

Wrestling, A Personal Perspective

By Paige Snepp
Staff Writer

What is the first thing that comes to mind when a person hears the word wrestling? For some, it may be the image of John Cena body slamming some poor fellow to the soul-shaking sound of trumpets. For others, it conjures cringeworthy mental images of grown men engaged in the most aggressive cuddling session of their lives. For the rest, it's Mexican Jack Black in his underwear. For me and other wrestlers, the word wrestling holds greater significance. It encompasses a beautiful world of pain, unyielding tenacity and personal discovery.

Wrestling's history gives it a thick air of irony today. Despite having arguably the richest history of any other sport, it has managed to fall into odd reputation and relative obscurity. All are familiar with Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's grandiose stage presence and his glorious "People's Elbow." However, the same people scratch their heads when presented with the iconic Jason Nolf "Winn Dixie" roll or the Gianni "Sit-the-Corner." And this is the divide between the two worlds of wrestling. The latter moves are a part of sport wrestling, the form closest to the game of the ancient Olympics. However, most are familiar with professional wrestling, a high-strung display of blinding personalities, stunts and predetermined outcomes. People consistently flock to this world of flashy outfits and chair-smashing over the gritty, sweat-stained reality of sport wrestling. And this is a shame, as sport wrestling is one of the most electrifying spectacles ever created.

The goal of the sport is simple enough: get your opponent on their back. However, the manner in which this is achieved is anything but simple. When the referee's whistle blows, the room is instantly transformed into a battleground. What ensues is a furious struggle for dominance — each wrestler lunging and scrambling for the advantageous position. All this occurs while in wrestling stance — an excruciating position akin to an intense duck waddle. Double leg takedowns, headlocks and lat drops are just the tip of the iceberg. There is an endless stream of moves designed to discombobulate, exhaust and outwork the opponent.

It is a ballroom dance — one of precision, power and grace. A Pali wrestler likely would vigorously resist comparison to a dancer — yet the two are almost one and the same. Just as a dancer feels their partner's next step, wrestlers

See **WRESTLING** - page 13



Marching band students practice for their next competition.

PHOTO BY: Daniel Scott

Pali's Marching Band Welcomes New Members

By Dohyun (Andy) Ju
Staff Writer

This year, around 20 incoming freshmen joined Pali marching band and committed one semester worth of their Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays to attend practices on the football field after school.

The band also welcomed a new director, Tyler Farrell, and two new drum majors, junior McCartney Hutchinson and senior Brian Jang. Members

of the marching band had generally positive opinions about how Farrell, Hutchinson, Jang and the other student leaders ran the class and treated band members. These students say they are optimistic about how the group will progress for the rest of the year.

Hutchinson and Jang are two of three drum majors, working together with returning drum major and junior Ava Ruggiero. A senior in marching band, who wished to remain

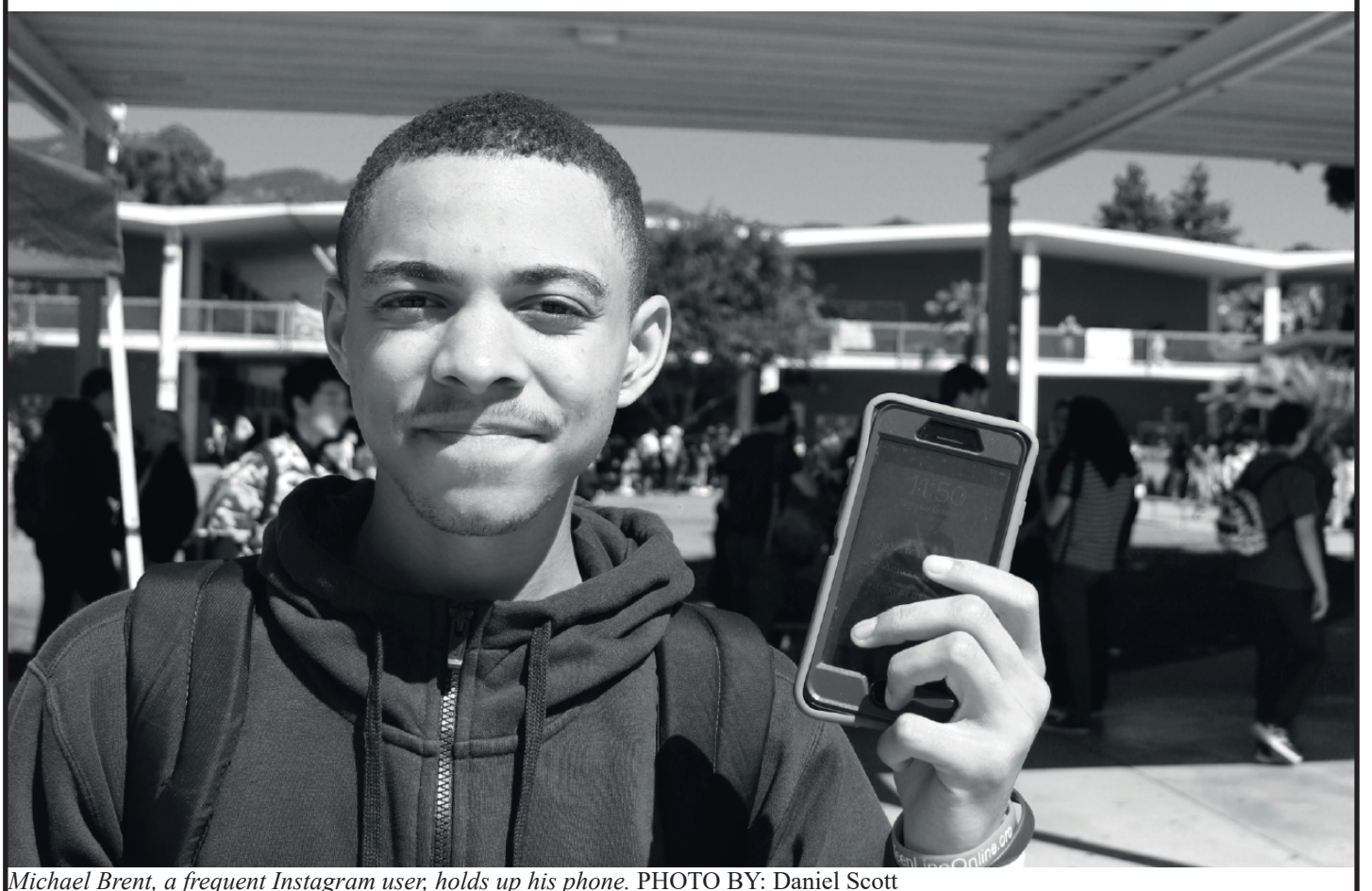
anonymous, said that the drum majors have very different styles, but the leaders work well together. He also noted that Farrell knows how to enforce rules and control the class well, and interjects fun and excitement into the curriculum. The senior said that he hopes that the rest of the year will continue to run smoothly and is excited for more chances to work with Farrell.

See **MARCHING BAND** - page 5

A New Wave of Protesting

Students use Instagram as a platform to engage in activism and spread awareness.

By Joey Chae, Staff Writer See **INSTAGRAM** - Page 9



Michael Brent, a frequent Instagram user, holds up his phone. PHOTO BY: Daniel Scott

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A Message from the Editors

Dear Reader,
“What’s Tideline?” We get that a lot. Pali does indeed have a journalism class and, this year, we are going to knock your socks off. With our new staff, groovy attitude and blossoming relationship with Pali’s administration, we hope to reimagine our role as one filled with integrity and purpose within the Pali community.

This is the first physical newspaper in the we have published in the last few years. And we must admit, the process has been an extensive learning experience. Our staff has worked tirelessly to design pages, edit articles and work with new writers to improve their reporting skills.

When it comes to creating a newspaper, it’s not just about the writers; the contributions of the photographers, illustrators and videographers made this publication possible.

Thanks to the Booster Club and the parents who have donated, our faculty advisor Lisa Saxon (shoutout to Ms. Kwok) and the Pali administration’s support of our efforts, we have been able to steer *Tideline* in a new, exciting direction.

In the coming months, we aim to release more content for the student body and in return, we hope you come to us with any concerns or stories you’d like us to cover.



*Not pictured: Sarah Bentley and Nathalia Wyss

We beg of thee, enjoy.

With love,
The Editors

P.S. Hungry for more? Check out our stories at the Tideline website:
www.tideline.news

Satire: Ask Atticus

From trees to mac and cheese, Atticus Parker answers students’ most pressing questions.

By Atticus Parker
Staff Writer

Do you have any advice on how to avoid catching a cold?

I generally try to abide by the following three rules:

Drink hot tea every morning — I put eye drops and motor oil in for flavor.

Moisturize skin with cottage cheese and Sherwin-Williams “Brave Purple” paint (SW 6823, for those of you more numerically inclined). I like a 2:3 cheese: paint ratio. If you’re lactose-intolerant, Elmer’s Glue is a good substitute, but

use slightly less.

Brush teeth with dandruff shampoo. Head & Shoulders is OK, but I use an organic, phthalate-free brand. We’re talking about your health here.

I recommend using toilet water as a gargle to soothe the throat. Just dip a medium ladle in the toilet and you’ll get just the right amount.

Can you rate the kinds of store-bought mac and cheese from garbage to gold? Please! The people need to know!

Horizon Cheesy Mac Mild Cheddar: 1/10-DISCOSTANG

Velveta Shells & Cheese: 3/10- If Amy Schumer was a mac and cheese, this would be it
Kraft Macaroni and Cheese: 5/10- Has an artificial, mildly repulsive taste but a nostalgic quality

Annie’s Shells and White Cheddar: 6/10- They’re like fine, I guess

Trader Joe’s White Cheddar Shells: 8/10- A standard, satisfying cheat day treat

In conclusion, none of them are that great, but for your own sanity and happiness, PLEASE don’t eat Horizon Cheesy Mac Mild Cheddar.

I really want colored LED lights in my room, but I can’t afford them. Do you know a DIY version I can use?

I personally recommend buying inexpensive Christmas lights, then treating them with a coat of an enemy’s blood for a bright crimson shine. This gives your room a year-round holiday glow.

If your dog has thrown up recently, collect it, and then brush the lights liberally for an eerie green look (Don’t forget to remove the chunks!). You can also darken any of these colors by adding your ancestors’ ashes.

