

Treasurer of California: Fiona Ma

Editor-In-Chief

Angelica Gordon

Assistant Editor-In-Chief

Samia Gazi

Bearing wit in her mind and an active drive to provide stability for the Golden State, Treasurer of California, Fiona Ma is the foundation that holds up California's economy. In her now fourth-elected position, Ma represents a gleaming beacon of equity, trust and economic advancement for the people of California.

With her quality of experience and background, the Californian economy is in good hands. Ma said, "With a masters in taxation and M.B.A, I'm very comfortable around numbers." Ma is a leader who is confident in her work and secure in her intelligence. While reflecting on her initial career as an accountant, Ma said, "I never felt like my calling was to sit in an office for 16 hours a day." As Ma wanted more out of her life she said, "I quit after five years because there weren't women that looked like me." She made the most out of her education and expertise by working her way up the political hierarchy. From going to a Majority Whip and Speaker Pro Tempore for the California State Assembly, to her current position as State Treasurer, Ma was able to achieve larger fulfillment from her life.

The immense value of Treasurer Ma's position is one that works in invisible ways. Her economic impact is everywhere, even when people are not aware of it. In an overview of her job, she said, "This job is about funding, so I give away a lot of money, to help build better charter schools, more affordable housing, fund children's hospitals, public trans, like the Brightline train, an all-new electric train coming from Rancho Cucamonga to Las Vegas."

Ma said, "As the state treasurer, I have to put my treasurer's hat on first... issuing bonds that are transparent. The last four years, we have been oversold on our bonds for the past four years, that means that bond investors feel really confident in California and that makes me feel really good." Tapping into the various areas which warrant her help, Ma takes pride and determination in pushing for affordable housing, as well elaborating on a new fund, "Dream for All," where she helped new home-buyers with down payment assistance. She said, "After two weeks, they had to shut it down because so many people applied...that to me showed that many people want to become homeowners, but can't pay that 20%. That's the only way we're going to get people out of poverty, if they can move out of a rental apartment and buy their own home. That's going to build equity. I'm a big proponent

of home ownership and for people to save. I have four saving programs...I give away piggy banks. I want people to be ingrained that it's important to save."

Always surrounding California is the frustrations of high taxes. Ma clears up how those frustrations can hold true, but doesn't fully consider the benefits and help within the state. Additionally, in comparison to other states, Ma said "They [Texas] charge

tunities." She began to realize the constant, following presence of politics, in all facets of life. She added, "Politics should not be a bad word."

In her time, Ma has immersed herself in a multitude of humanitarian causes. Her passion for them stems from personal experiences that have left an impression of continuity in her life. Of her battle with Hepatitis B and inspiration to campaign for its relief, she said, "The issues we take on as

from all the people that opposed me and then, Jerry Brown, the governor, said if you get this bill to my desk, I will sign it. So, that gave us more momentum."

In an extensive grocery store allegory to the role of politics in our lives, she said, "It's like if you want to take your grandmother to the store, you can walk her all the way to the store, make sure she gets there, she goes through the crosswalk. But if you're in politics, maybe you can make it easier for her. You can have a bus. You can have transportation available. That's what politics can do, open more doors, access more money, and improve people's lives"

Ma recognizes the significance of viewing issues from their forefronts, as it allows for one to step into another's shoes. Reflecting on her time serving with Senator John Burton in helping the underserved and the community as a whole, Ma said, "When you try to do things for other people and you have a difficult time, then you start seeing how hard it is for them. They don't have time to stay on the phone for twenty minutes. Sometimes, they don't even have a phone for someone to call back. Back then, you had to fax information. Like, what homeless person has a fax machine?"

Identifying the aspects that can make people feel more welcome is a key value to Ma as she elaborated on learning how to help people feel more at ease and less unnerved, when she said, "I would try to facilitate or cut through the red tape for the people we serve. For example, we did not have our office in the state building because Burton didn't want people to go through the metal detectors. Metal detectors are very intimidating for people. So, he moved our office outside, to a private building."

Ma reflected on her status as an Asian-American, a woman and her ability to be taken seriously in government, when she said, "When women run, we run because of a certain issue." Her awareness of purpose in running demonstrates the initial goals that Ma holds and wishes to address while serving as State Treasurer. Seemingly, Ma is driven by action and prefers hands-on economic involvement with individual people. To hone in on her determination in understanding the conditions of economy and life for Californians, Ma said, "Every day is different. I'm very active. I like to be out in the community. I like to go out to meet and see for myself. I always say, 'If you invite me, I'll come.' The only thing that's the same every day is I go to sleep every night and wake up."

In her entirety, Ma embodies excellence and radiates a unique faith in her practice, which makes her loved by Californians.



higher property taxes, so maybe you say you're not going to pay higher income taxes, but then your property taxes go up 200% and you may lose your house. But that doesn't happen in California because of Prop 13. Every state has its good and its bad aspects."

When expressing comprehension of the significance of her role, Ma said, "Being in an elected office gave me more power to do things that can directly affect more people." Clearly, Ma understands the depth of her authority and the impact that her voice and power can make on an audience of Californians.

Ma soon realized that politics swarm her economic duties every day. She began to understand the advantage that politics can play in executing her economic agenda. Ma said, "The first time I got involved in politics, I had to go down to the mayor's office and lobby for more contracting oppor-

legislatures are usually very personal to us, like hepatitis B. My grandmother was born with hepatitis B, gave it to my mother at birth, gave it to me at birth and it's directly linked to liver cancer. I feel I need to raise the awareness for others to get tested or vaccinated. That's why I took on hepatitis B. I'm kind of the poster child for it."

In addition, after watching Sin by Silence, a documentary about female domestic abuse victims being imprisoned for defending themselves against their abusers, Ma was overwhelmed by a wave of urgency to help those who are betrayed by the justice system. She said, "I felt like they needed to be allowed a second chance to get out of jail. First, I ran the bills they got stuck in committee, then killed in the public safety committee. I started negotiating with people, saying it could be your mother or grandmother. I had to go one by one, committee by committee,



News



National Black Graduation

Staff Writer

Daniela Cortes-Ortiz

Upland High school is part of the one of many high schools that will be taking part in the celebratory Inland Empire's 30th annual National Black Graduation Ceremony. The ceremony honors Black students who have achieved academic excellence, alongside students who are committed to strengthening communities with academic excellence. The NBG strives to help their community by

providing academic-related support services, including

financial resources to African American High School graduates.

