

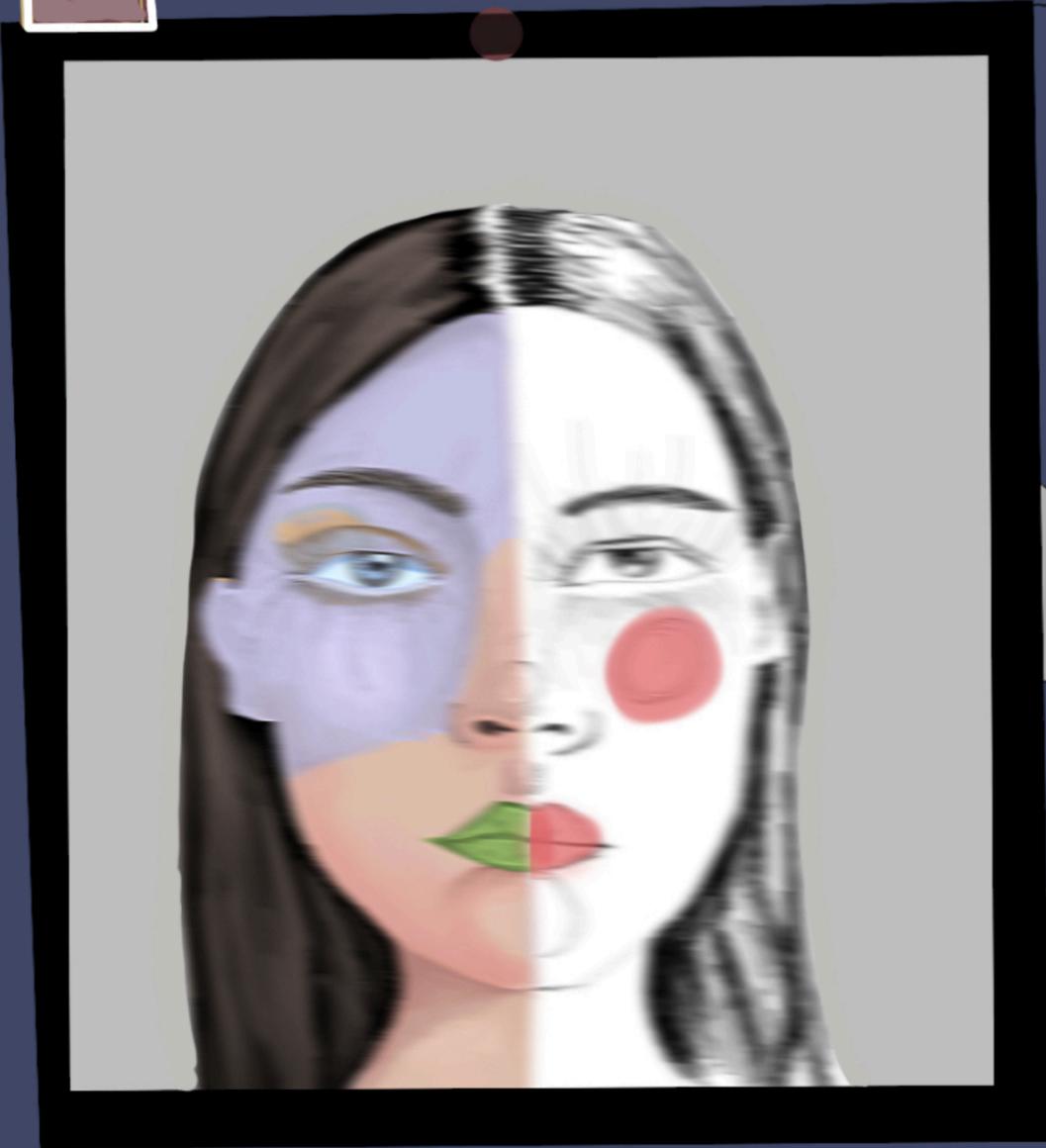
SPECTRUM

MAR 2020
TAKE 3
VOL 27

FUTURE OF
FILMAKING IS
FEMALE



COVER BY:
JULIA IM
'23
REC.



A NEW TAKE ON THE

Film INDUSTRY

SEE PG.
11

Remembering Rabbi Feigenson

BY KONNIE DUAN '23 AND KAREN WU '23

Known for her kindness and contributions to the Harvard Westlake (HW) community both on and off-campus, Rabbi Feigenson will be a deeply missed presence. Her warm personality has helped many students adjust and feel more comfortable at HW.

“One of the things I think is so admirable and that I really miss about her is she was so good at injecting community and heart into this place,” middle school history teacher Lauren Nichols '03 said.

Feigenson passed away Jan. 23, surrounded by her loved ones after a two year battle with brain cancer, President and Head of School Rick Commons announced in an email to faculty, staff and students.

“When I think about Rabbi Feigenson, I think about when I lost my husband eight years ago,” middle school attendance and health coordinator Brenda Simon said. Feigenson visited Simon’s house to support Simon through that difficult time.

Simon also said that Feigenson would sometimes come to her office to talk and make Simon laugh.

“I didn’t know what she was talking about, but she’d have some thought in her head that she hadn’t really formulated yet,” Simon said. “And I’d go, ‘Okay, Rabbi.’”

In Simon’s office, there is a picture drawn by Feigenson’s oldest daughter Netanya Perluss '15. When Feigenson visited Simon’s office, Simon would point the drawing out to Feigenson.

“Every time she looked at it was

like she looked at it for the first time,” Simon said. “You could just see the love she had for her daughter every time I showed her that picture. And I did it often just to see if I could get the same reaction.”

Feigenson’s caring demeanor made an impact across the HW community.

“She was always trying to think about how to improve people’s quality of life, just day-to-day,” Nichols said.

One of the programs she spearheaded, Big Sibs, has ended due to her absence. The program helped many new students adjust to HW.

“When I was a little sib in seventh grade, I thought it was a really good experience,” Ava Weinrot '23 said. “It made me really eager to be one in eighth grade.”

Big Sibs prepared Maxwell Cretaro '23 for his time at Harvard-Westlake as well. It also helped him with his study skills.

“If I didn’t have my big sib, I wouldn’t have known how the entire school was going to be,” Cretaro said.

He also got to interact with Feigenson. When Cretaro was trying to solve a math problem with his big sib, Feigenson helped them out.

While Feigenson greatly improved daily life in the HW community, she also paid attention to larger issues in society. In one of her last conversations with Nichols before she went on leave, Feigenson wanted to stand up against police brutality.

“She wanted to start kneeling

during the national anthem at football games in protest of police brutality, which I thought was really brave and really special,” Nichols said.

Students, faculty and community members honored her life and contributions to the school at her funeral on Jan. 28. At her funeral, the people who spoke about her commented on her mischievous spirit.

“She was a very playful person,” Nichols said. “You could tell she had a silly sense of humor.”

With her kindness, dedication and good humor, Feigenson made HW a more welcoming community.

To: Ms. Simon



-Netanya Perluss



2020 Olympics organizers in Tokyo face new challenges as games approach

By: LUCAS COHEN-D'ARBELOFF '23

Similar to games in years past, Tokyo's 2020 Summer Olympics will feature sports such as swimming and gymnastics. Baseball, karate, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing will also make their debut as Olympic events this summer.

Though the decade-long planning process in Tokyo has gone more smoothly than in previous games, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak that began in Wuhan, China, has become a serious problem for organizers. There are currently 75,000 confirmed cases of the virus worldwide and 2,000 total deaths recorded. Almost 200 individuals in Japan are infected with the coronavirus, and 700 infected passengers aboard a cruise ship were recently quarantined in Yokohama, Japan.

