

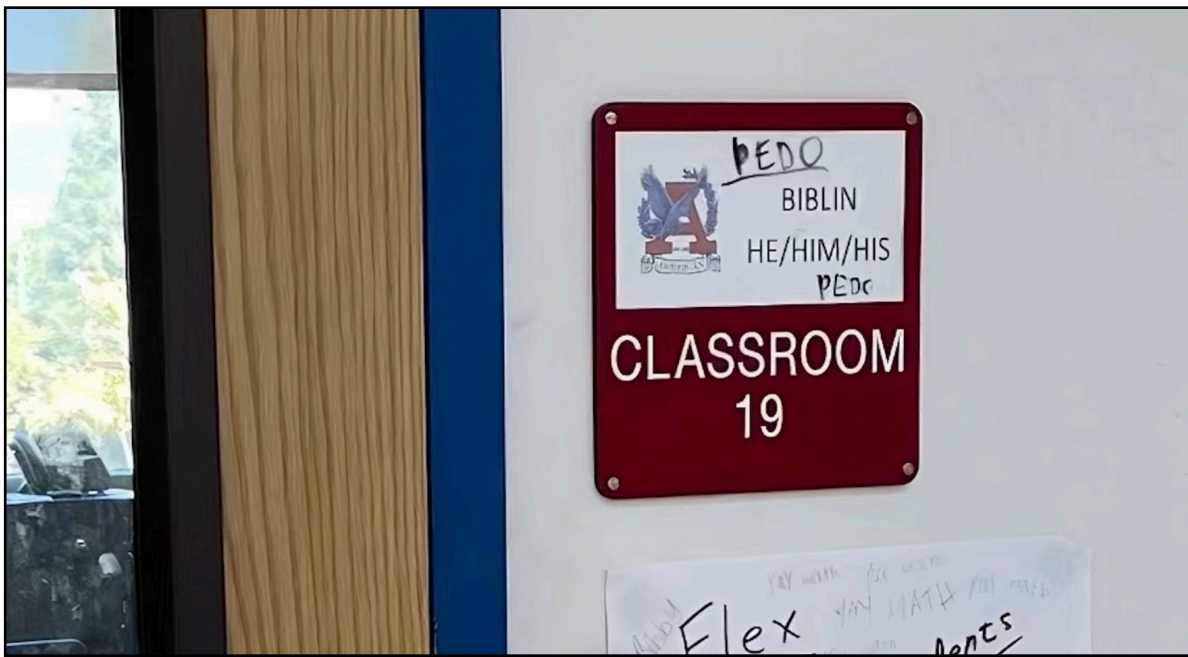


## Students speak out against Mr. Biblin's behavior, admin declines comment

AHS students recount negative experiences with the now absent teacher, sparking many questions and concerns  
Muhammed A. Ali & Daniel Davis | Staff Writers

David Biblin, a math teacher (Algebra 1, Personal Finance, and Business Math) who has been teaching at American for over five years, has not been seen on campus since the end of the first semester. Questions remain surrounding Mr. Biblin's absence, and rumors have circulated among the student body regarding the situation. With administration unable, and seemingly unwilling, to facilitate a clarifying conversation, the amplification of student voice becomes increasingly necessary.

While the reasoning behind his absence is designated as confidential by district policy, many students allege that Mr.



Outside of Room 19, Mr. Biblin's name plate had been vandalized following the removal of his belongings from the classroom. The nameplate is now cleared and "Biblin" is no longer listed next to the door. (PC: Muhammed A. Ali (11))

Biblin displayed a pattern of inappropriate behavior in the classroom. Reported instances of this behavior reference sexual comments directed at

his students, as well as allegations of racist remarks.

Roman Marouf (10) recalls an uncomfortable experience with Mr. Biblin regarding a

female TA in his Algebra 1 class last school year.

"The TA was a junior, and at that time I was a freshman," said Marouf. "He was talking

to her, and once she walked away, he came alongside me and he said, 'She's like my wife. I love her.'"

Vaishnav Desabhatla (12) also claims to have experienced an inappropriate interaction with Mr. Biblin, despite never having been a student in any of his classes.

"In sophomore year, I played football, and we had a game that day. I was in the class across from Mr. Biblin's [during Flex]. He comes in and says, 'I don't have enough people in my Flex,' and he pulls me and another person out. So, I'm in his Flex and he goes, 'Oh, you play football,' because he saw my jersey, right? I go, 'Yes I do play football.' Then he gave

Continued page 2

## New Electives at AHS

The 24-25 course catalog comes with some brand new electives!

Royden Liang | Staff Writer

"I told the principal that I'm happy to teach history, but my goal is to teach and run an Esports program," said Mr. Elam, the teacher of the new Gaming Concepts elective. His love of gaming inspired one of seven brand-new elective courses that have been added to the AHS course catalog for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Gaming Concepts elective appeals to anyone who enjoys video games. "Gaming Concepts is a year-long elective where you explore gaming and esports careers while playing games and competing in different projects," said Mr. Elam. "[Students] explore esports and gaming business, art and animation, and graphic design. You will take a look at all of the software and hardware that components game design. It's a little bit of everything."

"I'm trying to learn how to not blame my League of Legends teammates from going 0 in 11, and I think there's going to be a bunch of teamwork [in class] that I'm excited for," said Lance Wang (11), a student taking Gaming Concepts next year.

"It is all real world skills," said Mr. Elam. "Every single thing that we do is all about 21st century skills of communication, collabora-

tion, and creativity, making you a technologically and socially well-rounded person."

Also amid the new electives is Computer Integrated Manufacturing, taught by Ms. Wheaton. The class focuses on computer design and automating production.

"It's going to probably be our funnest engineering course," she said. "We'll do CAD [Computer Aided Design], and we'll have a CNC [Computer Numerical Control]. We're going to be simulating a conveyor belt system of assembly [with] robotics arms."

"I'm drawn by the idea of getting to actually use real life manufacturing processes that people do in the industry," said Nivedha Radhakrishnan (11), a student planning to take the course. "This is a really good way for me to get a preview of what kind of work you do in that industry."

As for how the course complements other existing electives, Ms. Wheaton explained that taking IED will introduce you to concepts covered in the course, such as CAD. "Those aren't prerequisites, [but] they'll make everything a little bit easier."

Continued page 2

News & Events 1-3

**The DoorDash Dilemma**  
3

Opinion & Humor 4-5

**Nature Learning**  
5

Centerspread 8-9, 16

**Lunar New Year Celebrations**  
8-9

Features 10-11

**Learning on One Leg**  
11

Arts & Entertainment 12

**Didi Review**  
12

# ‘Blood on your hands’ Senate critique prompts apology from Zuckerberg to victims’ families

*Social media CEOs confronted with families of exploited children at Capitol Hill*

Emaan Irfan | Staff Writer

On January 31st, the CEOs of Meta, TikTok, X, Discord, and other social media companies testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee at Capitol Hill at a hearing called “Big Tech and the Online Child Sexual Exploitation Crisis.” The hearing investigated exploitation online and featured a video of children and their families speaking about their experiences with bullying and abuse.

33 states are suing Meta, claiming the company creates features on Facebook and Instagram that are purposefully addictive. Senator Lindsey Graham told the Meta CEO he had “blood on his hands” from a “product that’s killing people.” Parents who lost children to suicide silently held up pictures of the deceased throughout the hearing.

When Senator Josh Hawley asked Zuckerberg if he would like to apologize to victims harmed by Meta, he said to families in attendance, “I’m sorry for everything you have all been through. No one should go through the things that your families have suffered.” He added that they will “continue industry-wide efforts” to make sure no one suffers the same way.

In November of 2023, the same day the Senate began investigating Meta’s failure to protect children, Meta pushed for Google and Apple to play a larger role in protecting children online, calling for app stores to require parental approval when 13 to 15-year-old users download apps.

Senator Blackburn confronted Zuckerberg about a Facebook employee’s 2018 email that put profits the company could expect from a 13-year-old user at “roughly \$270” per teen. “Children are not your priority, children are your product,” she said before calling on youth activists in the crowd and asking them to stand. As they did, the advocates revealed they were wearing T-shirts with the slogan, “I am worth more than \$270.”

The CEOs pledged to make their apps safer by working with lawmakers, nonprofits, law enforcement, and parents. Zuckerberg declined to commit to Senator Hawley’s suggestion to set up a compensation fund. It is unclear if the Kids Online Safety Act introduced by Senators Marsha Blackburn and Richard Blumenthal in 2022 will be passed despite the joint support shown by Republican and Democratic senators during the hearing.

“I am tired of talking. I’m tired of having discussions,” Senator Graham said. “Open up the courthouse door. Until you do that, nothing will change. Until these people can be sued for the damage they’re doing, it is all talk.”

# Students speak out against Mr. Biblin’s behavior, admin declines comment (cont.)

me a resistance band and told me to work out. I think he was watching me because in the middle, he’s like, ‘You’re not trying hard enough,’ which is weird as s\*\*\*.”

Sathvik Jarajapu’s (10) recollection of Mr. Biblin’s Algebra 1 class involves a physical interaction between the two of them .

“I remember one time I asked him for help on a small problem, right? Then he smacked me in the back of my head. [Another] time, I wasn’t doing my work like I was supposed to, and he got mad in a really aggressive way. He took my book, cursed at me, and then shoved the book into my chest.”

Jordan Loftin (12), one of the few to file an official complaint about Mr. Biblin’s in-class behavior, was enrolled in his Personal Finance course during the first semester of this school year.

“He had come up to me in the middle of class while everybody was quiet, and out in the open, he said, ‘Do you have both parents in the house?’ I said, ‘Yeah, I do.’ So then he proceeds, ‘Okay, do they both work?’ and I go, ‘Yes, they both work.’ I was just very uncomfortable in that situation. When I was thinking about it over the week, I realized that it isn’t okay that he had said this to the only Black student in the classroom, and how inappropriate it was to ask that question in front of everybody.” These claims were confirmed by Lucy Thomas (12), who was in Loftin’s class and

witnessed the event.

Aarieus Thomas White (10), another Black student who had Mr. Biblin for Algebra 1, shared similar experiences to Loftin’s. “We were going over the syllabus, and I felt like I was being racially profiled. We went over cheating, and the whole time we were talking about cheating, he was just eyeing me down.”

Aside from these instances, Loftin alleges Mr. Biblin made other generally inappropriate remarks in class.

“He also randomly just said, ‘Ladies, don’t hit boys because they will hit you back.’ And then someone asked, ‘Did you ever hit a female?’ and he goes, ‘Yes, I’ve hit my wife.’ He said this in the middle of class.”

One of the most concerning aspects of the entire situation is how district policies prevent communication on these kinds of HR issues, even for student victims, who are the ones directly affected.

When the Eagle Era requested information on the case from AHS admin, the newspaper was declined a comment from all admin. Everyone contacted from the Fremont Unified School District either did not respond or refused to comment on the issue, barred by district rules. These policies, while protecting teachers and administrators, have negatively impacted the student body by denying access to even general information regarding a teacher at the school. In lieu of even the most basic information, we, the student body, struggle to find closure.

Mr. Biblin was unable to be reached for comment.

# New Electives at AHS (cont.)

Another elective joining the course catalog is Modern Poetry. The class consists of both analyzing and writing modern poetry from the 1920s to today.

“We’re going to be reading a lot of pieces, but really the elective is there as a space to write poetry, so it’s not as analytical as we do in an English class,” said Ms. Luong, the teacher behind this new elective.

Luong wants students to develop a keen eye

and unique perspective for the world around them—to better understand oneself and their place in the world. It also improves their analytical skills.

“But the ultimate goal is to have students realize that they enjoy poetry,” said Ms. Luong. “It’s a way to make sense of what’s happening in your life.”

These new electives all give AHS students more choice in what they can learn from high school, as well as what they can take into the real world after school.