The Inland Empire High School Black Graduate Recognition Ceremony

will be held on Sunday, May 7th, at 3:00 pm at CSU San Bernardino's Coussoulis Arena. Senior, Khalia Gordon will be attending Black Graduation Ceremony, representing Upland High School Black Graduates, on behalf of our school's scholars. Khalia is an intelligent student who has a promising future. Some of the key highlights of the evening will include recognition of excellence in education for educators, a key speaker, and past scholars speaking about their accomplishments and journey.

a good number of grads who will receive multiple scholarships. Dr. Thomas Morales, President of California State University San Bernardino

said, "One of the most pressing issues facing San Bernardino and Riverside Counties is the college-going rate and college readiness. Events like the IE Black Graduation go a long way in celebrating high school students that will be attending our local colleges and universities."

In addition, Scholarships will be awarded to African American Graduates throughout the Inland Empire, who were selected by the Scholarship committee. The Scholarship committee looks for scholars who

demonstrate academic excellence, along with ethical leadership.

The Black Graduation Ceremony features cultural entertainment, a procession, a symbolic ceremony, and a cultural sashing. All families and friends should be

proud of the Class of 2023's graduates. The Kente Stoles symbolize academic accomplishment, community leadership, and personal responsibility. Over 1000 supportive family members are expected to be in attendance to watch these graduates receive their Kente Stoles. On behalf of everyone at Upland High school, we congratulate all graduates and wish everyone the best of luck on their journeys.



The National Black Graduation Ceremony first started with fifty people and four scholarships and now, hundreds of graduates and



Once a Highlander, Always a Highlander

Staff Writer,
Evelyn Cruz

Returning to one's high school as a teacher can be an incredible opportunity for individuals who want to give back to their alma mater and inspire the next generation of students.

For some former students, teaching at their old high school is a way to pay it forward by giving back to the school that helped shape their

own education. It can also offer a unique perspective on the school's culture and traditions, as well as a sense of pride and connection to the community. As many may be aware, a number of teachers here on campus actually fall into this category.

Mr. McGee is an AP Lang and sophomore English teacher who graduated from Upland in 2006. As a student, McGee shared that he was not into school at all, nor was he involved in a lot of extra-curriculars. However, as a teacher,



he does it all! In a way it's like he's reliving his high school years, due to all of his current involvement. McGee said, "I've learned that the more I go to these activities, the more I connect with my students, the more I feel like a community." McGee also said, "When you go to these types of things, you're gonna feel like you're part of it. You're gonna feel a part of the volleyball team, feel like you're part of theater, and you feel a sense of community that I think many don't feel they have."

On the other hand, for Mrs. Coffee, who graduated in 2003 and now teaches sophomore world history and junior U.S. history, was involved in the school's choir in her day. Even then, she didn't feel very connected. She did however, love her social studies and history classes, which is ironic as she now teaches that very subject. She also shared a fun story explaining that one day at school, she took a picture with some friends and it just so happened that her classroom now, C114, is in the background of

the photo! Coffee said, "If you told my younger self that the classroom would be yours one day, I would've looked at you like you were crazy." Aside from the crazy classroom photo, her passion for social studies and history is similar to a fellow alumnus, Mr. Carrasco, a senior government and economics teacher.

Mr. Carrasco said, "My favorite thing about Upland, as a kid, was enjoying my excellent social study teachers like Mr. Hopwood and Mr. Condino, both of whom are still here and are now my colleagues, and meeting all my very good friends, to whom I am

still close with until this day. My favorite thing now is getting to work with my outstanding social studies department and working with my students. Upland

High School is home." Times are constantly changing

but the teachers also see a part of themselves within the students as well. Mrs. Coffee said, "I was really

into piercings, so whenever I see students with them I feel a little connection." As for Carrasco he is able to talk about almost everything with his students, as he said, "I totally see myself within my students.

As a social studies teacher, I don't dress in your stereotypical history teacher attire, wearing khakis and a cardigan. You'll often find me in some shorts and tee, maybe rocking a baseball cap, not to mention my love for music. So, I am usually able to converse with students about music and just pop culture in general." McGee said, "Students are students." In the end, high school students typically stay the same doing dumb teenage activities. McGee said, "High school students are high school students. You can watch movies like The Breakfast Club or Fast Times at Ridgemont High and you see students are students. Some things are different but at the core, high school students are high school students."



A Rising Star: Ava Tapia

**Staff Writer,
Maria Perez-Camargo**

Freshman, Ava Tapia, is a varsity softball player. She is a catcher/outfielder. Recently, she had the opportunity to participate in the WBSC U-15 PAN AM WOMEN'S Softball tournament in Lima, Peru. The top four teams will earn a berth to the U-15 WBSC World Cup this October, in Japan. Tapia represented Mexico on the National Olympic team and is also an outstanding student.

Tapia attended a tryout in Cal State Fullerton. She had to wait for her dual citizenship in Mexico to be granted, before she could represent Mexico.

After a year-long process, she was officially offered a spot for the Junior National Team. Tapia started her journey six years ago. She started playing Softball for fun and to

be able to hang out with one of her friends more outside of school. She ended up really enjoying Softball and displayed some raw talent at an early age, so she stuck with it.

Tapia was ranked in the Top

25 of the 2026 Extra Elite 100, last year. Tapia has one of the strongest arms in the country in 14U. Tapia's over-hand throwing velocity is consistent up to 64-to-65 mph. Having love for everything about her sport,

the competitiveness of the game is everything to Tapia. "I'm competitive about pretty much everything in life," Tapia explained, "so this sport just fills my competitive drive." The game is extremely humbling, forcing Tapia to work hard to stay on top of her game and never allowing her to become too comfortable with the sport.

Tapia has received support from her parents and grandparents. Many extended family members and friends have reached out to express their pride and support for her during this time. She has also received

supporters through social media.

TJ Houshmandzadeh, her coach, has been instrumental in Tapia's progress. Tapia said, "My travel ball coach, TJ Houshmandzadeh, has played a big role in my success and I'm extremely grateful to have him as my coach." Coach TJ Houshmandzadeh,

was a Pro Bowl receiver in the NFL for ten years. Tapia has a terrific relationship with her coach, as he has supported and believed in her throughout all of it.

Tapia has had a lot of success through her Softball journey. She hopes that one day she'll be able to attend a D1 college, where she can continue her academics, while playing for their Softball program. Tapia would also like to compete in the Olympic Games in the future. The most significant achievement thus far has been being selected to

Mexico's Junior Olympic team.