Several teams from China are currently awaiting decisions on whether they will be allowed to compete in Olympic-qualifying tournaments around the world due to quarantines in parts of China. According to *The Japan Times*, Olympic officials have also postponed training for about 80,000 volunteers to May in an attempt to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Health experts are unsure of the outbreak's possible effects on the games, as it is unclear how the situation will play out in the coming months. According to *Politico*, some have mentioned that the Olympics were not canceled or postponed in 2016 despite the Zika virus outbreak in Brazil.

These games have already

seen some other issues. A significant challenge for organizers has been the issue of Tokyo's scorching heat and humidity during the late summer months. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) made the decision to move the marathon and race walking events to Sapporo, a city about 500 miles north of Tokyo, when organizers couldn't guarantee that this problem had a solution.

London Mayor Shaun Bailey recently expressed concern about the virus and announced that London would be willing to host the games this summer if Tokyo is unable.

"We have the infrastructure and the experience. And due to the coronavirus outbreak, the world might need us to step up," Bailey said in a Tweet.

IOC officials have also expressed concern regarding this issue. Dick Pound, a senior member of the committee, disclosed in an interview with *The Associated*

Press that a decision about whether the Olympics will happen this summer will likely be made in May.

"You're probably looking at a cancellation if the committee decides that the Tokyo event cannot go on as scheduled," Pound said. "You just don't postpone something on the size and scale of the Olympics. There's so many moving parts, so many countries and different seasons, and competitive seasons, and television seasons. You can't just say, 'We'll do it in October.'"

If the IOC cancels this year's games, it will be the first time in nearly 80 years that it has made the decision to do so. It would also be the first time ever for an Olympics to be canceled due to any reason other than war. To cancel the games in Tokyo due to a virus would be unprecedented and a landmark decision, but it is currently unclear as to if holding the games in Tokyo is possible at this time.

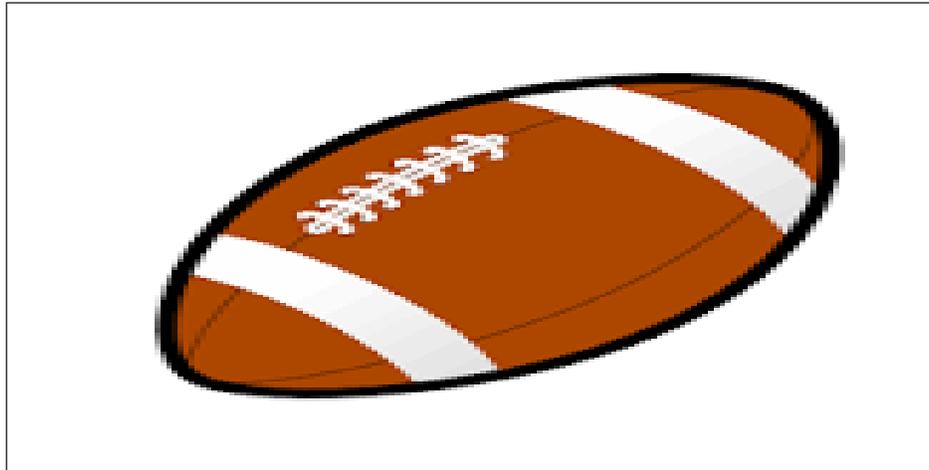


Photo credit: Creative Commons

The 68,000-capacity National Stadium was opened by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in December and is likely to be the main hub of this year's games if they go on as scheduled.

First female coach in the super bowl

By: LILY LEE '23



Katie Sowers became the first female to coach in the Super Bowl. She is an offensive assistant coach for the San Francisco 49ers. “She has more knowledge than what people expect from a game standpoint, for sure,” 49ers player Richie James said, according to NFL.com. “She can relate to us more than you’d think.”

Harvard-Westlake (HW) sports performance and P.E. teacher, Sarah Emma has knowledge and experience on this topic.

“At HW, I have never felt disrespected or discriminated against by any athletes or coaches for being a female coach. However, there have been times when I have been treated differently as a female coach.”

In a commercial for Microsoft, Sowers said, “I always wanted to be a coach, I never saw an opportunity in football because I’d never seen a female coach before.”

“Coaches and teammates have implicit bias in regards to female participation in sports. A lot of people have the expectation that men will be faster/stronger/more successful in sports,” Ava Weinrot, student athlete said.

Emma has lived through this at the Olympic Training Center.

“At the Olympic Training Center, for instance, I worked with the men’s boxing junior national team. Initially, the boxing coaches had requested that they

have a male coach work with those athletes despite me being assigned to that group,” Emma said.

Sowers was born in Kansas and she started playing football at eight years old. She dreamed of being a coach and didn’t stop until she achieved her goal. She is trying to motivate every one to dream big.

“These days, I feel that most of the time my gender is celebrated at work and is actually viewed as a strength. Athletic departments are beginning to understand that having female coaches is crucial to the success of their teams – as evidenced by the recent hiring of female coaches in professional sports,” Emma said.

“I think Katie Sowers is very important because she is breaking away from the stereotype that only men can hold high positions in the world of athletics,” Weinrot said.

“I think more people will follow Katie Sowers in her footsteps until it becomes normalized,” Emma Miller, student athlete said.

As Sowers has demonstrated, female coaches do not necessarily coach only female teams. “I get asked a lot if I work with only the female teams – the answer is no, I work with all athletes here,” Emma said.

Female Filmmakers Neglected at the Oscars

BY EMMY ZHANG '23

This year, like every year on Oscar night, women were prominent at the ceremony, displaying the most recent fashion styles and trends, with reporters interviewing them on the red carpet with questions about their choices in couture. I wish that the Academy had been as interested in the roles that women played in filmmaking this past year as they were in the dresses and jewelry that women wore for the show. If they had been, then perhaps there would have been women nominees in the category for Best Director. Unfortunately, not a single woman was included in the list of five who were nominated for this honor.

The most disturbing thing about the absence of female filmmakers in this prestigious category of artistic achievement is that there were so many excellent women directors to choose from this year, such as Greta Gerwig for *Little Women*, Lulu Wang for *The Farewell*, Marielle Heller for *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*, Kasi Lemmons for *Harriet*, Lorene Scafari for *Hustlers*, Céline Sciamma for *Portrait of a Lady On Fire*, Melina Matsouka for *Queen & Slim*, and Alma Har'el for *Honey Boy*. According to reporter Rebecca Rubin of *Variety* magazine, 2019 was a landmark year for women filmmakers who “made historic strides behind the camera, directing a record number of blockbusters and acclaimed hits and calling the shots on everything from *Captain Marvel* to *Hustlers*. Despite that progress, only one of the nine best picture

contenders — *Little Women* — was directed by a woman.”

Women filmmakers have never had an easy time at the Oscars. In fact, according to Rubin's article, over the 92-year history of the event, “only five women have been nominated for Best Director: Lina Wertmüller (in 1976 for *Seven Beauties*), Jane Campion (in 1993 for *The Piano*), Sofia Coppola (in 2003 for *Lost in Translation*), Kathryn Bigelow (in 2009 for *The Hurt Locker*) and Greta Gerwig (2017's *Lady Bird*).”

If Gerwig had been nominated for *Little Women*, she would have been the only woman ever to be nominated twice. While male directors like Steven Spielberg have been nominated five times.