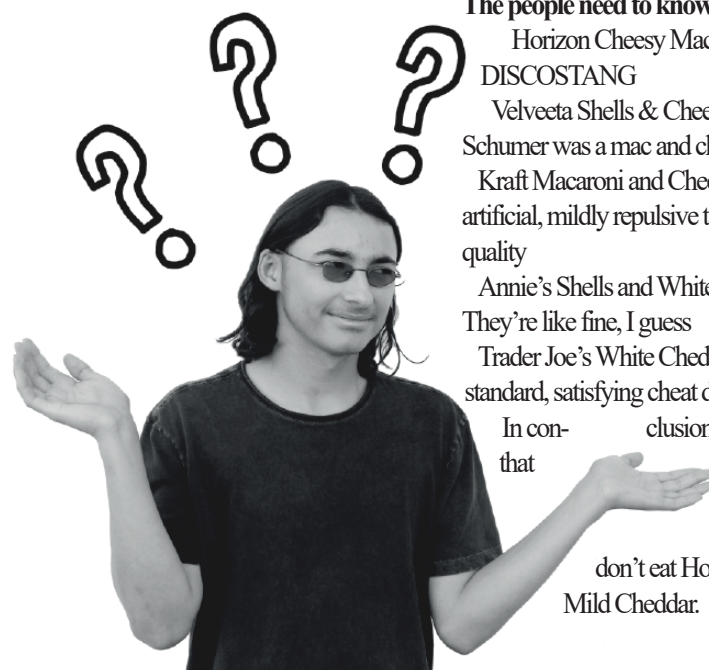
Am I is yes to the way in the kitchen would you what is do?

Yes.

If you were a tree, what type would you be?

Visually, I think I most resemble an aspen: light brown, bumpy and frail. Emotionally, I’m a Hanukkah bush: unique, fun and Jewish. Temperamentally, I think of myself as a maple tree: filled with high-grade, hard-to-extract sweetness.

If you have a question for Atticus, go to 34.180840 N, 118.308968 W and await further instructions from a tall, ominous, wildly attractive man in a navy suit that perfectly accentuates his kind hazel eyes. Or contact him through Schoology.



NEWS

Pali Administration Establishes New Out-of-Bounds Areas

By Maya Millner
Staff Writer

Over the summer, Pali's Safety & Security Department and Dean's Office decided to create two new out-of-bounds areas and to more stringently enforce existing ones.

The new out-of-bounds areas include the front of the school near Bowdoin Street, all parking lots, and roads on campus. The area near the three Visual and Performing Arts sheds and the pool equipment buildings were already

Ac-
cording to Direc-

'Too many students were congregating up there.' - Don Parcell

tor of Operations Don Parcell, no congregating is allowed behind the gym com-

plex, the J buildings, the loading dock, the W buildings, the back of the upstairs D, E, F and G buildings or by the flagpole at the front of school.

Parcell said the main reason for the new out-of-bounds areas is to help the security guards better monitor the school. The out-of-bounds area by the flagpole "helps the security guards better see who may be approaching the front/main entrance to the school during the school day," Parcell explained. "This change so far has been very helpful to the guards and the ongoing safety and security of the school."

The new restrictions for the upstairs area are due to the fact "that too many students were congregating up there, somewhat hidden from security guards' consistent view," according to Parcell.

Although this change was planned by the administration, the lack of communication with the student body has left several students confused about the purpose and reali-



Out-of-bounds line on the upper floor of the E Building. PHOTO BY: Daniel Scott

ty of these new restrictions.

Senior Jackson Garland said, "They have so many new security members this year too, and I feel like they should just station people [on the second floor]."

Junior Nathan Tsunoda said he was confused by the new restrictions. "I saw an out-of-bounds area on the second floor and it was not out-of-bounds unless the U buildings are out-of-bounds," Tsunoda

said. "I don't know what's going on with that, but it's pretty stupid."

Senior Kiara Prado said, "I've seen [the out-of-bounds lines], but I just pass them. Some of the places where they put them it doesn't really seem like they should be out of bounds so it's like I don't really know if should pass them or not."

Despite student concerns, Pali officials still plan to enforce the restrictions throughout the year.

Pali Hosts Annual Blood Drive

Students are able to earn community service hours by giving blood to the American Red Cross Foundation.

By Arielle Hatton
Staff Writer

Pali hosted its annual blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross in the small gym on Thursday, Sept. 19. More than 60 students participated in the drive by donating a pint of blood to help those in need.

Donors were also given the opportunity to participate in the Power Red donation process, which enables people to donate nearly twice the amount of red blood cells through

a specific scientific collection process.

Senior ASB representative Lauren Hartog has been in charge of

the blood drive for the past three years and described the planning process as "extremely rigorous." She began by meeting with a Red Cross administrator to discuss logistics, such as the time and place of the event. From there, she created an online signup sheet and spread the word to Pali students through Schoology and various other social

media platforms. The remaining time until the event was spent coordinating with Red Cross personnel and Pali faculty.

Before the day of the event, students older than the minimum age of 16 who were interested in donating blood were required to sign up online through the Red Cross website. Minors needed an additional parental consent form in order to donate. Students were then able to choose the time of day in which they wanted to give blood via an online sign-up sheet.

The drive is 'A simple way to help a lot of people.' - Allen Schultz

On the day of the drive, four to six students were called in every 15 minutes to donate. The donation process be-

gan with Red Cross representatives checking students' health before they gave blood. Donors were then ushered to their respective blood drawing stations, where they made their donation. Red Cross representatives then provided them with food and water.

Junior Allen Schultz was one of the donors at the event. This was

his second year participating in the drive, and he thinks it is "a simple way to help a lot of people." Schultz is an ASB Leadership member and was a part of the planning process for this event. He says that "helping create and participate in the blood drive has been a really amazing experience."

Junior Malia Mitchell volunteered to give blood, but was unable to do so on this day. Nonetheless, Mitch-

ell says that the blood drive is an important event that allows her "to give back to communities that are in need." She says she plans to volunteer again during next year's drive.

Hartog shares Schultz and Mitchell's enthusiasm for the blood drive. She says that blood drives at Pali can make a difference in the community, and Hartog was happy to report that "we were able to save a total of 168 lives."



A student participates in the annual blood drive. PHOTO BY: Isabella Kim-LaTona

Students Participate in Active Shooter Drill

By Maya Millner
Staff Writer

Pali held an active intruder drill on Thursday, Sept. 26 during a Community Day period. The drill consisted of a short review of procedures to use for an active shooter situation and a simulated lock down.

After a review of what to do in a shooter situation, students were told to barricade doors, turn off the lights and hide in the safest, most concealed part of the classroom, as announcements about the location of the simulated shooter were given. Staff moved around the school trying to open doors, testing how secure they were.

In regard to the effectiveness of the drill, Director of Operations Don Parcell said, "If everyone takes them seriously, reviews the material and practices as needed, even though such an event would be scary and chaotic ... we [Pali Administration] believe this training would be very beneficial to everyone to be better prepared."

Parcell also explained that the school will have these drills once a semester "to help everyone ... be better prepared



Pali students hide beneath classroom desks to participate in the September active intruder drill. PHOTO BY: Daniel Scott

for such an event."

Sophomore Ananya Tan said, "The drill we just had was the same one as last time... It was kind of boring, but it was also helpful because people will know better because they heard it twice."

Junior Ryan Ayers explained, "It was helpful to see what type of formations

of the desks we should do... if it would actually be effective." He added, "The whole drill was well organized and executed but the classroom was not very serious about the drill at all."

Some staff members quietly complained about the drill taking away class time. Nonetheless, most Pali stu-

dents and staff agreed that these active intruder drills are important for everyone's safety.

Sophomore Ella Novie summed up the prevailing attitude, saying, "I think it may help, and it's better than nothing, but it can be improved on greatly."

Pali Holds Campus Unification Day Stressing Importance of Mental Health



A student sits and watches the community day video. PHOTO BY: Isabella Kim-Latona

By Henry Mueller
Staff Writer

Pali held a Campus Unification Day on Wednesday, Oct. 2 that centered on mental health and included both a 40-minute classroom activity and lunch performance.

Senior Hallie McRae, Chair of Justice League and a member of the Associated Student Body (ASB), explained that ASB Leadership invited students to attend a meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10 to voice their ideas about Campus Unification Day topics.

After that meeting, five choices were posted on Schoology for the student body to vote on. Originally, climate change won the poll, finishing ahead of second-place choice mental health by more than 100 votes.

However, McRae explained that Justice League members decided to go with mental health, a topic that had been under consideration during each of the last three school years. She added that topic holds significant meaning for many students now because "life is so stressful, especially this time of the year," referencing college applications. She said it's "crucial for all students to know of all the mental health resources we have on campus."

McRae also said, "The climate crisis is so important and we definitely want to incorporate that into another [future Community] Day."

This Campus Unification Day was a two-part educational event. It began

with a community period in which teachers showed a video about the importance of mental health awareness, along with explanatory handouts and surveys that students completed.

Teachers were asked to share the material they were given and lead a class discussion on mental health. In a video, Director of Student Services Mary Bush reviewed the mental health resources available to Pali students.

According to McRae, students had the opportunity to attend a lunch event after the Community Day period in which Elizabeth Stephans and Dylan Dunlap, two speakers and advocates working with The National Alliance on Mental Illness, shared their experiences and advice on how to deal with mental illnesses.

The "Pali Help Sheet" was distributed during lunch, and McRae said it contained "different resources that students can go to on campus and off campus...if they need help or they're struggling with a mental health disorder."

ASB president and senior Laney Chao said that community days are a "good form of unifying our campus" and explained that they educate students on important topics. Other students, such as junior Maygol Mohammadi, disagreed, saying that community days are usually "repetitive and they show the same videos, and even the teachers think it's a waste of time."

Regardless of students' opinions, McRae said it's "crucial for all students to know of all the mental health resources we have on campus."

Pali's Marching Band Expands



Pali's marching band members work tirelessly during the day to practice for their upcoming competitions. PHOTO BY: Daniel Scott

MARCHING BAND, from page 1

This senior's hopeful view is shared by the new members of the band, who are mostly freshmen. Ezekiel Ito, who plays the alto saxophone, said that Farrell and the drum majors "all work really, really hard."

The incoming members say they are looking forward to working for the rest of the semester, but some admit that a love of music was not the lure.

Some students, especially incoming freshmen, say that they joined

marching band in order to bypass the Physical Education graduation requirement. One freshman pointed out that he doesn't like to be forced to exercise in a certain way and prefers to have control over how he gets P.E. credits. Another band member said that because some students do not get the P.E. teacher or period of choice, marching band is a better option. It's held after school, freeing up time to take another class in the block schedule.

Junior and tenor saxophonist Ashley Ramos said that she joined marching band by mistake. She accidentally signed up and attended the program but stayed when she discovered it was the right choice for her. She explained that she was enticed to stay because "[she] made friends, and at the same time, the music was wonderful."

Freshman Bernard Kim, who plays the clarinet, said that he joined the band because it seemed like "the

thing [he was] supposed to do after middle school band." Freshmen, like Kim, mention that they were also looking forward to making new friends and improving musically via the mandatory summer band camp as well as future practices and performances.

The marching band has performed at Back to School Night, weekend competitions and at all home football games, and look forward to performing in their future shows.