During her tryouts, she was pulled aside by Coach Jorge Araujo, who indicated she should be on the Mexico team. She was picked as the youngest player, out of 600 girls, to represent Mexico last summer. She was then presented to Rolado Guerrero, President of the Mexico Softball Federation. Being a part of the Junior National Team has been Tapia's goal for a very long time. Tapia was extremely honored to be one of 16 girls chosen to represent Mexico. Tapia said, "It was a great experience competing against all the different countries and also meeting girls from all different

backgrounds." Tapia had an incredible experience being able to compete. She won a silver medal in her category in the first Pan Am games.

From being a successful player at a young age and representing Mexico, we all wish Tapia success throughout her journey. Excitement grows as many wonder what the future holds for Ava Tapia.



Athletes of The Year: Highlanders at Heart

**Staff Writer,
Anna Baca**

The academic year of 2022-2023 has witnessed some of the most memorable moments—and people—in this school's history. Outstanding scholars, artists, and other bold students have demonstrated peak performance, as members of the Upland High community and the true extent of their dedication could hardly be reached with words. Two of those unique, extraordinary student athletes have shown unrelenting determination and a powerful drive for excellence, which has resulted in their nominations as Athletes of the year. Congratulations to Arthur Avila and Camila Parra.

While involved in sports, one must engage in rigorous amounts of practice and exercise to shape himself or herself into an ideal athlete. Whether the goal is ten push-ups or one hundred, the road to achieve it is brutally challenging—and maintaining mental durability alone—is just as difficult. Good mental health and physical endurance go hand in hand, for a successful sports journey, which is

why athletes work so vigorously on bringing both forward. One piece of the puzzle cannot fit without the other, and these two team players know how to make the perfect connection.

Seventeen-year-old senior varsity football player Arthur "Art" Avila Jr. carries an extensive history in football, dating back over a decade. Avila began his football experience at age five, when his father suggested that he commit to a sport of his choosing and he chose football. He said, "If it wasn't for my dad, I probably would have never played football," Avila recalled earlier years. "I fell in love with the game. Ever since then, football has become my life and I want to continue playing for as long as I can." During the season, he played left tackle (LT) on offense and defensive tackle/nose guard (DT/NG) on defense. He and the team applied various methods to improve skill sets and positions they held within the

sport, such as "pounding the rock," a term used by football players, which means for one to 'run the football.' Avila said, "We continued to pound the rock and gave every workout, practice, and game our all." After months of commitment and diligence, their hard work had paid off: The CIF Championship was in the palms of their hands.

Despite loss in the last rounds of CIF, Avila believed the team was successful. He elaborated, when he said, "We are proud of ourselves for being able to fight through that adversity." In the previous months before CIF, numerous obstacles fell upon them; players left constantly due to injury, coaches were fired and the team lost support—all less than halfway through the season. Yet, in the midst of the battle, Avila and his peers' resilience pushed them through trials and tribulations to land the group where they are today.

Along with football, soccer is one of the most difficult sports to play. Camila Parra played the strenuous sport for nearly twelve years, and at age eighteen, she now

has extensive experience in the area as a winger. However, during one of the games in the girls' soccer tournament, Parra sprained her MCL (Medial Collateral Ligament) and was forced to miss the remainder of

the season. Even with a fresh injury, she showed support for the team. Parra said, "I was excited to cheer the team on during the season. A big setback [for us] was trying to motivate ourselves in the beginning, but we worked through that as a team and had great games."

The Claremont Tournament, although challenging, turned successful for the team. Parra recalled the moment when the team brought home the win, when she said, "The best moment [of the season] for me was winning the tournament and making everyone proud. I could have never been happier."



Avila Jr. carries an extensive history in football, dating back over a decade. Avila began his football experience at age five, when his father suggested that he commit to a sport of his choosing and he chose football.



The Rise Of Collecting Vinyl Records and CDs

*Co-Editor, Liyah Sera
Staff Writer, Juan Campos*

Throughout music history, music archives such as vinyls and CDs became a staple to every music lover's collection. However, like most things, people started to transition from physical, tangible music to digital, like Spotify and Apple Music. Though many people use platforms like Apple Music and Spotify, the nostalgia that comes from vinyls and CDs is still rampant and people have been purchasing music from local shops in order to collect the artists they love the most.

According to Deckerson's.com article, "7 Reasons Why People Still Prefer Listening to Vinyl Records," by Ann Ferguson, the world of vinyl collecting has become a sensation and, "You might not think it, but there is a culture you experience once you enter the world

of vinyl. Audiophiles have been listening and collecting vinyl for years, forming a connection they wouldn't have otherwise. But this connection isn't just for hardcore collectors or boomers — over 70 percent of the current market are millennials 35 and below!"

Time flies and with that comes many changes in the world, but in the music industry and how it has evolved, physical copies of music have been doing the opposite of what individuals think and that is growing and becoming more popular. Big artists like Taylor Swift, Harry Styles, SZA, etc. all release physical copies of their music that often sells out in seconds. The need for these recordings has grown, especially with artists as they release signed formats of music, which makes the fans go wild.

Junior, Kathleen Gonzales is a big fan of music and believes that is why she buys many physical cop-

ies. Gonzalez is a huge Taylor Swift fan and she believes that she is the reason why she wants to purchase more physical copies. Gonzalez said, "I never was into records or CDs until Taylor released very cute shapes and colors, especially when they are signed. I purchase them right away!" Clearly, Taylor has influenced her to buy more physical formats of music because she just wants to have them. Many artists release colors and shapes of records, which peaks the interest of younger audiences and or record collectors. Physical copies of music have evolved and many artists have found ways to make them wanted and the fans have helped them to make a comeback.

One of the most popular local record stores in the surrounding Inland Empire area is Rhino Records, which has been in business for over forty years and selling to a young generation of music heads

willing to spend their money on tangible works of music. Though the store moved their location from



Claremont, California to Montclair, California, the business has become more relevant, since the location change and has people making it a local hang out spot to enjoy the company of others who are interested in music.

All in all, vinyls and other physical pieces of music have brought many generations together to share a mutual understanding for the love of music.



The Appeal Of Vintage: Making A Comeback

*Staff Writers,
Kaylie Berry & Jack Emerson*

Fashion has always been a large part of society. It allows people to express themselves and makes them feel confident in their person. The nature of fashion is something that falls out of style and newly popular trends replace it, until eventually, it comes back. The article "Retro Fashion Trends | Old Clothing That Has Come Back into Style," by Claire Anderson, said "Just like old music, movies and books coming back into style in the 21st century, we have seen many fashion trends in the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s coming back in trend [...] The best part is that you do not have to buy these items as new. You can rent them, look through your mother's wardrobe or find them in thrift stores." The "new" old fashion is really making its comeback with more styles and unique patterns along the way.