Harvard Westlake Middle School Film teacher Heather Trawick agrees that the omission of women from this year's Best Director category was “upsetting but not surprising...It's not that there aren't capable women,” says Trawick. “It's that women don't have the same access to get to the point where male directors are.”

Trawick believes that female directors face many obstacles. For instance, Trawick asserts, “women are told that they're too weak to hold the camera, so they don't go into cinematography...women need to go to film schools and be taught that they can do these jobs as well as men can.”

In her filmmaking classes, Trawick makes every effort to support the young women in her class: “I really encourage my female



Credit: Britannica

students to not take a backseat. I make them shoot their own projects, get cameras, hold them, figure them out, and come up with their own visual image.” Because her classes tend to have fewer girls in them, Trawick goes out of her way to make the experience balanced by insisting, for example, that “when we're moving lights, we all move the lights,” not just the boys. “I want them,” Trawick admits, “to come out as fully developed as the boys in terms of being able to shoot, record sound, and tell a story.”

In her final comments, Trawick suggested that one course of action to increase the number of women filmmakers is to help girls “who are living in at-risk populations. They have interesting stories to tell, but we're not giving them the means to do it.” Instead of telling their stories for them, Trawick encourages film teachers to “give them the equipment and knowledge they need to express their own narratives.” Hopefully, with such dedicated teachers like Trawick, girls will become more involved and eager to make films.

of school athletics may be using up most of their energy in P.E. “If people already play a sport they may be overworking themselves physically” one student said.

Most students enjoy the ambitious environment at HW, but sometimes students feel that PE can foster a sense of unhealthy competition. “As a boy with no interest in sports, PE was torturous for me as it fosters unhealthy competition between athletic boys and boys with no athletic ability or interest. I dreaded PE every day and was overwhelmed with joy when I learned I could switch to dance” Lorenzo DeFelitta ‘23 said.

For some students, this class can create a

heteronormative atmosphere, especially in the locker rooms. “The Harvard-Westlake locker rooms foster a toxic environment of homophobia, inappropriate behavior, and aggressiveness,” DeFelitta said.

In seventh grade, students are forced to undergo a mandatory two-week swim unit. They strip down into bathing suits which are terrifying for students who are insecure about their bodies. “It’s embarrassing walking out in just a bathing suit. A lot of people are insecure about how they look, and it sometimes almost feels like body shaming,” Kate Karathanasis ‘25 said.



photo credit: wikipedia



photo credit: hw.com

The Faults of Physical Education at HW

BY: GEORGIA GOLDBERG '23 AND KARA YOON '23



photo credit: flickr

At Harvard-Westlake (HW) School, P.E. is a required class for seventh and eighth graders but can be replaced with a school sport or a special class later on. For the students who take P.E, the locker room and the field aren't always the safe spaces they should be.

P.E. meets five out of six days a week, so it can feel time-consuming for many students. In an anonymous survey, a student said, "There shouldn't be

PE because it stresses kids out."

Some students feel time would be better spent doing homework, so they can have more time for activities they are truly passionate about.

P.E. also frequently causes students with busy schedules to become overloaded with work. "During that time, I could be doing so many other things. I could be studying, doing homework, meeting with teach-

ers, or even doing other electives," as one student said.

During the different rotations students go through, there is usually not an adequate amount of exercise included and students could be spending their time more productively. "I don't understand the point of some of the games we play," said Dylan Tsai '25. On the other hand, there are a few sports that require a lot of exercise, and students who have outside

It is intuitive that seniors get priority for electives - after 12th-grade, they will not have the opportunity to take the courses they are applying for again. Yet, for periodical electives like The Election, neither will sophomores.

This problem is not limited to this directed study or any specific class. Instead, it exposes a broader problem with course opportunities that has a simple fix. If periodical electives give everyone at the Upper School one year at HW to study a given topic, students chosen to take the course should be selected based on interest and qualifications as opposed to grade level.

While selecting students based on essays that they write about why they want to take the course or demonstrated interest through contacting teachers and deans might take more time and be less simple, it is the only way to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to study the current events that matter to them.

Transitioning into next year at the Upper School will undoubtedly be difficult for rising sophomores. What makes this change more exciting and bearable is the opportunity to take the interesting courses that the school has to offer. While introducing periodical electives and directed studies to the schedule, teachers and deans should work to improve our transitions to the upper school and give all students an equal opportunity to apply for once in a lifetime classes that interest them.

EVERY

FOUR

YEARS

EVERY

FOUR

YEARS

EVERY

FOUR

Why Periodic Directed Studies Should be Available to Sophomores

BY CLAIRE CONNER '23



As Harvard-Westlake (HW) ninth-graders look to choose next year's courses, we find ourselves stressed about the selection process. The courses we choose to take will determine our path at the Upper School. While this might not be a fully accurate connection, it can feel like the choices we make now could determine what college we go to and whether or not we succeed there. Perhaps choices could change our career preferences and opportunities, thereby affecting the rest of our lives. Though they might not control all of that, sophomore course selections are an important decision and the stress they cause can be troublesome.

Yet while we find ourselves at a stress-inducing fork in the road of our education, sophomores have so much to look forward to. We get to choose from many new courses

that cover a vast variety of exciting topics and tailor themselves to every type of student. From the art behind political movements to the science behind sports performance, electives and directed studies give students amazing options for in-depth courses about what they find most intriguing.

Our new ability to take these classes marks an important transition into a new educational environment in which we can explore our interests and passions on a much deeper level, and discover how we relate to the world around us. A simple course addition can alter our perspective and help us find purpose.

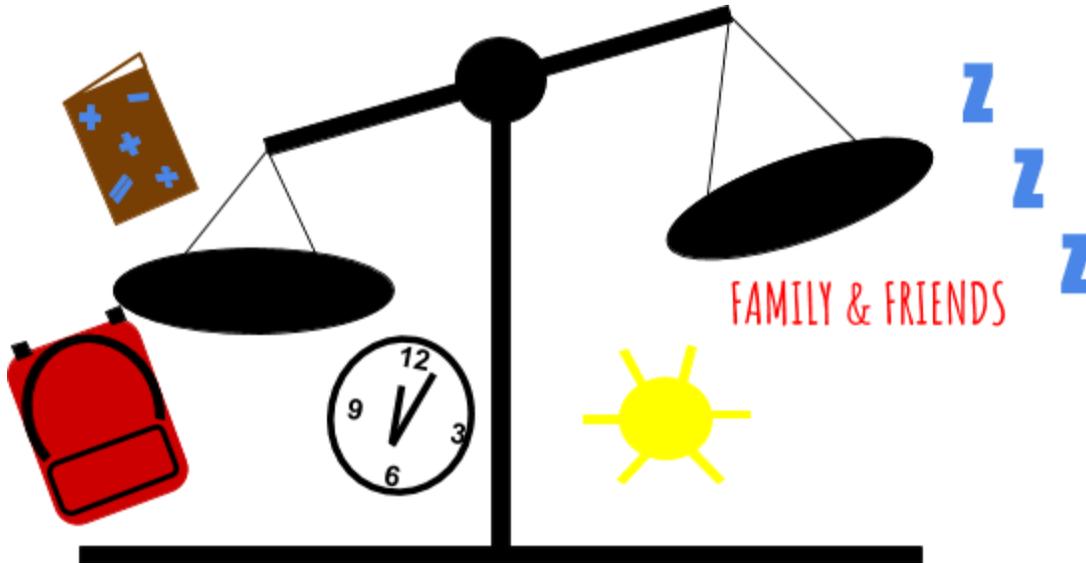
A majority of the electives and directed studies that we can choose to participate in are offered every year, or at least enough years to give students the opportunity to

take them at some point while at HW. However, a select few are only available periodically and are therefore only offered during one year of our high school career. This makes sense: studies of current events are an important part of the process of understanding the world around us, and it's amazing that HW gives students the opportunity to participate in these classes.