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Anime Club Quickly Grows in Popularity

With weekly lunchtime meetings in room G106, Pali's new Anime Club on campus ushers in students.

By Tommy Berman
Copy Editor

At its first meeting on Thursday Sept. 19, Pali's Anime club attracted 70 members.

According to junior and Former Club President David Leitz, a regular club meeting consists of a screening of various anime titles that the club voted on the previous week. "The club will be constantly changing depending on what the members want," he said.

Explaining his motivations for starting the club, Leitz said he and his friends always spoke about anime last year in Spanish class. This year, they made the decision to bring it to more Pali students as an interest-based club. Anime is animated Japanese film and television.

Leitz founded the club along with junior Vice President Eva Glover, junior Chief of Staff Ryan Johnson and junior Treasurer Kai Wang.

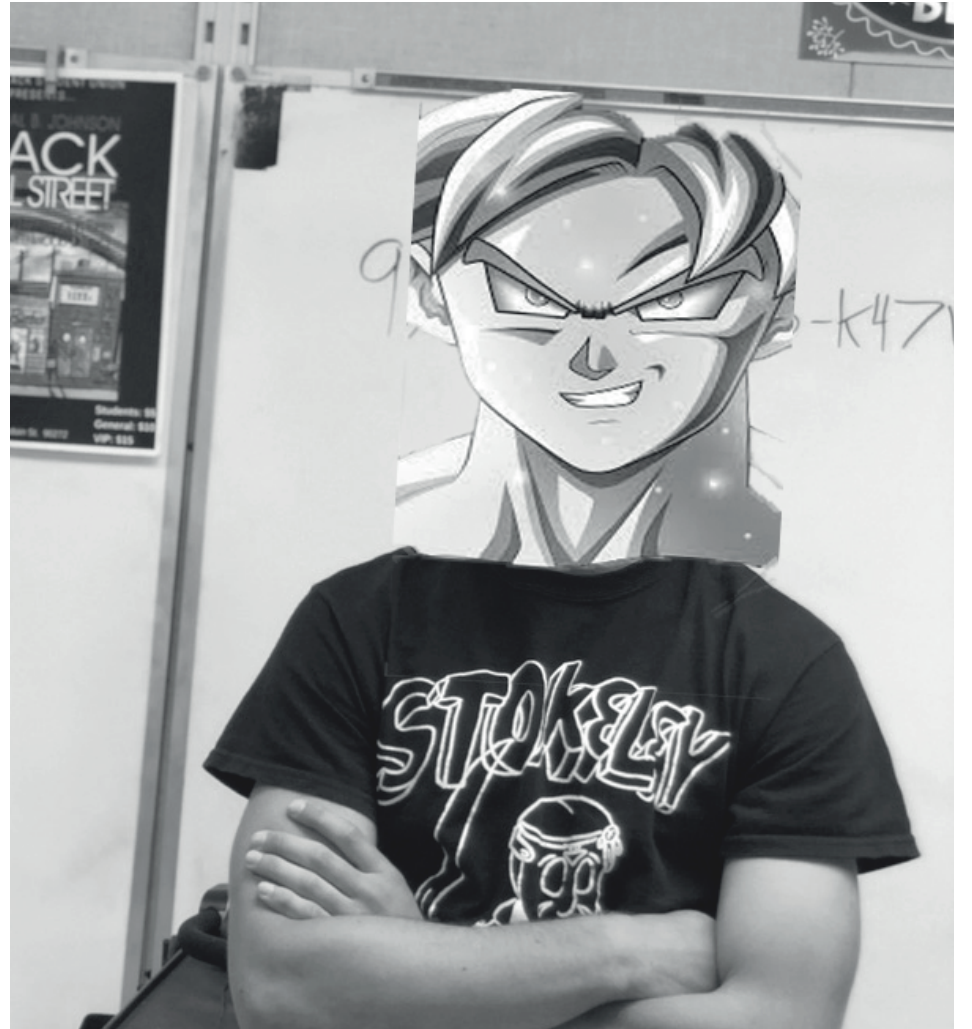
In addition to watching anime, Leitz said that the club plans to host raffles in which members will have the chance to win merchandise from popular anime shows. The club is also

planning to take students to Anime Expo, a global convention which takes place from July 2-5 in Los Angeles, Leitz said. Anime Expo is hosted by the Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation and attracts around 100,000 anime fans annually. The club will "accept anyone into the club no matter their knowledge about anime." Leitz said, "it's really all about exposure."

During the club's first meeting on Thursday, Sept. 19, members discussed which anime program they would watch at the following club meeting, finally deciding on "Demon Slayer", which has more than two dozen 25-minute-long episodes. They have also watched clips of the three-volume series "KILL LA KILL".

History teacher Steven Burr attended the first meeting and is offering students a trip to Japan in June of 2020, which includes sightseeing tours in Kyoto, Hakone and Osaka, according to the tour company Burr is using. At the meeting, many students showed interest in going to Japan, the birthplace of anime.

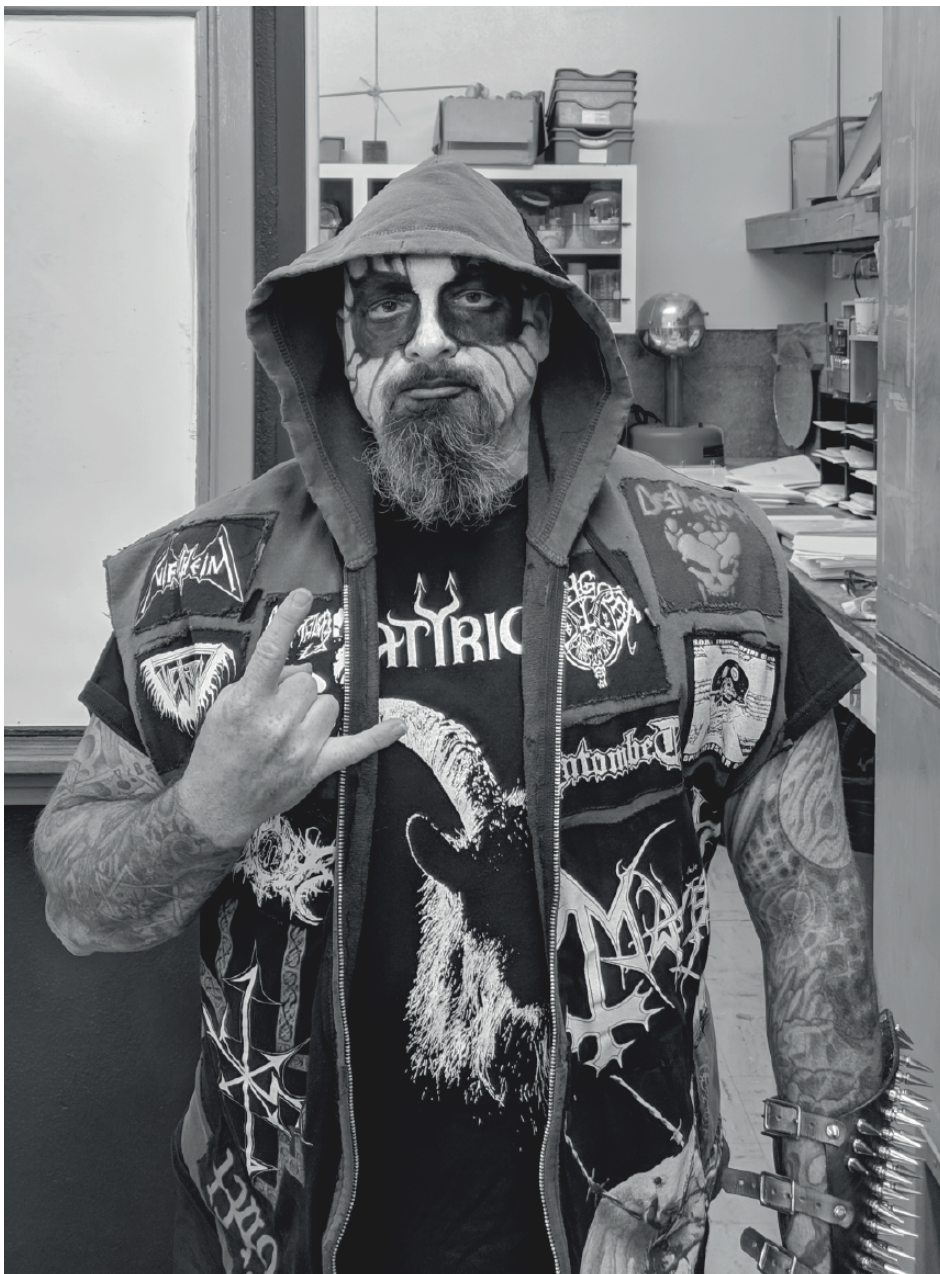
Anime Club meets weekly in G106.



A student poses during a club meeting. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY: Tommy Berman

Punk and Metal Club Rocks Pali's Campus

From Black Flag to Black Sabbath, come to room F206 to listen to some punk and metal music.



Physics Teacher and Pali Metalhead David Schalek. PHOTO BY: Caleb Crain

By Jack Jeffers
Staff Writer

Pali's Punk and Metal club is a place for Pali music enthusiasts to gather together, listen to music and engage in spirited discussion about their favorite genres.

The club is advised by two Pali teachers: self-proclaimed Faculty Punk, United States and European History teacher Christopher Berry and self-proclaimed Faculty Metalhead, Physics and Astronomy teacher David Schalek.

Explaining his rationale for starting the club, Schalek stated, "I've been interested in heavy metal since I was a kid and over

the years I've always encountered students that had an interest in it as well."

Schalek said that for years, he has wanted to start a heavy metal and punk club, but his lack of background in punk music was a roadblock, explaining that "it's not really my thing."

Enter Berry.

He joined the faculty a couple of years ago, and when Schalek learned that they had similar musical tastes, he went to Berry with this proposal: "You want to throw together a club?"

Berry agreed, and the club began last

year.

At the club's first meeting of this year, the two teachers played some of the foundational songs from their respective genres — Schalek played "Paranoid" by Black Sabbath, while Berry played "God Save the Queen" by the Sex Pistols.

According to senior and club president Connor Scott, the first meeting was a success. "We had 40-plus kids [attend] and the club is going well," Scott said. "We have a better turnout than last year, and we're focusing more on the music itself rather than the history, which is great."

The teachers also explained how the club will be different this year from last year. According to

Schalek, last year's club was the two teachers lecturing about music for half an hour each week and playing a few songs.

"We decided to do things a little bit differently this year, maybe asking the students to do a little bit of prep before club meetings as opposed to last year where we just taught it to them," Schalek said. "Then we'll be able to free up more time to watch and listen to things."

The club meets Wednesdays in F206 during lunch.

"We're focusing more on the music itself rather than the history."

- Connor Scott

ARTS & CULTURE

Instagram Memes Provide Comic Relief

Many students are participating in the trend of meme culture, amassing thousands of followers.

