

# The Plaid



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*"Oh yeah I just graduated high school"*



## New ASB President And Vice President



Assistant Editor,  
Kaylie Berry

As the end of the 2023-2024 school year is approaching, elections for next year's head of ASB have been decided. Juniors, Elyas Tejeda is the new ASB president and Faith Contreras is the Vice President. The pair already have many plans and ideas to make next year amazing for all students.

Tejeda and Contreras both have unique reasons for their desire to

contribute to my school and I feel that after Lander passed away, I wanted to continue to restore what I learned from him."

Tejeda has been in this game for a long time and knows his way around ASB. Contreras has also been involved in ASB for a while, as she is leaving her position as Junior class president this year to take on her new role. Contreras said, "I wanted this position because I think I have a lot of good ideas and new things that I can contribute to my school and hopefully, help change for the better."

Being in such a large role as president and vice president, there will be challenges, as well as delights that come with the job. Contreras said, "I feel that there will be a lot of challenges, just because there will always be some people who don't agree with Elyas and I, but I think we will be able to get past anything that comes our way."

As there will be some challenges

to taking on this role, there will also be many things to enjoy about this position as well. Tejeda said, "I want to show my classmates, as well as the people I will represent outside of the organization what it means to be a leader because I don't think that has been showcased enough and that is something I would most enjoy exposing my classmates to." It is very important that Tejeda and Contreras are on the same page as far as what changes in ASB and with the school, in general, they wish to make. Tejeda said, "I plan on implementing a new program with my newly elected vice president, Faith Contreras, where we will be figuring out where everyone stands in ASB and try to reaffirm our value and position in the school." Contreras is on a similar wave as Tejeda with implementing change as she said "I hope to bring

more attention to what we do in



ASB and allow people to see the value we have for this program." Taking on such an important position in the school is a huge commitment for both Contreras and Tejeda. They will both come out after the year is up with more knowledge and experience that will prepare them for their careers after graduation. Tejeda said, "I hope that when the year is over, one of the most defining things I will characteristically embody is the motivation to continue moving forward even when things don't seem like they are going in my favor."

**MAG MILLER**

## Salutatorian

Ending the first semester of his senior year with a 4.89 GPA, Anthony Nguyen was awarded the graduating class Salutatorian. Nguyen said "Honestly there's been a lot of growth for me freshman year. We were totally inside with covid so I think that was a good period of self reflection... really navigating everything and figuring out what clubs and organizations the school has took a lot of time and



effort". Luckily Nguyen found the clubs he wanted to join such as California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society, Key Club, HOSA, MENA, LSU, and the debate team through his participation. Nguyen said "I really discovered the people that I love". For the next four years Nyguen will be at University of California, Riverside majoring in biochemistry.

## Valedictorian

Ending the first semester of her senior year with a 4.91 GPA, Christina Lee was awarded the graduating class Valedictorian. Lee said, "The last four years of high school were challenging but rewarding... I don't regret any of the choices I made, except for my first two years, when I was solely focused on my education and not my social life." For the past two years, Lee has focused



more on her social life which included participating in debate, art club, California Scholarship Federation, National Honor Society, literary club, MENA, LSU, and the Asian Student Culture club. For the next four years, Lee will be attending Scripps College to pursue a double major in English and Media Studies, as well as minor-ing in Art.





# Thinkin' Bout You

*"A tornado flew around my room before you came"*



## Adolescent To Adulthood

Staff Writer,  
Sylvana Mendoza

As the school year nears the end, it's only natural for seniors to start reminiscing on the time spent over the last four years. The transition for some seniors seems to be a bit scary, while for others, it comes with the deep thoughts of what the future will hold. However, instead of stressing on the future, seniors should take the time to enjoy the last moments of this sweet life.

Senior, Jonathan Milan explained his future plans when he said, "I plan on going directly to school because I feel if I take a gap year, I will get too comfortable and too used to not being in school and end up slacking off." Milan has a bright future, with studying cinematography but won't forget about his high



school experience which he found to be, "a good experience shaping me into the person I am, preparing me to graduate."

Not only does high school prepare students for the future, but it also fosters lifelong friendships. Senior Dean Pacheco said, "I plan on keeping the friends now. They feel like friends who I will have

forever. When asked if Pacheco would ever visit UHS after graduation," he said, "Probably for the students. I have friends who are in choir and theater and they tell me

it means a lot to them when I go to their performances." When talking about Pacheco's future he is very set on having a goal and not wasting time, when he said, "I want to figure out most of my life before I have to actually live it."

With Seniors reaching the end of their high school years, advice is something very vital to hear, especially from mentors. Senior Government and Economics teacher, Daniel Carrasco said, "It's interesting comparing the different years in a sense, being that this is the last year of the real affected covid years. I feel It's interesting to see what everyone has achieved and sometimes not achieved." Before Covid, the seniors were eighth graders in middle school and soon will be graduating into adulthood.



Carrasco shared a piece of advice for the class of 2024, when he said, "You got to see the bigger picture. Don't fall in love with money." It is easy to be blinded

with opportunities that might seem good in the beginning but in the long run, one will miss opportunities that were not seen as great

before.

As seniors are approaching their adult lives, it may seem scary to think about the future and how unpredictable it can be at times. It is important to remember to have the right mindset and the right people around so that the future can and will be obtainable.



## Video Games Coming To The Big Screen

Staff Writer,  
Jasmine Perez

Along with the trend of newer adaptations of old, iconic movies or stories, the adaptation of video games to film and television is on the rise. The popularity of these video to film versions has seen iconic games, such as Nintendo's "Mario Brothers," "Fallout" and "The Last of Us," finding new life on the big screen and fans are engaging with the authenticity.

There haven't always been films or video games, which were well-made or recreated the atmosphere of the game. According to Geoff Keighley, in the pbs.org online article, "How Hollywood is turning video games into hit films and TV shows," there has been an issue in Hollywood's attempt at video game adaptations. Keighley said, "Many video game franchises over



the years just haven't been successful movies. I mean, there was Prince of Persia with Jake Gyllenhaal, there was Assassin's Creed

with Michael Fassbender. Even way back in the day, there was a Super Mario Brothers movie starring the late Bob Hoskins and none of them worked, in part because I think they weren't authentic to the game."

However, it took a turn, especially, with the newest Mario movie, and the adaptation of "The Last of Us", which is based around surviving in post-apocalyptic United States. Keighley described how this was done differently than other adaptations, as the creators of the show made it a goal to be authentic and partner with the creator of the game. Keighley said, "But there are scenes in that show that are direct dialogue lifts from the video games. [...] Those are like iconic seminal moments in the video game they really captured in the show, but they also built it to your

point in a way that appeals to many people that have never played the video game, because it's a great story at the end of the day." The high praise is reflected in the 96% rating of the show on rottentomatoes.com. The acting, being so impressive, fed the viewer an interesting story line, focusing on Joel and Ellie. Although,

because of its TV show format, there were some points where there was a lack of focus, it managed to be engaging and hit major points, necessary to be a proper adaptation of the game.

Most significantly is the 2024 release of a TV show adaptation of "Fallout." The Game, focused around nuclear warfare and apocalypse, was turned into a show in a way that was true to the game and impressive in its own right as a piece of media. Junior, Elijah Boucher said, "Fallout" [the show] had the atmosphere of all the games nailed down. It kept faithful to all the parts that are loved by fans," aligning with rottentomatoes.com's 93% rating of the show. "Fallout" follows Lucy, Cooper ["The Ghoul"] and Maximus, all of which were played and casted exceptionally. Within the show, they were able to grasp the complex parts of these characters, such as Lucy, a vault dweller, being unable to understand how the wastelands are so bad or unsafe. The overall story was highly engaging, making each character's story constantly interesting for the watcher, regardless of whether one was familiar with the long-standing



game franchise.