However, the ability to study these events should not be limited to juniors and seniors. For directed studies such as the class about the 2020 Election, seniors are given priority and juniors can participate. Rising sophomores such as myself, who love elections and want the opportunity to learn about all of the factors involved in the 2020 race, won't have the opportunity to study an American presidential election while attending HW.

HW Loves R & R

By Annabelle Nickoll



Harvard-Westlake (HW) Middle School will be experimenting with late start days next year, adding four Rest and Relaxation nights (R & R) followed by late start days along with four R & R weekends. “We have a lot of no homework weekends when you throw in spring break, winter break, the four R & R weekends, Jewish holidays, Good Friday if that falls during the course of our week. We have a number of them. And then to have four more and then four more late starts. We are going to try to do them all, but we'll see how it goes” Head of Middle School, Jon Wimbish said.

This year, the faculty sent out a survey to all middle school students to collect data on R & R days. They decided to send out the survey because the program is seven years old, and they wanted to make sure it was still achieving their goals. “The survey data certainly indicates that the students are spending time doing the things that we would hope it would allow them to do. They say they want them to continue. They say that they do find a way to

take a step back from the homework load or to catch up on things they've gotten behind on or to get ahead of things." Wimbish said.

Most students really appreciate the time off from school. "You have more free time you can spend with friends." Sam Burnett '24 said.

Students find the normal school schedule can be very stressful and busy. R & R has helped students take a step back from their work. "I like R & R weekends because during the week I get so much homework and even during most weekends I get a lot of homework, so it is good every once in a while to get a break," Chole Fribourg '23 said.

Compared to the students, emotions are more varied among teachers. "As a teacher, I love R & R. I feel like the slowing down is really good for us," Middle School English teacher and MS Faculty Academic Committee (FAC) Chair Julia Grody said.

However, some teachers have noticed that R & R weekends force them to rearrange their lesson plans to incorporate what used to be assigned as homework into their class time.

"It does have its downsides as well, but I think it's all worth giving up when you weigh that against student stress and workload" Wimbish said.

Some students feel that not all teachers fully abide by the R & R rules and find loopholes by assigning homework due the second day after R & R weekends. "I still study because there can still sometimes be tests or quizzes Tuesday, but it's less work definitely" Derek Esrailian '24 said.

R & R days were first created in 2013 by two ninth grade senators. The 9th grade senators brought the idea to the faculty academic committee in January 2013. They recommend R & R as a way to help students find balance with workload and stress.

Before the students proposed their idea, faculty members were looking into possible solutions to combat the notoriously stressful and overbearing workload endured by HW students. HW faculty invited professional development speaker Dan Siegle to teach them about neuroplasticity and the conditions under which the brain develops and learns. He spoke about finding balance through nutrition, sleep and exercise. When the students proposed their idea, the Faculty Administrative Committee (FAC) voted in favor of it. Then the first R & R day occurred in May 2013.

“The goals were to give students anticipated no homework nights so that they could spend time with their families, they could catch up on sleep, or they could just have some good old fashion downtime and relax” Wimbish said.

Originally, R & R nights happened in the middle of the week and were followed by a late start day. The late start days began at 9 a.m. and offered a healthy breakfast for students in the cafeteria, yoga classes and a nap room. However, the late start was not late enough and people just ended up in traffic which contradicted the goal R & R.

FAC then decided to get rid of late starts and move the R & R nights to a weekend in order for students to get more benefits, and they settled on one R & R weekend per quarter.

“Faculty felt like they could manage and deal with in terms of giving out four less homework assignments throughout the year,” Wimbish said.

Students will continue to look forward to R & R days as the school implements schedule changes. “R & R days are fun and relaxing,” Esrailian said.

Overheard Harvard-Westlake

“Literally, people with peanut allergies should be drafted first. It’s natural selection.”



“Apparently the librarians have to go to library school.”

“I would rather shave off my skin with a cheese grater than go to library school.”



“How are you supposed to do a year abroad? Like imagine you come back but you can’t do math because it was all in Italian for a year!”



“If we could genetically militarize babies, we would be the most powerful nation on Earth. Infinite super soldiers. They would just flick away tanks.”



“The ratatata was in the walls.”



“Girls just always are feeling my hair and saying it is soft. It’s so annoying. It happens all the time.”



“Yesterday I ate a whole egg, with the shell and all, and today it came out whole. I feel like a hen.”



“As long as you don’t do a drug more than five times, you’re fine.”



“So do you want food or not?”
“I just wanted to be in a food environment.”



“When there’s enough evidence that two people are dating, it’s no longer a ship. It’s a titanic.”



Teacher, talking about NoRedInk grammar acronyms: “SWABIs - ew! It just sounds gross. Subordinating conjunctions are the dirty Q-Tips of the world.”



“Don’t play dumb with me, I’m better at it.”



“I’ll literally die if I fail this test, but I won’t even care because I’m dead.”



“What if the Earth is a quarantined planet, and aging is a disease. Maybe that is why we don’t see aliens.”



“Can I be dress coded for being a VSCO girl?”



“If you drop my ice cream sandwich, I will give you corona.”



Student, referring to the word ‘dynasty’: “Wait I thought it was pronounced die nasty.”



“Drinking cement sounds better than taking the history test.”



By: Georgia Goldberg ‘23

Ignoring Uber's "18 and over" policy

By Becca Berlin



Drawing By Adison Gramrad '23

When scrolling on most social media platforms, it's likely users will come across posts or memes about Uber. If these posts go unnoticed, the ads for Uber in your feed won't. Uber has become quite the staple in the lives of today's youth. It is associated with parental independence which teenagers strive for. Using Uber makes you more relatable to your peers, which puts stress on using the app to increase your popularity. Kids will often share on their stories when they are using Uber which further forms the connection between Uber and popularity among peers.

Uber's terms and conditions state that "You must be at least eighteen years of age, or the age of legal majority in your jurisdiction to obtain an Account." Uber users must click agree to this term and conditions in order to create an account. However as with most apps, very few riders actually read the entirety of this document.

Some of Uber's underage users don't even know that they legally aren't allowed to use Uber. This stems from drivers not turning down their ride requests and questioning their age or asking for a form of identification to confirm their age. According to Market Watch journalist James Wellemeier, Uber refused to comment on how often drivers actually enforce the age

policy. The drivers' unwillingness to turn down potential rides allows adolescents to continue to use Uber without consequence.

On other ride sharing platforms like Lyft, drivers have the ability to disable a rider's account if they are underage. Uber drivers do not possess this ability which further allows underage users to continue their use of uber.

Safety is one of the biggest concerns of using Uber while underage. Some kids are more aware of the threat to their safety Uber causes than others, but they have all adopted ways to be more comfortable in these situations. "Whenever I Uber, I FaceTime a friend and I talk to them for the whole ride", Allegra Drago '23 said.



Another way kids are finding comfort in an Uber is riding in groups. "I prefer riding in big groups in an Uber because it feels like the safest way to use Uber", Drago said.