Some of the clothing that is coming back, according to Anderson, include mom jeans, corduroy, chunky sneakers, scrunchies, silk scarves, bike shorts, flared pants, Denim, bum bags, and puffy sleeves. The look that is comfortable, care-less and free has definitely been the way to go, in just this past year and forward. Among teenagers, the 1970's to 1980's looks are very popular. The assistant manager at the American Cancer Society thrift store, Melissa Campos, said, "When teens come in the store, they tend to gravitate towards buying clothing that is more 70's to 80's and just vintage clothing overall."

Due to the recent fashion trends, thrifting has also become much more popular. Campos said, "Thrifting has definitely become

more popular, especially amongst the younger teens." People who have been thrifting most of their lives, to find cheap clothes, are now finding that many others are doing it as well, for vintage clothing. Senior, Ace Arriola said, "I've been going thrifting since I was a little kid because it was just a cheaper way to buy clothes. But now, it's a fashion choice."

Older styles coming back have been a recurring theme. It is not the first time that fashion has repeated itself. However, nobody really knows why. Arriola said, "I think people now want to seem more mature in the world. That's why younger people are more interested in thrifting and wearing things like 'dad shoes.'"

There are many theories as to why old fashion trends come back after so many years of being gone.

The article, "Why Do Fashion Trends Come Back?," by Carmen Lopez, has three theories as to why these fashion trends come back. Lopez said, "Theory 1: We're



influenced by our parents' closets. Theory 2: Trends cycle every half-century. Theory 3: Economic changes impact fashion." They are all good theories, however none of which can be proven right.

Thrifting for vintage clothes has become something that is immensely popular throughout most parts of the world right now. So, many teenagers are finding clothes that range from flare jeans to colorful scrunchies. Although a lot of it may be influenced by their parents, no one knows where it is coming from. Millions of people enjoy the new trends and are looking forward to seeing what other old trends will come back.



Elizabeth in her “Doll’s World”

Editor-in-Chief, Angelica Gordon
Staff Writer, Dianeicus West

Dolls have always been a popular toy to play with during childhood. As one grows up, dolls can be left behind in nostalgia, while entering new chapters in one’s life. However, senior Elizabeth Pontious is an example of breaking “traditions” and taking what she has always loved and turning it into a money-making venture for college. As only a sixth grader at the time, Pontious started her YouTube Journey with her site, “My Doll’s World.” Pontious said, “I absolutely loved playing with dolls and I also had such a love for story writing and I thought, what better way to do is put my passions together and



start something.”

Support and guidance are a key aspect in hopes of following through with goals. Despite the criticism and cruelty faced from peers, Pontious said, “A lot of people have motivated me through my YouTube career and a lot of them being fans, my friends and family, they inspire me to keep doing what I do and continue to keep making others smile.”

With the challenge faced, Pontious was able to persevere. Youtube videos require a lot of work and dedication, in order to produce a high-quality video. As her channel, “My Doll’s World,” progressed she learned to become organized. Pontious said, “I learned that I function best when I have the whole story written down, and then, the filming, stop motion, and editing.” Pontious empathizes that it’s definitely a process. There’s no definite time when it comes to filming a video.

Processing it all, whether it comes to motivation or obstacles, which have to be faced, due to taking the leap into the endeavor. Wanting to showcase her channel and work, Pontious said, “I have faced a lot of challenges. It started in sixth grade. I wanted to share my channel with my peers and when I did, it actually backfired. I would have people make fun of me, play my videos at lunch. At one point, I had somebody purchase dislikes to tank my channel.”

Although there are various moments captured by adversity, there are many

moments which also present themselves as gifts, to keep and behold, such as meeting her fans. Pontious said, “It’s a really beautiful experience. I’ve met a couple of nice fans over the years. My favorite experience was over this past summer, with one of my biggest fans.” Energized and excited to meet her, continuing, Pontious said, “I found out she was visiting Newport Beach with her family, so I actually reached out to her mom, to see if we could put together a surprise and drove down there and ended up surprising her. She was overjoyed to see me and she actually started tearing up when she saw me and it just made me emotional, knowing that my work means so much to people.”

Pulling from all the depths of her memories and own personal experiences, Pontious wants to resonate with anyone who has been bullied or faced similar circumstances, to make sure they don’t feel alone. Pontious said, “My stories actually originate from all my bullying experiences. I write stories about them and act them out to teach lessons to young girls or kids. My goal has always been to use my experiences for good, so no one else has to feel the way I’ve been made to feel.”

Her first video was based on her own personal feelings with her brother. Pontious said, “My first video was called ‘Get Off The Phone.’ This was actually inspired by my older brother. I would want to spend time with him



and he would be on his phone. At the end of the video, the little girl would hide her sister’s phone to spend time with her. That video was not even two minutes, but it actually got 5,000 views the first two weeks. I was pretty surprised.” Growing with each story, reflection on experience, and her works of film, Pontious said, “The processes have always stayed the same. I feel I just added to them now.”

Looking towards the future, the film industry is a target she has her eyes on. Pontious said, “I plan to go to college and get a degree in film because I feel like that will open more opportunities with Mattel or any other film companies down the road. I would actually love to see any of my original series become a big film one day.” Paving her ways through the lights of phones, cameras of tablets, iPads and the action of stop-motion, the studio of “My Doll’s World” provides the opportunity for its real star to shine.

What your Favorite Barbie Movie Says About You

Co-Editor, Samia Gazi
Staff Writer, Mickayla Maedel

We often return to the aspects of our childhood that made it magical, in an effort to experience youth in a new perspective. The iconic Barbie movie franchise remains a lingering aspect of childhood that we revive from time to time. From her courageous journey into the deep sea to adventurous travels into magical forests, Barbie’s fulfilling life would need a little more than a dictionary to truly describe. As we anticipate the arrival of Greta Gerwig’s new film, *The Barbie Movie*, let’s unravel what your favorite Barbie movie says about you!

Starting off strong, *Barbie: Princess Charm School* follows a hard-working Blair, who has taken up work as a waitress, to fend for her mother and sister. When she wins a lottery that gives her the chance to attend a boarding school, Blair experiences glamor, mean girls, competition, and secrets. If your favorite Barbie movie within the franchise is *Princess Charm School*,

you are introverted, take time to open up, are generous without trying, and always pinning to do what is right.

