touchdowns or points scored by either team, and O’Dowd continued their 14-point lead.

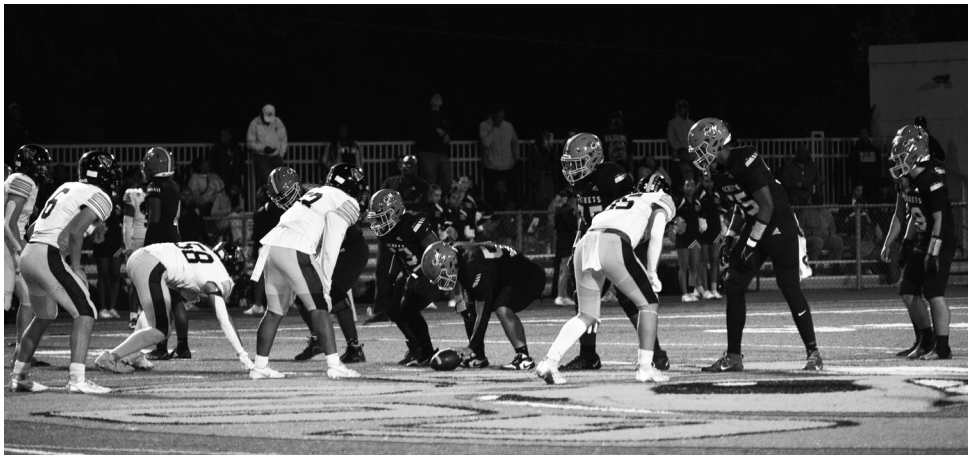
Defensively, both teams shut down plays left and right. BHS finished the game with 55 tackles as a team and eight pass defenses. Despite defensive plays

by BHS, O’Dowd’s offense consistently pushed back and snuck through play after play.

With about nine minutes left into the fourth quarter, O’Dowd scored another touchdown. During the ending moments of the game, both teams raced back and forth across the field, and the final score was 34-13, a loss for the Jackets. Despite losing, Perry is determined to turn this loss into a learning experience. “It’s crucial to trust the system we’ve built and the preparation we’ve put in, regardless of who we’re facing,” he said.

The Jackets fought hard, but ultimately the lack of consistency made it difficult to get the upper hand in this game. Senior player Lucas Cord stated, “We have a great coaching staff that puts us in a position to compete with and win against just about anyone, but if we don’t apply those schemes and techniques from the meeting room onto the field then we’ll have a very hard time succeeding.”

As BHS looks ahead to the rest of this season, players are hopeful. They understand that keeping a consistent performance and following coach guidance will be key to future wins.



BHS tees up against rival school Bishop O’Dowd. GEORGIA PAULOUS

Girl’s water polo celebrates senior night

BY AVA QUANDT
staff writer

Emotions were running high at the Berkeley High School girls water polo team’s last home game against Piedmont High School on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2024. Following a beautiful senior night ceremony, where each senior received a sign made by the underclassmen on the team and flowers from their coach, the game began. Senior player Phoebe Jasper-Hwang explained that the senior night ceremony was really special and said that, “It was fun to be up there, since I watched (the senior night ceremony) for four years of teammates.”

With senior Cece Lutz starting as goalkeeper, the Jackets came out strong in the first quarter. BHS senior Zoe Glass scored the first goal with five minutes remaining in the quarter. BHS senior Morgan Ostrer scored BHS’s second goal with an assist from Senior Eden Barnes. Piedmont also scored their first goal towards the end of the first quarter, but BHS quickly responded by scoring with another assist from Barnes to Glass, who lobbed the ball right over Piedmont’s goalie.

Glass scored again with

one minute left in the first quarter and Barnes finished the quarter with a break-away goal, yet it ended up not counting towards the final score. The game proceeded with BHS possessing the ball for the majority of the game. However, when Barnes was removed from the game for retrieving a ball in the pool while she wasn’t in the pool, tensions rose and several teammates spoke up against the call.