In order to set up an account on Uber, you must link your account to an active source of payment, which brings up the question of parental involvement in the underage usage of Uber to light. If children don't know you have to be eighteen to use Uber, maybe their parents are unaware as well. If parents are uninformed on the terms of Uber, they are unable to protect their children from the danger Uber puts them in.

Janine Jones, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Associate Director of Admissions and HW parent, is very aware of the dangers of underage Uber usage. "I wouldn't be comfortable putting my daughter in an Uber alone because she is 14, she is not an adult yet" Jones said. Jones doesn't consider Uber an option for her daughter due to her age. Instead, she turns to other resources.

"If I couldn't get another family member to take her wherever she needed to go, we have used Hop Skip Drive because that is supposed to be the Uber for kids equivalent", Jones said.

Unlike Uber drivers, Hop Skip Drive drivers are fully vetted caregivers and fingerprinted. Since the platform is devised for underage riders, safety issues dramatically decrease. Hop Skip Driver is also much more transparent about company data than Uber.

Uber is ranked fifth on Slates list of most evil technology companies largely because of the secrecy surrounding the data collection of their riders.

"Uber has made a stink about potential privacy issues before, even when cities have asked for much less precise data, because it doesn't seem to like handing over any information that could be thought of as a trade secret or could enable more oversight", Wellemeyer said.

Their unwillingness to share their rider data leaves the question of how much data they are really collecting on the unknowing underage users of the app.

HW has taken security measures to keep Uber drivers off campus. Uber drivers are not permitted to pick up or drop off on HW campus. This has helped to prevent students' underage usage of Uber as they can't take them to school in the morning or have drivers take them home. The reason for this policy is the safety hazard of untrackable strangers on campus.

Uber is turning a blind eye to its illegal underage users, spamming your instagram feed, and collecting suspicious amounts of rider data. Uber's innocent image is struggling to hide a darker truth.

Why take Latin if it's a dead language?

BY: PAUL KURGAN '23



Latin is one of the oldest languages in the world. It belongs to the branch of Indo-European languages and has an alphabet deriving from Etruscan and Greek. Latin was the official language of the Roman Empire and had many stages throughout history including the one we study now, classical Latin. If Latin was such an important language, why did it die out?

In reality, Latin did not actually die; Latin was transformed into many different languages, including Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian. However, classical Latin slowly died and went unspoken because of the language's complexity.

Every noun, verb and adjective has a separate case, tense or ending that contributes to the overall sentence. After the Roman Empire collapsed, there was no central power enforcing the use of this highly complex language. Because Latin has no real use in our society nowadays, students often wonder why people still study it.

Leo Saperstein '23 has studied Latin at Harvard-Westlake (HW) for three years because of his other academic interests.

"I chose to take Latin in seventh grade because I have always had an interest in history and ancient myths," he said. "I also had a brother who had taken Harvard-Westlake middle school Latin and highly suggested it because it helped him with English sentence construction as well as vocabulary.

I have had this experience as well."

HW and many schools around the country and the world offer Latin as a core language. Students in Latin study Roman and Greek mythology, learn about Latin to English derivatives and do a lot of grammar work.

Middle school Latin teacher Doug Fraleigh who has experience with Latin, as well as Greek, and many other languages, spoke to various falsehoods surrounding the study of Latin.

"Probably the biggest misconception is if you study Latin, you use it less in your daily life than other languages," Fraleigh said. "In other languages, it's useful if you use it, but Latin gives you so much help understanding languages in general and vocabulary to go on to read literature and it's also really great for things like public speaking and literary analysis."

A student new to HW with no prior knowledge of Latin would take Latin I or IA which cover the first three noun declensions and verb tenses as well as Roman culture. Latin IB and II continue to help improve grammar skills and reading while Latin II and III Honors focus fully on classical Latin texts.

Michael Barr '24 is in the midst of his first year of Latin at HW and has learned a lot about the language.

"Latin is an incredibly systemic language with set rules, which makes it fun to use, as you

can make informed inferences as you go along," Barr said. "It is interesting to compare it with other languages because it was sort of 'stolen from' and you can use it to understand other languages."

Many students at HW think that since Latin is a dead language, there isn't any point in studying it. The Latin students (or "discipuli") at the school disagree with this controversy.

Lucas Cohen-d'Arbbeloff '23 is a ninth-grader who has taken Latin for three years and is in Latin II. Lucas Cohen-d'Arbbeloff gives advice to students who are thinking of taking Latin as a beginner.

"I think that Latin is as a course, inherently different from other language options just because it's not a language that is spoken today. It's not gonna have the same uses as the other languages offered but it is an incredibly useful course that gives you insight into certain aspects of world history and English."

Rohan Mehta '23 says his favorite part of Latin is "learning and discussing the origins of the various Latin words. The derivatives and roots stemming from Latin are really cool to study.

Studying Latin provides insight into five languages, lets you read ancient history and texts and gives you a view of what it was like to live many years ago. Latin is used by lawyers, doctors, and historians to learn about our history in order to improve the future.

Chamber music group hosts winter concert

BY MAX RUDEN-SELLA '23



photo from the HWTv broadcast of the event

The Middle School chamber music and solo concert took place Sunday, February 9, in the Saperstein Theater. It was a more intimate experience compared to the usual orchestral performances at Harvard-Westlake, and it was really interesting to see something this unique.

The chamber music groups are comprised of different sections of the Middle School Symphony, each made up of the highest-level players at the Middle School. This is done to give each player more of a time to shine as opposed to having everyone in one big band.

Many different types of groups played for the event. All types of instruments were played, with a number of different arrangements. Groups ranged in size and in the length of their performances. Some groups were almost as big as a

full band, and some only had one performer. Some groups even had a member of the staff to assist a student.

Some of the most impressive performances were the solos. A few musicians played solo without sheet music. These solos impressed with their complexity and showed the intense preparations that must have been required.

Another memorable section was the percussion performance. This was comprised of solely percussion instruments, with no piano. The musicians in this chamber group were able to perform without any melody, which no one in the audience would have expected.

Unlike most other concerts the school hosts, this concert was filmed for HWTv, which doesn't usually happen for most concerts.

There were three cameras, with

each being used by an individual student, just like any other HWTv athletic event.

One of the concerns that members of the Symphony had about the concert was that some students had more performance time than others. Some students performed for one piece, and others performed in multiple pieces. This was later explained by recognizing that some students were in multiple chamber groups and others were not.

The chamber music concert this year was really something special. The solos were impressive because of the level of virtuosity that the students displayed, and the concert would have been worthwhile just to hear these. Along with the solos, the different groups had a lot of variety and made for an enjoyable event.

Morey's tweet, All-Star and current Los Angeles Lakers player LeBron James telling FOX News reporters upon arriving in China that "Morey was not educated on the situation at hand."

This is not the first time there have been large-scale protests in Hong Kong in the 21st century. In 2003, there were mass protests against national security reforms, which resulted in punishments for crimes in Hong Kong be different than in mainland China.

In 2012, there were protests against "Moral and National Education," which was a new school curriculum proposed by the Hong Kong education bureau, which stated that it would focus more on developing the students' morals rather than the students' intellects. In 2014, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets holding umbrellas above their heads as a sign of protest for universal suffrage.

In 2016, many in Hong Kong took part in the "Fishball Riots," which is also known as the Mong Kok civil unrest, with the riots starting due to the government's crackdown on illegal street hawkers in Hong Kong. Then, in 2016, Hong Kong held their first pro-independence protests, with tens of thousands of people demonstrating against the Chinese government, showcasing just how much the Hong Kong pro-independence movement had grown.