Next up, *Barbie of Swan Lake* tells the tale of Odette, who follows a unicorn into an enchanted forest and ends up discovering a magic crystal. She removes

it from where she found it, which angers the Fairy Queen who owns it. Furiously, an evil wizard, whose enemy is the Fairy Queen, transforms Odette into a swan. Sophomore, Emily Teixeira said, “The *Barbie of Swan Lake* is my all-time favorite Barbie movie. The second I saw her dress, I fell in love. It’s been my favorite ever since.” If *Barbie of Swan Lake* floats your boat, you are most likely curious, determined, sharp, and witty. You don’t back out on a task and always wish to find closure from adversities in your life.

Barbie in A Mermaid Tale is a heartwarming story involving the main character, Merliah Summers, a very successful surfer, who suddenly finds out the shocking secret that she is a mermaid. She takes her best dolphin friend, Zuma, with her for a dip in the deep ocean to rescue her long-lost mermaid mother. To attest to its popularity, Senior, Ethan Gonzalez said, “One of my favorite Barbie movies is *A Mermaid Tale*. Everything about it filled my little six-year-old heart when I first watched it. The whole concept of turning into a mermaid blew my mind at the time.” If *Barbie in A Mermaid Tale* is your all-time favorite, you are strong-willed, you always follow your heart, are an overachiever, and loyal. You are willing to take on a challenge to achieve your goals and will persevere through the difficult journey to reach happiness.

Barbie and The 12 Dancing Princesses is about Genevieve, a princess who shares a passion for dancing with her twelve sisters. The princesses are deemed as improper, but Genevieve knows better, to follow her dreams of being a ballerina. Genevieve discovers

a portal into a magical world, where her sisters and her dance the night away. If *Barbie and The 12 Dancing Princesses* is your favorite, you are outgoing, love to follow your dreams, purposeful, creative, and rebellious. You don’t like to follow the rules, only your passions.

A24’s newest upcoming film, *The Barbie Movie* is set to hit theaters July 21, 2023 and people both young and old are practically lining up to watch it. Director, Greta Gerwig has revealed that the film involves Barbie and Ken’s escape from Barbieland into the real world, which is followed by the CEO of Mattel going after them to return them back. Chavez said, “Barbie just radiates confidence. I love that about her.” If these previous Barbie movies did not encapsulate who you are, the new Barbie film’s playfulness, modernism, and security in herself can resonate with you! The new Barbie movie presents a change in the evolution of the franchise films, since their introduction in 2001. Of her iconic timeline, Gonzalez said, “I love the evolution of Barbies. It’s interesting to see how Barbies followed the evolution of fashion trends and our society’s social norms. She changed with the times, which allowed her to stay relevant.” Clearly, Barbie’s ad-



herence to trends has made her a role model for kids all around. Chavez said, “She is a woman who can do anything. She teaches kids to chase their dreams and they can do whatever they put their mind to.”

With how long Barbie has been around, she has made an impact on the world and created nostalgia for all kids. Teixeira said, “I think because her style stays consistent people when they’re kids become attached to her and since she hasn’t changed they stay attached to her.” Overall, Barbie is loved for the way she is relatable to people everywhere for her goals, achievements, evolution overtime, and attitude.



Cartoons' Development

*Staff Writers,
Jewel Martinez & Omar Cruz*

When examining the development of cartoons that high school students watched when they were younger, compared to cartoons airing today, there is a pretty drastic difference. According to the *Odysseyonline.com*'s article, "How Have Cartoon Animations Changed Over Time," by Katherine Paspalakis, it said, "Technological advancements throughout the decades have vastly revolutionized the mechanism in which cartoons are made. Beginning with hand drawn pictures, the cartoon industry has transformed into a multi-million-dollar business, intriguing the eyes of various audiences. It is important to recognize that as technology grows and attributes a greater potential, older modes of development will seemingly fade into history."

The topic has sparked conversations between many people like parents and teens, who were able to see the evolution of children's entertainment. So, to get better information and more opinions on this subject, interviews of students at Upland High have been conducted.



Junior, Kaleb Debebe watched a lot of action cartoons growing up, as he said, "I mainly watched Ben 10 and Regular Show." Though, Debebe's favorite was Regular Show, he said, "Regular Show was my favorite because it was funny and it handled deep topics, like depression and betrayal really well." Under the development of humor in cartoons, Debebe said, "I think humor has become more censored and not as funny as it used to be."

Debebe believes society has become more sensitive to certain topics involved in cartoons, as compared to older cartoons. Debebe said, "When today's humor is compared to the past, we can't joke about touchy subjects anymore, like religion, race, and other topics like we used to." It is clear that he believes today's cartoons are too sensitive. Debebe said, "A good example of this is the new Scooby Doo show." Debebe confirms that cartoons have come far in development but if for the better, is a question that may be hard to answer.

Senior, Destany Falls likes a lot of the shows aimed at younger audiences like Oswald, Caillou and Max and Ruby. However, her favorite was Spongebob Squarepants. She usually likes to watch the older

episodes, instead of what comes out these days. Falls said, "I feel like the new ones aren't as good as the older ones... nothing beats the originals." Falls also agrees with the fact that cartoons have become more sensitive, but in a different sense. Falls said, "Cartoons now are a lot softer



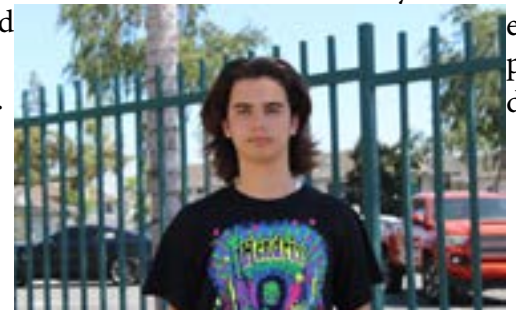
and censored, than cartoons back then. Like people didn't care as much... parents are now being more protective of their kids and not letting them watch stuff like Spongebob because it has hidden messages." Not to mention the fact that the humor of a lot of cartoons from back then has changed as well. Falls said, "It was more towards older people. Like when you watched it, when you were older, you understood it. But now, it's just kind of actually aimed towards little kids... it's not as entertaining as back then."

Falls feels similarly with the idea of reboots, like with the new show *The Proud Family: Louder and Prouder*, as she did with newer cartoons. Falls said, "I hate reboots. They're so annoying and they can be nothing like the originals."