While there is a rise of video game adaptations, it can be questioned whether or not this trend should continue. Boucher expressed his opinion when he said, "There should be more remakes

but I believe they should be faithful to the games," as in adhering to the story lines, character designs, and atmosphere, within the games.

The future looks bright as there are multiple game adaptations on the way, such as "Bioshock and Borderlands." All of which are being highly anticipated by fans of the games. The increase in video games being put on the big screen can be really refreshing to those craving new media that has deep stories, oftentimes spanning over years of planning and developing. After the past years of Disney live action remakes, this acts as a chance for the stories from a different form of media to have its time of appreciation.



"Cause that's what friends are supposed to do, oh, yeah"

Boys' Volleyball CIF

Editor-In-Chief,  
Sofia Erskine

This year's CIF championship saw many UHS sports teams, one of them being the Varsity Boys' Volleyball team. In past years as well, the team has made its way through league and competed in the state championships. The head coach of the boys' Varsity team- Scott Robertson- detailed a short history of the team, when he said, "This is my third season coaching the boys. In 2021, we won CIF. In 2022, we won CIF." With two years of success on its shoulders, the team set out with a promising season ahead.

Kicking off the season on February 17 with the Portola Tournament versus JSerra Catholic High School and running until April 18th with a match against Los Osos High School, the team closed out the season with an impressive record. "Our season record... 19-5 overall, and 12-0 in league," said. Reviewing the season's team dynamic, he said that his pride in the team was largely attributed to, "The ability for them to come together as a team. You know, we had some older guys and some younger guys, so it was great to kind of see them kind of mesh together as a team throughout the season." It was Robertson's third year advancing to CIF, while overseeing Upland's volleyball team. "In 2022 we won CIF, in 2022 we won CIF, and then this year we lost in play-offs," said Robertson. Nonetheless, the team cannot be denied undisputed success

with an undefeated league record. For the underclassmen and juniors on the team, CIF remains an obstacle to be overcome during their remaining years on the team.

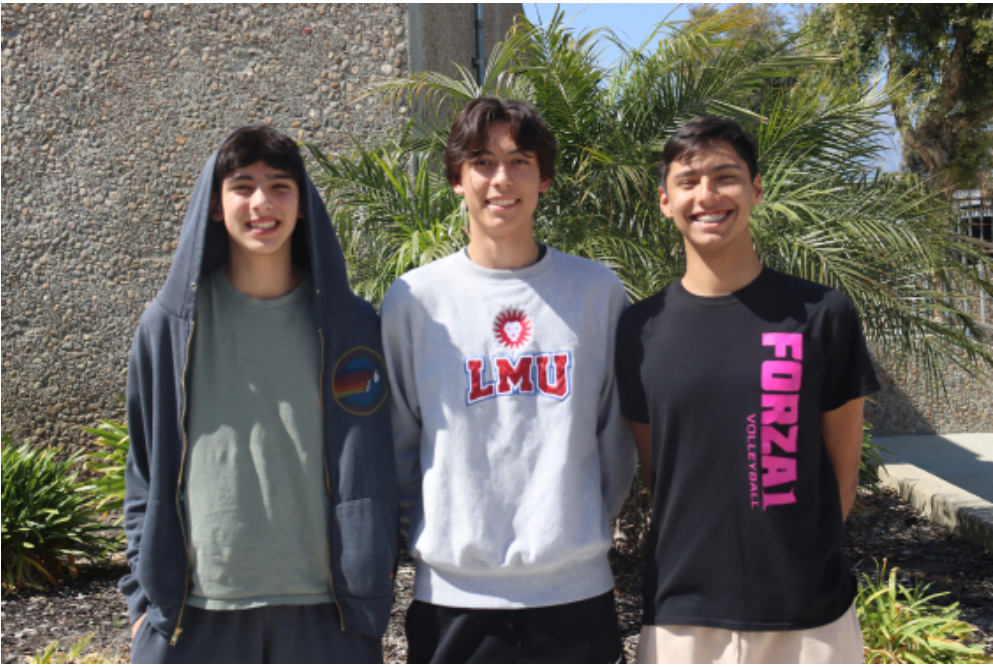
For 17-year old Juniors, Aidan Dufour and Evan Arroyo and 15-year-old Freshman, Franklin Shiekh, the season yielded notable

most helpful, when facing difficult teams resided in their training circuits. Practicing the rudimentary drills of the sport, as well as personalized skills pertaining to the opposing team, the players strengthened their individual capabilities in order to come together as a stronger whole. "We have a few core drills

edge the help of Assistant Coach Michael Hernandez. "Mike does a lot of helping out with drills," said Arroyo. "When he's doing stats on the sidelines, he helps us see what we're doing wrong and what we can do better at, so that helps a lot." Arroyo also mentioned the "practice ethic" that he saw within the team over the course of their season that he believed to be one of the leading factors in their success this year. Both the dedication of the players and the coaches has allowed the team to progress far not only in the season, but in their abilities as athletes as well.

Exiting the season, the players have a vision for the year ahead, as well as hopes for the team. "I want to see everyone succeed in what they're doing now," said Shiekh. "I want them to still practice and play more so then when we play again we're a lot better." Arroyo shared similar aspirations when he said, "I just want to see everybody have that mentality of winning, and go next year with another 10-0 in league and hopefully make it further into CIF." Dufour offers his last comment, when he said, "Everybody that's returning next year, stay hungry, ready to compete next year, and just keep that fuel of wanting to do better next year."

Anticipation of next year's season is set to remain until next spring when the matches resume. Until then, the team plans to continue to practice hard and show the best of their abilities for their next appearance on the court.



experiences. One of the most memorable of these experiences was their match against Claremont High School on March 7th. Dufour said, "I feel like Claremont was the one that people were talking about." Arroyo continued the recollection, when he said, "I think the team was a little shocked when Claremont beat us the first set. But then, we kept practicing before the second game, and we ended up sweeping them."

A tactic that the players found

that we do almost every practice," said Dufour. "We start off with passing and serving because it's fundamental. It's simple, but it's one of the most important things to keep working on and keep improving on. Depending on who we're playing, we always have stuff that we're looking to get better on, whether it's blocking or hitting or serving."

Alongside the effective practice plans that Coach Robertson provides for the team, the players acknowl-



Swim And Dive Season



Staff Writer,  
Madison Vencill

The Swim and Dive Team's achievements in the pool this season are nothing short of impressive. With each swim meet, they strove to make new goals, breaking the old ones and leaving their mark. They have showcased their skill by showing their abilities and talents in competitions, all under the direction of their committed coaches Cody Bell and Jamie Benavides.

The bond of the Swim and Dive Team is what makes them unique. Freshman, Rene Miramontes said, "Even though I was nervous about being accepted by my fellow swimmers, my teammates have been supportive and constantly push me to do better." They cheer each other



on during wins and provide support during losses, encouraging each other through every lap and dive. Senior, Spencer Damas said, "I would say I set a good example on the pool deck, motivate my teammates by

cheering for them, and am always willing to offer advice when asked." Outside the pool, their friendship improves the community as a

whole, in support of our athletes.

For many members of the Swim and Dive Team, their passion for swimming began long before their time at Upland High School. Miramontes shared the personal growth through her experiences in the pool. Prior to joining the swim team, Miramontes said, "I had swam for city teams for a number of years. But from my time swimming at UHS

and through my experiences of playing for a real swim team, I have seen the most improvement in my athletic abilities." With every dive, years of commitment and love for the sport, competitive swimming has become a lifetime passion for all of the team.