Catalunya

In Barcelona, many protests have been held by Catalan Independence activists, who believe that Catalunya, the north-east region of Spain, will be better off as an independent country because they provide more funds for the Spanish government

10 News

than they get. The socialist government of the caretaker prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, has sought to cool tensions in the region while also criticising the pro-independence Catalan regional government for taking too long to condemn the violence and for continuing to peddle what it terms secessionist fantasies.

But his stance has angered right-wing Spanish parties, according to Vox, who have demanded a much tougher approach to the uprising and attacked Sánchez for being too soft in the face of the enduring threat to Spain's national unity. The anger felt towards Sánchez, a left-leaning centrist, has also been reflected in the polls, with the right-wing political group Vox surging in the polls. According to the Chicago Tribune, many pro-Spain Catalans have been shocked by the violence and destruction caused by what were supposed to be non-violent protests. The destruction has caused a downturn in the amount of tourism in Barcelona, which has affected both Catalunya's economy and Spain's economy massively. The protests against the Spanish government were most widespread when the Spanish king, Felipe VI, visited Barcelona on the 4th of November, prompting a number of separatist protests in the Basque region, Galicia, and Catalunya.

Chile

In Chile, small protests due to a 3% hike in subway fares escalated to a full blown national conflict, even though the 3% raise was later scrapped. According to BBC, police in Santiago, the capital of Chile, responded to increasingly violent protests by throwing multiple tear gas cans into the crowd of protest-

ers, leading to numerous claims of basic human rights abuses. Many Chileans, via Foreign Policy, are suggesting that the latest police crackdown is reminiscent of Augusto Pinochet's reign as dictator. According to The Nation, Chileans reacted negatively to the hike in subway fares because they believed the money would go to the rich rather than back to the citizens that use the subway daily. A popular slogan in the protest, which reads *Se Despertó Chile*, or *Chile Awoke*, is meant to tell the government that the hike in price of subway fares is just what opened the eyes of the Chilean public, and the first thing those newly-opened eyes saw were the human rights violations and corruption that has occurred under President Piñera's tenure.

Colombia

In Colombia, anti-government protests have been non-stop since late November, despite a more violent stance against protesters from the Colombian government, via FOX News. Police in Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, have responded to a mass anti-government protest in which nearly 250,000 people marched on the street by heightening the police presence in Bogotá in an attempt to stifle the protesters. Many protesters have taken to the streets due to their general unhappiness with the government, according to The Washington Post. One protester, Dilan Cruz, an 18 year old student peacefully protesting, was hit in the head with a tear gas canister during the police crackdown, prompting another outcry from the protesters. Pressure from protesters has seen the Colombian President Ivan Duque announce that an investigation is

underway to find the officer that threw the tear gas canister that killed Cruz.

President Ivan Duque also met for nearly two hours with the leaders of the anti-government protests in Colombia, but talks reportedly hit a snag as the leaders have vouched for a new round of strikes across the nation, as reported by KSAT.com. However, Vice-President Marta Lucía Ramírez contradicted reports that the talks had hit a snag and described the conversations as “constructive.” She also stated that she looks forward to holding more talks between protest leaders and the President. Colombia’s latest crackdown has been deporting 61 visitors because they “affected public order” in Bogotá, according to CNN.

Argentina & Perú

Although Chile and Colombia’s struggles have been the most well-documented in South America this year, Argentina and Perú have also struggled in 2019. In Argenti-

na’s last elections, Alberto Fernández was elected President and ex-President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, who had previously led the nation and had been instrumental in the creation of social, political, and economical turmoil which, as it appears, included enriching herself and her allies by taking money from the national bank (BdNA) and then distributing it to her closest aides, was elected vice-President. To many, the election shows a step backwards for Argentina, which seems to be edging closer and closer to the days of the dictator Perón and his reign, according to Magnet Argentina. Meanwhile, in Peru, there is social unrest due to the lack of action economically and bureaucratically from the government, with many calling for a new government, and telling EXPRESO Peru that they believe the country is heading towards a situation similar to the one occurring in Chile right now.

Haiti

In Haiti, there have been nonstop protests throughout 2019, with many of them ending in violent scraps between demonstrators and the police. According to Moguldom, protests erupted after a corruption report was released stating that there was corruption in Haiti’s last election in 2015, where there was only a reported 20% voter turnout and Haiti’s current president Jovenel Moïse won in a landslide victory. The middle and lower classes in Haiti were not happy with the election’s results and with the voter turnout, and as a result an independent probe started investigating the election and this year released a report stating that there was in fact corruption present in the election.

President Jovenel Moïse has become even more unpopular with the middle and lower classes after he led the country into a \$35 million debt, which is due to the fact that many Venezuelan oil companies have not been delivering the oil they had promised



courtesy of creative commons

to Haiti in their deal with them. Haiti has been in financial turmoil ever since the early 1900's, with its impoverished lower and middle classes a result of French and later American colonialism. President Trump made many derogatory and untrue statements about Haiti and its people, which is summed up by his attempt to end the Temporary Protected Status program started by Barack Obama after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, which affects 59,000 Haitians working legally in the US

since TPS was created according to WBUR.org. Anti-government demonstrations have rarely been peaceful, and clashes with the police have been so violent that Amnesty International has had to release a statement saying that Haitian police had used excessive force against protesters on multiple occasions. Haiti's government is yet to report any fatalities, although the opposition parties have used the protests as a way to try to convince President Trump

to push for Jovenel Moïse's resignation, as reported by Moguldom.

Lebanon

In Lebanon, frustration with the country's politicians has been building since the country's civil war. The Lebanese civil war ended in the year 1990, causing a period of reconstruction in the country. Two years later, a series of issues began to occur in the country.



courtesy of creative commons

Umar Karami, the country's prime minister at the time, was thrown out of office by Syrian intelligence forces, along with Rafiq Hariri, an incredible affluent Lebanese business tycoon. Rafiq Hariri was arguably the worst thing to happen to Lebanon in recent times. He brought corruption to a new level not previously experienced by the country, putting his allies on a

payroll, and harshly opposing his rivals, whom he excluded from his payroll. Rafiq Hariri worked closely with Syrian intelligence forces, to the point where the Syrians ran the country alongside him. Rafiq Hariri was assassinated after ruling over the country for thirteen years, and although his reign was cut short, Rafiq Hariri did a large amount of damage to the Lebanese

government. He turned Lebanon's economic system into a corrupt mess, causing large amounts of anger throughout the country. Rafiq Hariri's influence didn't end with his death, however. His rule was followed by the rule of his son, Saad Hariri, meaning that Rafiq Hariri's legacy continued through the following years.



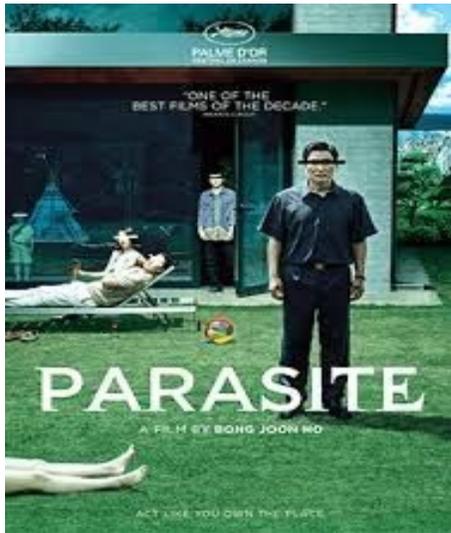
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The Journey of an Underdog

By Harry Tarses '23



Everyone's silent. A whole year of anticipation, speculation, and scrutiny has led up to this moment, And yet despite it all, no one could have guessed what would happen next. Jane Fonda opens the precious envelope, takes a beat, then calmly pronounces the winner of the coveted best picture award: "Parasite." A moment, then the whole theatre erupts in applause. What the hell just happened?