Junior, Jayden McCloskey's favorite show was *The Amazing World of Gumball*. McCloskey

said, "This was my favorite show growing up because of all the adult jokes and the childlike humor that was in it." He strongly believes that cartoons are way too "baby-like" now, as he said, "I think modern day cartoons are just stupid jokes that only two-year-olds laugh at." McCloskey thinks cartoons that are made today, drastically changed in comparison to older cartoons, when it comes to more serious issues. McCloskey said, "I think cartoons are way too delicate now because they don't show any blood or even bruises anymore."

In terms of good outcomes from modern day cartoons, McCloskey said, "A good thing though is that animation quality is getting a lot better and things look a lot more realistic." McCloskey said, "An



example of a drastic

change, when it comes to animation, is definitely hair details. Now, you can clearly see each individual strand." It is evident that McCloskey prefers the humor, as well as the sophisticated aspect of older cartoons, compared to now. However, major changes in animation quality have developed for the better.

80's Coming of Age Films

*Staff Writers,
Sofia Erskine & Daisy Ball*

Today's generation has created a one-of-a-kind culture that has developed rapidly in the last few decades. While this generation of teens has certainly changed since the eighties, media and culture from over forty years ago is still popular today. One of many long-lasting memories of the revolutionary eighties is "The Brat Pack," a nickname given to teen and young-adult actors who repeatedly starred together in coming-of-age movies geared towards a teen audience. According to the online article, from *Countryliving.com*, "The Brat Pack—Then and Now," by Angel Madison said, "The A-list young actors were in all the hottest teen or coming-of-age movies. The *Breakfast Club* and *St. Elmo's Fire* were the two key titles that defined the



members of the Brat Pack. The cinematic impression of these actors and actresses captured attention and garnered fans decade after decade." In addition, the elements of these movies have created timeless masterpieces.

Often seen as the leader of the Brat Pack, Molly Ringwald starred in hit movies like *Sixteen Candles*, *Pretty in Pink*, and *The Breakfast Club*. Ringwald's characters often had a protagonistic disposition that made her likable and relatable. "Molly Ringwald



is my favorite member of the Brat Pack," film teacher Mr. Hauk said. "She's my favorite member of the brat pack because she had very sympathetic characters in all of her movies. She kind of acted like the Hollywood stereotype of a high school girl that wasn't at the top but was just scrapping to keep up and to be noticed. I think all of those are empathetic characteristics."

The common themes found throughout eighties coming of age movies make them relatable, regardless of the audience. Senior, Josalin Breault said, "Even though it's exaggerated in the sense of cliques and different social stereotypes, they get it down pretty well that everyone has their own thing going on;

That what you see at surface level isn't necessarily all there is to it," Josalin Breault said. "I feel like the way they presented it in that kind of light-hearted, coming-of-age manner but also with the very intense moments is, not relatable, but prevalent in life."

People have extracted deeper meanings and purpose from works that were initially intended to be light entertainment. Teenagers and young adults naturally took the most away from these movies, as they were oftentimes the target audience. "If anything, it made me romanticize growing up a bit more," Breault said. "When you

first become a preteen, you think everything is the end of the world. You can be very dramatic. Eighties movies definitely



showed me that you can be more light-hearted about things and that there is always a silver-lining. So just to be a bit more carefree."

Gage Ware, a junior in the film class said, "I was thinking the same. Just kind of roll with the punches. Things happen. You just kind of have to deal with it. It's not that big of a deal. That's in a lot of these movies." In the eighties decade, film became increasingly creative, due to more flexible budgets, as well as changes in social conventions. Storylines were crafted with more freedom, according to what an increasingly more accepting audience could handle and tolerate, making eighties cinema one of the most relatable eras in film history.

Older Hobbies Coming Back to Life

Staff Writer,
Lianna Smith

For a while now there has been a noticeable change in this generation's interest with a lot of older hobbies coming back to play. According to the online article, "Retro hobbies are making a comeback - such as knitting, crochet, and bird-watching," from [express.co.uk](https://www.express.co.uk), by Andrew Young, it said, "Nostalgic hobbies like cross-stitch, flower-arranging, and watercolor painting are back in fashion, according to a poll. The research of 2,000 adults found "retro pastimes" which involve arts and crafts, like sewing and model making, or getting outdoors, like bird watching, are in vogue."

There are many reasons why these hobbies have come back

into the light, but one of the main reasons was due to the pandemic. With many finding themselves hav-



ing nothing to do, they turned to hobbies that were more time-consuming and calming to spend their days, such as needlepoint, crocheting and doing puzzles. Sophomore, Nadine Aquino, and member of the Crochet Club said, "Crocheting is very therapeutic for me and it helped me through a lot, especially during the pandemic, where I picked it up."

With crocheting it is your plank canvas, you can go from making blankets to sweaters, to even stuffed animals. Though it is very technical at the start, it can also be very calming and mind-clearing, once you find your flow. The soft feeling of the yarn and the idea of

making a one-of-a-kind piece helps put people in a good mood. In the article, "How Crochet and Knitting Help the Brain," from the website [Anxietyresourcecenter.org](https://www.anxietyresourcecenter.org),

by Betty Houtman, it said, "There are so many beautiful colors, an array of textures, and soft, bristly,

smooth, or bumpy fibers to choose from! They provide pleasing visual, tactile, and perceptual feedback to our bodies and brains."

Another reason for these hobbies making a return is just how versatile they can be. Another new hobby is collecting vinyl, where a

person can collect from his or her favorite musicians. Sophomore, Shaun MacMaster, said, "I became interested in collecting vinyl because I love that classic sound that you can only get with vinyl. I also love this hobby because of the people you end up meeting." Collecting vinyl is not just a great way to grow your love for music but to find people who share that same passion.

Media has also played a big role

in bringing these hobbies back to life. There are many Tik Tok accounts focused on how to crochet and where to get vinyl in the best



condition. Nadine Aquino said, "I don't have TikTok but I know that crochet is very popular right now as a trend that keeps it alive and modernizes

those hobbies."

In a study in 2022, young said, "More than a quarter (26 percent) said the appeal of such hobbies is primarily down to escaping the stresses and strains of modern life - as they try to find some respite through simple pleasures." The rise of popularity in these hobbies brings nothing but good and allows people to express themselves differently.

Dancing Through The Decades

Copy Editor,
Alessandra Sandoval

Dance has always remained a form of expression. In the online article from [Cliststudios.com](https://www.cliststudios.com), "Most Popular Dances of Each Decade," it said, "The world of dance-like the world of music-is constantly changing, undergoing new revolutions, fads, and revivals as every new generation of people learn to move their bodies. However, there is a beautiful and deep lineage that those new movements draw from, and what might seem like a quaint craze from the distant past is nearer to our modern era than we might realize. Dance styles

are often a physical embodiment of history and develop out of social

and historical events." From the roaring twenties, a decade fa-

mous for The Charleston, to the present day of social media applications, such as TikTok controlling dancing trends, much of dance is just taking the old and making it new again.