The team tried to keep themselves together and finish out the game with a win. The Jacket’s coach got a yellow card for disputing a referee’s call, but Berkeley held it together with Ostrer scor-

ing several goals towards the end of the fourth quarter, with BHS eventually winning 7-2.

When asked about the team’s performance, Ostrer said, “I thought the game itself went pretty well. We had a bit of an upset with the refs kicking out one of our seniors for the entire game, and that was pretty tragic ... the team was stunned for a second after but we pulled it together in the second half of the game.”

Lutz also added, “I thought that everyone played well. It was a good senior night. I’m really happy that we won.” She felt that the team was really support-

ive of the seniors for their final home game. “I really appreciate how everyone on the team made the seniors feel special and loved,” Lutz expressed.

Having a new head coach this year, the water polo team adjusted to the new coaching style and have worked especially hard this season, achieving several accomplishments. The seniors on the team are especially proud of beating Bishop O’Dowd High School earlier this season, and are hopeful to win league this year and take home the West Alameda County Conference-championship for their last year on the team.



Senior players pose with handmade signs from teammates. TESS PETT-RIDGE HENNESSY

OBSCURE MOVIE REVIEWS: FRIDAY THE 13TH

JUDY SCHWARTZ



In this edition of Obscure Movie Reviews, I’ll be talking about one of my favorite (and most well known!) slashers of all time, “Friday the 13th” (1980). Okay, maybe this one isn’t as obscure as usual, but it’s still worth talking about. The plot deals with a group of camp counselors who arrive at Camp Crystal Lake. As the first (and last!) night passes, a ruthless killer dispatches the counselors one-by-one in gruesome fashion!

By itself, the plot is nothing to write home about, with a mysterious killer hunting down his (or her?) victims. However, the execution of the material is outstanding, especially given the budget. The performances are very good, with Betsy Palmer stealing the show in a brief part as a former camp cook. Adrienne King is the real star despite second billing, showing off her skills as she realizes the gravity of the situation. The film also features Kevin Bacon in one of his earlier roles.

The cinematography is gorgeous, with a standout moment being when one of the counselors walks through the rain at night. The resulting imagery is haunting and dark, while also mesmerizing. The film also uses jump-starts to great effect, with many successfully frightening moments, while the score, composed by Harry Manfredini, is nothing short of haunting and suspenseful.

The gore effects are very good, especially for the time. In particular, I remember a spear to the throat that looked very convincing. As you can tell, this film is not for the faint of heart, as seen in this behind the scenes note. In one scene a snake is decapitated. It was a real snake, and the handler was not even informed that the snake would be killed.

However, what’s most important to talk about is the influence on later slasher films. While “Black Christmas” (1974) arguably started the genre, and “Halloween” (1978) included now-familiar tropes, “Friday the 13th” brought it to a wider audience and popularized the genre. With a box office turnout of almost \$60 million, it’s not hard to see why. It led to many sequels and many copycats, with some even employing the creator of the film’s gore effects, Tom Savini, to work on their projects. Some examples of Savini’s influence include: “Maniac” (1980), “My Bloody Valentine” (1981), and “The Prowler” (1981).

“Friday the 13th” also led to many camp-themed slashers, such as “The Burning” (1981) and lesser known works such as “Madman” (1981), “Just Before Dawn” (1981), and the notorious “Don’t Go in the Woods” (1981). “Friday the 13th” had an influence that is still evident today, with “Slasher: Guilty Party” (2017) offering a different take on the summer camp story line.

In summary, the film “Friday the 13th” is greater than the sum of its parts. Although the film was great, it was its impact that warranted its inclusion here. It led to the boom of the slasher film genre we know today, and we should be very grateful for it! I give this movie a nine out of ten.