Okay, let's take it back to May 21, 2019, in Cannes, France, home of the one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world. Scheduled to premier that day was a little film called 기생물, or in english, Parasite.

The film had already achieved a fair amount of hype, probably due to its critical golden boy director Bong Joon Ho, a name already connected

to a long track record of films, some in korean,

some in english, but each garnering more acclaim than the last.

Anyway, "Parasite" played, and no matter what Yogi Berra says about "it ain't over till it's over," when this movie came out, it was over. It went on to win the Palme d'Or, or the best in show award of the Cannes festival, and was released in Korea days later on May 30th.

Word got around fast, and more and more critics began to rave about this “brilliant and unsettling” film, as described by a Manohla Dargis of the New York times. However,

the hype train stopped rolling when it touched down in America on October 5, 2019, for a little while at least.

Parasite caught American viewers off guard. Despite countless glowing reviews, including a ridiculous 99%

on Rotten Tomatoes, it just couldn't seem to gain traction in the U.S. The most intimidating factor, probably, was the language of the film. An extra layer of effort is required when one has to take account of words in addition to pictures, so its possible that just the

thought of subtitles discouraged potential watchers of the film.

Parasite is not as digestible as a lot of other movies this year, in short. Every aspect demands your attention, from the

cinematography, to the writing, to the acting, so to have the added task of the subtitles can be exhausting.

However, after a month or two out of the public eye, Parasite finally began to win back its well deserved attention among american audiences. Parasite was never in the mainest of streams, but at some point in mid december, it had at least ascended beyond cult status.

Unfortunately, despite all the reviews, and the newfound popularity, Parasite was not so highly regarded come award season. It was seen as an obvious winner for the international film category, but despite its best picture *nomination*, that's where the predictions all but stopped. There were a multitude of reasons for this, including most notably, the films competition.

2019 was an outstanding year for movies in general. Parasite was pitted against, in the best picture category, eight other movies, most of which were equally deserving

and regarded. When also taken into consideration the fact that two of those movies were directed by Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese, It would seem insane for this underdog film to actually win the award.

The Oscars got underway, and things were going normally; that is, almost all predicted winners were doing so, to the point where things became boring. Then, Parasite won the original screenplay. They were technically the favorite in the category, but it still came as a bit of a surprise. After all, this script was not written in english, and even Bong Joon Ho seemed a little flustered as he gave his acceptance speech. Next, it won best international film. Not only was this predictable, but it was probably more so than any other award this year, so once again, things were going normally.

But then the Best Director category came up. The predictors were split, some of the purists guessing Scorsese or Tarantino, and some others siding with Sam Mendes, who headed the revolutionary

“1917”. Who not many people were guessing was Bong Joon Ho. But lo and behold, there was his name on the envelope, and there he was, making his third acceptance speech of the night. If he was flustered for screenplay, then he was fully having a breakdown for director. He hadn't even written a speech, and yet somehow, gave one of the best of the night.

Ho said that when he was in film school, there was a quote that he had stuck with him from there on: “The most personal is the most creative,” he said in english, brushing aside his translator. It was a Martin Scorsese quote, the man he had just beaten. This was a turning point. Suddenly, Parasite became the good guy, the movie everyone was rooting for.

Another half hour passed, then, in the final moments of the Oscars, Parasite won best picture, and made history.

Parasite has broken a precedent, and made one of its own: The best movie will win best

picture, regardless of where it comes from.

Lily's book nook

By: LILY LEE '23



“Twilight” series

By: Stephenie Meyer

This is one of my favorite series of all time. The writing and the storyline are both magnificent. You feel as though you are transported into the story. If you like to read romance books with a little bit of action and adventure mixed in, then this is definitely the series for you.

“Legend” series

By: Marie Lu

This is a series about two people from extremely different backgrounds who fall in love and help each other survive along the way.

“I Will Always Write Back”

By: Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch and Martin Ganda

This is a really worthwhile and interesting book based on a true story; it is really cool to think about the real backstory. It is about pen pals from Zimbabwe and America who have totally different lives but end up with a life-changing connection.

“Been There, Done That”

By: Mike Winchell and with stories by many authors

This is a book made up of a collection of short stories and teaches you how real life events can turn into an entertaining story. It includes many short stories from totally different genres, and you get many stories, all in one!

“Uglies”

By: Scott Westerfield

In this dystopian world, everyone is considered ugly until they get a surgery when they turn 16. “Pretties” and “Uglies” live in completely separate towns. This book has such an interesting plot and gets you invested in the story, always wanting to know more.

MY RECOMMENDATIONS

“Children of Blood and Bone”

By: Tomi Adeyemi

Recommendation by Juliet Suess

“The story follows an imperfect but formidable heroine on her journey to save her family and the magic of her people. The author paints a world full of color, love, and myth.”

“A Child’s Garden of Verses”

By: Robert Louis Stevenson

Recommendation by Zachary Greenberg

“Because children/adolescents/adults naturally love rhymes and flowers, and why not read/hold/have this sweet, elegant book of poems at any young old age.”

“The Lord of the Rings”

By: J. R. R. Tolkien

Recommendation by Paul Chenier

“A favorite of mine growing up was J. R. R. Tolkien’s ‘The Lord of the Rings’ because hobbits are such unlikely heroes. Their little shoulders take on a very great burden. I also like stories where characters get a lot more than they bargained for on their adventure. In a way, the adventure almost picks them rather than the other way around, if that makes sense. I’m also fond of snacks, and hobbits love snacks.”

“Pride”

By: Ibi Zoboi

Recommendation by Christina McClendon

“It’s a modern-day retelling of ‘Pride and Prejudice’ by Jane Austen, set in Brooklyn. Zuri Benitez and her four sisters live with their parents in a neighborhood that’s changing around them. I’ve read ‘Pride and Prejudice’ before, so I’m really enjoying seeing how Zoboi adapts the plot points and characters from Austen’s novel to tell a story with some of the same themes and some new ones.”

“Pay It Forward”

By: Catherine Ryan Hyde

Recommendation by Kate Benton

“It is a novel about a 12 year-old boy in a small California town who, along with his classmates, is challenged by his teacher to come up with a plan to change the world.

The plan Trevor comes up with is to help three people in need and in return he asks those people to do the same for three other people. Instead of paying back the kindness, Trevor asks that they pay it forward.”

“Ender’s Game”

By: Orson Scott Card

Recommendation by Heath Wagerman

“I’ve loved this book since I was in eighth grade. It tells the story of a boy who has to save the world. He wants desperately to be a good person and make the right choices, but is forced in many ways to do things that go against his better instincts. Set in a crazy competitive Battle School orbiting Earth, surrounded by other child geniuses, his situation sometimes reminds me of HW!”

LAHSO's art day and local organizations feature Latinx artists

By KAREN WU '23 & KONNIE DUAN '23

The Latin American Hispanic Student Organization (LAHSO), a Harvard-Westlake (HW) Middle School club, organized an art event where students were given drawing materials, and visual arts teacher Flavia Zuñiga-West discussed Latinx artists.

"My favorite part of art day was seeing how many people from the community came to join us," LAHSO member Sophia Rascoff '23 said. "During both art days we more than doubled our usual attendance, and it felt really great that so many people wanted to come and be part of LAHSO for the day. It was great seeing so many new faces in the club that we hadn't seen before."