The world of dance is constantly changing, and ballet has always been the foundation of all styles, teaching key movements, like balance. Each decade has premiered its own quirky features, bringing communities together to celebrate the differences, as they continue to define American culture.

"You get a little bit of different decades. It depends on the story being told. If you're doing a pe-

riod piece, it's going to go along with that decade," said dance

teacher, Mrs. Tahajian. If a work was based on the 1920's "The Charleston" will be involved and if it's on The Big Band Era, you'll have swing dancing.

There are some exceptions to this, as the well-known play "Hamilton" is not a period piece, since it consists of Hip-Hop, R&B, and even pop music. As music and fashion shift, dance keeps pace with the faster the song, more Hip-Hop moves are involved, with slower music for contemporary, both having completely different costumes.

In the 1930s, jazz grew in popularity with "The Age of Swing" beginning with the 1920's classic: The Charleston. Swing dance used twists from "The Charleston" to transition into a full-on partnered dance with spins becoming a world sensation by the 1940's. Rock and roll of the '50s ushered in a whole new era in which teenagers could dance anytime,

anywhere and later, introduced new styles, such as "The Twist," which became a dance phenom-

enon in the 1960's. A dance focused primarily on rotating the hips, "The Twist" was a simple form of

hip-hop that shocked parents of the era. From not being able to show your ankles in the 18th century, to being able to do almost anything today, every generation has pushed the limits of dance. Tahajian said, "The generation before is always like, 'Oh my goodness, what are they doing since?'"

Popular dance trends have captivated American culture for the past one hundred years. Whether it's "The Twist" or Tik Tok challenges, both rely on simple Hip Hop steps. Dance trends have used similar steps and movements for decades, reinventing the originals and becoming an important part of American culture.





The Comeback of Nostalgic Toys

**Staff Writer,
Danny Kydd**

Over the past several years, there has been a resurgence of toys from the past making a comeback. The old nostalgic toys are now providing a new generation with hours of fun. With the toys that are being brought back and re-established for a newer generation to love and appreciate, there is also the feeling of nostalgia for older age groups who fondly remember these toys that they loved as children.

In the online article from Cafemom.com, "All the Rad '90s Toys That Are Making a Major Comeback," by Devin McGuinness," it said, "And that's what toy manufactures are doing,



as evident by the toys that are making a huge comeback. Lately tons of '90s toys have found their way back to the store shelves and on to our kids' holiday gift lists — some revamped and some still pretty much the same as they were a few decades ago — all packaged with a dose of major nostalgia." There are now upgraded and improved versions of most of these toys that have come back into play.

Freshman, Ruby Cardenas said, "With the release of the Monster High show and doll collec-

tions that came out, I feel a sense of nostalgia almost immediately, though I do like the older generation of dolls better because they were more diverse than the mod-

ern ones." The dolls were a big hit in the early 2000's, with the show still in its infancy. Now, it has made a huge comeback with the latest movie and show, as well as the new set of dolls. The diversity may not be as

great as it once was. However, it is twice as buzzed as before.

Many of these nostalgic shows have also reappeared and turned into merchandise for these generations of children to purchase. One of these shows is Hello Kitty made by Sanrio. Freshman, Jaylah McKinzie said, "Sanrio characters are my favorite thing to collect with the merch they sell for Hello Kitty and all of the other characters, such as Cinnamon Roll and My Melody. It made such an impact on my childhood and I

am glad that it eventually became popular again and reappeared with all of the characters being even

cuter than before."

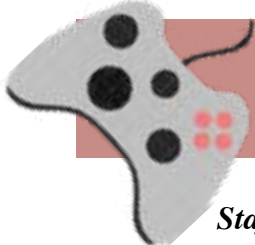
The happiness that these old toys have brought and the demand for more to come



is more than overwhelming to see. As McGuinness said, "It's been interesting over our lifetime to watch the trends in beauty, fashion, and toys cycle in and out of style. One of the major benefits of this has been being able to revisit some of the trends and toys that we were obsessed with when we were little. Revitalizing old toys is kind of a genius move — we'll buy them so our kids can have memories of them like we did."



Old Games in a New Light



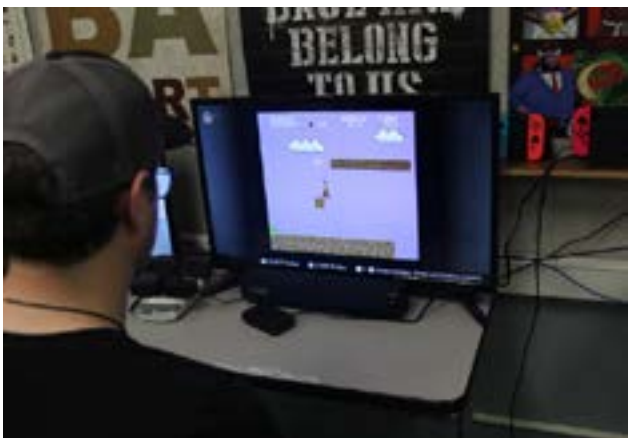
**Staff Writers,
James Williams & Cash Backer**

Gaming has been a part of almost everybody's lives for years now, and for gamers all over the globe, there is a love of playing old video games. The online article from recordhead.biz, "Retro Video Games That Are

Making a Comeback," said, "Everything old is new again! In a world of 'Mass Effect,' 'Skyrim'

and 'Call of Duty' — hyper-realistic, heavily detailed games that transport you to another world — you might think there's no room for your old favorites. But nostalgia for these games of yesteryear lives on — especially since mobile provides the perfect format for these classics. A game that once required a giant cabinet that you had to visit at an arcade to play, you can now play in all of its glory on a device that fits right in your hand.

The first remastered game is "Super Mario All Stars" that came out



in 1993 and was later remastered in 1994. "Space Invaders," a game published on arcade machines, was introduced in 1978. It was then remastered on Xbox Arcade in 2009.

Popular franchises like "Call of Duty," were remastered as well, like Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare in 2007 and a remastered version of it in 2016.

Even with the game being a remaster of the original, it got good reviews. According to Respawn Playstation's article, "Modern Warfare 2 Remastered Review Just

Like Old Times," by Sri Kandula, it said, "Modern Warfare 2 Remastered is a stunning game with the weapon and character models being super high detailed. While the game overall looks great there are certain segments and sequences that are especially impressive." Today, they can still be bought on the Microsoft store.