By Aaron Sabeti & Luke Wiener
Staff Writers

Instagram memes: the quintessential driving force that keeps society going. These memes appeal to Pali students because they poke fun at the specific problems familiar to many teenagers. Students enjoy a wide array of sub-genres, ranging from the most obscure, esoteric humor to “normie” humor, as seen in the accounts @daquan and @hoodclips and others amassing over a million followers. Meme culture has come a long way since its roots in the early 2000s, distancing itself from some of the early Internet memes such as the troll face. Recently, the ironic meme community has been exploring the abstract value of those memes from so long ago, with the impact-font format being one of the most popular.

Humor on Instagram has been following a trend of ironically making fun of trends. This is exemplified in memes that poke fun at fads, like the changing of profile pictures to support human rights issues as well as memes that poke fun of political accounts.

Well-known among the ironic meme community, @obama.gaming has accumulated about 17.4k followers and is the founder of the “.gaminghouse.” The “.gaminghouse” is a group of meme pages whose account names end with “.gaming.” Notable members include @shaq.gaming, @billclinton.gaming and @kanyewest.gaming.

In real life, @obama.gaming takes four AP classes, stays after school for clubs and posts in the morning or during breaks in the school day. He said: “The irony community is currently at a stalemate since there’s nothing big to make fun of. I only see the irony community expanding... [if the] next big thing to make fun of... happens soon. A good example was the area 51 meme.”

Running meme pages and creating high-quality original content may seem like a simple side hobby, but it doesn’t come without its fair share of trials and tribulations. For some, it is more than just a social activity, but a source of income and a way of life.

Former Pali student @clammy-

nipples has amassed approximately 421k followers. He runs a page that mostly reposts memes from other accounts, the majority of which originally were TikTok videos.

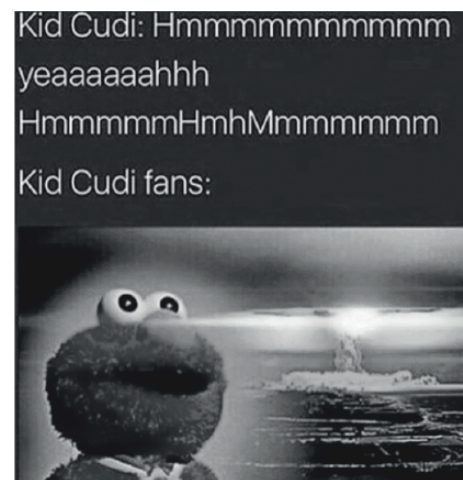
“I spend around one to four hours managing my page,” @clammy-nipples stated. “I make memes for fun... but I never expected it to get this large.” This excludes his personal account and his three other meme pages over 100k fol-

lowers. He runs a page that mostly reposts memes from other accounts, the majority of which originally were TikTok videos. I think people will find funny.”

This fear of losing an account, which was only a fleeting concern in the previous years, is now something is causing anxiety among meme page owners.

Some large meme pages have expressed that this is reminiscent of a purge or a witch trial, where Instagram’s skewed guidelines serve as judge,

“Memes and their sub-genres have been one of the defining focal points of Generation Z.”



Examples of memes seen on many popular Instagram pages. COLLAGE BY: Kira Davis

lowers combined.

Recently, a growing number of meme pages of all sizes are being flagged by other users, a move that may trigger penalties ranging from temporary blocks to permanent deletion.

Another popular page with about 80k followers, @realkingofthank, isn’t too fond of Instagram’s management either. “Recently Instagram completely changed the explore algorithm, making it almost impossible to get consistent exposure for public pages,” he said. “So I have to be private to grow, which also means I have to post a ton more. But I’m not posting based

jury and executioner. In many reported account incidents involving extraordinarily-popular meme pages and Instagram’s help center, admins lose their pages to seemingly insignificant reports or baseless claims of hate speech. In the Great Meme Purge of July 2019, more than 40 million followers and \$600,000 in revenue were lost in this seemingly haphazard attack on accounts, which included @finest.inventions (13 million), @uniquevines (8.3 million) and @succccccccccccc (3.7 million).

“I see [memes] going to another platform as [Instagram] isn’t reliable and is getting rid of content

that it deems to be unfit for its community,” @clammy-nipples stated. “Anything that isn’t aligned with the Instagram team’s views has a good chance of being censored.”

Despite the turbulence of recent reports, there are pages that remain a special source of happiness for many. One example is the “doge” meme, picturing a Japanese Shiba Inu dog. Debuting in 2010, the iconic picture of the dog on a couch looking surprised garnered the attention of the meme community, which was still in its infancy at the time. The doge meme, which took on a life of its own, is quite possibly the most versatile and universal of memes. Being one of the largest doge-related meme pages with 37.7k followers, @yourfrienddoge holds a great influence on the community. “My friend kept asking me why so many bad things kept happening to doge, so I decided to make one [meme] where good things happen to him,” @yourfrienddoge said, reflecting on how his page came to exist.

@yourfrienddoge and his friend make every meme themselves. They continue to post daily on their account to make people feel amused. “It’s always nice hearing people say they’ve had a rough day at school, been depressed, etc., and they come home and cheer up seeing our posts,” he mentioned.

They are committed to posting as much as they possibly can and revealed that “when [I] first started, a lot of hours were invested in making material. I’m talking two plus hours a day because we were so new to making memes. I would literally use my lunch breaks to focus on memes and it became overwhelming.” When asked if he wanted to turn his hobby into a career or even a side-hustle, @yourfrienddoge said: “Naw. I just wanna make people smile. Same philosophy I have in real life.”

Memes and their sub-genres have been one of the defining focal points of Generation Z. Most teens are available to engage in conversation only through referencing memes, something that earlier generations may never understand. The meme pages of Instagram provide an endless stream of content that keeps humor evolving on the Internet.

Netflix: The Great Exodus

By Lily Gong
Staff Writer

The hearty thump of your backpack echoes through your house as you return home from a long day of school. Exhausted, you throw your limp body onto your couch and pick up the TV remote. As you sluggishly scroll through Netflix's homepage, it seems as though you've seen everything good it has to offer. Deciding to branch out, you randomly select genres, hoping to stumble upon a fresh TV show or movie. Horror? Just the same old. Rom-coms? Nope. Nothing new. It even seems like there were fewer movies than the last time you checked. Third time's the charm, right? Well, sci-fi proves that wrong. After finally deciding to watch "Friends" for the hundredth time, you turn your attention to Instagram, letting the TV fade into background noise. It's almost as if the TV was off.

But as new streaming services are gaining traction and the plethora of content that used to characterize Netflix's homepage diminishes, Netflix is being slowly

cleansed of the classics that drew its subscribers. The beloved sitcom "The Office" is being reclaimed by its mother company, NBC, as it plans a new streaming service, attempting to recreate Netflix's success. While this addition may delight cable TV subscribers, this withdrawal emphasizes how the schism between older, traditionally-distributed content and newer, individually produced material is becoming less pronounced. NBC's traditional role as a cable TV network is

being transformed and modernized as it adapts to today's cord-cutting, streaming-fueled society.

While Netflix's content ranges from blockbuster action films to best-picture-nominated dramas to children's cartoons, new services such as Disney+ cater to more specific audiences, further dispersing media content that used to fall under Netflix's umbrella. This subdivision of

content forces consumers to pick and choose what services they subscribe to, leading many to sacrifice their personal

preferences to settle on crowd-pleasing compromises that also meet their financial needs, thus decreasing Netflix's universal appeal. Although Netflix may still be a widely used service, companies like HBO, owned by WarnerMedia, have never left the background with shows like "Game of Thrones", "Succession", and "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver", to name a few.

The prevalence of distributors producing original content is spreading and evidenced by Netflix's recent additions. They're often hit-or-miss — the over-sexualized, cliched movie "The Kissing Booth" received a whopping 17 percent on Rotten Tomatoes — but shows like "Stranger Things" have garnered both incredible popular success and critical reviews.

Moving forward, the streaming wars will become more complex, as services such as NBC's Peacock,

Disney+ and Apple TV+ continue to compete over their content output — the ultimate determiner where consumers choose to spend their money.



ILLUSTRATION BY: Kira Davis

Unoriginality is Hollywood's New Reality

By Eliana Feinstein
Staff Writer

Looking at a list of "movies coming soon to theaters near you," one message becomes quite clear: Movie remakes are inescapable. In recent years, the number of remakes has multiplied at an alarming rate, so much so that checking movie theaters' showtimes is now impossible without stumbling upon a supposedly new-and-improved version of a classic. Hollywood has resorted to revisiting past films — either replicating previous successes or rectifying failures — but by doing so it exhausts its own creativity and normalizes a substandard film industry.

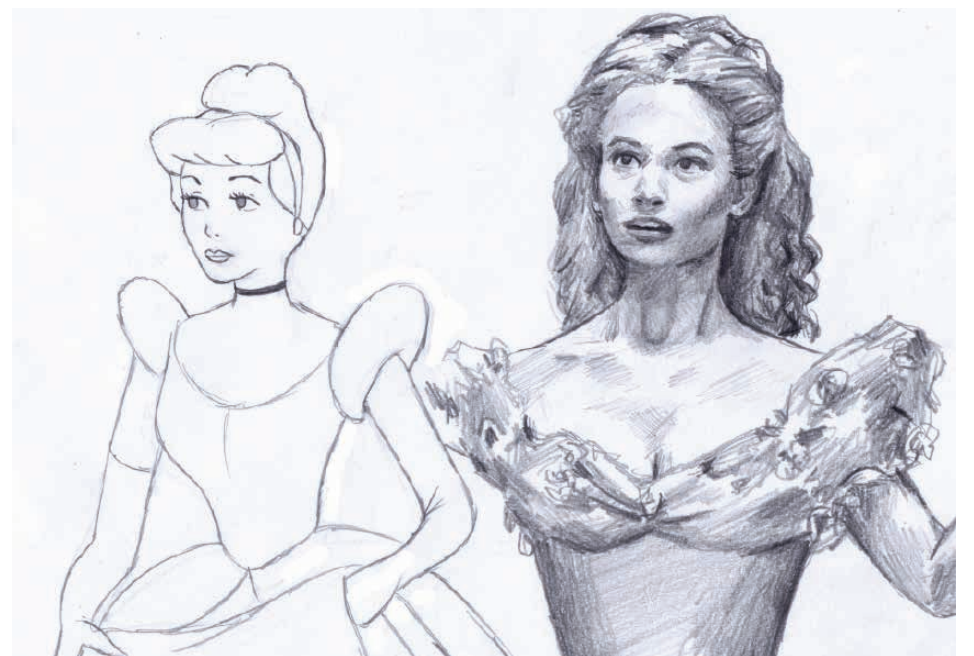
Even though slapping a shiny bow on an old hand-me-down doesn't make it any newer, Hollywood filmmakers relentlessly persist in remaking every movie they can dredge up from the past. From nostalgia to greed, Hollywood's writers and executives have individual motives for recreating movies. While some people wholeheartedly support these efforts, others stubbornly refuse to accept them, as many moviegoers look to protect and preserve classic movies they know and love.