SPORTS

SPORTS EDITORS: CLARA TJEN & LULI GALINSON

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Extreme heat laws implemented in California schools

BY CEDAR GILMOUR
staff writer

Senate Bill 1248, or Yahushua’s Law was passed on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, named in remembrance of Yahushua Robinson. Robinson was a 12-year-old boy who died due to extreme heat and physical exertion. He was running laps in his P.E. class on Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023 at Canyon Lake Middle School when he collapsed suddenly. The temperature that day reportedly reached 104 degrees. The law was introduced in response to the growing concerns regarding the health and safety of student athletes during extreme temperatures. Yahushua’s Law requires the California Department of Education to create and put in place guidelines and safety protocols for extreme

weather. These protocols include following weather reports, making sure students maintain hydrated and have access to shade, and postponing outdoor activities if weather conditions are deemed unsafe or extreme. These measures are expected to be put in place in all California school districts by 2026. Even though Yahushua’s law is not yet instated, Berkeley High School sports teams have needed to modify their usual protocols to accommodate for the recent extreme heat in order to ensure the safety of BHS athletes. Several BHS fall sports games and practices have been postponed or canceled due to high temperatures. But without regulations in place, current safety measures for BHS athletes are specific to the individual sports team. Katelyn Burmester, a

BHS senior and captain of the BHS varsity field hockey team, said “There have been a few practices canceled ... But the team has mostly been playing through the heat.” The varsity field hockey team played at home on Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, with temperatures reaching a high of 95 degrees. Burmester also mentioned staying hydrated as a key factor to ensuring athletes remain healthy and safe. The field hockey team is still striving to play to their best ability, despite having to navigate the difficult conditions. Alex Herbelin, a BHS sophomore on the BHS varsity cross country team, feels that running in spite of the recent heat is challenging. Herbelin described a few ways the cross country team has been coping with the heat. “Our coaches have been limiting the time of our runs (during practices),”



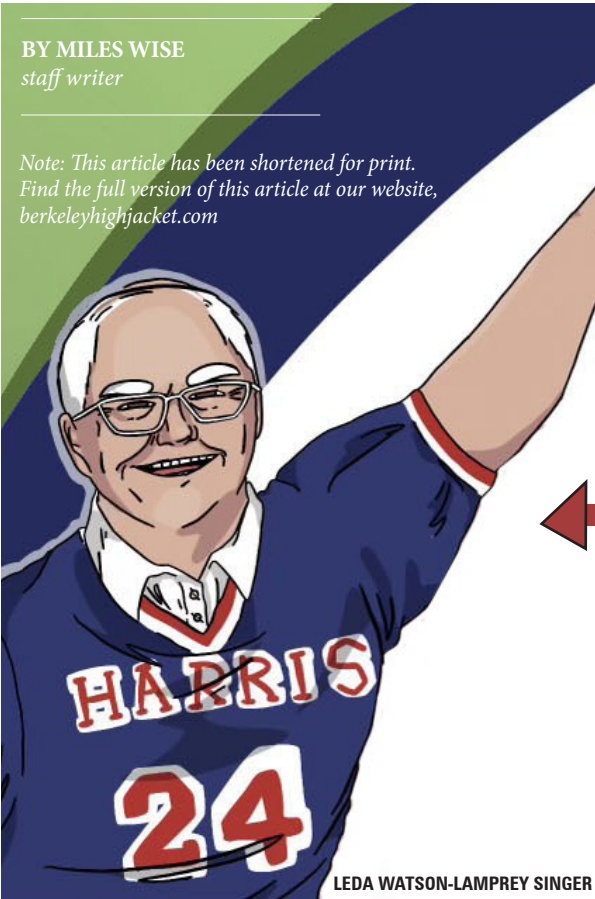
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Herbelin said. She also described a technique coaches have implemented to keep athletes cool. “Coaches have sprayed water on runners who want to cool off,” she said. This is a quick and effective way to lower the body temperature of runners during practice. One cross country meet has been canceled due to hot weather, emphasizing the effect the extreme temperatures have on the schedules of athletes. Herbelin believes the measures taken by the cross country team have been very effective so far. Although Yahushua’s Law has not yet been implemented across California schools, it is integral for the health and well-being of athletes. BHS and all other schools must continue actively creating new protocols as well as modifying older ones in order to ensure the safety of all of their students.