# FUDTA’s call for increased mental health funding spurs conversations on student support

*FUDTA’s recent proposal regarding mental health funding raises discussions about staffing issues and a resulting lack of student support*

Amrita Venkatesh| Staff Writer

On February 2nd, the Fremont Unified District Teachers Association (FUDTA) released its budget proposal which included suggestions regarding Fremont schools’ staffing of behavioral health professionals. Consequential to evolving mental health concerns and surrounding conversations post-COVID, changes relating to personnel and the educational environment may be vital for students.

The proposal recommended a 250-to-1 student-to-counselor ratio to ensure individual support for each student. American High’s ratios surpass these numbers substantially.

“Each counselor handles between 450 to 475 students,” American High counselor Mr. Stallworth said.

Such stark disparity in numbers compromises counselor availability, leaving students unsupported. Natalia Mora-Pinto (11) spoke about her experience with course registration. “I felt really stressed out. It seemed like everyone knew what they wanted to do and had a path. I thought ‘I need to talk to my counselor right now.’”

“I sent them an email first and they didn’t respond for four days,” Mora-Pinto said. “I decided to go to their office but every time I tried to go see them, they weren’t there or were in meetings. I had to go to three counselors to get help. It makes me wonder if I would have ever gotten a response if I hadn’t gone in person.”

The process of course registration can be stressful not only for students but also for counselors. “We feel rushed, for sure. We’ve been giving presentations about what next school year is going to look like. That takes two class periods, sometimes three, depending on how many we have to hit. Then we’ll go around for course registration paper collections and hold FLEX appointments to confirm students’ classes for next year,” Mr. Stallworth said. “We’re also going through a software change, so we’re having to speed things up.”

An additional shifting public perception of mental health post-COVID urges emotional support availability. “There’s been a massive shift in

the student body acknowledging and supporting student mental health,” Mr. Howard, one of the school’s FUDTA representatives, said.

This change is evident across generations. Mr. Stallworth added, “Parents are a lot more accepting, and understanding of the fact that mental health issues still happen.” With this shift in perspective, students crave a space for open-minded mental health conversations but find little support.

The need for more counselors resonates with both counselors themselves and with students lacking support amid challenges. Mr. Howard reflected on factors impeding these advancements, “The district isn’t using the money that they have. They have tens and tens of millions of dollars that they’re stockpiling.” He continued, “They’ll say they have a certain amount of money reserved for textbooks and materials so they can’t use it for staffing. In my opinion, that’s a cop-out.” He added, “The district could prioritize mental health much better.”

Students and campus staff share similar sentiments regarding potential solutions.

“One aspect of the solution is smaller class sizes. We have class sizes of more than 30 or 35. When so many students are crammed in a class, each student gets less individual attention,” Mr. Howard said. “If we lowered class sizes and student-to-counselor ratios and had more counselors, we would be able to give more individual time to students.”

Mora-Pinto agrees with Mr. Howard. “The school should add more counselors or change their scheduling so that someone is available for students at all times.”

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the increasing awareness of mental health challenges has underscored the critical need for accessible emotional support within educational settings. Institutions must acknowledge these shifts to ensure the holistic development and success of students. Mr. Howard said, “A good school district uses today’s money on today’s students. And that is not what Fremont has been doing.”

EAGLE  
ERA

Editors-in-Chief  
Ananya Balaji  
Vincent Nghiem

Design Editor  
Siena Encarnacion

Broadcast Editor  
Ella Yam

Media Editor  
Kelly Wang

Section Editors  
Surya Chelliah  
Alfred Ukudeev-  
Freeman

Humans Editor  
Jaylynn Visitacion

## Staff Writers

Muhammed Ali  
Hana Balderrama  
Rohan Bhagra  
Malaya Cruz  
Vrajesh Daga  
Daniel Davis  
Mylo Herzog

Alayna Jeong  
Emaan Irfan  
Kalvin Jormelu  
Karampreet Kaur  
Nanki Kaur  
Logan King  
Ella Knickerbocker  
Arya Kunisetty

Angelina Li  
Jessica Li  
Royden Liang  
Sosana Lopez  
Youqi Lu  
Fern Tigri  
Amrita Venkatesh  
Shreyus Vishwakarma

## Follow us on social media!

IG: @ahs\_eagleera  
@humansofamerican  
Spotify: The Beak Speaks  
FB: Eagle Era  
Twitter: eagle\_era



# The state of FUSD

Recapping Superintendent CJ Cammack’s 2024 State of the District presentation

Rohan Bhagra | Staff Writer

On February 30th, FUSD celebrated its 60th anniversary at its State of the District presentation. The State of the District is FUSD’s annual event for the superintendent to provide important updates on the district and explain its policies for the given school year. Superintendent CJ Cammack began this year’s presentation by recognizing the Board of Education and celebrating the diversity of both the district’s student body and the special programs it offers. He then turned the focus of his presentation to the future of the district.

Cammack highlighted ways in which FUSD is aiming to evolve with one key factor in mind: technology. This year, the district has introduced PRISM VR technology in middle schools to reinforce classroom lessons and illustrate to students how core concepts can be applied in the real world to students.

Perhaps the most significant and influential piece of technology for the district in the coming years is artificial intelligence. The rapid growth of the scope of AI, including the growth of generative AI models, has famously posed a significant challenge to educators. Cammack recognized that AI will change the face of FUSD education; it must be embraced, he argued, by district staff to provide students with an education consistent with their future life experiences.

“We oftentimes think that we need to teach math, reading, and science, [but] I would encourage us to adapt our thinking over the next 5-8 years. It’s our job to teach students how to use these tools responsibly with morals and ethics, and then truly drive home the value of education within these systems,” said Cammack.

While much of the early half of Cammack’s presentation celebrated FUSD’s outlook, impending funding issues were illustrated to provide a more clear snapshot of the district.

In a segment titled “Sound Fiscal Management,” Cammack introduced

the primary source of revenue for the district, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). LCFF dollar amounts are dictated in large part by average daily attendance for the district. A cost of living adjustment (COLA) program, which is calculated as percent of the LCFF revenue, is added to the LCFF money each year.

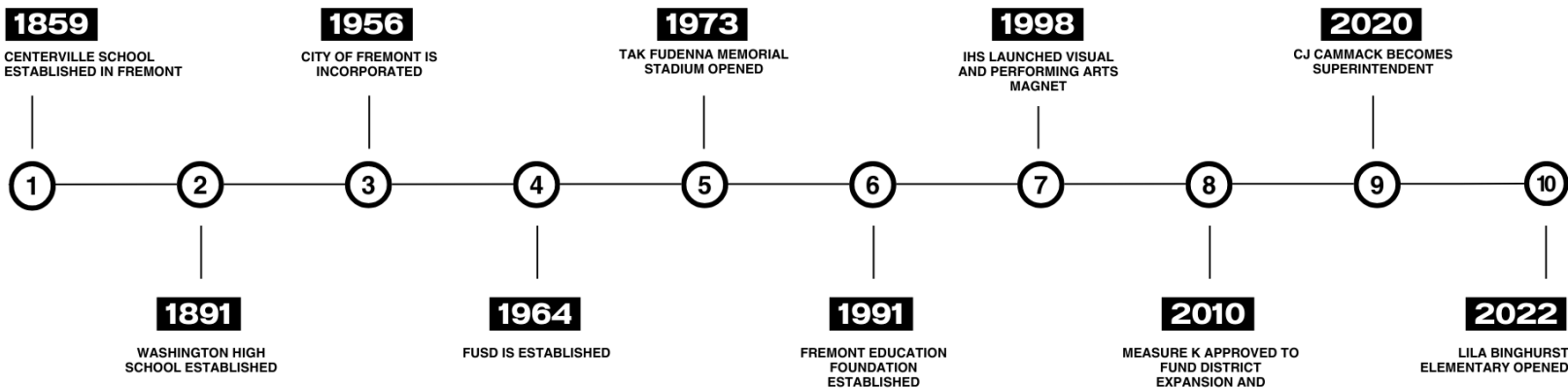
For 2024-2025 district funding, FUSD expected an LCFF revenue of over \$393 million, due to a 3.94% COLA when building its budget in June. The district was surprised when it received a COLA amount of 0.76% from the state, creating an unexpected deficit of about \$12 million and giving rise to unexpected issues.

Over the next two academic years, the shortfalls from COLA will lower FUSD’s funding by over \$14 million. Cammack emphasized that the gaps in funding are beyond FUSD’s control; the overall California budget deficit has created an issue for schools throughout the state.

Unfunded mandates from the State of California and the federal government have impacted the CalSTRS and CalPERS retirement funds, as well as special education funding. These unfunded mandates actively cut into the district’s expected revenue—the burden of \$80 million allocated towards retirement and \$95 million spent towards special education would typically be relieved by state and federal funding.

However, the Individuals with Disabilities Act, which promises a 40% rate of federal funding towards special education programs, only provided a funding rate of 8.7%. Retirement funds, which are supplemented by employee and district pay-in, are also a key burden. These liabilities compound to tens of millions of dollars that the district is forced to account for in light of the state’s inability to provide funding for such mandates.

In 2024, revenue is a precarious topic for the district; board elections this fall will be impacted greatly by debates on the district’s funding outlook. The presentation is available for review on FUSD’s website.



# The DoorDash Dilemma

Students receiving food deliveries triggers admin concerns over safety

Nanki Kaur | Staff Writer

Along with the return to in-person instruction in 2021 after the COVID-19 pandemic, students at American were permitted to order food for delivery to the campus during lunch time. But almost three years after the fact, students, campus supervisors, and administrators alike have encountered several issues with the Doordash and UberEats orders.

American High adopted a closed campus policy after what were believed to be gang-related incidents that had led to the injuries of multiple students between 1994 and 1995. But the rest of the district’s high schools have continued to allow their students to leave campus during lunch, stirring up conversation surrounding American’s unique policies.

The school’s acceptance of DoorDash and UberEats orders has been greatly convenient for students, offering the ability to order food from their favorite restaurants while remaining on campus in accordance with school rules.

“I Doordash around two times a week. Doordash lets me get food from places that have healthier options and align with my meal prep plans better than what school lunch provides me with,” AJ Torrado (12) said.

But with the influx of drivers entering campus during school hours and students losing track of their food, questions surrounding the safety and continuation of the policy have arisen — questions that may frame an open campus policy in a better light.

Campus supervisor Ms. Teixeira expressed concerns over having unidentified people on campus. “Doordashers have a job to do, but what they don’t realize is that this is a high school. They park their cars in the staff parking lot and walk all throughout campus looking for whoever ordered the food.”

From an administrator perspective, Mr. Peterson agreed that safety has been a major concern, but also noted that students take a risk when ordering food. “Some students leave class to pick up food because it arrives too early and then they get in trouble. Other times, if the drivers drop off the food in the wrong location, even if it’s not the students’ fault, they can still face discipline.”

On the other hand, students like Daisy Rodriguez (11) appreciate being able to order food, but have dealt with their own issues in receiving their meals. “One time I got my food stolen by some students, which was pretty recently, too. I’ve also gotten in trouble because Uber dropped it off at the office instead of the back parking lot,” she said.

But even with the liabilities in mind, students like Rodriguez are ultimately still willing to take the risk. “It’s worth it because I get to eat what I want to eat for that day.”

With the many nuances that accompany allowing students to order food for delivery, a return to an open campus policy has become a perennial topic of discussion within students as well as campus supervisors.

“I’m for it,” said Ms. Teixeira. “I’m for juniors and seniors being able to leave and pick up their food and come right back during lunch, because it would reduce a lot of the traffic here at the school and there’s just too many strange people on campus.”

Rodriguez agreed, adding that open campus lunches would reduce admin’s frustrations. “I feel like it would be a lot better and easier that way. We wouldn’t be worried during class about ordering food and having it delivered on time, and we’d be way more focused during class.”