Fans are particularly afraid of having their perception of a beloved childhood film tainted. Those who are fiercely loyal reject Disney reimagining original animated movies as live action, such as the 2010 remake of "Alice in Wonderland"

(1951), the company's first adaptation. It was followed by a 2015 remake of "Cinderella" (1950), which already had countless live-action spin-offs. Rodgers & Hammerstein's three "Cinderella" films (1957, 1965, 1997), "Ever After" (1998) and Warner Bros.'s five-part "A Cinderella Story" franchise — which released "A Cinderella Story: Christmas Wish" on Tuesday, Oct. 15 — only scratch the surface of Cinderella's movie empire.

Computer-animated "The Lion King" (2019) was the very first remake of the 1994 film, and it shortly became one of the highest-grossing movies of all time. However, the 2019 "Dumbo" remake failed to meet Disney's box office expectations and earned a Rotten Tomatoes rating of only 47 percent. The remake of "The Lion King", although financially successful, had similar ratings; nearly all of Disney's original animated movies have top ratings on Rotten Tomatoes, while their remakes average much lower. Sometimes it's best not to mess with fans' precious original movies.

Sony Pictures' CEO recently sparked outrage with his idea to remake "The Princess Bride" (1987), a quotable cult classic many fans deem to be one of the best films ever made — and one that should remain untouched. The same goes for the beloved "Home Alone" (1990),



Cinderella (1950) vs. the remake of Cinderella (2015). ILLUSTRATION BY: Marina Caro

which has fans reeling over Disney's decision to recreate it in a more modern setting.

Classic stories have been constantly retold throughout the years, paving the way for this current tidal wave of unoriginality. Hardly a few decades can go by before "A Star Is Born" is again available in theaters for a new generation; the 1937 original was remade in 1954, 1976 and 2018. Other regularly revisited classics include "Pride and Prejudice" — which even spawned a zombie-themed remake in 2016 — and "Little Women", which will have its fifth film adaptation released this December. Once the

movie's remakes outnumber the four titular "little women," it's clear that Hollywood has attachment issues.

The controversy surrounding unoriginality generally boils down to fear — fear that a remake won't live up to the original and the greater fear that it might even surpass the beloved classic. The film industry was created to entertain and to challenge, but why should it now test our loyalty more than its own, choosing to challenge us instead of its own potential for ingenuity? Perhaps Hollywood has admitted defeat, accepting that unoriginality is its new, inescapable reality.

FEATURES

Instagram Users Advocate For Change

By Joey Chae
Staff Writer

It can be easy to get sucked into the social media vortex, spending hours upon hours scrolling through Instagram posts and Snapchat stories. While Instagram normally supplies an endless, repeating cycle of memes, birthday shout-outs and polls, posts taking a more political tone have risen in popularity.

In recent months, in response to controversial issues such as the Heartbeat ban and the forest fires in the Amazon, frustrated teens are turning to Instagram to advocate for change.

As a participant in organizations such as Planned Parenthood and the ACLU, politically active sophomore Eliana Bernstein is no stranger to the world of activism. She frequently uses Instagram to advocate and engage with her peers.

Bernstein explains that she uses Instagram over other social media platforms, because she believes that Instagram is a platform that “people take more seriously.” Similar to student-led activism, organizations such as Planned Parenthood and protests such as the Women’s March tend to use Instagram to further promote their causes. Even former U.S. President Barack Obama uses Instagram to raise awareness of issues important to him. Many teens tend to gravitate toward activism on Instagram over older platforms such as Facebook since the majority of their peers don’t have Facebook accounts.

Even those who can’t vote can post current events and statistics on certain topics, pushing out information — be it propaganda or factual — to help eligible voters make informed decisions.

Specific features only available on Instagram make it simple for users like Bernstein to get their messages out. Activists can share posts that they agree or disagree with on their Instagram stories, in order to advocate for or against specific movements. Bernstein also mentions how the permanent story feature, which enables followers to view archived stories, allows her to keep important links and posts on her Instagram page. Bernstein says she prefers Instagram to Snapchat because she has “more viewers on Instagram,” meaning that her posts have the potential to bring more awareness to a wide variety of issues.

Similar to Bernstein, many organizations use Instagram or Twitter to spread their messages and to recruit supporters. However, most teens are not active on

As opposed to those who are simply raising awareness, Instagram users help people identify how they can participate in change.

Twitter, making Instagram the more effective platform when it comes to Gen Z. According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, approximately 70 percent of Americans use social media to share information. And these constant alerts and reposts, that come with social media, allow for the rapid diffusion of information.

Social media activism is especially important for high schoolers. According to Bernstein, “It’s really important that [the seniors and juniors who can vote] know what’s going on.” Even those who can’t vote can post current events and statistics on certain topics, pushing out information — be it propaganda or factual — to help eligible voters make informed decisions.

Not only can political posts help educate new voters, but they can also spark debates.

Junior Michael Brent IV says he frequently has political debates on Instagram. While he prefers to have these conversations in person, Brent admits that it’s more common for them to occur online. Brent posts about a wide range of political topics including climate change and race relations in the United States, which can lead to comments from people that disagree. Debates can get pretty heated, but he always manages to find common ground with his opponent in the end.

The May 29 mass whale killing in Denmark sparked outrage among many Instagram users. After the event took place, many people started sharing posts and videos of this ritual, while expressing their disgust with the situation. However, junior Marieka Possman points out that this specific instance brought out favoritism of different animal species that exists in society. In the whale killing, more than 100 pilot whales were killed, but as Possman puts it, “Of course that’s important and it’s disgusting, but there are billions of livestock being killed every year in this country alone and that’s just not shown.” As a health-conscious vegetarian, Possman finds this entire situation particularly frustrating, recognizing the fact that only a select few subjects are getting covered while pressing matters are being blatantly ignored by Instagram activists.

While Possman isn’t against teen activism per say, she believes that “one post in particular isn’t going to do anything besides raise awareness.” She says that teens, whose posts typically reach about a couple hundred to a 1,000 people, are not really activists but rather people who are “advocating for a very limited audience instead of going out and actually doing something.”

As opposed to those who are simply just raising awareness, many Instagram users help people identify how they can participate in change. While educating her peers on the happenings in the political world, Bernstein also says she “give[s] people links on how they can contact their Senators and how they can get action texts from Planned Parenthood and the ACLU.”

This way, she’s providing teens with the resources to encourage engagement and be a part of the change themselves. While Bernstein, Brent and Possman might disagree on the ways to effectively advocate on Instagram, they all agree that activism is beneficial. Maybe for one person, it’s cutting down on meat consumption, or for another person, it’s finding sustainable clothes that don’t hurt the environment. Maybe it’s as simple as posting about a protest that’s happening or signing up for action texts from the ACLU.

“I do think it’s hard as a teenager to get out there,” Bernstein says, “but it’s definitely something I want to do for myself. I want to show teenagers that it’s way easier than you think and that you can get involved.”



The College Board Conundrum

Is it really worth the money?

By Chelsea Purdum
Staff Writer

It was a Saturday morning in August when students, scared and eager to start the SAT test, waited by the Pali flagpole. College-bound teens everywhere experience these emotions as they prepare to take similar standardized tests.

The SAT, PSAT, SAT Subject tests and AP tests are administered by the College Board, an American nonprofit that has a stated goal of expanding access to higher education. However, with families spending hundreds of dollars on test registration and tutors, people begin to question whether or not the tests are really worth the money.

On one hand, these expenses might be necessary, as the College Board needs money to research the curriculum, create new questions and produce the best-possible test in order to help colleges predict just how successful a student will be.

Advanced Placement courses and exams are expensive for both the College Board and students. In 2017, 2.7 million students from around the globe sat for 4.9 million Advanced Placement tests. The College Board argues that these courses offer students a way to

Students enrolled in a four-year college that took AP courses are more likely to earn their degrees on time.

develop skills necessary for college as well as save money by earning college credit. In addition, research shows that students who took AP courses are more likely to earn their four-year college degrees on time, avoiding the cost of a fifth year of college, which, on average, ranges from \$9,970 to \$34,740.

However, because some students opt out of taking the AP exams, it is clear that their priority is to impress colleges rather than get college credit. AP English Language and AP English Literature teacher Mary Cappelli states, "It's a scam in education when a student signs up for an AP course and doesn't take the exam." She argues that students should instead focus on mastering a subject in order to save

money and time later on. "I had a student get out after three years because of AP credit at Syracuse University," she said.

According to Cappelli, AP courses can be harder than their college-level counterparts. "I currently teach English and I have taught college English and I can say that my AP Lang course is much harder than my English class at Emerson College."

It is likely a relief to students who have successfully conquered AP classes to know that they can handle college courses.

"The AP Lang curriculum is rigorous. It's meant to be rigorous because it frees you from taking that course in college," Cappelli explained. "If you pass an AP exam, you're saving your parents' money."

In order to earn college credit, most schools require a score of 4 or 5 on the \$94 exam. Even then, the college credit earned is usually just for an introductory course. At UCLA, for example, a grade of 3, 4 or 5 on the Physics exam can place a student out of General Physics. However, if a student is planning on majoring in Physics, it might make sense to take General Physics to ensure that he or she knows just as much as his or her collegiate peers. For this reason, some may view AP exams as an unnecessary cost.

In addition to offering AP courses, the College Board offers the Scholas-

tic Aptitude Test, more commonly known as the SAT. This is a standardized test frequently used in the college admissions process to assess students' writing, critical reading and mathematical abilities. It provides data that allows colleges to compare students from all different countries, states, schools and backgrounds.

Since students' grades and extracurriculars can vary greatly due to individual circumstances, it's hard for colleges to make comparisons between students. Fortunately, the SAT is, in theory, a way for students to be compared to one another without these extraneous variables. In an attempt to make the test even more of a fair comparison, the College Board waives or reduces test fees for income-eligible students and offers an increasing amount of free study materials and courses online.

So, presumably, no student should be at a disadvantage. Recently, however, students have been suffering under a series of testing discrepancies. "It used to be that they [the College Board] could be counted upon to produce objectively uniform tests," said Adam Stone, an SAT and ACT tutor. "Now? I don't see how anyone can truly trust the College Board. We saw international students first, and now domestic ones, suffer under a series of exams that had drastically different scoring curves ... That variation is a problem, and it's been on the rise with the SAT."