Swim and Dive Team has not stopped their training yet. Their focus has been on the future, so they keep up their tough training and aim for the best at what they do. The team is a good example of the commitment that defines true athletes, whether they are pursuing championship titles or encouraging each other's individual goals. Damas said, "My favorite memory from swimming at UHS would have to be winning CIF with my team in 2023." Upland competed in a terrific



season this year and they have high hopes for next season as well.

The Swim and Dive Team members have other obstacles to overcome, even in the middle of their incredible seasons. Miramontes said, "As someone who is taking all honors classes, balancing academics and swim has definitely been a challenge. The

way that has worked best for me has been to stay organized and communicating with my teachers."

Their commitment to excellence both in and out of the pool serves to show their steady dedication and determination. It all goes to show that the Swim and Dive Team has been more than just a team of athletes and that they are representatives of Upland's community, excellence, and integrity.



*“Like the stars miss the sun in the morning sky”*

## 10 Not So Usual Activities To Do This Summer

Staff Writer,  
Dianeicus West

During the summer time an average of 58 percent of people don't have anything to do. So, they spend most of their time dying from boredom. Summer is meant to be full of freedom and fun, after working hard in school throughout the year. However, many people don't live their summer to its fullest. But this summer is the perfect time to discover what excitement may unravel for those who wish to spice up their days. Of course, there are the tried and true traditional activities, such as a trip to the beach, a pool day and going to amusement parks. However, with a little guidance, you just might find a way to fill your days with a little excitement, sure to leave you ending your summer with a smile on your face. Here are 10 things to get you started.

### 1. Clean up your alley and decorate it

Although it sounds weird, it's a fun project to do and affordable. You can start by cleaning up trash around the area. Then, buy some plants to make an area aesthetically pleasing to your eye.

### 2. Go Sandboarding

The activity of sandboarding is a mixture of skateboarding, surfing, and snowboarding combined. Although many people are familiar with snowboarding, sandboarding only began to gain popularity in the 1970's, according to the "Encyclopedia of Surfing." Finding a location with sand dunes is key. One location to go Sandboarding would be in Marina, California. According to slipfacesandboards.com's online article, "Destinations," it said, "These dunes are perfect for families with children because the dunes are long and not very steep, which makes it perfect for beginners to give it a shot."

### 3. Dress up as a Minion

Summer being full of surprises calls for unexpected activities, such as cosplaying as a minion for a day. In order to pull off this iconic look, you'll need a yellow, long-sleeve shirt, dark denim blue overalls, black gloves, boots, and goggles. To make this activity even more fun, you can buy a cheap makeup pallet from Five Below and do Minion make-up on your friends and family.

### 4. Eat one color food for 24 hours

You usually have a food that you could eat any time of day, without getting tired of it. However, it's unusual to eat only one-colored food for 24 hours. In order to do this challenge, you need to pick a color, whether it's red or any other color. Now, the challenge begins to find food within that color to eat. If you wish to challenge yourself, pick a color that's uncommon for food to be, such as it would be unusual to eat purple food for a day.

### 5. Copy people's Instagram stories for a day

Grab a friend or two and let others' stories control your social media image for a day. First meet up with your friends and go on your Instagram account. Scroll through the story icons until your friend tells you to stop and pick one. After viewing the story, find the items and poses you'll need to recreate the post. It's also important to use the same emojis, songs, and fonts to nail the post. It's a fun reaction to see how long it takes people to catch on or experience major Deja vu.

### 6. Bike to the beach

Many people drive to the beach, when they want to go. However, it's unusual for people to bike to the beach. Senior, Tran Dinh said, "I want to bike to the beach. There are bike trails in Upland that can lead to the beach and I think that's pretty swag." According to wavehuggers.com's online article, "Best Coastal Bike Paths in Southern California," it said "The Marvin

Braude Bike trail runs through all the L.A. beach cities, providing a unique way of experiencing L.A. beach culture." Lastly, it's important to bring water, snacks, and sunscreen with you on your journey.

### 7. Go on a ghost hunt with friends

Summer is full of thrilling activities. What's not better than going on a ghost tour with friends? The DTLA Murder Mystery Ghost Tour is a great way to get a thrilling feel. One tourist said, "Super fun. Our guide was very knowledgeable and funny. Would totally recommend it to my friends."

### 8. Explore ghost towns at night with friends

Downtown Upland is known to be extremely haunted, due to there being many historic buildings. Explore if the rumors are actually true with friends.

### 9. Make a giant puzzle out of cardboard

Go around your town with your friends and search for cardboard boxes. Once you have gotten a significant amount, meet up with

your friends at the park. Together, create unique puzzle pieces that don't necessarily go together but show everyone's creativity and efforts.

### 10. Go camping but in your back yard or living room

Many people can say that they have gone camping before, but most don't have the experience of camping in their backyard or living room. Senior, Sophia Belleza said, "I would love to do both, but camping in your backyard isn't something someone normally does. But I would love to do it." With that being said an ideal camping experience in your living would be to build an outdoor tent, cozy lightning, smores and cloud watching.

Hopefully this article has provided you with a plethora of activities to make your summer unique. Although going to the beach and amusement parks are typically the highlight of summer, it doesn't hurt to try new out some new activities that are out of the ordinary.



Congratulations to the Upland Highland Pipe Band who placed 1st & 3rd at OC Scottish Fest. The pipe band first began during the 1976-77 school year making it an 48 year old organization at our school.





# Espresso



*"I'm working late 'cause I'm a singer"*

## Dutch Bros Opening

Staff Writer,  
Taylor Jones

As of April 26, 2024, a new Dutch Bros coffee shop opened right across the street from our lovely campus! Fortunately, with this new shop opening, it means there is a more convenient coffee for the best price, right at our doorstep. With this new shop opening, grabbing that sweet espresso is now vital!

Nestled close to our Upland High School, this new Dutch Bros location is much more than just a coffee shop. Numerous advantages are provided by its convenient placement for both the pupils and the Dutch Bros brand. Imagine a group of bleary-eyed kids who are stumbling into class and are in dire need of a caffeine fix to get through the day. Students may now refuel on their preferred espresso concoctions or trademark blended drinks, without venturing too far from school premises, thanks to Dutch Bros' proximity. Key factor: convenience, which Dutch Bros. provides. To abide by the convenience, junior, Chase Solomon said "It is so easy to just grab a coffee before going to school and if I was a senior, it would be the go-to spot for off-campus lunch." Fortunately, for all students, Dutch Bros will continue to reside

close to the campus.

In addition to being a coffee supplier, Dutch Bros is good at building a sense of community. It becomes more than just a coffee shop by being located close to the high school; it becomes a meeting spot, where kids can mingle, relax and recharge in between classes. It's about creating a lively hub, where friendships bloom over frothy lattes



and passionate chats, not just about the coffee. Inspiring good vibes is of utmost importance to Dutch Bros and it is something that they take very seriously. Most employees can attest to this with responses such as, "Fun environment to work in. Upbeat and happy. Loved the people I worked with, as well as many of the customers I got to know over

the years. I learned the best customer service skills of my life through this job." Evidently, Dutch Bros is a space where societal relationships can flourish.

However, there is competition for Dutch Bros' growth, especially from Starbucks, the massive coffee chain that has a store close by as well. With both competing for the allegiance of discriminating coffee connoisseurs, this battle between these two heavyweights of the caffeine world is nothing short of epic. Famous for its varied menu, Dutch Bros serves anything from traditional espressos to funky-flavored rebels. It has an advantage over Starbucks because of its wide choice of products, which appeal to a younger audience with daring taste preferences.