Mr. Peterson, on the other hand, remains skeptical. “I don’t know about that one, I don’t know.”



Mohini Chahal (11) and Arnav Madhu (11) flaunt their Wingstop order delivered through Doordash. (PC: Nanki Kaur (11))



# The Privilege of Experiencing Senior Year

As more senior events loom closer, many students contemplate if they can afford to be a senior.

Hana Balderrama | Staff Writer

On February 14, seniors received an email from American High School administrators reminding them of the “exclusive senior end-of-the-year events,” most of which require an expensive entry fee. Senior year is often glamorized, mainly because of all the exciting activities that accompany it; however, not everyone can afford to participate in them. Senior-year events should be less expensive and provide transparent financial support to those who need it.

Senior events happen throughout the year and include the Senior Picnic (\$100), Senior Cruise (\$110), Prom (\$140), and Grad Nite (\$387), along with the requisite graduation gown (\$35). Overall, the total is at least \$772. In Alameda County, the poverty line is \$54,000, which is relatively high compared to the rest of California. Even though lunch is free at AHS, 22% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch; about a quarter of students are at or below the poverty line. Seniors should not have to break the bank to enjoy their best year of high school with their friends, especially when most students and families are saving for college/post-graduation plans.

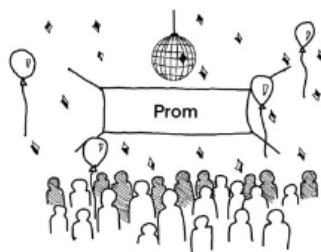
In a poll of 130 seniors, conducted by the Eagle Era, 51% have or will skip a senior event because of the cost. The Senior Cruise, soon to come on March 1st, is the least popular event with 70% of seniors skipping it because of its exorbitant price. 68% of students surveyed described senior year as “overpriced and way too expensive for a mediocre experience” for lackluster events.

In the survey, an anonymous student (12) stated, “I would like to participate but I can’t always afford it.” “The price of senior year is so outrageous and is putting a lot of stress on my family. We weren’t prepared for all these expenses. Although I am paying for almost everything, it is putting a heavy burden on my family and will take us time to gain the money back,” said another senior. Numerous seniors are forced to miss out on important dances and activities because they cannot afford to pay over \$100 every month.

Commenting more personally on the issue, Edward Lim (12) said, “It really just doesn’t feel good [when you can’t go to certain events], because it’s my last year and these are a one time thing. Like Grad Nite. I was really floored and excited until I found out the price because I couldn’t go. It was really disheartening.” And for those who cannot afford these regular expenses? “I feel like there should be some kind of financial assistance and discounts, specifically for significant things like Prom and Grad Nite that really make senior year special,” said Lim.

AHS refuses to provide financial support or discounts for important senior activities (i.e. Prom, yearbooks, and Grad Night) because it is seen as unnecessary and an option for students to attend. According to the previous survey, 74% of seniors say that the school should supply discounts/financial aid and that they would benefit from it. These events hold great sentimental value and are often seen as rites of passage for seniors. Yet, the costs associated can place a strain on families already struggling to make ends meet.

The inability of low-income students to attend important senior events due to financial constraints enhances the class divide within education, creating a visible contrast between those who can afford to participate and those who cannot. This not only highlights the socioeconomic inequalities inherent in the price barrier of these events but also reinforces feelings of exclusion and marginalization among disadvantaged students.



(PC: Hana Balderrama (12))



# Use AAVE to Appreciate, Not Appropriate

Demographic shifts in race and economic standing raise questions over Bay Area lingo, but we can maintain the best of both worlds

Vrajesh Daga | Staff Writer

The word “rizz” being named Oxford University Press’s Word of the Year in 2023 and being officially indoctrinated into Merriam Webster’s dictionary may come as a surprise to those who aren’t chronically online. Short for the originally Greek word “charisma,” it originated from social media influencer Kai Cenat and gained popularity quickly across numerous online platforms. Having considered this, much debate is still present on whether this term is part of African-American Vernacular English (AAVE) or not. Nevertheless, language is evolving, with Internet lingo from various origins making its way into daily conversations thanks to high usage among younger generations.

Yet despite the frequent use of such constantly evolving jargon, few of us actually know the origins and significance of these terms. Even still, using these colloquial terms regularly shows our appreciation for other cultures and should continue being used in our vocabulary.

The slang word “hella,” believe it or not, originated here in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is

us still use AAVE (like “hella!”) quite regularly. While several schools in Fremont (including AHS until recently) used to be considered Title 1 schools, meaning federal funding would be provided to schools to support socioeconomically disadvantaged students, this is only true for three schools now: Kennedy High, Robertson High, and Walters Middle School.

Passed down from generation to generation, AAVE still retains a highly influential sway over the popular American vernacular, despite the drastic demographic and cultural shifts in the Bay Area. This change raises questions on whether we are allowed to continue using these terms or whether we should simply let them be relics of the past. Distinct culture

groups seem to have different privileges. Granted, there are certain deprecatory

and offensive terms we should certainly stray away from to form a more harmonious, coalescent society.

If there is one thing the U.S. is known for, it’s its demographic and cultural diversity. Immigration from all over the world has allowed various cultures to congregate and spread within this nation.

(PC: Logan King (12))



quite unique to the West Coast. Often used as an intensifying descriptor, it originated in the 1970s in the East Bay. More specifically, it was concocted within the strain of AAVE present in Oakland at a time when 47% of the city was Black and gained popularity through music and movies.

Historically speaking, numerous words originally from AAVE have found their way into general popular slang. But it goes without saying that the Bay Area is not what it used to be. Prior to the 1970s, San Francisco and much of the Bay was heavily influenced by values of hippie culture, inclusivity, urban development, and the arts. Genres such as rap and legends such as Tupac Shakur dominated the Bay in the 80s and 90s. However, the 90s also marked the years of the dot-com bubble, with Silicon Valley gaining prominence as a cornerstone of the Bay.

The subsequent rise in the tech industry and its impact on the economy has allowed for the gentrification of the Bay Area as a whole. Salaries increasing for tech jobs has made the cost of living increasingly unaffordable to those unable to adapt.

As a result, demographics have since changed. Oakland’s population, which used to be 47% Black over 50 years ago, now only has 21%. In contrast, the Asian population has quadrupled in the past 40 years in Alameda County, with only 8% of Asians residing here in 1980 and the number now surpassing 32%.

Even at AHS, Asians comprise over 73% of our school’s population. Even so, many of

African American culture has left a sizable mark on American society. Throughout the 1900s, as more opportunities for equality emerged, they have transcended our artistic barriers. The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 30s introduced new social consciousness and norms, and gave birth to forms of entertainment such as jazz music. American society has been highly impacted by their culture, even in the culinary world. What is considered to be southern barbecue today originated from African American culture.

Spreading culture across the world has become effortless due to the Internet. As people from around the world share their backgrounds, users learn and appreciate their stories. Even in Fremont, a place largely considered to be an upper-middle class suburban area, is influenced by other cultures. The language used online has a wide-reaching influence on the youth and is often why AAVE and other terms are often considered to be “Gen Z slang” rather than patois from a certain group of people. Online media helps uncover culture from unfamiliar communities and make them customary.

Refusing to use the niche, unique language that has built the Bay Area’s linguistic identity could result in a loss of significant cultural value. The Bay Area has a rich, colorful history that has made it one of the most successful and desirable regions to reside in. Retaining and acknowledging this history by using colloquial terms is a way to preserve our roots. Rather than worrying about cultural appropriation, we should focus on cultural appreciation.



# Gotta Have Your other Half!

Valentines' Day 2024 may be out, but seeking love at American High will always be in.

Angelina Li | Staff Writer

On February 14, roughly 1,111 AHS students fell victim to the phenomenon dubbed “Valentinestagram,” in which those in relationships (and empathetic situationships) flooded social media with their celebration.

However, according to quantum and aerodynamic calculations by the Intermittent Dating Group of Associated Friends (I.D.G.A.F.), “Finding love should be easy.”

I thus present solutions for those of you who still cannot “pull” (unless the door says “push”)—in oldspak, to express romantic feelings.

Quite long ago, the founder behind Chromebook stared at my optic nerves and said, “Do the right thing.”

Indeed, “the right thing” is to utilize the Chromebook for communication. By sandwiching a picture of your face in every Chromebook, there is an infallible probability they will witness your beauty.

“How would people know who the picture is directed at?” asked Vivian Lu (12). Telepathy, of course. In fact, I succeeded with this method!

“Um, I noticed her picture during the iReady Balloon Break. I mean, I just wanted someone to pay for my meals,” said Boyfriend #3. Desperation, and definitely not mutual affection, unites us all.

Or, by diagonally searching at 87° NE on Facebook, seek out baby pictures on their mother’s profile (with whom, of course, you are already friends). Oh, on June 15, 2012 he was enjoying a parfait on the London Bridge? Suddenly, you have a new post of you falling off London Bridge that same day, and his little grubby hand extended to catch you!

“Um, I think this advice might be illegal,” said Diana Morimoto (12).

Well, I say nay! Dare I say have a bad day! Last I checked, appreciating a mother’s social post is a form of intergenerational feminist inclusivity.

In fact, according to NASA’s satellite technology, 94.3% of mascots in lasting interspecies relationships utilized this very

technique.

When asked to name the most inspirational pair of such lovers, Isabel Wu (12) said, “Obama the Eagle and the Husky from that Tak Fudenna orange school. District of Columbia, I think?”

However, if technology is not your strong suit (you boomer!), the Regina George approach has been trending due to the rise in Reneé Rapp’s popularity, who starred as George in the recent movie adaptation of the musical adaptation of real life.

Near the vicinity of your target, deploy your friends to exalt your name. Defamation laws are so strict anyway, so of course, word-of-mouth is the most trusted source.

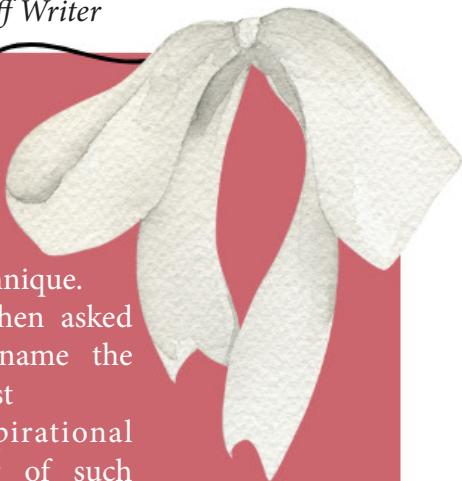
“I heard that when Angelina takes her Econ tests, she generously swaps her empty test with her friend so he gets a second opportunity to demonstrate his macroeconomic acumen!” “I heard that when Angelina hit her best friend with her Corvette, she offered to pay all of the car damages!” (“I wasn’t in a car,” said Lu, the beloved friend in question. Well, your target doesn’t know that!)

Ladies and gentlemen, that is how I landed Boyfriend #7.

Ultimately, following any of my suggestions will guarantee you a lover for the next Valentine’s Day. Or all, if you’re trying to be as popular as me with my seven men in rotation, by which I’m flattered.

So, instead of being boring and printing out your 100-point essay, print those selfies! Self-love? That’s loser talk. Imagine parading through life knowing that you do not need a romantic partner to be satisfied and that everyone is in a different stage in life. Imagine knowing your own self-worth is not tied to the gaze of anyone else.

Wow, really, imagine that blasphemy. Couldn’t be me—I feed off the approval of dwarves and



# Nature Learning

A foolproof adjustment to the school system

Aniya Badal | Staff Writer

One of the problems that has hindered learning the most in the history of schools are broken classrooms. That’s right. I’m talking about leaky ceilings, holey walls, creaky floors, and faulty air-conditioning. You all have experienced this at least once. Taking a test while the ceiling is crying onto your head? Fingers frozen because the heater isn’t working? Afraid to walk around the classroom and make a squeak noise so loud it sounds like the floor will cave out from under you?