As students doodled, Zuñiga-West gave a presentation on Latinx artists. She believes it's important to make sure art history includes traditionally marginalized groups.

"This means showing women and people of color and really making sure the curriculum as a whole reflects the student body," Zuñiga-West said. "Everyone should see themselves in art all the time."

In her presentation, she covered pre-colonial Latin American art and the influence of politics and history on art. For example, art from conquerors typically exemplifies the supposed good in the conquerors and the supposed bad in those who were conquered.

Andrea Cortes '23 said LAHSO's art day reminded her "that there is a story behind every stroke and every line."

Zuñiga-West also discussed the Mexican muralism movement, which



World languages teacher Anamaria Ayala talks with students during the LAHSO art day

began around the time of the Mexican Revolution. Important Mexican muralists include Jose Clemente Orozco and Diego Rivera. Zuñiga-West looks to incorporate more muralism into her art curriculum.

"We were talking about either making a class that focuses more on muralism or to try and find a way to create a mural project that could happen maybe once a year," Zuñiga-West said. "The idea would be to have murals that are made and exist on campus so there's student voice seen throughout. I think we have so many walls and spaces that aren't filled and could really lend themselves to student experiences."

On art day, students also had the opportunity to learn about modern art styles, such as street art, where Latinx artists are prominent.

Zuñiga-West sees street art as important because of its presence in daily life and accessibility, important characteristics of street art. Even people who don't regularly

visit art spaces like museums or galleries will be exposed to street art.

"The idea of accessibility [in art] is something that I think is so important," Zuñiga-West said. "We're often not aware of invisible walls and borders that exist within the land of art."

In Los Angeles, organizations such as the Art and Seeking publicize local street art. Lizy Dastin '01 gives corporate tours for Art and Seeking. She also co-hosts a podcast called Art Attack, which recently discussed Latinx artists in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles has long been the home to notable Latinx artists who use their work to celebrate their cultural heritage and form meaningful communities. The contemporary scene of Latinx artists, especially urban artists, has never been more vibrant. In her podcast, Dastin, along with Justin Bua, shares her favorite works and artists in Los Angeles.

According to Dastin and Bua-first's podcast, Latinx is a term that not only emphasizes generationally

younger people but also extends to nonbinary people, including a bigger and endless bracket of artists to celebrate. They also discuss Latinx artists, such as Judy Baca, Mr. Cartoon, El Mac and Kristy Sandoval.

The hosts first highlight Baca's Great Wall of Los Angeles, which runs along the Los Angeles River and is the longest mural in the world. This mural portrays a comprehensive historical timeline from the existence of dinosaurs to the civil rights movements. The river bed is similar to and symbolizes a film bed since the story progress, just like a river.

Baca collectively painted this mural with other artists, thereby creating a collective account of many's histories. The mural tells the story of the common person and spirit of Los Angeles.

Another artist, Mr. Cartoon, dabbles in many areas of art and is an inspiration to many in the Lat-

inx community. He specializes in tattoo designing, but he also paints murals and on cars to showcase his artwork. His unique choice in using bodies and cars as mediums in art makes his work stand out as not glossy but authentic.

Artist El Mac's work stands out because of his attention to detail. He is very meticulous in his artwork and even freezes his spray-paint to control texture, which is a unique and inventive way to do graffiti and draw portraits. He has various ways he controls his medium to create fractals, patterns and unique shapes to use in his artwork.

Finally, Sandoval uses past architecture in her art by contemporizing old architecture and putting her own spin on it. All of her art and murals have a deep story behind them. One of Sandoval's most famous works is "Decolonized," featuring a woman with blue dreadlocks releasing

birds from a cage, which is also a window. "Decolonized" is a symbol of freeing people from colonizers.

All of these artists are undoubtedly talented, but they also share their art by showcasing others' talent. Art is traditionally only attributed to one person; however, many in the Los Angeles Latinx community work together on one piece and embrace each others' ideas to introduce new perspectives in their art.

For students who want to learn more about the art history of Latin American and Latinx artists, Zuñiga-West recommends the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art or simply searching Instagram and exploring.

"There's a beautiful, rich, deep culture within Latin America as a whole," Zuñiga-West said. "Often times, you don't learn about that history until you're in college."



Students sketch while eating pan dulce during the LAHSO art day

The facts of data mining

By Natalie Cosgrove '23

In February of this year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) permitted a \$200 million fine of several major telecom companies, including T-Mobile and AT&T. The FCC punished these companies for allowing customer data to be sold and improperly used. This case illustrates many of the challenges and faults of data mining.

Data mining is when a company collects the personal information one reveals while using their site and repurposes that information for their own use. They do this to estimate trends, produce engaging content, and create targeted advertising. Generally when one signs up for a service, one voluntarily agrees to give the company access to their personal data, but problems arise when that information is mishandled by the company. Data mining can be a convenient process, but with the misuse of the information, hacking, and selling to third parties, it can suddenly become harmful or a violation to the user.

Data mining is used in a variety of fields including insurance, manufacturing, retail, banking, ecommerce and more. The issue with data mining is not the actual concept because by accepting the terms and

conditions of a given site or app, you are knowingly sharing your personal information, but that the information itself is not adequately protected and can be misused throughout a company.

There are many benefits of data mining for consumers. The process can help foresee different patterns and tendencies in order to narrow searches, it can help companies understand their customers' preferences by noting their responses, and can push relevant ads to user's pages. For example, if you visit various sports websites, you will in turn receive ads for the teams you follow. In general, it makes the relationship between the customer and the business more efficient.

The problem at hand however, is when the corporations go too far and exploit the data, which can be a violation of people's privacy and personal information. It can also lead to issues with the safety of the information. A lot of this data is susceptible to being hacked or stolen.

An example of this, is in 2017 when there was a major hack at Equifax, a credit agency where almost half of all Americans had their personal data breached. According to an article written in the Washington Post, "The

2017 breach gave hackers access to the personal information, including Social Security numbers and birth dates, of about 145 million people. Equifax last year agreed to a \$700 million settlement with the Federal Trade Commission to compensate victims.”

This irresponsible breach of information led to the release of many people’s private data and is one of the harmful aspects of data mining. One of the larger issues with data mining is a problem based in insurance. If a company contains any information about a person’s gender, grades or more, they can alter their prices given for each consumer. For example, a student with a perfect transcript would likely get a lower rate because there is a less likely chance that a

“good” student would get into an accident. The process by which companies use softwares to set rates for insurance is called price optimization and many insurance companies participate in this in order to profit the maximum amount.

“Robert Hunter, CFA’s director of insurance, says price optimization is a data mining tool that lets insurance companies figure out which groups of customers are more likely to accept a price increase and which are more likely to shop around for a new policy.” According to an article written in cnbc about how data mining is used in insurance.



What You Should Know

-  **Be Aware**
Know what info is collected and how its used.
-  **Say No**
Know what information services require and how to "opt-out" of them.
-  **Reports**
Transparency reports show you what information is being collected about you and who is providing it.
-  **What Do They Keep?**
What information never gets deleted even after you request that it be removed.
-  **Who is Soliciting You and Why?**
Understand how information you provide effects your services and how others present you online.
-  **What and Who Else is Using Your Data?**
Who else is able to see and use your information outside of the service you signed up for.
-  **Rate Them**
You can rate the services you are using to warn others about privacy policies and practices.

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Designed by Dominga Vidler



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