Additionally, students who cannot afford tutors may be hugely disadvantaged when it comes to the SAT. Many students and parents from high-income houses are willing to spend hundreds, and even thousands on SAT tutors and prep. SAT practice tests are available for free at the library and online, but



ILLUSTRATION BY:
Yucheng Che

one-on-one, individualized tutoring can cost up to \$200 an hour. For many students, this price is far too high, and their scores may suffer because of it.

Furthermore, this theme of disparity within the College Board testing process was also evident in the organization's inarguably racist beginnings. The SAT was founded in 1926 by Carl Campbell Bingham, who at the time was an avid eugenicist and believed that certain races and ethnicities were biologically superior to others, especially in terms of intelligence. Bingham analyzed army testing results from over 100,000 World War I U.S. Army recruits in his most famous book, *A Study of American Intelligence*, and used these results as inspiration for the SAT. In his study Bingham concluded, "It would be a waste of good money to even attempt to try and give these born

Many students and parents from high-income houses are willing to spend hundreds, and even thousands on SAT tutors and prep.

morons and imbeciles [African Americans, Italians and Jews] a good Anglo-Saxon education, let alone admit them into our fine medical, law and engineering graduate schools." While Bingham later renounced his views and College Board officials have tried to distance themselves from these past attitudes and practices, they remain a part of the organization's history.

Regardless of its past, the College Board plays a significant role in the college admissions process, and that role is likely to persist despite the high prices and questionable value of AP courses. Ultimately, it is up to each student to decide whether the possible benefits of these standardized tests outweigh the costs.

By Atticus Parker
Staff Writer

Tick Tock, TickTok, TikTok

The time has come for these emerging Pali social media stars on TikTok.

As senior Zubaidah Alsaudi rode down Santa Monica Boulevard on a recent summer afternoon, she spotted a picturesque, iridescent figure in the distance. Without her glasses, Alsaudi's vision was hazy and the figure ahead was indistinct. But as she approached, a sea of blonde hair became clear, flowing out of a high ponytail tugging on a receding hairline. Accentuated with a bright pink bow and a neon yellow jacket, the figure glistened in the sunlight. Alsaudi squinted. "Oh my god," she exclaimed, "that's Jojo Siwa!"

Jojo Siwa is a 16-year-old Internet star who has garnered widespread recognition stemming from her child-like persona, diminishing hairline, and unique speaking style characterized by nearly non-existent enunciation and a scratchy, lawnmower-like voice. Siwa is The New York Times bestselling author of "Jojo's Guide to the Sweet Life: #PeaceOutHaterz" and creator of her very own asbestos-contaminated makeup line, no longer available at Claire's. Siwa is a heroine to some, a mystery to others and, according to Urban Dictionary, "the demon you see in your room at night during sleep paralysis."

When Alsaudi recognized the star, she immediately took out her phone, started blasting Siwa's hit song "Boomerang" through her car's speakers, and prepared to record their interaction, should their paths cross. As Alsaudi approached, she screamed out her window, "Jojo! Jojo! Jojo, I love you!" However, according to Alsaudi, Siwa sat stationary in her rainbow BMW convertible — embellished with unicorn horns and her own face — looking

"creeped out." Alsaudi, laughing uncontrollably, hyperventilating, and still recovering emotionally from her life-affirming encounter, posted the video on TikTok.

The next morning it had 200,000 likes.

TikTok is the latest social media phenomenon. Launched in 2017, the app boasts 500 million monthly active users globally, according to CNBC. Several Pali students have upward of 40 thousand followers on the platform, with some of their videos topping 1 million likes. The video of Alsaudi's encounter with Siwa ultimately amassed more than 900,000 likes and 6 million views as of Oct. 17.

Sophomore Lily Watts, who goes by the username "floorpickle," has accumulated more than 42,000 followers and 930,000 total likes by posting videos in her own unique style. In her videos, Watts often sports a pink cowboy hat and reflective Frozone sunglasses, usually lip-syncing and dancing aggressively to popular songs. She says, "It's kind of a joke. But at the same time, I like to make myself look like I care, but I really don't. It's humor."

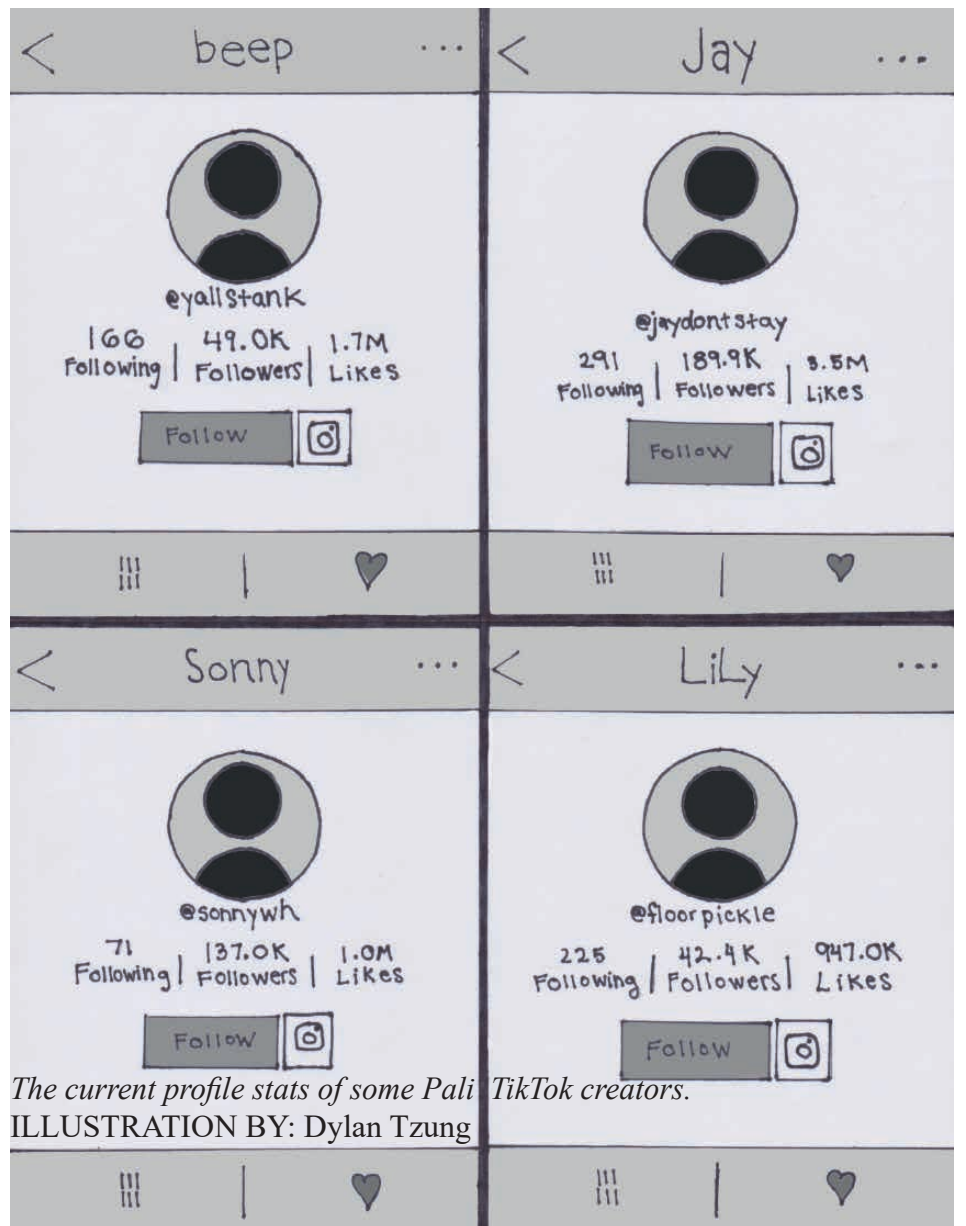
Watts considers herself TikTok famous "on the low," but she has been recognized several times in public. This past summer in LAX on her way to Italy, Watts was sighted by a fan. She explains: "I fully fell down a flight of stairs, and I got up and someone said, 'Oh my god. Are you floorpickle?' It was so embarrassing."

Fellow sophomore and TikTok star Jimmy Malloy has one of the fastest-growing accounts at Pali, rising from 70,000 to 180,000 followers in the past two months alone. As of Oct. 20, his posts have accumulated more

than 3.5 million likes in total — an average of more than 20,000 likes per post.

Malloy is considered to be an e-boy, a rare breed among humans. Like a pale, goth version of Perry the Platypus, they're extremely difficult to find in public but, once spotted, hard to forget. Hair parted down the middle, chipped black nail polish, baggy black garments draped over long-sleeved checkered shirts, and a myriad of chains, rings and other such drip complete the look.

Malloy's content is mostly generic lip-syncing, dancing and comedy, but his e-boy charms bring an un-



The current profile stats of some Pali TikTok creators.

ILLUSTRATION BY: Dylan Tzung

canny entertainment value to his videos, all of which has clearly helped him build his loyal fanbase.

Fans of Malloy have also begun flocking to fellow sophomore Sonny Harrington's account. Harrington has acquired more than 120,000 followers and 950,000 total likes in just two months on the app. Although he struggles with spelling and grammar in his videos — writing cancel as "cancle," famous as "famouse," comment as "co-ment," and even the app's name as "Tic Tok" — Harrington's videos average more than 75,000 likes. In his legendary "messy hair tutorial," Harrington shakes his locks into casual perfection, helping others achieve his studied, nonchalant look.

TikTok is owned by Chinese technology company ByteDance, which, according to Bloomberg, is the "world's most valuable startup," estimated to be worth \$75 billion. The company runs more than 20 apps, including the Chinese version of TikTok, Douyin.

Most ByteDance companies make their money through advertising, but in-app purchases are TikTok's primary source of revenue. According to CNBC, "Users can buy virtual currency which they then gift to content creators" during live streams. Approximately \$5.5 million were spent globally on these coins this past February alone.

Watts and Alsaudi in particular have benefited from such gifts. Al-

saudi explains, "I was live, by myself, and some old Middle Eastern guys were like, 'Oh you sexy. Send foot picture' and I lost it," she says, laughing. Alsaudi adds, "one guy kept sending me gifts and was like, 'I am rich, from Dubai. Here's some gifts for your feet.'"

While most might consider this gesture a security threat or an invasion of privacy, Alsaudi says, "I thought this could be my other career if high school doesn't pan out."

Alsaudi ultimately opted not to send any foot pictures. Nevertheless, she did earn a whopping \$15 from the live stream, a smashing success considering provocative images of her naked feet are not forever hurtling through the Dubai cyberspace.

Watts has received similar messages and also earned a total of \$15 through fan gifts. When asked who she thought her target audience was, she joked, "Probably kids. Oh, and old Indian men. They are always up in my DMs."

A sense of irony connects Pali's TikTok stars, as most if not all of them say they are on the app as a joke. But considering how so many are committed to their craft — posting every day, begging commenters to like and share their posts, captioning each video with hashtag upon hashtag hoping to extend their reach as far as possible — the world of TikTok seems to be more than just a joke to them. As Watts says, still joking, "TikTok is not a joke, it's a lifestyle."