Well, lament no longer! With this new and improved learning plan, structural deficiencies will no longer be the bane of our education. The Eagle Era now presents to you: Nature Learning. In simple terms, Nature Learning is learning in nature, i.e. outside, i.e. i.e. no classrooms. Since defects in establishments are so common yet so annoying, we have decided to abolish buildings altogether. With Nature Learning, leaky ceilings will not be a problem, because there will be no ceil-

nearest tree.

Uninterested Senior (12) says, “Yeah, I guess. It seems cool. I won’t be here for much longer anyways. Have fun with that.”

Senior’s friend, Suddenlyin-terested Freshman (9), says, “I have some concerns. First of all, how will we manage in the rain? What about kids with grass allergies? And how will we write without desks?”

To these concerns we say, suck it up! A little rain and wind never hurt anybody. Students will learn how to write on whatever surface is available. And as for kids with allergies, well, Living Earth didn’t teach us about survival of the fittest for nothing.

With Nature Learning, there will be no fear of trees falling into classrooms, rendering them unusable. In fact, fallen trees will excite and enliven the classes as a broken branch can now be repurposed as a chair or desk. Nature Learning will allow students to connect more thoroughly with Mother Earth. Since this generation is so disconnected from reality, Nature Learning will enable both students and teachers to develop a relation to this planet we call home.

After all, who wouldn’t want to follow around teachers while taking notes, just like Socrates and his students?

While there are several simple substitute solutions, such as using district money to keep classrooms in working conditions, making sure nearby foliage is well-trimmed, improving facilities, renovating plumbing, or even listening to complaints and acting on them, none of these options provide the aesthetic and convenience of Nature Learning.

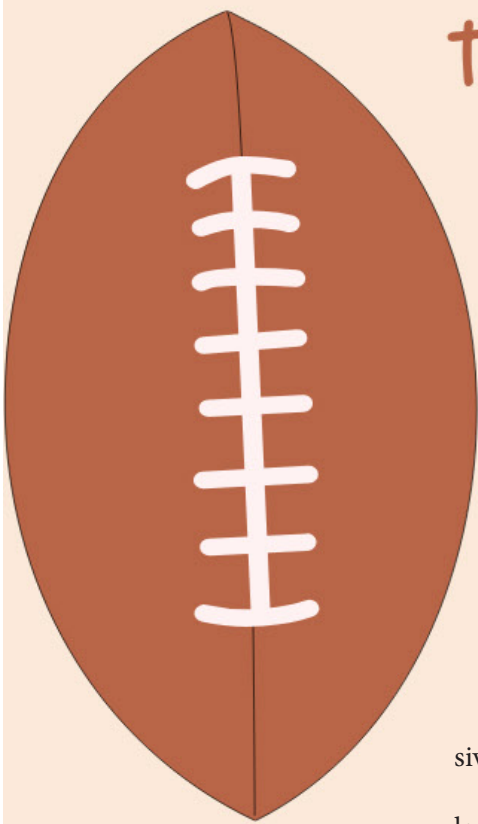
## BATHROOM PASSES WILL NO LONGER BE A NECESSITY: ALL YOU NEED IS THE NEAREST TREE.

ings. Walls will not have holes, because there will be no walls. Floors will not creak, because how can grass creak? And the only AC or heating units needed will be the wind and sun. Bathroom passes will no longer be a necessity: all you need is the

Portable E is currently out of order because of a rude tree which fell (PC: Aniya Badal (12)).







# The Biggest Event of the Year

*A deep dive on the storylines of this year’s Super Bowl*  
**Arya Kunisetty** | Staff Writer

Super Bowl LVIII delivered an exhilarating overtime showdown as the Kansas City Chiefs beat the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 on February 11th. Patrick Mahomes earned his third Super Bowl MVP title, solidifying his status as one of the game’s premier quarterbacks with 333 passing yards, 2 touchdowns, and 66 rushing yards.

The game was the most-watched Super Bowl ever, garnering an all-time high of 123.4 million views across platforms. Krishay Garg (11) said, “A potential reason for the increase in views is because Taylor Swift attended.” The famous singer has famously supported the Chiefs due to her romantic relationship with Kansas City tight end Travis Kelce. Many people watched the Super Bowl because of Swift, but certain football fans were frustrated by the diverting focus on the pop star.

“There was too much emphasis on Taylor Swift over the game itself,” said Garg. “I felt more of the attention should have been on the players and the game itself.”

Taylor Swift’s boyfriend, Travis Kelce emerged as Mahomes’ go-to target, amassing an impressive 93 receiving yards while hauling in nearly all of the 10 passes targeting him.

Despite a commendable effort from 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy, nicknamed Mr. Irrelevant due to him being the last pick in the 2022 NFL Draft, it was Mahomes’ stellar performance that ultimately proved decisive in clinching the championship for the Chiefs.

The importance of special teams and turnovers loomed large throughout the game, with both teams relying on their kickers in crucial moments and turnovers shaping the course of play. A fumble by the 49ers early in the game and an interception thrown by Mahomes added to the tension, while the Chiefs also suffered a fumble of their own.

As the game progressed into overtime, only the second in Super Bowl history, the stakes heightened. The 49ers, granted the first possession in overtime, managed a field goal, setting the stage for a dramatic conclusion. Mahomes, undeterred by a slow start, orchestrated a masterful 75-yard drive, culminating in a touchdown pass to Mecole Hardman Jr. that sealed the Chiefs’ victory.

Despite facing a 10-3 halftime deficit and enduring a challenging start to the second half with an interception, Mahomes demonstrated remarkable composure and leadership. He rallied the Chiefs offense with a touchdown drive in the third quarter and orchestrated a game-tying field goal in regulation, setting the stage for his heroics in overtime.

Mahomes’ ability to deliver under pressure was on full display, as he converted critical fourth-down and third-down situations with a combination of precision passing and elusive scrambling. His clutch performance in the face of adversity ultimately propelled the Chiefs to triumph over the 49ers’ incredible defense at the start of the game.

While the Chiefs may not have had the ideal start to the game, their remarkable second-half resurgence allowed them to edge out the San Francisco 49ers, earning them a well-deserved recognition of the Super Bowl Trophy.

*Aayush Kumbhare (12) nervously waits for the final play of the game, where the 49ers eventually lost. (PC: Tanay Kapoor (12))*



# Girls' Soccer Dominates in an Undefeated Season

*A recap of the girl’s soccer season and players’ input on their triumph over all other schools*

**Ella Knickerbocker** | Staff Writer

Placing first in the league, AHS’s girls’ soccer reigned supreme and won every match they played against the other Fremont Unified schools. They successfully made it to the first round of NCS, beating James Logan High in both matches they played against them.

“Beating Logan for the first time in more than ten years set our team up for success,” Nessya Shapiro (12) said. “Then, when we beat Newark, that established our first place in the league, so after that, we knew we needed to win the rest of our games.”

Before the league started, the girls’ soccer team had non-league games against schools outside of our district, and during finals week that was a challenge. “The game we played the night before finals, we played against Freedom High School. Our teams were pretty well-matched, but they ended up beating us 2-0 and that was our last game before winter break,” Shapiro said.



*The American High girl’s soccer team takes a celebratory dab after they beat Mission San Jose, proving them undefeated and securing their spot at first in the league. (PC: Val Ignatov)*

“We have kept the win streak since break but [at the time] that loss was pretty tough.”

Since then, the girl’s team has felt a newfound sense of camaraderie and has pulled themselves together to win every game after.

“[After beating Newark], we all went and had pizza because we knew that this game just determined the rest of the season,” Shapiro said. “It was a pretty heated game and we went two to one, but winning that game set the bar for the rest of the season.”

After securing their spot at first in the league, the girl’s team knew that they were setting themselves up for their very last game, and when senior night came, they played their hearts out on the field.

“Senior night was epic. We demolished Irvington eleven to zero and the energy coming off the bench and the crowd was awesome,” said Shapiro. “I think both teams had fun. We knew most of the people on the other team and they weren’t upset over losing, because they were happy for us seniors.”

As the seniors move on, the underclassmen are moving in to take their spots on the team and carry the team to many more victorious seasons in the future. “I met new people, I learned a lot—a whole different style of playing—and it was hard keeping up as a freshman, but towards the end, I became more comfortable. I got to make history for our team this year beating Logan. The whole season has been a wonderful experience overall,” said Gabriella Casatellino (9).



# Checking in With the Wrestling Team

An AHS wrestler's perspective on his last season

Kalvin Jormelu, Alfred Ukudeev-Freeman  
Staff Writer, Section Editor

After reaching the end of a long season, we talked to Luke Viñas (12) about American High School's wrestling team this year. He spoke candidly about the team's performance and reflected on his own experiences as a senior on the team.

Q: How has the wrestling season gone so far?

A: I'd say for the amount of new members that we have, we did surprisingly well. We have a lot of new talent and I look forward to seeing what they have to offer in the future.

Q: Is there a specific match that stood out to you?

A: It's always nice to beat Washington. I've personally never lost [a match] to Washington before, so it was nice to beat them again this year. It was like my fastest pin—like 28-29 seconds. (A regular game can go up to six minutes long, not counting overtime.)

Q: How's the team's dynamic outside of the gym?

A: The varsity boys team went to San Diego this past season and after the tournament we went to get tacos. It was like 11:30 at night and this place was still open and we just got really full of tacos. San Diego tacos are way better than the Bay Area's.

Q: Were there any obstacles the team faced?

A: Like I said, we have a lot of new members. I feel like some of them don't take it that seriously. They weren't as consistent with showing up to practice and it showed in their performances at matches.

Q: Luke, it's your last year wrestling for American High School. How does it feel to reach the end after all these years?

A: Man, it's bittersweet 'cuz I'm not gonna wrestle in college, so this past season was my last time wrestling ever. I'll probably come back, if I can, to help out with the team. It's gonna be nice not to have to cut that much weight in a week, but also wrestling is fun. It's a good sport.

Q: How's Mr. McCloy?

A: He's awesome. He's the best ever. He expects the most of us and holds us accountable. It's not just Coach McCloy—it's our assistant coaches too. They make us not only better wrestlers, but better people. They make sure all their lessons apply to our regular lives, not just on the mat.

(PC: Royden Liang (9))



# Varsity Girls Basketball Team Celebrates Senior Night

Interviews with three Varsity girls basketball seniors celebrating their past, present, and future athletic careers

Malaya Cruz | Staff Writer

On February 2, the American varsity girls basketball team battled against former MVAL league champions, Moreau Catholic. Preceding the game was a joyous senior night ceremony celebrating six seniors' longtime commitment to the girls basketball program. We interviewed Nasana Shrestha (12), Hasanah Gilchrist (12), and Sophia Peng (12) about their eventful night.

INTERVIEWER: Congratulations on your senior night! How do you feel and are there any highlights that stood out from senior night that you'd like to share?

GILCHRIST: It's a bit sad but I'm definitely looking forward to the future with college and continuing to play basketball. We played against Moreau, unfortunately we lost, but it was still exciting and fun to see everybody's family there and to see the gym decorated.

PENG: It was a really good night. We were going against Moreau, and they were a really good team, so what was really important was that we stayed energized and positive.

SHRESTHA: This is really random, but before our ceremony even started all the seniors stayed in our teamroom, and we listened to nostalgic music with all our flowers and we kind of just sat there; it started to set in that we were seniors.

INTERVIEWER: What was the journey throughout your high school career that helped you achieve your position in Varsity?

GILCHRIST: Definitely work ethic. My family—my brothers and my parents—always taught me from a young age if you want something to work for it.

INTERVIEWER: What was your favorite moment from senior year or from your whole high school career in general?

GILCHRIST: Going through ups and downs as a team and learning from them, but also being nominated for McDonald's All-American.