From coach to VP candidate: Gov. Tim Walz’s career timeline

BY MILES WISE
staff writer

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



1981-2005 - National Guard

Walz enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard at the age of 17. Over the course of his 24 years in service, Walz worked in disaster response and specialized in heavy artillery.

2006-2016 - Minnesota House Representative

Drawing from the collaboration and leadership skills he developed as a coach, Walz transitioned into politics. In 2005, Walz filed to run for the House of Representatives of Minnesota’s first congressional district. He was the only candidate for the Democratic Farmer-Labor party and, despite the area being a Republican majority, he won with 53 percent of the vote in the 2006 primary. He won re-election six times after this and spent 10 years as a congressman.

2024 - Vice presidential candidate

In July 2024, after Joe Biden dropped out of the presidential election, Walz endorsed Kamala Harris for presidential candidate. It was announced on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024 that Walz would be Harris’ running mate and democratic vice presidential candidate.

1996 -2006 - High school teacher and football coach

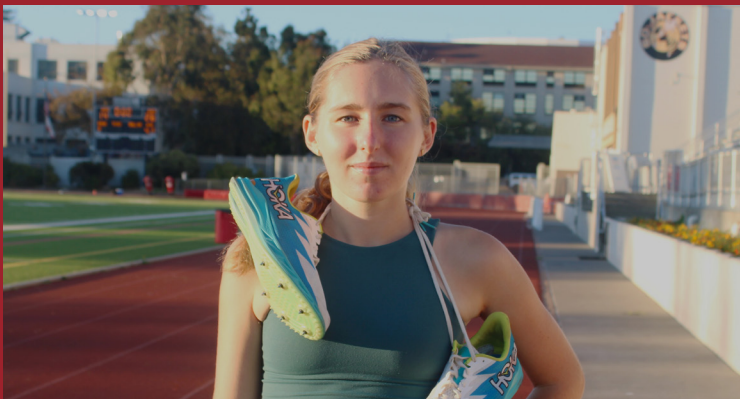
Beginning in 1996, Walz served as a geography teacher and football coach at Mankato West High School in Minnesota. Before his arrival, the team had lost their previous 27 games. However, through Walz’s strong leadership skills and philosophy of community building and teamwork, Mankato West High School became a dominant force in the Minnesota high school football scene, winning multiple state championships.

2018-Current - Minnesota Governor

In 2017, after choosing to not run for a seventh term as a congressman, Walz announced he would be running for governor. In August of 2018, he defeated both other Democratic candidates in the primary election. Then, in November of 2018, he was elected as Governor of Minnesota after beating his Republican opponent Jeff Johnson with 54 percent of the vote. He won re-election in 2022 and is still currently in office.

MAGNOLIA HOUGAN

Athlete Profile



ALEX TRIPCEVICH

Magnolia Hougan is a senior at Berkeley High School who currently holds the schoolwide female mile record. She fell in love with running track in her freshman year. Her favorite song to play while running is “American Idiot,” by Green Day, because it has the ideal cadence for runners. “If I have the cadence in my head a little bit faster than that, then I know that I’ll be going at least 180 steps per minute,” she added. Before joining both track and cross country, Hougan struggled with anorexia, which impacted both her mental and physical health. Working to get stronger, faster, and chasing personal records supported her in improving her overall wellbeing. “Seeing the immediate results of when I am healthier, and stronger, that I can push my body to do more amazing things ... It totally flipped my mindset,” Hougan said. Running changed her perspective on what it takes to make your body stronger for yourself and your sport. “I’m always going to remember how much it changed my life, how much it helped me, and how much it saved me,” Hougan said.

— Alana Cortes