Although remastered video games are the same as the original, just with updated graphics, there are some remastered games that are actually pretty good, such as Call

of Duty Remastered. It really just depends on how the owners of a certain remastered game make the game. Mr. Finkle, the Esports teacher, said, "It depends on the contents of the remaster. Like if they remaster a game and all they're doing is a slight graphics update and bringing it to a new platform, then it's not really worth it. but if they're bringing new things like challenge modes or the ability to play new characters and questlines, then I think it can be

took the story of the original game, expanded it, made the graphics better, changed it to a real time action game, instead of a turn-based RPG, role-playing game, and also made it possible to completely change the storyline of the original game. There's a lot of room for growth, which makes it worth wild as a game." Basically, they took a game that was already good and made it better as a remaster.

Remastered games should be better than the original, since it is a

remaster.

Finkle said, "If they're remastered they should always theoretically be better. But sometimes, remasters remove elements that are present in



worth it."

Certain games have opportunities to be good remasters. Finkle said, "A lot of really good games have been done as remasters like the Final Fantasy 7 remake. They

the original game, which might not be necessarily as good. It depends on the game and title"

Video games have been with us since the fifties. Whether it is the original or remastered, video



The Appeal of Show Reboots



**Staff Writers,
Sonny Solis & Emily McConnell**

Nostalgia surrounding old T.V shows provides comfort that keeps audiences coming back to them. However, as these shows grow older, they may not live up to their once acclaimed titles, inspiring networks to reboot them, in an attempt to continue creating the same comfort that is often sought. According to the online article, “How to Make a Good Reboot,” from Inverse.com, it said, “A good reboot, on the other hand, is one that has something coherent to say about the original. It critiques the original, or builds on it, or extends to subjects the source text wasn’t able to reach. It achieves what the Russian formalists called *остранение* — defamiliarization — allowing us to see something familiar from a new angle, as if for the first time.”

It has become a recent trend for networks such as Netflix, Roku and others, to have their own attempt at spinoff shows. A new release from Roku, “Grease: Rise of the Pink Ladies” can be a good example of an underdeveloped reboot, according to some. Although some viewers are captivated by its callback to the original, critics claim that overall, the execution is lackluster. It can be difficult to balance nostalgia with regards for modern day views, which many say applied throughout the show. One reviewer on the Rotten Tomatoes’ website, Gianna Pretrucci, said, “I wouldn’t even go as far as to call this show ‘woke’ because of the terrible message it implies.”



Due to many classic movies, like the original Grease, being made as far back as the 1970’s and later, societal views do not align with current days. Many factors considered normal back then, would be considered problematic or offensive today, which creates an overall aperture in reboots vs originals. To make up for this issue, many shows have

be included back then, but as new generations, as well as older ones, are both trying to be advocated for, it makes the most sense to appeal to both. As society grows, media is expected to grow with it, and although many will never agree with it, there is an inevitability of a lot of classic shows and movies being recreated in a modern way. At the end of the day, both young and older generations alike, can come to their own conclusions on whether or not they appreciate reboots of old Hollywood. Many prefer to simply watch the classic rather than a remake, which is justifiable and again, up to personal preference. New adaptations of stories will always be made whether they are considered objectively bad or not and either way, one will always have the option to turn it off, if he or she does not like it. So, make the choice to engage with a reboot or re-watch the original for the fiftieth time, whatever fulfills those nostalgic urges.



attempted to include certain factors to make the production seem ‘educated’ or make it a better fit for younger audiences. However, since many viewers are older and attempting to recreate the feeling they had watching the original, applying current day culture may not align with them. Growing up in a different time period with different ideals, these older generations, most of the time, are not looking for a show taking place in the fifties to be spreading messages seen today.

Nonetheless, there are still many individuals willing to watch, without being bothered by a modern show doing a modern take. It can be difficult to understand why a show needs to include factors that would never

Musicians Making a Comeback

**Staff Writer,
Ace Davila**

When it comes to the music business, relevance matters, since greater attention means more money. Artists need to do what they can to keep their music popular, whether that is by keeping up with trends in music, spreading it on

social media, or even working with upcoming artists, to regain their popularity. For artists that have been in the music industry for a long time, it is hard to stay popular for years on end. Eventually, they stop receiving the attention they once had. However, today, old music is becoming “new” again.

According to Rollingstone.com’s online article, “The Biggest Old Music Hits Resurfaced by TikTok,” by Ethan Millman, said, “There’s so much opportunity out there for all these legacy labels, even for songs that are out of cycle to have another life. There’s a whole treasure chest of these earworms that I grew up

with that you can see now are having a second life.”

In social media, many people spread videos using music in the background and when a video



grows popular with a specific song being used, it will likely make that song gain popularity. It was the case of the Fleetwood Mac song, “Dreams,” but in that case, it once became popular again, due to its use on TikTok. Millman said that because of TikTok, “The song reentered commercial charts for the first time in over forty years, . . . getting the number 2 (of 100) spot on the ‘Rolling Stones’ charts.”

The same is also true for many other groups and artists. Millman said that the group Mother Mother has also begun to regain its popularity. Millman said, “Indie

band Mother Mother landed on the Rolling Stone Artist 500 and Breakthrough 25 charts despite not releasing music in over two years.” There seems to be a pattern towards songs gaining popularity through social media. Millman said, “The song becomes an app-wide obsession, big influential creators with tens of millions of followers start using it, and TikTok features the song on its sounds page. Then, inevitably, the song’s original performers will create TikTok accounts and join in on the trend.”

Social media is not the only aspect that restores the popularity of these older performers. USA Today’s online article, “Where have I heard that before?” written by Melissa Ruggieri, talks about how

lyrics.

Ruggieri said that the trend of sampling early music was widely accepted by the older and younger generations. One instance of it was when Goodie Mob’s 1995 song, “Cell Therapy” was sampled into Travis Scott’s 2018’s “Astroworld” track, “5% Tint.” Michael Jackson’s song, “P.Y.T.” was sampled in Kanye West’s 2007 hit, “Good Life.” Rayymon Beatz was a 21-year-old student at Clark Atlanta University, who made videos on music trends. Ruggieri, in his interview with Beatz reported that Beatz said, “It’s amazing how the music of yesterday is still carrying the music of today. You turn on the radio and you can immediately hear something from the old school. I feel like it’s paying homage to older artists.



some artists that are in the spotlight now will bring attention back to older artists by either sampling their music or using some of their

This new generation is giving appreciation to the older generation for making this art.”