INTERVIEWER: How has your experience as a Varsity player shaped you as both a person and player?

GILCHRIST: It's taught me to step out of my comfort zone. I had been homeschooled before coming here Freshman year, so it helped me make new friends and grow as a person.

PENG: It helped me get used to a balanced life. I have all this schoolwork and basketball is most of my outside-school life, so it helps me work on time management.

SHRESTHA: I've learned personality-wise how to communicate and how to be confident in myself. You can't really get anywhere with basketball if it's not a team sport, we're so close on the court physically and mentally; we need to talk to each other.

INTERVIEWER: What drives and motivates you as a player and what does it take to become the 'best' player?

GILCHRIST: I feel like what drives and motivates me is not wanting to lose.

PENG: The minute you give up, you're going to lose the game. Even if you're doing really bad, if you just keep going and keep trying, that's what drives me.

SHRESTHA: My teammates motivate me the most because the worst feeling is letting down your teammates or when you can tell that they're disappointed in you.

INTERVIEWER: Do you have any plans for your future basketball careers?

GILCHRIST: I'm going to continue playing. Still figuring out exactly where, but I'm definitely going to continue playing basketball.

PENG: Not really, just casually. I don't plan on playing competitively after high school, but I definitely will be playing club on the side.



Lunar New Year is a widely celebrated holiday throughout East and Southeast Asia. The holiday marks the beginning of the new year on the lunar calendar. It's accompanied by imagery of lanterns, fireworks, and shades of red that are used to decorate homes and streets for celebration. The color red represents good fortune that those celebrating hope to bring into the new year.

The Lunar calendar rotates between 12 zodiacs: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. In Vietnamese culture, the rabbit is replaced by a cat. Last year ended with the year of the rabbit, which symbolizes longevity, positivity, and cautiousness. This current year is the year of the dragon, the last one being in 2012, which represents power, good fortune, and intelligence.

The story of how the zodiac's order was decided was that the Jade Emperor decided there would be a race between the animals. Although the dragon could fly past the competition, it helped the rabbit along the way and stopped to create rain for villagers to drink, landing it in fifth place.

Lucky things for those born in the year of the dragon are the numbers 1, 6, and 7, and the colors gold, silver, and grayish white.



# Celebration

Q: How do you celebrate Lunar New Year?

April Yin (12) (she/her)  
"We do things like make dumplings as one of our family activities. Then we go visit our grandparents and aunts, and get hongbao. The hongbao interprets what kind of person you are because the closer you are to a person, the more money they're supposed to give you."

Madyson tran (11), (she/her)  
"Usually on the first day, we have dinner and give our wishes to our elder family members. They'll give us red envelopes, and after [that] we play games like bingo. Since we're Vietnamese-Chinese, whoever says 'bingo' will have to say the number in English, Vietnamese, and Chinese. We also play this game called 'Bau Cua.'"

Ben tran (12) (he/him)  
"We go to different temples. We mainly go to give good luck and to get good luck from like the gods. We also celebrate with our families and get red envelopes, which symbolizes prosperity in the future."

Catherine Shuwen (12) she  
"We eat white fish, crab, oranges."

Happy Lunar New Year

# Cultural

Q: What type of cultural activities do you do during Lunar New Year?

April Yin (12) (she/her)  
"Usually for the girls, we wear traditional clothing. At the same time, we all just wear our own clothes."

Ben tran (12) (he/him)  
"We wear this traditional clothing that we wear at temples, they have various cool designs like a fish or a dragon."

Amanda Ng (12) (she/her)  
"The younger kids wear traditional clothing."

Amanda Ng (12) (she/her)  
"My relatives give me red envelopes when they see them."





# Cuisine

Q: What types of food do you eat during the holiday?

April Yin (12) she/her  
"We eat a lot of dumplings. We make a variety like ones with soup inside or pan-fried ones."

Amanda Ng (12) she/her  
"I eat a ton of expensive food—abalone, sea cucumber, roasted pigeon. We set up a citrus tree, with a pomelo, tangerines, and oranges, and relatives give out a bunch of tangerines to eat from their trees."

Happy New Year!

# Outfits

Q: What attire do you wear on New Year?

she/her  
"I wear qipāo. During this time, I wear a lot of red."

(he/him)  
"The outfit I called Áo dài, it's basically a traditional Vietnamese garment when we go out and we go to parties, like this year my design had it."

Amanda Ng (12) (she/her)  
"I wear silk red dresses from China Town."

Alayna Jeong  
Mylo Herzog  
Fern Tigri  
Staff Writers



# The Creatr Behind Clovr

Fresh off the release of the second issue of his magazine, multimedia artist and Clovr founder Ian Budiman (11)

Vaishnav Desabhatla and Vincent Nghiem  
Staff Writer, Co-Editor-in-Chief



Ian Budiman (11) hopes that the second issue of his self-produced Clovr Magazine can feel right at home in a bathroom. “Kind of like a pooping magazine,” said Budiman.

A work in progress from July to December 2023, the second issue of Clovr Magazine—described on its cover as an “unserious magazine art project that went to [sic] far”—is the latest creation in Budiman’s repertoire. Created entirely through his phone, it’s an electrifying, FRUiTS-esque, teenage existentialist take on what it means to be creative.

“I always thought it was a really cool idea to have a magazine,” Budiman said. “And I thought it would be really cool to make my own that showcases all the things I’ve been doing.”

Budiman has translated his amalgamation of various personal influences and creative endeavors into a vibrant visual language. Shots of himself and his friends, electric summer days illuminated in iPhones and captured within digital cameras. Stickers featuring Tyler, the Creator, Brian Griffin, and the titular character from the manga Yotsuba&! Sprawling visuals of quiet suburbs, Oregonian mountaintops, Japanese subway cars, and bustling Alameda fairgrounds. Even a wanted poster for none other than himself, charged for being “sighted at multiple locations throughout the bay in atrocious outfits...The man is also guilty of homicide too I guess.”

Born out of a fit of boredom, Clovr Magazine came to be on Budiman’s vacation to Italy during his sophomore year. “From there I just started writing about my experiences and planning out pages. And I think it took me maybe two or three months to finish.”

Yet Budiman has taken deliberate steps to differentiate this second issue from its predecessor. “I really wanted something that would take you a lot longer to read.” Certainly, he accomplished his goal: paragraphs written in playful fonts elaborating on anything from his definition of art to his exceptionally weak immune system compose the core of the magazine.

Interspersed throughout the issue are advertisements for various Clovr products, such as red 3D-printed pendants and stainless silver rings. Prior to the publication of the issue, Budiman had released his first clothing collection under the Clovr brand, accompanied with several promotional short videos. “I spent a lot of time filming this summer,” said Budiman. “Almost every day I would kind of just go out [with] no plan, meet up with my friends, and we would just bike somewhere.”

One of those friends was Sean Shin (11), who Budiman cites as a close outlet through which he could relay his ideas. Enzo the Magazine is also another source of creative inspiration for Budiman, who said in a statement to the Eagle Era, “Every single kind of thing—whether it be events or video or magazines or whatever—they are all possible and it’s just a matter of doing the work to make it good.”

Evidently, Budiman has internalized that philosophy. Because beyond the eclectic influences, eye-catching colors, and introspective approaches lies what is perhaps Budiman’s biggest strength: his humility and fearlessness before the scope of his own ideas. “It feels great to be a part of Clovr,” Shin said. “To be a part of something big—it feels nice.”

Budiman has even more in store for this “something big,” finding fulfillment in continuous creative output. In fact, immediately after the publication of the magazine, Budiman quickly realigned his attention toward clothing. “At the moment, I’m working on my next two drops,” Budi-

man said. “I’m trying to keep myself busy.” As he travels from cut cloth, vivid videos, printed pages and back again, wearers, viewers, and readers can be confident that Budi-

man isn’t slowing down anytime soon.

Baldwa, who is beyond ecstatic to have earned the position, is a familiar (and friendly) face around the school. She has been running for student government positions since freshman year. Last year, she centered her campaign around boba, saying she represented her voters’ “perfect boba drink, but as a person.” This year, her campaign was based on her love for music.

“I like to not just show myself as a candidate, but as a person.

When there are a lot of other candidates, it’s really important to break that line,” said Baldwa.

Currently, she serves as the school’s ASB secretary, a role where she works alongside fellow executive members.

“I’m a very vocal person, and they always gave me space to express my opinions.” Baldwa said. “It is a little scary because I don’t have them to rely on, but one thing that helps is that I’ve been preparing myself for this position. I absorb every event or planning [process], so I know how to do it for next year. I’m just gonna keep doing what I have been and try my best and remember why I’m doing this.”

With her new position, Baldwa plans on creating a new club system that will pair like-minded teachers and students and highlighting underrepresented underclassmen voices.

“I think we could benefit the student body as a whole by not just focusing on ASB events. Spirit Week is great and I want to keep that train going strong, but there are a lot of other things that affect more students who aren’t active participants, and one of those is through clubs,” said Baldwa. “I also want to make sure that we’re not just taking into account the opinions of students who are [just] in Leadership—who are mostly juniors and seniors—[by] getting the perspective of underclassmen, one of the groups that are a little harder for us to reach.”

However, her presidential role is no easy feat. As a major representative of the student body, Baldwa is constantly on the receiving end of student criticism.

“I’m an assertive person, and sometimes people don’t like that. There’s always going to be someone who disagrees with what you do, but as long as you’re the person who’s taking action, you shouldn’t feel bad about taking up space,” said Baldwa. Nevertheless, she refuses to let their negativity stifle her unfaltering growth mindset.

“Making mistakes is okay and even if you receive criticism, it’s always an opportunity to grow,” said Baldwa. “If you work hard and have passion, it is bound to be noticed and sometimes not in the forms you expect. I didn’t expect to lose some of the elections that I did, or win some of the elections that I did. At the end of the day, if you want people to see you for your success—if you want to see yourself for your success—those ‘Ls’ are kind of inevitable.”

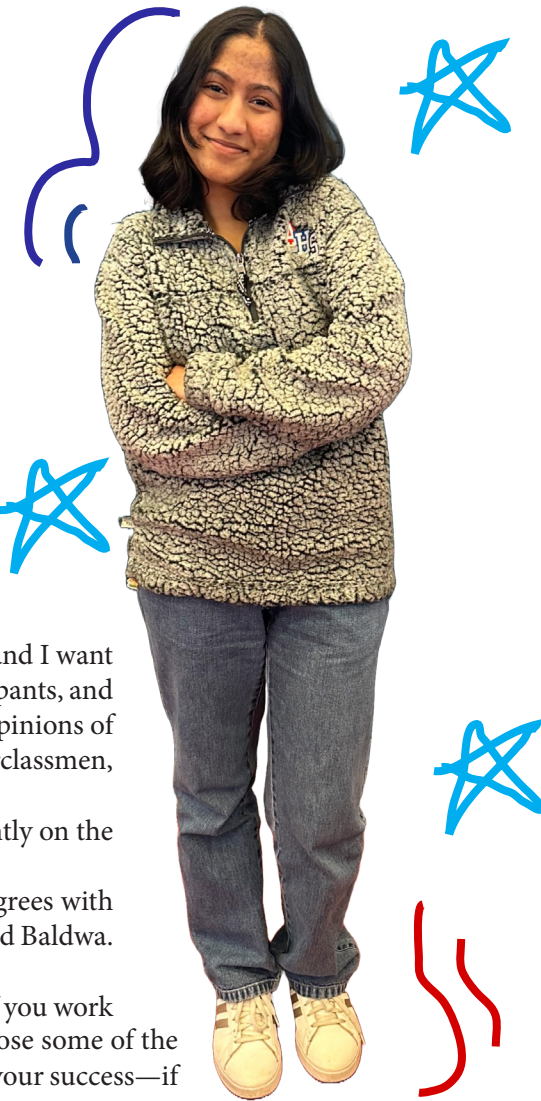
## Adept, Adaptable, Ambitious: Avishi Baldwa Future ASB President

Step into the mind of future AHS ASB president Avishi Baldwa as she lets us in on the secrets of campaigning and her plans for the ‘24-’25 school year

Malaya Cruz | Staff Writer

From January 21-25, two student candidates battled amicably to become American’s next Associated Student Body (ASB) president, but on Friday, January 26 at 3:13 pm, one sole electee’s name echoed from the loudspeakers throughout the hallways: Avishi Baldwa (11).