At Dutch Bros, the experience is equally as important as the coffee. Dutch Bros offers a personalized, customer-focused atmosphere that keeps customers coming back for more, with its iconic drive-thru layout and cheerful baristas. Despite being loved for its reliability, Starbucks could have trouble equalizing the sincere interpersonal relationship

that Dutch Bros fosters. Appeal on a Local Level: Dutch Bros. takes great pleasure in their involvement in the community and local origins, which



appeals to a lot of high school students. Students who donate to Dutch Bros feel as though they are

making a personal investment in their community as opposed to a nameless corporate figure.

Whether you're on Team Starbucks or Team Dutch Bros, one thing is for sure: the competition for coffee dominance is intensifying, and the people who enjoy the beverage the most will be the ones caught in the middle. It's evident that the days of generic coffee chains are long gone, as Dutch Bros builds their empire one cup at a time. So, have a sip of your favorite brew and enjoy the caffeine-fueled revolution that is happening right in front of your eyes.



## Summer Jobs And Their Stuggles

Staff Writer,  
Anneka Clark & Evelyn Cruz

For teens who want to work and earn some money, summer jobs are usually the go-to choice. However, it has come to many people's attention that finding a summer job has grown to become more challenging for young people in recent years. In the online article, "Balancing Act: Benefits and Drawbacks of Teen Employment," from WilsonCountyNews.com, by Brandon Enos, it said, "There are undeniable benefits to teens holding jobs, such as developing a sense of responsibility and a heightened sense of self, but there are also potential downsides." However, the difficulty of finding a job may due to some of the following reasons.

First off, when comparing the job market from adults to teens, it is much more constrained. Experienced workers are usually preferred by employers and many entry-level positions may not be able for a



teenager to meet. Senior, Robert Ramirez said, "When I got my job it was relatively easy because my cousin worked there already and they recommended me to their boss, which made the process a lot easier for me."

Second, there is lots of competition for summer employment, especially in places that are popular amongst teenagers and young adults. Ramirez said, "I work at a tutoring center, so it is not very big among people our age. I also only have to deal with younger kids, which is nice because I'll never have to deal with an awkward interaction with someone I may know from school." A larger number of young people may be competing for a limited number of entry level job slots.

Thirdly, the availability of summer jobs looks the same from almost all applicants who are teens. They will be available throughout the week but when it comes the weekends, they are not looking to work because they are wanting to hang

out with friends and that's when it's most convenient. Many employers look for weekend availability, as it is not a common to see and because that's when workers are needed most, since those are likely the places busiest days.

The online article, "Should teenagers have Saturday jobs?" from talent-works.com, explained how it is beneficial to have a weekend job, when it said, "Having part time work when you are a teenager is a positive thing. Having a part time or Saturday job teaches you skills you wouldn't necessarily learn at school or college. These skills include time management, responsibility, resilience, working as a team and problem solving." Teens should learn to think logistically, when it comes to their availability. Before making a commitment to a responsibility that is not school related, it's important to think about being too busy, transportation, parental barriers, health,



etc. School should always come first. Education coming from a job can be an experience once your schooling education has been completed.

It is not completely impossible for teens to find a job though; many succeed and tend to stay there for a bit even after summer. No matter where they end up, they always end up learning critical skills, like problem solving and time management, as well

as obtaining useful work experience that will benefit them in their future lifelong careers. Paid internships are another service that many businesses provide, and they may be a fantastic way for young people to obtain experience in a particular field.

In conclusion, even though it may be harder for teenagers to find a summer job in the present job market, there are still possibilities that can assist young people to acquire valuable experience and skills that will help them in the long run.





High

“Had to have high,

# Looking Towards the Future

Staff Writer,  
Sophia Roa

As the senior class prepares to leave for the real world, all of their hopes and aspirations play an important part. They are looking forward to the life they wish to create for themselves and they have started to put plans into place to make those dreams come true. Whether it be a year off, community college, a four-year, or just working, every students' experience is unique and beneficial.

There are a variety of different career paths that many students are planning on studying for or accomplishing, within the next couple of years. Some don't even require a degree, such as senior, Natalie Martinez, who said, "I plan on joining the military and undergo training to become a United



States Marine, following the steps of my older brother. I plan on using those benefits to achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a doctor."

Educated and well-thought-out plans, such as Martinez's not only benefit our country but also her future education in the medical field, which could be quite costly without proper help. Martinez said, "In the past, I was a part of a Cadet Program (Civil Air Patrol), which

exposed me to similar training that will help me accomplish what I need for the Marines."

However, not everyone has dreams such as Martinez's. Senior, Damaris Cecena-Cota aspires to be within the beauty industry.

Cecena-Cota said, "I want to be an aesthetic nurse and a nail technician, where I can

perform procedures as a plastic surgeon, doing lip fillers, while also being a nail tech, which I love doing." For over a year, Cecena-Cota has had her own nail business from her home, with hundreds of customers looking to have their nails done, jam-packing her schedule. With hundreds of followers on her Instagram "pressedby.damaris," she's been practicing and preparing for her future career path with the support of those around her.

Senior, Mace Pacheco plans on going to community college to pursue his dreams. Pacheco said, "My main plan after graduation is to go to Citrus College in Glendora and major in music. I'm very passionate about my music career and I want to pursue it professionally. I also plan on playing more shows, within my personal life and really hon-

ing in on my skills, as a musician." With more than nine thousand listeners on his Spotify "love mace," he's played at the Pomona Art Walk, the Lemon Festival, several cafes, bars, and restaurants across San Bernardino County. However, he has plans to be even more involved within his music career. Pacheco said, "At Citrus College, I also plan on trying out for their jazz band called 'Night Shift.'"



I'm really excited for what is to come for me."

All students have a different dream for themselves and can serve as an inspiration for others, making the people one hangs around very impactful. The right people and environment can help people achieve goals for their future. With dreams and a well-thought out plan, anything can happen.

# Seniors' Memories Shine Like 24 Karat

Staff Writer,  
Aileth Caceres

The class of 2024 seniors are finally on their way out and have taken a moment to share their best memories and what really made the year 2024 so magical. Their senior year will forever be memorable by how they chose to use their time, as they take their final steps around the halls of UHS.

Senior Brodyjoe Silva shared how most of his senior year was filled with joy because of his girlfriend, Nicoll Randell. When recalling this year and its most valuable thing to him, he said, "My favorite thing so far from this last year has been meeting my girlfriend," which also goes along with why he enjoyed his high school Homecoming of 2024. Silva said, "The only dance I've gone to was this year's senior Homecoming. I went home and that is when I started talking to my girlfriend." Silva also mentioned how he truly enjoyed a class taught by Mr. Miura, and how it allowed him to go around campus and work on film projects. He also enjoyed hanging out with his friends and going out to lunch to eat, which was a new specialty he took advantage of and enjoyed, as a senior having the off-campus pass.

Number 4 basketball player and

senior, Heber Soto also shared what his most memorable moments of this year were when he said, "This last year I really enjoyed our senior night for basketball." Soto also shared how he truly enjoyed going to the school dances, mentioning how they were really cool. When recalling his favorite event, he said, "Probably like last year's prom that was at the automobile museum. The cars were cool." He truly enjoyed his senior year. Like any senior, though, the senioritis hit him and Soto



shared how he wished he focused more on his classes. However, he does have a favorite class, which he mentioned when he said, "I think my math class, going through the struggles, our teacher was really cool."