Zubaidah Alsaudi films a TikTok.
PHOTO BY: Isabella Kim-Latona

OPINION

CHSPE is a Bad Idea for High Schoolers

Should students take the CHSPE in high school?

By Caleb Crain
Editor-in-Chief

A few years ago, a former Pali student, who requested anonymity, started classes at Santa Monica College (SMC). But she never donned Pali's cap and gown, walked the stage or accepted a diploma. Instead, she just walked away. This student had just finished her sophomore year. Instead of waiting to complete the customary four years of high school education, she decided to leave after just two, taking the California High School Proficiency Exam, or CHSPE, instead.

According to the California Department of Education, which administers the test, the CHSPE provides an opportunity to "earn the legal equivalent of a high school diploma." The student says that she "was notified that [she] passed and received a certificate that's basically [her] GED." This

certificate removed her "obligation to go to Pali," she said.

According to information on the California Department of Education website, taking the CHSPE can "open up a variety of options" for students who "want to find and pursue new opportunities," including attending community college and joining the workforce without a traditional high school diploma. However, while taking the CHSPE may work for select students, it's an inimical idea for most Pali students.

Students who take the CHSPE and begin college early risk losing significant parts of their social life. The aforementioned student acknowledges this, stating that she lost touch with many of her friends after transferring to SMC. While this student explains that she knew some people at SMC,

she says that "if you know no one, it's going to be the most lonely two years ever." The student hasn't been able to stay in touch with her Pali friends, stating "I think sometimes they just forget [to include me in plans]."

In contrast, Arsham Mohammadi, another student who transferred from Pali to SMC after taking the CHSPE at the end of his sophomore year, said that while he has had troubles with his social life at SMC, most of his social life still revolves around people he met at Pali.

Perhaps the primary reason for this lack of a social life is the age gap between Pali students who take the CHSPE and their new peers. Mohammadi says that he has made friends who are older than he is but "can't really go out with them to the places that they go."

But this age gap continues as the students who took the CHSPE transfer to four-year universities, as both Mohammadi and the aforementioned student plan to do. While everyone their age will be starting as freshmen, these students, having come in as transfer students after two years of community college, will be college juniors. This limits students, who would be too young to engage in some of the social activities that his classmates participate in (at least legally).

So why do students decide to take the CHSPE? Mohammadi says that the multiple AP classes he was taking in sophomore year and the large amount of homework made him feel like he "was wasting my time in high school" when he could simply go to SMC.

A common reason students take the CHSPE, according to Pali's Assistant Principal and Director of Guidance and Academic Planning Chris Lee, "is to get an early start on community college and perhaps work."

This philosophy completely fails to address what high school and childhood should be about.

High school, college and education in general is not an experience to be rushed. It's to be appreciated. High school is the last chance for most people to experience the freedom of childhood before being tossed into the Hobbesian jungle of the real world. In high school, students are exposed to a broad range of subjects that lets them sample different topics they can further explore in college or careers.

But how can you be sure your choice is the right one when you only



Dr. Chris Lee. PHOTO BY: Daniel Scott

stop halfway down the buffet line?

And that's not to mention the expansive opportunities Pali provides students who want to focus on a certain area. From aspiring entrepreneurs in DECA to potential environmental scientists in Envirothon to would-be gardeners in the Advanced Horticulture Club, Pali's 100-plus registered clubs provide a place for everyone. And there's nothing stopping a student from starting a new club, just as

I did with Model United Nations as a sophomore two years ago.

But this isn't to say that community college prevents people from advancing outside the classroom. The anonymous student said that she is working on creating a new company

which she has large ambitions and has already secured commitments for.

But the anonymous student said that despite these endeavors, "I don't think college affords me anything, especially community college" as far as future careers. While she may seem to be active as a student at SMC, her path is not one that most students should seek to emulate. Although only a small portion of Pali students take the CHSPE — Lee said no more than seven each year — this approach is silly and substandard.

Students will face the risk of losing a significant part of their social life, years of high school, and for what?

The CHSPE only serves as an escape, where kids are ultimately rushing through their precious childhood for a couple years of instant gratification.



ILLUSTRATION BY: Kira Davis

Wrestling is More Than Meets the Eye

WRESTLING, from page 1

anticipate and react to their opponents every movement. From this tension-filled embrace, each relies on split-second intuition and muscle memory to fire and fend off attacks. Far from an isolated collection of lunges, grabs and throws, wrestling constitutes a symphony of muscular coordination and instantaneous decision making.

In my eyes, this dance is the ultimate liberation from the abstract realities of the classroom. While I wrestle, words, equations and lectures of the day fall forgotten on the sweat-sheened mat. Regrets and frustrations are purged through the pleasant agony of drilling and conditioning. I find myself leaving the room feeling entirely refreshed, despite my comically bedraggled appearance.

When I spill of my unrelenting passion for the sport, I am consistently met with perplexed gazes followed by the usual, “you-go-girl” sentiment. In the eyes of many, my gender and willowy body stands in stark contrast

to commonly held views of wrestling. Lanky and awkward, my body seems tailor-made for Jack Skellington cosplay — not a sport centered around raw power and agility. Despite these facts, I find myself completely at home within the blue walls of the wrestling room.

In there, I am another sweaty body among the throng. What gender I am is irrelevant in this communal environment of shared pain in pursuit of self-improvement.

In wrestling, I have discovered an ability to persevere through trying situations. The very nature of the sport requires unceasing resilience and optimism, which are qualities that I, up until now, never attributed to myself. A year ago, if I had been made aware of all the endless sickly green bruises, muscle strains and skin infections I

would sustain as a result of wrestling, I would have turned tail and run. Each day I add a layer to the fabric of what I know possible — each day I push my body to new limits. A year of wrestling has sparked a profound revelation in me: I am capable of more than I could ever fathom.

Out of the dozens of times I get my face smashed, out of the dozen times I get the air pressed out of me, there may be just one instance where I get a pin. And that feeling is the blinding, mind-consuming ecstasy of wrestling. Wrestlers endure hours of drilling, cartilage destruction and weird-looking ears, all to get to that second of euphoria — that singular victory that is yours.

The endless pursuit of this feeling is fixed in the mind of every wrestler. In

the end however, wrestlers are defined by their personal growth, not their number of pins they garner. Wrestling is a sport of dynamism and change; no person remains static within it. The mental and physical metamorphosis that occurs during this sport remain ingrained in athletes inside and outside the wrestling room, a constant reminder of the potential in persistence. Its authenticity and rawness is a transformative force, allowing each wrestler to discover how to suffer gladly and win proudly.

The television gimmicks of today are but surface-level emulations of this very real experience, scraping only superficial significance from its parent. Despite pro wrestling being considered a performing art, sport wrestling is an art form itself, with intricacy and poise woven throughout each move. As the limelight remains fixed on its copycat counterpart, sport wrestling’s thousand year legacy is kept alive within the hearts of the passionate few who devote themselves to its future.

The television gimmicks of today are but surface-level emulations of this very real experience...

Satire: Pali’s Cookie Craze

By Maya Millner
Staff Writer

On December 6, 2018, I, Maya Millner, purchased my very first Pali cookie. I heard about them all semester. I witnessed my friends arriving late to lunch holding small, chocolate-stained plastic bags. I listened to debates over the brand-switching controversy. On that fateful morning when I got a 53 percent on my chemistry test and desperately needed some comfort food, I decided it was time to try a cookie.

This isn’t your average cookie. For only \$1.00, you can be the lucky owner of two warm, soft, oozing perfections. They’re firm on the edges but chewy and delicate on the inside. When you taste the brown sugar and feel the warmth overcome you, nothing else matters.

Those chocolate chip circles of heaven got me through the school day without crying. Well, not including seventh period, but they’re miracle cookies nonetheless.

While in my cookie coma I walked straight into a support beam. When

my face hit the cold, white chunk of metal and I snapped out of my daze, I had only one thought: Don’t drop the cookies. The cookies survived. My dignity did not.

Die-hard cookie fans follow @palihighbatchreview, an Instagram account that, with consistency, reviews the quality of the cookies every day. Some would argue that it is the only news that matters.

Cafeteria Ringleader Cecilia Ramirez said they sell “about a thousand cookies every day.” When I tried to get the recipe from another

worker, she told me that if anyone ever found the recipe she would bake them into the cookies to preserve Pali’s best kept secret.

I’m a tad concerned about Pali students’ love for these cookies, because now I understand. I’ve tasted the forbidden fruit, I’ve seen the light and — honestly — these cookies are a gateway drug. These cookies provide a sensation that some of our school’s more innocent students have never experienced. After eating cookies every day they become desensitized and desperate to feel that incredible high again and the natural next step is PCP.

If you thought football games brought in the most money for the school, you were mistaken. Booster Club who? Everything you see at this school was paid for by the cookies. They’ve probably sold enough cookies to make the buses free. How do you think staff members pay for their Tesla Model S P200Ds? That’s right, cookie money. How do you think Mr. Kung affords to wear a different pair of glasses every day? Cookie money.

Why is our outspoken student body staying silent in this time of crisis? I know our students are incredibly selfless. I’ve witnessed their generosity first hand. I’ve seen them risk their grade to help a friend cheat. I’ve seen them offer the last “shmack” of their Juul to an of-age classmate in need. But an anonymous source explained to me that the cookie epidemic is not a crisis. I didn’t understand how such a clearly addictive substance could be pushed on our campus but was convinced by my source’s comment, “Hey, it’s better than cocaine.”



The cookie line on a typical Pali day. PHOTO BY: Isabella Kim-Latona

SPORTS

For These Fans, it's More than a Game

Pali's most dedicated sports fanatics share their stories of triumph, enthusiasm and heartbreak.

By Brett Abrams
Staff Writer

Anyone who walks into AP World History teacher Steven Burr's classroom will know that he is a huge Pittsburgh Steelers fan. There are Steelers posters, Steelers terrible towels and Steelers hats. Burr is such a Steelers fan that, when it comes to game day, he says he "tend[s] to watch by [himself]" to avoid distractions.

Burr said he became a Steelers fanatic in the early '80s after he had to write a school report about Superbowl XIV, in which the Steelers were victorious over the Los Angeles Rams. As he continued to watch Steelers games, Burr became "more and more diehard."

He is not alone.

Some people are casual fans, mere spectators who wanted a day out of the house to watch their local team. And some, like Burr, are more extreme. Commonly referred to as superfans, these enthusiasts take what it means to

be a sports fan to a new level.

In 2008, after he was already a full-fledged member of the Steeler Nation, Burr traveled to Pittsburgh with a

friend to watch his first Steelers' home game. He bought the tickets in August when the Steelers' opponent that week, the Cincinnati Bengals, were projected to have a subpar season. The Steelers ultimately lost, and according to Burr, "it was heartbreaking."