“It’s surreal to finally have arrived at my final stop in ASB and I’m just very grateful because throughout the election process, I got so much support from so many people, and it was just really heartwarming to see.”





## Stemming From an Ocean Away, Heritage Rediscovered

Local Bay Area Chinese educational nonprofit organizes the Xungen cultural exchange program for overseas teens

Bamboo rafts gliding across the Jiuqu River. Creamy images poured into Song Dynasty-style tea. Traditional embroidery woven into silk. Chances are that many overseas Chinese families have missed their summertime opportunities to enjoy these cultural attractions amid quarantine orders. But students may get a new chance with the February 4th information session hosted by local 501(c) nonprofit Hanlin (翰林). Families were introduced to the 10-day teen-only summer program: the Xungen (寻根营) Root-Seeking Camp.

“Our mission is to allow American-born Chinese teens an opportunity to understand their culture,” said Hanlin officer Amanda Wo.

Hanlin partners with Qiaolian (侨联), a mainland association aiming to connect with the Chinese diaspora. Each year, the different approved camp locations garner thousands of participants aged 12-18. Funded as a nonprofit, Qiaolian covers expenses for every child.

“The camp itself is free to everyone,” clarified Wo. “Hanlin collects separate flight and living subsidies for our camp counselors, and we charge two hundred dollars.”

Affordable and packed with educational experiences, the Root-Seeking Camp proves its student-focused priority.

“I like seeing the campers gain something from the activities,” said veteran counselor Mrs. Xu, “especially in the classroom, immersed in learning embroidery and tie-dyeing; or impressively practicing martial arts and tea ordering; or in high spirits while traveling, climbing, rafting, and asking various questions; or proudly sharing their work and feelings to everyone after a task. These experiences have left me and the campers with the best memories.”

Aside from daily lessons, positive feedback toward quality accommodations abounds among past students, including Oak Ridge High’s Angelina Zha (10) who visited the Fujian province in 2023.

“I’d say the food was probably the best part,” Zha recounted, smiling. “Some of them are local specialties. You’re not going to find as authentic [of] food here.”

Just as enriching is the camps’ social environment and community.

“In the beginning, because there are people that I’m not super familiar with, it’s a bit hard. But because you spend the entire day with them, taking classes and traveling, you gradually get closer and closer.”

“It feels like a big family,” said Xu.

Nurtured to explore, campers are also able to exhibit self-reliance and personal growth.

“On the one hand, you can learn Chinese history and culture, and on the other hand, you can exercise the children’s independent living ability,” summarized Grace Li, parent of two daughters who all attended the information session.

“We had an opening ceremony and I [gave] a speech as a student representative,” said Zha. “I think that was a really good opportunity to practice presentational skills and Mandarin at the same time.”

Language and culture are interlinked, and the camps build confidence in both. For nearly a decade of summers, Wo sees this reflected in the waves of returning students, emboldened by the identity they had found in themselves an ocean away.

“The Root-Seeking program is a seed to let Chinese teens be more open-minded to China’s culture. It’s not an either-or between Chinese and Western culture; rather, it’s a question of how to give the best of both worlds to our American-born Chinese generation.”



Students attending the 2023 Fujian trip toast each other during a meal. (PC: Hanlin)

Jessica Li | Staff Writer

## Learning on One Leg

Teachers Mr. Noori and Mr. Creger challenge a reliance on standardized curriculum

“In the past, English and history were connected,” said AHS World History teacher Mr. Noori. “Mr. Creger and I for many years had a cohort of students [in a course] called Sophomore Global Studies.”

This specific cohort shared the same teacher and classmates in their tenth grade English and History classes. Why organize classes into specified learning groups? “There’s a community that cohorts establish, and so you’re able to do joint projects. For some students, the academic units are not engaging enough,” said Mr. Noori.

Mr. Noori believes joint projects lead to more well-rounded courses. “Typically, teachers only push forward the academic leg, which is the vocabulary, academic terms and the units, but they don’t push the other leg, which is the developmental end of the child and how they fit into the story. So that’s the idea of a two-legged curriculum,” he said.

“You’ve got the academic leg and the developmental leg. You’ve got essays and novels, conversation and reading skills on the academic leg,” said Mr. Creger. “And the developmental leg, through the year we’re having all kinds of discussions about helping [student] minds, sense of who you are, and your interactions with others develop.”

This development leg includes projects such as the Personal History Project in Social Studies and the Personal Creed Project in English. “I’ve been doing [the Personal History] project for nine years and it creates an element of

engagement that is unparalleled because they are able to focus on their own personal stories, and see how it applies to history,” said Mr. Noori. “I would love to see a return of connected classrooms. We [teachers] strategize together and work together on what works best for students.”

The deviation from a standardized curriculum also gives teachers the opportunity to adapt to the needs and interests of their students.

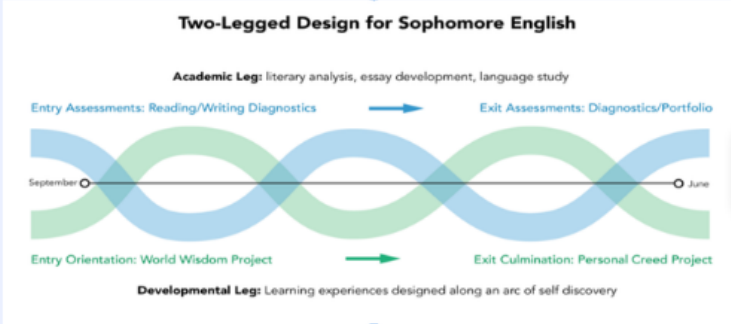
“In the [connected] classes that I was able to teach we could take a whole quarter and explore one question,” said Mr. Creger. “Now, unfortunately the history department’s married to its sequence of units they have to follow.”

Mr. Creger, who attempted to find another English teacher for Sophomore Global studies following his retirement, said, “The number of students in the school has doubled since those days which also makes it more challenging with the schedule. Linking classes requires a lot of commitment from administration.”

Mr. Creger offered his solution. “The first thing you need to start a program like this is two teachers who want to cultivate a friendship across the curriculum. Teachers should decide to do this then approach administration with the request.”

“Teachers need to ask themselves a question,” said Mr. Noori. “Am I only addressing academic units, or is the [developmental] leg being addressed as well in my classroom?”

This diagram demonstrates the approach of two-legged learning described by Mr. Noori and Mr. Creger. “In blue you have your academic leg: essays and novels, reading and conversation skills, entry and exit assessments. [In green] is the developmental leg: we’re having all kinds of discussions about helping [student] minds, sense of who you are, and your interactions with others develop. And all that you weave it throughout the year,” said Mr. Creger. (PC: John Creger)



Daniel Davis | Staff Writer

## Crafting Comfort

The story of the rise of Logan Pagsolingan’s small crochet business

After an injury from softball left Logan Pagsolingan (12) cooped up in her room, she quickly found herself in search of a new hobby: crocheting.

“I literally learned to crochet six months ago,” Pagsolingan said. “I just sat in my bed and did nothing for a few months and thought, ‘Why not pick up a hobby?’...I just started making my own clothes and I just made a business out of it.”

This idea to start a business by selling her crafts was not something that Pagsolingan had originally intended. She was crocheting so many things during her resting period that her friends asked her why she did not just turn it into a business.

Tamlyn Oliva (12) was one of Pagsolingan’s friends who gave her the idea to start this business. “Logan was making a bunch of these different handcrafted items like sweaters, hats, flowers, and they were so well done we didn’t even know she made it herself,” Oliva said.

Not only do Pagsolingan’s crocheted goods have amazing looks, but their quality itself is beyond satisfactory.

“The prices [are] practically a steal compared to the ones you buy from stores,” Oliva said. “You get way more than what you pay for. The quality seems professional and better than in-store ones. Each sweater is made with care and can be adjusted in size, a more personal touch.”

The personal aspect of each of Pagsolingan’s products is one of her customers’ favorite qualities. “A benefit is the uniqueness of not finding [these] clothes

anywhere else,” Madeleine Willeyerd (12) said. “The quality is impeccable. Starting up a business is no easy task and for her to handle it on her own while handling everything else in life is inspiring and should be shown to the world.”

Despite the glowing reviews, Pagsolingan still sees this as only a fun hobby. “I don’t see myself doing this more often in the future, but if someone asks if I can make something for them, I will try my best to make it.”

Pagsolingan currently takes commissions in her spare time. You can order from Pagsolingan on Instagram @madewithlo.ve\_.



Logan Pagsolingan modeling one of her many crocheted sweater designs. (PC: Tamlyn Oliva (12))

Ella Knickerbocker | Staff Writer



# Didi: Fremont filmmaker navigates growing pains in award-winning debut

*Sean Wang’s Sundance feature doesn’t shy away from the ugly truths of adolescence*

**Emaan Irfan** | Staff Writer

Fremont-made film *Didi* (little brother) made its debut at the Sundance Film Festival in January, where it won the U.S. Dramatic Audience Award along with the hearts of its viewers. The semi-autobiographical film, inspired by classics like *Stand By Me*, is reminiscent of Bo Burnham’s *Eighth Grade* in its distinctly cringe-inducing accuracy and empathy towards its protagonist, 13-year-old Chris Wang (Isaac Wang) who lives in Fremont, CA with his mother, Chungsing (Joan Chen), older sister Vivian (Shirley Chen), and grandmother “Nai Nai” (Chang Li Hua). The only recurring role without an actor is Chris’s father, whose absence lingers through the pangs of loneliness driving his internal drive to fit in.

Throughout the film, Chris is shown trying on different identities as any teenager does, portrayed by actor Isaac Wang with an acute awkwardness that shows he never quite fits into any of them. Whether the protagonist is Chris, or “Wang Wang,” or “Didi,” the writing charms viewers into going along with each name he dons. The humor, though juvenile and self-effacing, never appears saccharine as it meets the character at his level. The absurdity of his actions like swallowing a lit roach or blowing up mailboxes, are balanced by his relatability when pretending to share interests with his crush or awkwardly laughing through mi-

croaggressions he faces at school.

From MySpace to Paramore, to handheld camcorders, director Sean Wang creates an immersive time capsule of the late 2000s for Chris and the audience to stumble through. As his grandmother Nai Nai complains about kids never going outside, Wang displays that people can make memories with a few clicks, a sentiment that rings true today.

While the 90-minute film has received criticism

*Seven years in the making, Sean Wang’s Didi takes a retrospective look at Fremont (PC: Emaan Irfan (11)).*



for its “messiness in plot,” it feels intentional as the protagonist matches this unpredictable search for purpose as well. “It’s not another film set in New York, it’s somewhere quieter and slower and that’s something that a lot of kids grew up with. I guess that’s kind of our representation. You have these summers where you just bike around, those days you don’t know what to do, but you’re just kind of just around your town, right?” said Ian Budiman (11), highlighting how this meandering plot parallels growing up in Fremont.

Amulya Manoj (12), who recalls seeing an audition flier for *Didi*, noted her surprise at the film making such strides, “It didn’t seem like a big deal at the time. I had no idea it would go on to win awards. I’m so used to watching movies that are produced in Hollywood, where it’s the same common faces you’re used to seeing. This is refreshing.”