Senior, Zaina Farraj said, "My favorite thing about this last year would probably be just getting senior priority and stuff. A little special treatment here and there

just because you're a little older. It would probably be my favorite thing of this year." Every senior enjoys being able to get away with some little things. After all, it is the last year. Farraj also mentioned how the off-campus pass was her favorite, since she was able to go out every day and get outside lunch with her friends. She also enjoyed the senior dances. She explained her favorite one when she said,

"The 2024 prom was really good. I do feel like I would remember it for the rest of my life,

because I created unforgettable memories with my friends." Farraj shared how she created a strong bond with her favorite people when she said, "This year it would probably be my friends, but more specifically, Giselle. We've done many things and grown very close this year." Although she is aware that her friends might drift apart, she has hopes to stay in contact after high school.

Senior, Paris Garcia, shared her favorite things in this last year at high school when she said, "My favorite thing so far in senior year was going to all the rallies and booing all the other grades. She also enjoyed her welding class and said that it was one of the only things she truly enjoyed inside of school. Outside, though, she loved going to the beach, concerts, and more. Unlike conventional campus traditions would suggest, she was not fond of the dances. When explaining this, she said, "From personal experiences, I do not like the school dances because every school dance was kinda like... I didn't like it. And the music was kinda bad; lowkey." Yet, it was fun experiencing things and it, at the very least, goes to the memories of Senior year. Something that was a bit insignificant but she enjoyed was an assignment that Mr. Alzamora gave to the class. Garcia said, "It was something in class where we did a debate thing; A mock trial and it wasn't serious, but it was fun."

From these shared individuals who will be graduating on June 13, they all had their different ways of enjoying the year. With the company of friends and events, the memories they made will last a lifetime.



# Hopes

## high hopes for a living”



# Navigating High School: Advice From Seniors

Staff Writer,  
Ace Davila

As one embarks on their high school journey, it’s crucial to start strong and navigate the challenges ahead with wisdom. Transitioning to high school can be daunting, but with the right mindset and strategies, one may flourish academically and socially. As the class of 2024 prepares to leave, they have some valuable insights that will help guide one through this transformative experience.

One of the key tips for freshmen is to explore different courses and extracurricular activities to discover one’s passions. As Maddox Garcia said, “I didn’t expect to enjoy it as much as I had when I first joined, but now I genuinely don’t think I would’ve survived without choir; it was my family here on campus.” It underlies the importance of trying new activities. One should not hesitate to step out of one’s comfort zone; uncovering hidden talents and interests can enrich one’s high school experience.

Managing time effectively is essential in high school. Senior, Corey Garcia reflected on his experience when he said, “I never felt like I was managing my time correctly. I was constantly in ‘go-mode’ and hopped from one thing to the next, without giving myself time to decompress in between big activities.” Garcia highlighted the importance of balancing academics, extracurriculars, and personal time. One should also remember to allocate time for relaxation and self-care to prevent burnout.

When it comes to selecting courses and handling challenging subjects, senior Ramon Rodriguez said, “Challenge yourself with honors courses. Why not? They aren’t as demanding as you think.” Pursuing courses that align with one’s interests and future goals can be enriching. As



one progresses, it’s important to consider Advanced Placement (AP) classes that align with one’s career aspirations.

Navigating social circles can be intimidating for freshmen. Senior, Dean Pacheco said, “The best advice I could give is to be yourself and not to be afraid of the judgment of others.” Authenticity is key; embracing one’s true self natu-

rally attracts like-minded peers who appreciate a person. High school is an opportunity to form genuine connections with diverse individuals.

Maintaining a healthy work-life balance is crucial. Garcia said, “Try not to burn yourself out. If you fan the flame too much, it will go out.” Establishing a consistent schedule that includes dedicated study time and leisure activities will promote

overall well-being and academic success.

Lastly, seeking guidance from older students can be invaluable. Garcia encouraged underclassmen to reach out wisely, when he said, “It’s important, but just as important to find the correct upperclassmen to look up to.” Identify mentors who exemplify qualities admired and seek their advice on personal growth.

Embarking on the high school journey requires courage, curiosity, and a willingness to explore new opportunities. Remember the advice from these seasoned seniors: embrace one’s passions, manage one’s time wisely, challenge oneself socially, and maintain a healthy balance. High school is a transformative period filled with growth and discovery, so make the most of it. As one navigates this exciting chapter, keep these seniors’ words of wisdom in mind. High school experiences will be defined by the choices made and the lessons learned along the way.

# Athletes Moving To College Sports

Staff Writer,  
Jacob De Leon

As seniors prepare to graduate and leave UHS, some students have made plans that will take their talent and skill to the next level. Seniors, Phebe Rodriguez, Analise Reyes, and Hannah Gomez have all decided to move on and play softball in college. The Girls’ Softball team battled this season to take second place in the Baseline League and then made it to the second round of CIF.

Senior Phebe Rodriguez plans on attending Biola University to play college softball. Rodriguez’s career started at the age of four. To prepare herself for the next level, Rodriguez also played travel ball, outside of school. Many factors have contributed to Rodriguez staying in softball for most of her life, such as her family and friends.

Rodriguez said, “I’ve best prepared myself for college softball by developing a relationship with the current Biola University softball coach, who sends me technique videos to get ready for college ball.” With a bright future

ahead of her, her softball career has always been supported by her parents, who are extremely supportive and proud of her. Rodriguez is the first in her family to go to college and is excited about what she’ll accomplish in the next four years.

Hannah Gomez plans on continuing her softball career at Chaffey College. Gomez’s softball career started at six years old and she has not regretted joining the sport. Gomez said, “Softball has brought me happiness, new friends, satisfaction, and achievements.” Gomez still wants to continue her softball career after high school because it has been a part of her life for so long.



Outside of playing on the softball field, Gomez spent her free time coaching at the Upland Hilltoppers and Montclair softball teams. On the side, Gomez attended hitting

and batting lessons with coaches and kept herself busy with constantly practicing. Despite being offered to play at different colleges for softball, Gomez wanted to play somewhere close to home. Her parents have been very supportive and are happy about the fact that their daughter will be playing in college and they have always been helpful during the process. Gomez’s parents will be on her side when she steps on the softball field in college.

Senior, Analise Reyes plans on playing softball at Azusa Pacific University. Reyes has been playing softball since the age of four and it has always been a part of Reyes’s life. Reyes said, “I love the competitive nature and team chemistry aspects that come along with the sport itself.” Around the age of ten, Reyes fell in love with softball. But it wasn’t until she turned twelve that she realized she wanted to take her career to the next level.

After experiencing a college soft-

ball game, she observed the intensity and atmosphere the players had on the field, which inspired Reyes



to work harder so she could one day step into their shoes. To make sure that she was ready for college

softball, Reyes pitched at least four times a week and did workouts on the side, to stay physically fit.

Factors that contributed to her decision to play at Azusa Pacific included her faith and the team atmosphere of the college. Reyes noticed that the Azusa Pacific coaches were great people who prioritized their faith and team bonding. Reyes said, “I was really looking for a healthy environment that didn’t put up with terrible attitudes and had a family-like atmosphere.” Reyes’s success would not have been possible without her parent’s endless support. Her parents have always encouraged her to work harder. Reyes will now take all her skills and talent that she has developed to Azusa Pacific University.



# Cardigan

*"Vintage tee, brand new phone, High heels on cobblestones"*

## Fashion Trends From The 2000's

Staff Writer,  
Mayte Pompe

For generations, trends have begun, been brought back to life or have been "canceled" to meet the expectations of society. Since the summer months are approaching, it's important to note that popular clothing and accessories of the 2000's, late 90's or even the 80's are making a comeback in terms of fashion. Items such as low, flared pants and trucker hats, worn often by stars like Lindsey Lohan and Destiny's Child can be seen hitting the streets once again. So, as we embrace the sunny days ahead, be a little daring a try to make an "old look" into something new.