Another time, Burr went to Pittsburgh to watch the Steelers play their rival, the Baltimore Ravens. Toward the conclusion of the game, the Steelers made a defensive stop, causing fans to cheer in excitement as they thought their team would win. "I was hugging people around me — people I didn't know

— and just high-fiving," said Burr. The Ravens eventually scored a game-winning touchdown and Burr was crushed, saying, "I have never gone from such highs to such lows."

Despite these heartbreaks, Burr said he continues to go to Steelers games and even tries to attend "at least one to two games a year." He has converted his daughter into a Steelers fan, and she enjoys going to games with him. She even wore a Steelers jersey on Paul Revere Middle School's Sports Day, Burr said. Although he has experienced soul-crushing moments as a Steelers fan, Burr continues his fandom and cherishes their triumphs, such as the Steelers' Superbowl XLIII victory.

Along with teachers, some students also share the same passion for sports and a certain team. Pali junior and Los Angeles Dodgers fan, Nate Akiba, is enthusiastic when it comes to his team.

Akiba has "been a fan [his] whole life and will be one for the rest of [his] life." He constantly wears team apparel and watches "as many games as [he] can." For Akiba, the Dodgers are

more than just some baseball team. He said he cherishes "the camaraderie and brotherhood everyone on the team has."

Being a fan has heavily impacted Akiba's life and relationships. When talking about the impact of being able to watch the Dodgers game with his dad, Akiba said, "It's something that has really bonded us over the years."

Another superfan at Pali, junior Pasha Zar, is a devoted fan of the Chelsea Football Club, a soccer team based in Fulham, Chelsea in London. When he first started to follow the team, Zar liked them because "their jerseys are blue." Since

'I have never gone from such highs to such lows.'

- Steven Burr



Mr. Burr proudly holds up his Steelers merchandise. PHOTO BY: Isabella Kim-Latona

then, Zar has become much more passionate and has taken his enthusiasm to new lengths. "My mom kind of gets mad when I wake up at 4 a.m. to watch a game and scream at the TV," Zar said.

He does it anyway.

Sports seem to be a major part of the lives of many Pali students and

teachers alike. Sports are something people watch for entertainment, but they can also have much more sentimental value. According to Zar, being a fan "allows me to feel a sense of belonging and family with people I don't know from around the world."

Pali Beats Hamilton at the Homecoming Game



Seniors Christian Duran and Waka White play their final Homecoming Game at Pali PHOTO BY: Isabella Kim-Latona

By Brett Abrams
Staff Writer

With his two first-quarter rushing touchdowns, senior running back Kenneth Cline led Pali to a 38-0 victory over visiting Hamilton in the Dolphins' Oct. 25 Homecoming Game at Stadium by the Sea.

Cline had another big game the following week, when he rushed for 130 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Dolphins to a 21-7 league victory at Fairfax on Nov. 1. Pali (9-1) earned the No. 6 seed in the CIF Los Angeles City Section Open Division playoffs and will travel to third-seeded Banning (5-5) for a first-round game on Nov. 15.

Against Hamilton, Cline's touchdowns and a 20-yard interception return for a touchdown by senior linebacker Noah Ghodooshim allowed the Dolphins to amass a

24-point lead in the first quarter.

After getting off to a fast start, the Dolphins' offense slowed down, scoring two more touchdowns in the final three quarters. Junior quarterback Forrest Brock threw touchdown passes to senior wide receiver Eli Manheim and senior running back Max Palees.

Throughout the game, the defense held strong. Led by Ghodooshim and linebacker Syire Riley, the Dolphins shutout Western League rival Hamilton.

This is Pali's eighth consecutive victory after a season-opening loss to Cleveland High School.

"It was best that we lost the first game, because we knew how it felt to lose and no one wanted to feel that again," senior linebacker Gage McCloskey said.

Bremner Takes Unusual Path to UC Davis

By Ava Kerkorian
Sports Editor

For the last 15 years, Caroline Bremner has devoted her life to soccer.

She spent her early years playing on AYSO travel teams, and for the last seven years, she has played on the club soccer team Santa Monica United. Next fall, she will begin the next stage of her soccer career: Division I soccer at the University of California, Davis.

Upon receiving the offer to spend her next four years playing soccer at the school, Bremner's first reaction was one of shock and elation. "It was something I never thought I'd be able to achieve," she said.

Bremner says she is thrilled to be an Aggie, but her path to recruitment was far from conventional. Up until about a year ago, Bremner said, "I didn't really know if I wanted to play college soccer, but I was like, if I get recruited, then I'll do it."

Despite her uncertainty, the offers materialized. Bremner initially committed to play Division II soccer at San Francisco State before signing with UC Davis.

"I went to a showcase, and the coach from San Francisco State saw me and she sent me an e-mail," Bremner recalled. "[Hamm] 'I thought you were really good and I want to talk to you about coming to play at San Francisco.'" Bremner said her interest was piqued, because her sister attends San Francisco State.

According to Bremner, Hamm's offer helped open her eyes to the opportunities that soccer could provide. After committing to San Francisco state, Bremner said she began believing "maybe I actually am good enough to play in college."

Despite thinking her plans were set, Bremner soon found herself forced to make a decision.

Tracy Hamm, the coach who had recruited Bremner, got a job offer at UC Davis, and she took it. Immediately after hearing the news, Bremner sent Hamm a text, asking

if her commitment to San Francisco State was still valid. Bremner was told that her spot on the team was safe — but the real surprise came when Hamm opened up the possibility for Bremner to play at Davis.

"I never thought that would happen," Bremner said. After evaluating her play one final time, Hamm



Caroline Bremner passes the ball in a Pali soccer game. PHOTO BY: Stephen Sloan

officially offered Bremner a spot at UC Davis. "I decommitted from San Francisco State and committed to Davis, and have been committed ever since."

According to Bremner, soccer offered her academic opportunities at Davis that she wouldn't have been able to get otherwise, and thus the prospect of attending the school was an offer she couldn't refuse. "My grades are okay, but I never thought I would get into any of the UCs," Bremner said. "Davis was definitely a reach for me, so I was really happy to get that opportunity." Bremner also plans to major in biology, and UC Davis' science program is "impeccable," she said.

Outside of the classroom and on the soccer field, Bremner's enthusiasm is just as great — possibly greater.

"I'm really excited to be coached by Tracy, because she's supposed to be one of the best upcoming coaches in America," Bremner said. "She has ... the same license that the Barcelona coach has, and she's [one of two] women in America that has it. So she's supposed to be a really, really good coach and I'm really excited to learn from her."

What Bremner looks forward to the most, though, is not a fantastic coach or a great biology program — it's the

chance to once again share the field with former Pali soccer teammate and Pali class of 2019 graduate Frankie Van Norden. A freshman on Davis's team, Van Norden has played the full 90 minutes in nine of her first 11 collegiate games. In both her junior and senior years with Pali soccer, Van Norden was selected first-team All-City.

"I'm most excited to play with Frankie again," Bremner said. "She's the best defender I've ever played with in my entire life, and she's so nice, and I just love Frankie so much. There's nothing to not like about Frankie."

Even with all the thrills awaiting her at Davis, Bremner knows that the transition from high school to college will bring its share of challenges. "I'm a little worried about fitness [requirements]," Bremner admitted, "but I already started it... because I knew that I would need the extra time."

She added, "I'm nervous about the academics too, because I'm really lazy and I don't like to do anything, and being on my own is going to be tough — but I think I can do it."

Moreover, Bremner said that soccer will help make her experience at Davis the best it can be.

"Soccer to me means a second family. A second home," Bremner said. "Soccer is something that just feels natural to me. I don't know where I would be without it."

Fall Sports Updates

By Brett Abrams
Staff Writer

Football

Pali's varsity football team recently beat The Fairfax Lions with a score of 21-7 on Friday, Nov. 1. This gives the Dolphins their 9th of the season, making their overall record 9-1. Coach Hyde and the Pali varsity football team qualified for the No. 6 seed in the CIF Los Angeles City Section Open Division playoffs. Pali will play the first round match against third-seeded Banning on Friday, Nov. 15.

The junior varsity football team beat Fairfax on Friday, Nov. 1 with a score of 48-12. That win bolstered their record to 7-1. This was the final game of the season for head coach Marsden and the boys junior varsity football team.

Boys Water Polo

The boys varsity water polo team is currently in the CIF Los Angeles City Section Division One playoffs. They currently hold the first place seed and play the winner of Santee vs. Roosevelt on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

Girls Volleyball

Pali's varsity girls volleyball team won their playoff match against Narbonne with a score of 3-0 on Friday, Nov. 1. Their overall record on the season was 35-8 and the team continues their playoff run against Cleveland on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The junior varsity girls volleyball team beat Hamilton on Monday, Oct. 21. The team finished the regular season with an overall record of 8-2.

Girls Tennis

The girls tennis beat Carson in their semi-final match on Thursday, Oct. 24. Junior, Noelle Winter, stood out winning both of her matches with a score of 6-0. Coach Kling and the team play Grenada in the city finals on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Baseball

The boys varsity baseball team recently tied with Santa Monica High School on Saturday, Oct. 19 with a score of 4-4. Their record on the season so far is 1-0-1. The team plays their next game against Peninsula on Saturday, Nov. 9.

The boys junior varsity baseball team recently played Venice in a rivalry matchup on Saturday, Nov. 2. They play their next matchup against Peninsula on Saturday, Nov. 9.

Cross Country

Both the boys and girls cross country teams performed in the 72nd annual Mt. SAC XC Invitational on Friday, Oct. 25 and Saturday, Oct. 26. Pali placed in the top-2 in every single race they performed in. The cross country team will be competing in the Western League Finals on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

'Soccer to me means a second family. A second home.'
- Caroline Bremner

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- 4 answer choices per question
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Math

- Up to Algebra I, Geometry, and Trigonometry
- 2 sections; 1 calculator section, 1 no-calculator section

SAT[®]

Timing

- 3 hours
- +50 minutes for optional essay

Focus

- College-ready problem solving skills

Structure

- Math (2 sections)
- Reading
- Writing
- Essay Optional



Scoring

- Composite score for all subjects
- Math accounts for 50% of score
- Top Score: 1600

Test Format

- 4 answer choices per question
- No penalty for wrong answers

Math

- Up to Pre-Calculus
- 2 sections; 1 calculator section, 1 no-calculator section

ACT[®]

Timing

- 3 hours and 25 minutes
- +40 minutes for optional essay

Focus

- General reasoning

Structure

- Math
- Reading
- English
- Science
- Essay Optional



Scoring

- Average score across all subjects
- Math accounts for 25% of score
- Top Score: 36

Test Format

- 4 answer choices per question (5 for Math)
- No penalty for wrong answers

Math

- Up to Trigonometry



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