“Refreshing” seems to be the right word to describe it. Beyond Fremont and the time frame, everyone can relate to *Didi* in some way: mothers, teens, anyone struggling to fit in. Chris’s story is one that almost everyone has played some role in throughout time, and Sean Wang lends each a unique recognition. Send some forgiveness and love back to your thirteen-year-old self, and watch *Didi* in theaters this July.

## Reviewing the “Unreviewable”

*A review of Ye and Ty Dolla \$ign’s long-awaited album Vultures 1*

**Vaishnav Desabhatla** | Staff Writer

Anthony Fantano recently called *Vultures 1* by the newly formed rap supergroup ¥\$ (Kanye “Ye” West and Ty Dolla \$ign) “unreviewable.” So, I saw it fitting that it be the first album reviewed in this new hip-hop review column.

Released on February 9th, *Vultures 1* spans about 55 minutes. The album feels bloated, with tracks like “PAID” and “DO IT” faring as generic mainstream rap songs—quite un-Kanye-esque.

Despite this, the album has its share of gems. From “Burn”’s soulful sample chops to the ominousness of “Carnival”’s choir sample of soccer fan group, Inter Milan, Ye is evidently still in his prime as a producer. Lyrically, the album has its moments. Ty Dolla \$ign comes through with catchy hooks and choruses, but Kanye’s verses range from heartfelt to confused and confusing. Some bars like the title track’s infamous callback to his previous anti-Semitic statements “How can I be anti-Semitic, I just f\*\*ked a Jewish b\*\*ch,” leave you scratching your head about what you just heard.

The hot-and-cold trend in terms of music quality persists throughout the album with the intro to “Problematic” being executed in a grand manner while others make me want to cry in a dazed and confused depression, making me think about what brought me to the point of listening to Kanye comparing himself to R. Kelly, Bill Cosby, and P Diddy at four in the morning.

Though the album wavers in places, Ye has stayed true to his philosophy: the album was independently released and advertised, and, as promised years ago, all Yeezy merch is now \$20. Critics like Anthony Fantano claim you cannot separate the art from the artist when the artist is the art, though this is true, this approach is the wrong way to approach things. What makes *Vultures 1* so intriguing is the persons behind it; it is the controversy behind it. Recognizing the fatal flaws of Ye’s mystical figure is vital to do before listening to the album but so is realizing the important place this album holds in his career. An artist that was shutout by most, if not all, major organizations returned in a successful manner, artistically and commercially, this has historically—for the most part—been impossible. This collaborative album with Ty Dolla \$ign proves Ye can still put out an album in which he continues to push the envelope through a fully successful independent release of the music and his YZY brand. 7/10.

## ASB Candidates Draw in Votes with Creative Campaign Posters

*A look into the candidates’ self-expression and how election week can bring students together*

**Mylo Herzog** | Staff Writer

Election week: a time when students are met with banners and fliers adorning the walls, and candidates are scrambling to cover blank spaces with eye-catching posters to promote their campaign. Students pass by these posters and pay no mind to them, but for candidates like new ASB Chief Justice Hetanshi Vakharia (11), the design and placement is critical for their campaign. “Everything is a step-by-step process of gathering inspiration: I would go on Pinterest to build on my ideas, sketch everything out from fliers to posters, get them printed out, find where the most foot traffic is, put them up, and the campaign starts.”

The aesthetics of a campaign are essential to make a candidate memorable and unique. Student candidates understand this concept well, imbuing themselves and nostalgia into posters and videos alike. “We mainly wanted to focus on nostalgia so that’s why we used yearbook photos and the theme of memories to emotionally touch people because I feel like people recognize that there’s only four years in your high school experience,” said new junior president Vaishu Kalamula (10).

While each candidate has their distinctive aesthetics, what seems to relate these themes is sentiment. “My theme was sunflowers. It was because I [bought] a sunflower backpack in freshman year, and throughout freshman year everyone started calling me sunflower backpack girl,” Vakharia says. “Because a lot of people couldn’t find their way around the school. If they knew that I was in their class, they’d use my backpack to follow me to their classes.”

As fond reminiscences drive these campaigns, more memories are created throughout election week. “For our campaign posters we used our yearbook photos to show how we grew up, giving a nostalgic feel. The person I campaigned with, we’ve been best friends since second grade. Looking back, we’d probably be shocked that we’re running together,” Kalamula says.

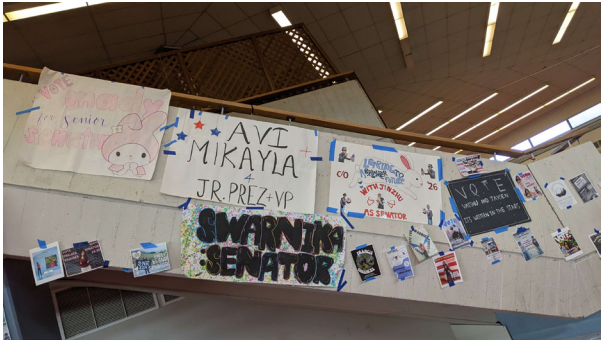
Although starting as a only hobby, Nathan Kao (11) pitches in his knack for graphic design to

help create campaign posters. “I had the honor of helping Avishi [Baldwa (11)] and Mady [Tran (11)] with their posters. For Avishi, I would incorporate a lot of nature to her posters, so I added colors that made them seem nature-y,” Kao says. “It gave me a chance to experiment with new kinds of styles for fliers that I’ve never tried out before. Being able to work with them, constantly having interactions, brought me closer to them.”

Even with the fun and passion that went into running campaigns, candidates often found themselves stressed. “I gathered over 80 testimonials from people, talking about why I would be a good ASB Chief Justice. After that, I compiled them into a video and it was a really time-consuming process. It was difficult with reminding people and editing, but it worked out in the end,” Vakharia says.

While most students may not think much of election week, candidates remember this time as a period of their perseverance being put to the test, ultimately bringing the student body and candidates together. “Even though you’re going against other students, there’s one thing that people are connected by and it’s the hard work we’re putting into this election,” Kalamula says. “We can all respect that no matter what we think of their campaign. It unifies us.”

*Student candidates put a variety of posters on the staircases wrapping around the rotunda. “Being there at 6:30 in the morning and seeing your posters everywhere around the school makes you feel important.” said Vaishu Kalamula (10). (PC: Mylo Herzog (12))*







Test Preparation



Tutoring + GPA Boost



For-Credit Courses



Academic Enrichment



Extracurriculars



College Consulting

### 30+ Years of Experience

Elite Prep has been helping students reach their academic goals since 1987.

### 50+ Locations Worldwide

We serve more than 20,000 students each year in 6 countries across the globe.

### Proven Curriculum

No other company offers more – and more effective – original curriculum and study materials.

### Top-Tier Faculty and Staff

Our instructors, tutors, and curriculum developers are experts in their fields.

### Comprehensive College Preparation

More than just test prep, Elite offers complete preparation for high school, college and beyond.

## Elite Prep Fremont

155 Anza St, Fremont, CA 94538 • (510) 979-0808 • fremont@eliteprep.com



# HOW TO BE AN EDUCATED VOTER

## 1. NEWS BIAS

Consider the bias of the news sources you read and aim to read with a critical eye. You can also diversify where you get your news from to further work against news bias.



## 2. PERSONAL BIAS

Be wary of blindspots brought on by social, racial, and economic class.

What issues come first to you? How do these issues affect the larger populace?

Party allegiance is often a blinding force. Ensure that politicians are campaigning for issues relevant to you, rather than using the party as a guise to garner votes.

## 3. FACTS & SOURCING

"If it sounds way too good to be true, it probably is.

People need to see the politician's true selves."

(Mahesh Karthikeyan (11))



HOW TO FACT-CHECK

Arya Kunisetty | Staff Writer

# Seniors Voting for Senior Candidates

*The class of 2024 is eligible to vote in the 2024 presidential election, which may significantly affect its outcome*

Hana Balderrama | Staff Writer

On February 5th, in Theater 50, seniors and juniors pre-registered or registered to vote in the upcoming 2024 presidential election; an event run by the League of Women Voters. In 2036, Generation Z and millennials will make up 60% of voters; in 2024, 59% of Generation Z will be eligible to vote, 47% being youth of color. President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump are at the top of the polls and the most controversial; however, they are both old, rich, white men. This raises the question: how will our diverse senior body respond to the 2024 presidential Election as first-time voters with little representation?

A survey conducted across four Government and Economics classes at AHS revealed that only 59% of students will vote, while 20% are undecided. While the Bay Area is a famously liberal place, only 32% of the students surveyed align with the Democratic Party, and 39% are unsure of their party. Focusing on presidential candidates, 54% were unsure, 15% chose Joe Biden, and 11% chose Trump. Many students need clarification on where they lie on the political scale, whether it is confusion, ignorance, or because no political parties or figures are making a conscious effort to appeal to the younger audience.

Additionally, when asked what topics students wanted to see addressed in the 2024 election and presidency, “the economy, abortion rights/healthcare, immigration, homelessness, foreign affairs (including the Israel-Hamas war), and gun control” were mentioned the most. With little representation or voice, students stated they would like to see more “people of color, women, LGBTQ members, and, most of all, younger individuals in politics”. As the average age of Americans is 38 years old, while the median for presidents is 55 years old, it is understandable that many feel unheard.

Despite the apparent voter apathy, Sahasra Ottikunta (12), a self-proclaimed Republican and Anarchist, is extremely passionate about her political views. “The main political figures of 2024 are Donald Trump, Vivek Ramaswamy, representing our South Asian community, and Ron DeSantis, he's my favorite. But I would vote for Trump for sure,” said Ottikunta. She would also like to see foreign policy and wars dealt with in the 2024 presidency, stating “I think Joe Biden's doing a really bad job with the Israel-Hamas war; Trump would have done it better. I want Trump to win so he can stop funding Israel.” Ottikunta's perspective represents a growing minority in the Bay Area, who are tired of Biden's actions, opting for a drastic change.

On the contrary, Acarya Lall (12), a Democrat, while not thrilled with Biden's performance, will still vote for him. “I'm more savvy with Biden's policies, like relieving student debt. Between Trump and Biden, I would vote for the least bad candidate because a third-party vote is a wasted vote and not voting just hurts everyone. I guess right now, it's about choosing the lesser of two evils,” explained Lall. Unfortunately, the American government has created a situation where only two political parties remain and have a reasonable chance of winning; however, recently, both options have proven disappointing to a large portion of youth.

With numerous candidates, it is disappointing to discover how many members of Generation Z feel under-represented and discouraged. It is vital to understand multiple perspectives and discuss the topics that the average American citizen cares about.



(PC: Hana Balderrama (12))



# California takes on tackle football

*AHS football players react to Newsom’s decision to block bill*

— Rohan Bhagra | Staff Writer —

On January 16th, Governor Newsom promised that he would not allow Assembly Bill 734, a bill proposed by State Representative Kevin McCarty aimed to ban tackle football for youth under the age of twelve, to enter law.

Because research has revealed that tackle football poses risks to the head and neck health of youth, the role of government in ensuring safe play has increased.

The ban of tackling that would have been brought by AB 734 would impact youth football programs across the state.

“Not being able to tackle would hinder opportunities for a lot of kids,” said Mayank Arora (12), a center and defensive tackle for the American Varsity Football team. “I would have been way better in my career for football [if I started tackling earlier],” he added.

While it may bring athletic benefits, head trauma experts argue that playing tackle football at young ages can lead to adverse health effects.

In general, the movement to ban tackling from football for young children is part of a larger movement to promote safer practices across all sports. Increasing training for identifying injuries and providing easier access to treatment are key successes of this movement, as is educating coaches and players on how to avoid injury.

“There’s definitely an inherent risk of brain injuries when playing football, but there’s also precautions the players can take,” said Arora. With hard work from coaches and players, injury risks can be avoided.

“The coaches teach you the proper way to tackle in the beginning of the season. If you tackle people the proper way, it helps prevent concussions and injuries,” said Sage Kobayashi (10), a linebacker and receiver for the AHS JV team.