Many people believe the peak of Y2k fashion was in the

2000s, with dress skirts worn by Paris Hilton in 2004, as well as with bell bottoms under a dress, worn by Jessica Alba in 2004. The online article by Crfashionbook.com said, "Fashion, of



course, is inherently cyclical. Every decade reintroduces itself every 20 years or so, slowly phasing out the fads of decades past. Although '90s inspired trends have dominated the fashion conscious for years—from scrunchies to square-toed shoes—Y2K-era fashion has crept back from the grave of repressed sartorial memories with haste."

For the Gen-Z and young

millennials, there is a return to the, "Aesthetic of the early 2000's just over a decade after they originated, proving that nostalgia is ever-present on the fashion conscience. While this comeback is due to fashion's cyclical nature, its staying power is largely thanks to the generation that started them in the first place," according to Crfashionbook.com.

Within our campus, it is clear to see what trends are making a comeback. Juniors, Danielle Velasquez and Victoria Fuentesfria said, "Jessica Alba and Britney Spears have influenced fashion. We enjoy when people recreate older styles and do not forget what they look like. I feel like it brings out people's personalities."

When asked what were some of their favorite trends right now, Velasquez and Fuentesfria said, "Favorite trends right now

are flared jeans and doc martens because they go together."

Seniors, Baraka Ogot and Sean Dcuire explained their take on trends when they said, "I've seen baggy pants and flared pants make a comeback. I think trends are cool because it's al-

ways cool to throw back and throw other fashion styles back into the present." Baraka said, "It's cool for our parents to see us wear what they used to." Dcuire said, "I

feel like trends are called trends because everyone resembles one another but I feel we should take our own twist to it. There is always beauty in imperfection, so whatever is imperfect kind of looks cool to me.



## A Trip To The GRAMMY Museum



Editor-in-Chief,  
Sofia Erskine

Located in downtown Los Angeles, the GRAMMY Museum is an educational and interactive presentation of 65 years of GRAMMY history. On display, visitors can find outfits and accessories worn by some of the biggest artists in history, artist spotlight exhibits and interactive lessons that deep-dive into the world of music. In 2008, the museum was established on the L.A. LIVE Campus. Since its initiation, it has hosted over 820 public programs, presenting artist interviews and live performances; showcased over 80 artist exhibitions, and offered music education programs to more than 300,000 student musicians, looking to enter the music industry.



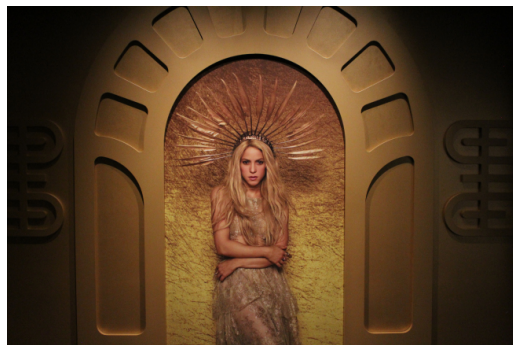
Museum tours and artist panels are open to the public with ticket purchases, offering a state-of-the-art musical journey to entertain and inspire.

The primary attraction of the GRAMMY Museum is the museum tours themselves. Hours of operation for tours are 11:00 AM SUN-FRI, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM SAT, and closed on Tuesdays. Most recently, an initiative to acknowledge the K-pop genre's industry presence has been im-

plemented, the first exhibit, KQ ENT. (Ateez & Xikerz), spotlighting the museum's first ever K-pop groups. Other current attractions include Shakira, Shakira: The GRAMMY Museum Experience, ROXY: 50 AND STILL ROCKIN' and HIP-HOP AMERICA: THE MIXTAPE EXHIBIT.

Upcoming public programs featuring artists that reveal industry insight and partake in Q&A sessions, with eager audiences, will be hosted throughout the summer as well. One of the most essential components of the museum.

However, is the education service provided to student musicians. Music education programs such as GRAMMY Museum Summer Session and GRAMMY Camp are annual events, only accessible through application and acceptance, offering a deep dive into various aspects of the music industry. The summer session is hosted at the museum itself and is taught by songwriters in the industry. GRAMMY Camp is a seven-day-long non-residential camp encompassing vocal, songwriting, instrumental, electronic music production (EMP), music journalism and music business



tracks. Each track is taught by professionals in the industry, and each is allowed the chance to collaborate with any track. Opportunities to network and learn from guest artists are offered through luncheons and camp-wide artist discussion panels.

Numerous other programs are hosted throughout the year to foster creativity and encourage the growth of music education in students. According to their mission statement, the Museum's primary purpose and goal is, "to explore and celebrate the enduring legacies of the creative process behind all forms of music through immersive and interactive exhibits and essential music education programs." Not only does the museum represent all of these goals, but it displays captivating sights and sounds to foster an increasingly creative culture.





# Break My Heart

*"I've always been the one to say the first goodbye"*



## Do You Break Up Before Summer Hits?

Staff Writers,  
Zoe Panos & Molly Rhodes

Many individuals often have the urge to reset their lives over summer. Whether it is rearranging a room, changing up one's style, getting a new haircut, or maybe even restarting a relationship, people seem to be able to relate. Making changes to one's life or environment over summer is a great way to set new goals. A large change many individuals consider over the summer is whether or not to break up with a significant other.



Over the summer, many couples may drift apart for several reasons. For some students, they may have extracurricular activities, sports, or other interests that they have put off till summer break, so it is

better to break up before summer, rather than during the school year. Freshman, Shelly Thompson said, "Breaking up in summer is easier because you would not have to interact with them at school." The awkward stage after breaking up is something that everyone wants to avoid, which is why summer is a great time to let life cool off.

Another consideration for some people is the idea of a summer fling, which is typically "a situationship" that only lasts over the summer. Freshman, Ethan Gonzalez said, "Personally, I would rather have a summer fling because I feel like I would not want the responsibility of having a relationship, but I

would want to do things like I was in one." Gonzalez makes a great point about not wanting to deal with the commitment but enjoying the perks of a relationship. To survive the rough months of summer with significant others, people will want to set boundaries for what makes a good relationship. There are many qualities needed in a relationship for it to work. Remember, people always want to



be with someone who will support and grow right alongside. Respect and trust help couples stay together for a long period of time. Freshman, Chelsea Hernandez said, "Communication and trust are definitely the main things needed in a relationship."

Summer is the time to have fun with friends, go to the beach to tan, go to local fairs to eat unhealthy food, and spend the precious time left before school starts again, without a care in the world. The time should not be wasted on people who do not want the same. In the end, it is important to relax and refresh for the next school year.



## Does The Media Affect Our Expectations In Relationships?



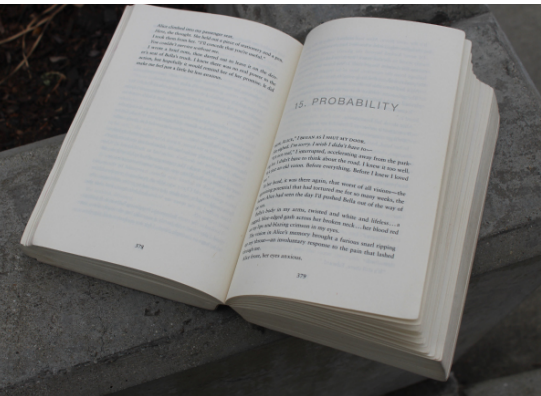
Assistant Editor,  
Lianna Smith

With technology being a part of our everyday lives, it is no wonder that we take the time to incorporate what we learn into our real lives. But we may wonder if this way of thinking affects the relationships we enter or wish to enter in the future. Media, such as movies, TV shows, books and music have all shaped the expectations we have when it comes to relationships. The first aspect that we think about before searching for a potential partner is what we look for in them. It can vary from height, to hair color, to even the way they dress. Personality being a big part of the process,

is something that junior, Cambria Tatosian goes into detail of what her ideal type is, when she said, "I look for someone who is loyal and trustworthy, as well as someone who actually converses with me, having a two-sided conversation."

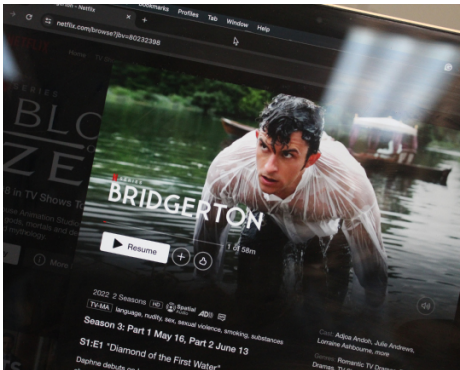


come from having expectations being placed high. It can also help us by giving us the inspiration needed to search for love. But on the flip side, it can create crazy, unrealistic and harmful expectations for those in the search for love. There is no way to completely filter out the media we are introduced to, whether it be books, movies, or even music, there is no escape. The online article, "The impact of Social Media on



Modern Relationships," by Brody Wooddell, from Wfla.com said that social media can, "Lead to feelings of jealousy, insecurity, and even depression. In some cases, it can even drive a wedge between partners, as one partner may feel like they can never live up to the idealized version of love that they see online." The source of our fulfillment can be the utter downfall that causes us to spiral in heaps of

jealousy and heartbreak, when we get in relationships we expected to be picture perfect. Junior, Monica Sanchez had this to add, "I think that love, whether it be platonic or romantic, takes time and it takes work to truly get to know the other person and love them, even when it's not always sunshine and rainbows." It can be unhealthy to compare experiences to those we see in the media, which can cause depression or anxiety. There is no harm in finding interest in certain traits. But knowing what can be found in reality and in fiction is a big part of building healthy relationships with a partner. Love is something that shouldn't be scolded by what is read or watched but what comes from within. We should be careful and look at what has been scalped and what has always been.





# Good Days

*"All the while, I'll await my armored fate with a smile"*



## Overcoming Negativity

Staff Writer,  
Chloe Arroyo

A negative mindset stems from the pattern of thinking negatively about oneself and one's environment. Often this state of mind can bring spirits and emotions to a low level of physical, mental, and emotional health. Despite the hopelessness one may feel, it is not impossible to encounter the joys in life. The journey to developing a transformed



mentality may take time and patience, but the end result will never go undefeated. Whether being an individual surrounded in a stagnant environment, experiencing a loss, breakup, disappointment or a disconnection, there is always

the possibility of finding the light in a dark tunnel. The process begins with the acceptance of situations and self-expression, crying, sobbing, screaming in a pillow, and venting; these are all signs that indicate the first step of the journey. According to the online article, "8 Science Based Ways to Beat Negativity, by Tchiki Davis, from Psychology Today, explained a method to healing by implementing a "Positive word of the day." Some affirmative words

can consist of, "I am strong. I have a positive mindset. I deserve joy and I am worthy." Junior, Damian Cordova said, "An individual can begin the process of healing by talking to someone and letting emotions out." Releasing emotions may

take a lot for one to do, but it is highly effective to relieve the "weight" off of one's shoulder. Cordova said, "Try going out to do something, go on a walk and try to talk to someone." The actions taken to grow mentally can accommodate every person's desires and hobbies. Attending therapy can be a great source for one to communicate one's feelings, as well as venting to a loved one and feeling a sense of support through difficult periods of life. Many individuals have the ability to connect with nature, as the presence of tall, green trees, blossoming flowers and chirping birds carry the potential of helping to release high tensions of stress and sadness. Senior, Andrew Huerta said, "Think of all the things that are going well at

the time, so you can reflect on the good aspects." It is crucial to consider the positive outlooks that can possibly uplift the uncertainty one may feel. According to the online article, "How to Replace Negative Thoughts," by Hilary Lebow, from Psych Central, it said, "True transformation comes from consistency... you are not your thoughts, and you don't have to be owned by your thoughts." Although it may seem as if the gloom will hover over forever, the sun eventually shines. Negative thoughts do not have control over the mind. The transformation of doubtful thoughts to self-encouraging ones can play a significant role in changing the lens one may see through. Huerta said, "It eventually gets better. It might take a while but you have to trust the process."



## How Music Affects Our Mood

Staff Writer,  
Yareli Mata

For centuries, music has remarkably affected our moods and emotions. It has been said that the right tune, at the right moment, can change the way we feel. Whether we are feeling sad, happy or relaxed in the moment, music has had the power to impact us in a fascinating way. When the sun dances, high in the sky, music becomes the heartbeat of our days, weaving a tapestry of sound that accompanies us through every adventure and moment of relaxation under the warm embrace of the season.

Senior, Katrav Lightfoot had a popular taste in music. He recommended songs that ranged from Michael Jackson to Tupac. In addition, current, popular artists, such as



Kendrick Lamar and Nipsey Hussle, were said to be some of his favorite artists. When asked about that song he most related to, Lightfoot said, "'Dedication,' by Nipsey Hussle." An artist he believed others would enjoy was the one and only Michael Jackson. Lastly, the song he believes best describes summer was "Sunshine," by Bill Withers. Senior, Jacob Yabarra had other tastes in music, compared

to Katrav. When asked about his favorite song for the summer, he recommended "Goku," by Lucki, an underrated rap artist. His

favorite artists of all time have been Rod Wave, Lucki, Blast and Sleepy Hollow. The song that he believes best reminds him of the summer was the infamous "Party in the U.S. A," by Miley Cyrus. Lastly, when asked about one song that he would play on repeat, he would play "Blue Devils," by Trap Dickey. Compared to both of these students' opinions, online sources, such as ThePionnerWoman and Cosmopolitan had other opinions. Cosmopolitan believes that this year's top summer music will be a variety of artists, such as Tyla, Kali Uchis, Beyonce, Playboi Carti, Hoizer and Kendrick Lllamar. ThePionnerWoman suggested that classic songs such as "Summer Nights," from Grease and "Summertime Blues," by

Alan Jackson, would be the top rise for this year's top music. Compared to both sources, it's safe to believe that this year's era of music will be a variety of all types and this year's top song will be from a rising new artist. Overall, these remarkable students have amazing taste in music. Although it may not be everyone's favorite music or genre, it would not hurt to try and be open to new music. In the end, music affects all of us differently and we have our own tastes. All music is unique and its own genre, whether it is liked or disliked.





# Teenage Dream

*"Got your whole life ahead of you, you're only 19"*

## Juniors Transitioning To Seniors

Staff Writers,  
Alejandro Rafael & Nikolas Segovia

Juniors have had many different responsibilities this year. Some have jobs, while others have been involved in sports, clubs and much more. But one aspect that they have in common is the excitement at becoming Seniors next year. As the junior class prepares to finish this school year and begins looking forward to senior year, some juniors shared personal songs that have helped to motivate them along the way many have turned to listening to music.

For junior, Alexander Crampton, he said, "I'm pretty excited going into it. It's going to be a hard year, but I'm going to go into it pretty confident." Being prepared once you are out of high school can be a big step for a lot of people. On finishing his high school career and entering college,

he feels that he has prepared well. Crampton said, "I have college classes lined up and a job ready to go, while I'm in college. I'm just waiting to get out of here and do what I want to do." For his song choice, Crampton said, "I'm Coming Home, by Jared Benjamin. It is about how there is only a certain amount of time left until things can happen. It best relates to how this school year has been for me."

Junior, Isaiah Sopp discussed his feelings about becoming a

like time passed by so quickly." Tyler the Creator's song, "Running Out of Time," deals with time passing people. When asked if this song related to his current situation of becoming a Senior, Sopp agreed that life feels like the song right now. Sopp said, "This was my first year here, so I never had the freshman or sophomore experience." When asked if he felt ready for more responsibilities next year, Sopp explained that he is more than prepared for the challenges that are involved with becoming a Senior. He said, "I feel so prepared because of the people around me and what they have taught me."

Junior, Benny Berlioz said that, "Running Out of Time," by Tyler the Creator shared some similarities in his life as well. Berlioz said,

"Just like the song says, time is going by way too quickly. I'm going to try and savor every moment I have left in high school." Berlioz also offered a song to describe his

hopes for next year, when he said, "'Million Dollar Baby,' by Tommy Rich-

man." The song is about having a good time and feeling like you're the best in the world. Berlioz has made it clear that he will try and be the best version of himself when senior year rolls around. When asked if he was ready for the responsibilities of becoming a Senior, Berlioz said, "I don't think I'm ready at all, but I have to push through and try the best that I can, no matter what."



## Educators Of The Year

Editor-In-Chief,  
Alessandra Sandoval

Educator Of The Year honors, promotes, and celebrates the unsung heroes of the community and those educators who inspire and guide, with unwavering dedication. No one person has a stronger impact on the education of a child than a teacher who creates a learning environment for them to flourish and grow. The prestigious award expresses the appreciation often left unspoken, with this year's eleven nominees: Mr. Diaz, Mr. Carrasco, Ms. Garcia, Mr. Ingles, Ms. Hall, Mrs. Edmundson, Ms. Hernandez, Mr. Hodgkin, Mrs. McAdams, Ms. Jen-

large congratulations to Mr. Ingles, Ms. Jennings, Mr. Hodgkin, and Mrs. Edmundson. Currently teaching AP Seminar and History, Mr. Ingles has dedicated years to teaching and was first directed to Upland High School, by his former college professor-now retired English teacher, Mrs. Gillespie. Mr. Ingles said, "I always enjoy hanging out with the kids, talking to them, going over the stuff we have to teach but also getting to know them over the nine months that I'm lucky enough to have them in class."

Former student, junior, David Lynch said, "Mr. Ingles is one of my favorite teachers and I'm incredibly grateful to have had him sophomore year." When given awards such as these, Mr. Ingles has developed a tradition of sitting down, closing his door and reading word for word what was written, as Ingles said, "It's one of the coolest things of the year... and it's extremely flattering."

A history teacher, as well as

being a part of the Link Crew program, Ms. Jennings was completely shocked to have even been nominated for Educator Of The Year. Jennings said, "Kids probably like my dad jokes... I feel special to be nominated."

Math Analysis teacher, Mr. Hodgkin said, "This award is a great honor and I appreciate all my students that nominated me and I look forward to helping them learn in the future." Both Ms. Jennings and Mr. Hodgins have made an instrumental impact on their students and plan to continue for years to come.

An English teacher for freshman and sophomores, Mrs. Edmundson is extremely passionate about mental health awareness, making her classroom a safe space for many of her students. Edmundson said, "I didn't expect to be nominated at all, so when they came with the poster, I almost cried because I thought it was really sweet because I don't ever expect any-

thing like that, so it just made me feel like I do make more of a difference then I realize." Priding her-

self on being empathetic, caring, and open-minded Mrs. Edmundson, along with the other winners have created a safe environment, where students feel comfortable to be themselves.

Mr. Ingles, Ms. Jennings, Mr. Hodgkin and Mrs. Edmundson have dedicated years to leading with integrity, high morale and an unwavering commitment to their students. They are overjoyed to see that they have made a big enough impact on their students' lives to be Educators of The Year.



nings, and Mr. Barnes.

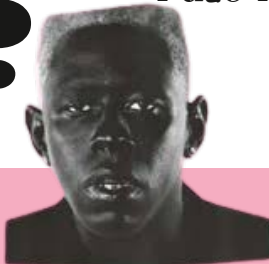
Sadly, only four can be this year's Educators of The Year. A





# Are we still friends?

*“Don’t say, “Goodbye, smell you later” (bye, later)”*



## You Will Be Missed; Staff The Seniors Will Miss The Most

Staff Writer,  
Alexandria Franklin

In Judith Taack Lanier’s online article “Redefining the Role of the Teacher: It’s a Multifaceted Profession, by Edutopia, she said, “Students aren’t consumers of facts. They are active creators of knowledge. Schools aren’t just brick-and-mortar structures -- they’re centers of life-long learning. And, most importantly, teaching is recognized as one of the most challenging and respected career choices, absolutely vital to the social, cultural, and economic health of our nation.”

Learning comes naturally when the teacher has proven to be easier to connect with overall. The question was, who were those teachers? Students have answered that question. Many teachers have been voted for, such as Robert Cantwell, Debbie Weatherell, James Miura, Kimberly Spears, Library Staff, and many more. Seniors Trenton Trujillo and Dillon Christiansen give their reasons as to why they picked who they did.

The most common choice was Automotive Technology teacher Josh Wish, with 25% of the votes.

Wish said, “I try to make my class engaging, low stress, and full of useful information. Plus, I try to be funny.” Wish teaches all grade levels and loves to talk with the students to help brighten their day and



make school less of a drag. Trujillo and Christiansen agree that Wish is the best receiver of this title. Trujillo said, “He’s an amazing teacher that has lots of patience and makes everything fun. He also lets you make up work for full credit.”

Christiansen described how he appreciates Wish’s ability to explain things multiple times to make sure he understands and learns from the lesson. As Wish’s class is interactive-based, it is important for the

student to fully understand the task or job before performing it to ensure safety during the learning process. Many of his students have a high respect for him as he goes above and beyond to provide a fun class.

Wish recently took his Auto II classes to the Pomona Drag Races during the school day. He also provided his Auto II classes a food party at the end of the school year, as a thank you and good luck prize. Trujillo said, “He actually cares for students and makes an effort to get to know them. It’s a laid back and easy class. He’s very hands-on and explains things well.” Even his off-campus students in Auto III and IIII are well looked after and cared for because Wish makes sure to watch their grades and activities on their hours logs to make sure they get the grade they deserve.

Another teacher that Trujillo talked about was his History teacher, Susan Coffee, for grades sophomore and junior years. Coffee teaches her students through interactive notes, group activities, proj-

ects, art, and analyzing images/cartoons. Students know immediately when they walk into her classroom that she is a fun teacher ready to provide her students with an amazing education. Trujillo said, “She is hard but fair. She understands that life happens and listens to you when you need. She provides a safe and comfortable environment, where you can feel a sense of understanding.” If someone else were to win, he would want her to win.

The life of the student can be very difficult and stressful, but with the right teacher, it doesn’t seem so chaotic. Teachers do leave an impact on the student and they carry that with them as they continue to learn in the real world. Even forty years later, there are some teachers who will forever

be remembered and those are the staff that students miss and give thanks in the end.



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