McCarty and other supporters of the bill pointed to alternate sports as a way to avoid risk.

However, for many players at American, tackle football being forcefully replaced, even if only at young ages, was upsetting.

“I think [playing tackle football] is a choice for everyone to make. The government should take opinions instead of just making regulations,” said Kobayashi. Flag football and other sports do not provide the same experience, both on and off the field, that tackle football does, Arora argued.

“You always have a support system of your teammates and a bond that you share for life. That support system is really important,” Arora said.

In a statement, Governor Newsom promised that he would not allow AB 734 to enter law.

# Proposition 1 attempts to tackle mental health and homelessness on the March ballot

*Is Proposition 1 the solution to California’s homelessness crisis or a dangerous power grab?*

— Logan King | Staff Writer —

## FACTS:

- Proposition 1 seeks to take out \$6.38 billion in bonds
  - 70% of which will go towards building mental health treatment facilities and 30% of which will pay for new housing for the homeless (over half of this portion [%15] will be set aside for veterans specifically).
  - The bonds will be paid off over 30 years and cost the state a total of about \$9 billion.
- Proposition 1 will amend the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)
- The Mental Health Services Act (passed 2005) gives counties \$10-\$13 billion annually from federal money through a millionaire tax for mental health services.
- Legislation to create Prop 1 passed in the California Legislature with major bipartisan support.
- Support for Prop 1 has been led by Governor Newsom. Proponents have raised \$10,764,084.60, and opponents have raised only \$1,000.

## PROS:

### Fiscal:

“We spend billions of dollars on wars, but we don’t have enough money for anyone in the United States? So I think homelessness has become a big issue in California. Per capita, we have a much higher rate of homelessness compared to states like Florida and Texas. I think something needs to be done. And the current status quo has not worked.” - Mr. Noori, AHS AP Government and Economy Teacher

The California State Auditor will be required to perform an audit on the implementation of Proposition 1 every three years if passed.

### Medical:

Housing, mental health, and substance abuse services together are needed to address homelessness as in Prop 1.

“I feel like mental health with homeless people is often disregarded. Because people are so concerned with housing them, it’s not necessarily giving them a house that’s going to make them happier.” - Danisha Panigrahi (12), AHS Psychology Club President

“Nearly 4 in 5 unhoused Californians surveyed reported experiencing a serious mental health condition at some point in life. 11,150 new behavioral health and supportive housing units statewide [and] an estimated 26,700 outpatient treatment slots will also be created that may serve thousands of Californians annually.” - California Budget & Policy Center

“1 in three California prisoners has a diagnosed mental illness. Today, we spend over \$100,000 per incarcerated person. Research shows it’s costly and counterproductive. Prop. 1 will prioritize treatment not punishment for the mentally ill.” - Yes on Prop 1 (official voter guide argument)

**Housing:**

“[Homelessness in California is] getting out of control. And some of the cities are not addressing this or building new facilities to house the mentally ill. I don’t think it’s a perfect plan. But when Obamacare came out, it wasn’t a great plan. But I realize that it was a step in the right direction.” - Mr. Noori, AP Government and Economy Teacher

## CONS:

### Fiscal:

“Last year, we had a \$30 billion surplus in the budget, and now Prop 1 wants to borrow 6.4 billion this year [during a \$68 Billion Deficit year]. Why wasn’t this passed when we had the extra money?” - Paul Simmons, a director of Californians Against Proposition 1

“The homelessness crisis is an affordability crisis, more than a mental health or substance use crisis. So the solution to the homeless issue is affordable housing. And quite honestly, the [state] government often does a poor job. They spent \$40 billion trying to provide housing to the homeless over the last 10 years. And the homeless crisis has gotten worse.” - Paul Simmons, a director of Californians Against Proposition 1

### Medical:

Prop 1 would amend the MHSA to require counties to redirect 30% of funding toward housing the mentally ill and away from other service programs. It would also take an estimated \$140 million away from counties annually for state mental health programs.

“We definitely need to focus more on the MHSA. There are not many funds set aside for mental health. Considering this is one of the biggest sources, we should focus more on developing new care centers with new treatment plans. Delving into the world of homelessness [simultaneously] is just too complicated.” - Danisha Panigrahi (12), Psych Club President

“ Prop 1 does not increase the overall funding for mental health services for counties – the bond money is to build treatment units and supportive housing. [MHSA funding] reallocation reduces the funds available for other mental health services that counties currently offer to patients, like treatment, crisis response, and outreach. It has the overall effect of reducing counties’ ability to set priorities based on local needs for mental health services.” - League of Women Voters of California

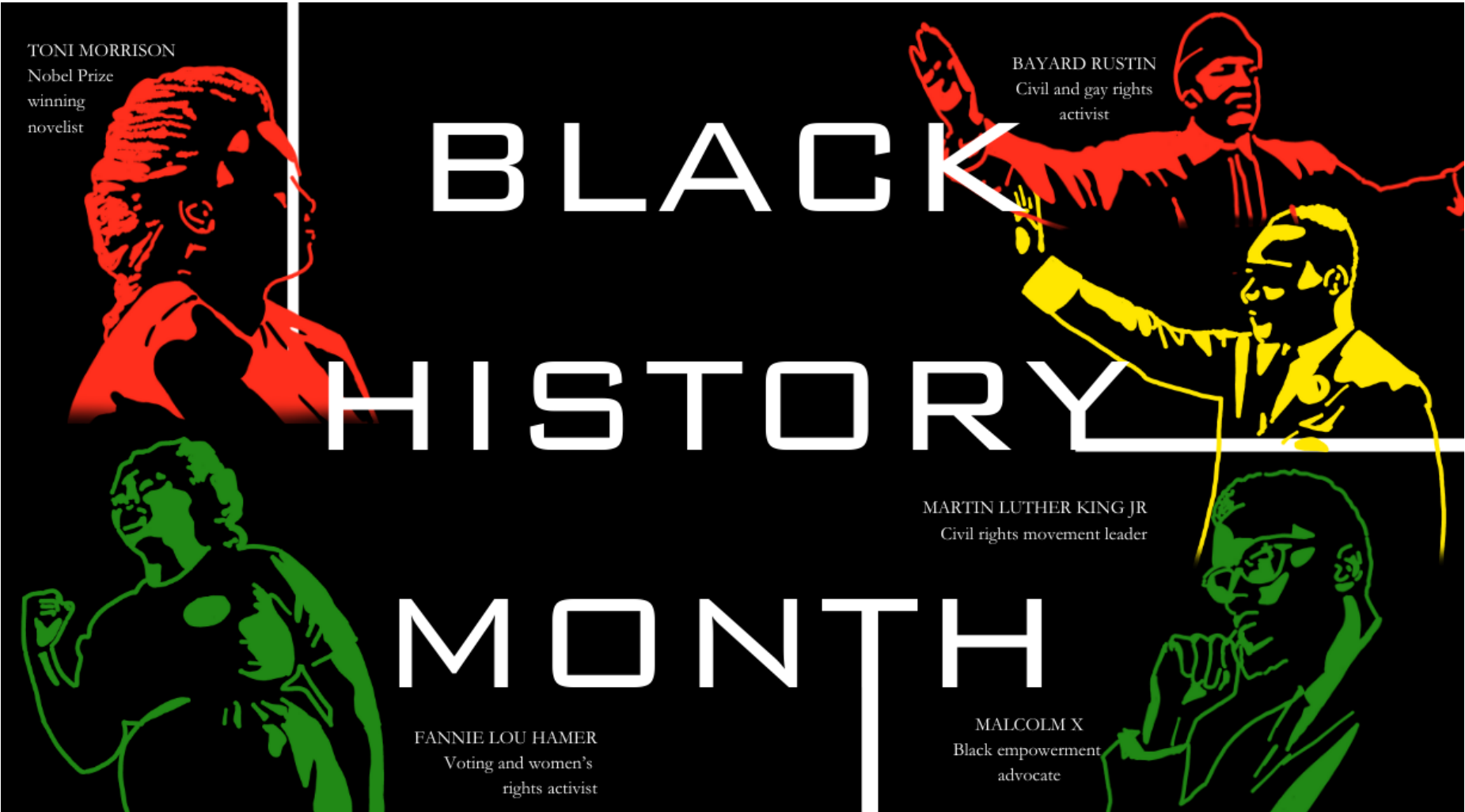
A last-minute change in the bond legislation allows for funding to be used for involuntary or “locked” mental health/substance abuse treatment facilities.

“Nobody wants a hospital bed to be their home for any long period of time. Whether it’s physical, mental, or anything else. More permanent supportive housing and I don’t mean hospital beds that lock people in and traumatize them, will help people who are in crisis.” - Paul Simmons, a director of Californians Against Proposition 1

**Housing:**

“As of January 2022, there were 171,500 people who were experiencing homelessness in California. Of this total, 10,400 were veterans. The bond would provide housing to over 20 percent of veterans experiencing homelessness. The number of housing units built by the bond would reduce statewide homelessness by only a small amount.” - Legislative Analyst’s Office





BOOKS BY BLACK AUTHORS



**Small Worlds**  
by Caleb Azumah Nelson  
Adult literary fiction.  
A son of Ghanan immigrants must decide between a university degree or his passion for music.



**Escaping Mr. Rochester**  
by L.L. McKinney  
Young adult historical romance.  
In a *Jane Eyre* retelling, Jane and Bertha save themselves from the secrets of Thornfield Hall.



**So Let them Burn**  
by Kamilah Cole  
Young adult fantasy.  
Jamaican-inspired and filled with dragons. A young legend chooses between saving her sister or protecting her homeland.



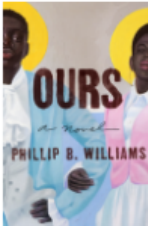
**Quietly Hostile**  
by Samantha Irby  
Contemporary essay collection.  
Humor-packed, cynical, and introspective, Irby examines memes and internet culture.



**How The Boogeyman Became A Poet**  
by Tony Keith Jr.  
Young adult memoir.  
A closeted teen and aspiring poet, Tony sees a path for his life that no one around him has walked before.



**The Principle of Moments**  
by Esmie Jikiemi-Pearson  
Adult science-fiction.  
A Regency Era time-traveller meets a 60th century girl living under imperial galactic rule.



**Ours**  
by Philip B. Williams  
Historical fiction, magical realism.  
In the 1830s, a woman named Saint annihilates plantations across Arkansas to free the enslaved people there.



**Everyone's Thinking It**  
by Aleema Omotoni  
Young adult fiction.  
Two Nigerian cousins find their cliques in a primarily white UK boarding school.



**Africa Risen**  
Speculative fiction anthology.  
From Africa and African diaspora, 32 short stories celebrate the origin of human civilization and the origin story of storytelling.

Logan King and Jessica Li | Staff Writers

- Down:
- 1. Poet, writer, and civil rights activist who rests in peace but still inspires others to rise.
  - 4. Color-based map discrimination that segregated Bay Area neighborhoods by race.
  - 5. The migration of white residents to suburbs that tragically created impoverished urban ghettos.
  - 6. The city that birthed the Black Panther Party to combat police brutality with their own armed patrols.
  - 9. Iconic '70s Bay Area artist whose name means "clever rock."
  - 10. The San Francisco neighborhood nicknamed "The Harlem of the West."

- Across:
- 2. Activist and Black Panther Party Co-Founder who was the inspiration for a Boondocks character. Middle initial included.
  - 3. The meal of the day given to kids for free by the Black Panther Party.
  - 7. US Congresswoman based in Oakland, is currently running for US Senate.
  - 8. American High School Alumni and 1988 Olympic gold medalist in the track & field 400m sprint.
  - 11. The industry that tripled the Bay Area's black population during WW2.
  - 12. U Can't Touch this Oakland native.

ANSWERS:

