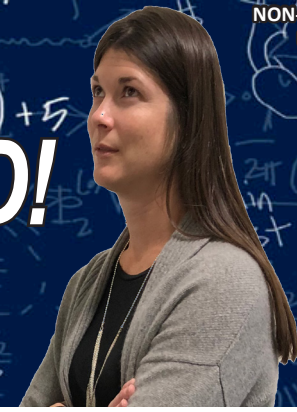


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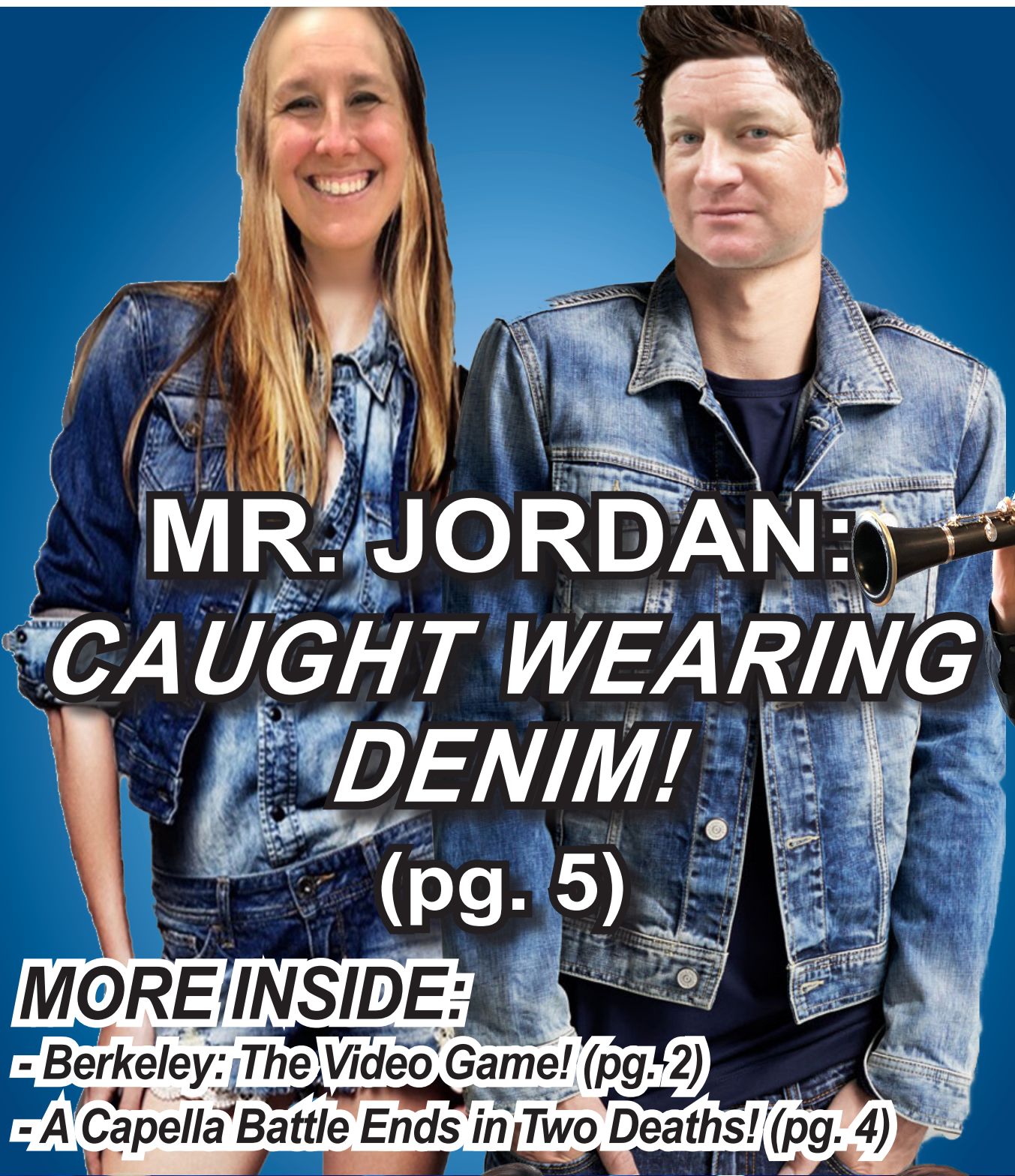
# INSIDE THE STRAIN-FARRELL FEUD!

(pg. 8)



# The Fanfare

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# MR. JORDAN: CAUGHT WEARING DENIM!

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# The Fanfare

2017-2018  
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# THE FANFARE

## BERKELEY: THE GAME REVIEW

Jump, learn and fight through quite literally years of hectic and challenging gameplay

BY BRADLEY KOLAR  
Staff Writer

Happy April, ladies and gentlemen. This month, I will be reviewing a very special game that practically anybody who's ever heard of video games has been anticipating for a long time. "Berkeley: The Game" was predicted to shake the gaming scene to its core, with many sources claiming it would be the smash hit of 2018 to rival the likes of "No Man's Sky" and "Knack II." Since The Fanfare is such a prestigious and well-known publication, I was easily able to secure a copy for review before the release date, and I have sunk hours upon hours into this game to reach my own expert analysis: Meh.

From Seivold Studios, "Berkeley: The Game" is a unique and confusing blend between platformer and turn-based RPG available exclusively for the Sega Saturn. It is split up into four "acts," each one of an exhaustingly long duration. Before each act, the player can change the difficulty setting, with harder difficulties unlocking if the player ends each act with a certain score. The game begins with a character customization screen, and despite the detail available in customizing bodily features, the choices given for clothing are disappointingly narrow.

After character creation, the player is thrust straight into the first act. The learning curve is a bit steep - it took me the entirety of the first act to get used to the controls and mechanics - but the gameplay is fun enough once you get into it. At first, at least. After a little while,



**GAME ON:** Berkeley: The Game will arrive in stores nationwide on May 1st. Characters are only allowed to wear collared shirts and bottoms that reach the knee.

the gameplay starts to get stale, repeating the same boss battles over and over (I could have sworn I fought the same "Physics Test" boss a million times with different names and more health).

"Berkeley: The Game" is also littered with random side quests and bonus levels, some more involved than others - the "College Process" side quest keeps popping up throughout the game but doesn't really get moving until the final act, and if you don't complete it, your score at the end of the game takes a huge dent.

With rather lackluster gameplay, the most exciting thing about "Berkeley: The Game" is the storytelling. There's a huge cast of non-player characters available to interact with, all of them uniquely interesting and detailed. Berkeley has a surprisingly intricate rela-

tionship meter mechanic, and the minigames involving other characters tend to be orders of magnitude more interesting than the main game (though playing too many of them can hurt your overall score). The game's graphics are astounding from a technical standpoint, but it felt like Berkeley didn't use this breakthrough tech to its fullest potential.

On the whole, I found the gameplay of "Berkeley: The Game" to be frustratingly inconsistent - sometimes it's interesting and fun, sometimes it's boring and tedious - and the narrative doesn't fully make up for it. It has its moments, but it doesn't quite live up to all the hype. In the end, it's okay. If you can catch it on sale, maybe it's worth a shot, but it's no "Bubsy 3D."

Grade: B-

## CHAPLAIN'S NEW BALL PIT



After individually wrapping and delivering over 300 plastic balls to Berkeley students at the Holiday All-School Convocation, Chaplain Brandon Peete has new plans. Peete is now responsible for the design and construction of the all-new Berkeley Ball Pit, which will open on McCleary Mound next week. This past weekend, Peete individually placed each ball in the pit himself, in advance of Monday's official unveiling. "Did I miss a day with my family for this ball pit? Yes," he said. "But is this ball pit going to be totally awesome and 100% worth it? That's a definite yes." Spiritual Texts Group will now meet in the Berkeley Ball Pit, instead of in the chaplain's office. (Article by Isabella Schlact)

## COOTIES OUTBREAK ROCKS LOWER DIVISION



EW, GROSS! Lower Division cancelled classes during the week of March 5 to deal with a Cooties outbreak that infested Lower Division students. The disease, which causes students to become repulsed by students around them, is transmitted via a member of the opposite gender touching you. This disease is a new discovery for the school, one that Lower Division teachers said caused such a distraction that they could not hold class without putting up a divider of desks between the boys and girls. Upper Division science teacher Martha DeWeese called the disease "unlike anything I've ever seen," with "sadly, no cure save time at home, resting." (Article by Emma Edmund)

## CLARINET FACEOFF

Berkeley versus Bikini Bottom

Clarinet virtuoso Jalen Li '19 has discovered musical competition from another dimension. Visual and Performing Arts Department Chair Brian Panetta has recruited Bikini Bottom resident Squidward Tentacles to play clarinet for the Berkeley Marching Band. Yesterday, Panetta introduced Li to Tentacles, and tensions quickly escalated when Tentacles called Li a "barnacle-head." Li challenged Tentacles to a clarinet faceoff, allowing his opponent to start with a cover of the SpongeBob SquarePants theme song. Li fired back with a passionate rendition of "The Campfire Song Song." "Squidward is pretty rude," said Li, "but at least we share a love for the clarinet." (Article by Isabella Schlact)



Isabella Schlact

## RETURN OF THE SLP CULT!

New library, new underground lair

As a part of the Jean Ann Cone Library remodel, the Cult of the Student Library Proctors built a secret underground lair beneath Cone Library Assistant Alyson Fletcher's office. The SLPs say that the new hangout is a great place to sit down with a novel or steal a Tasty Thursday brownie. It's also the perfect spot to chant, "BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS!" six times, spin in circles and bow down to the guide dog. "Honestly, I spend all my time down there," said SLP Mikae Provine '19. "After all, hardly anyone checks out a book here." (Article by Isabella Schlact)



Isabella Schlact

## CHRIS COOK- BERKELEY'S SPIDERMAN



Isabella Schlact

Strange campus sightings are common, but the elusive force keeping the Lykes Center for the Arts running still bewilders Upper Division. Theories have been spread from class to class behind the being's existence, but no one has been able to pinpoint one faculty member as the person running the Lykes. After weeks of intensive research, the mysterious blur spotted dashing across the catwalks and climbing the curtains has finally been identified. Chris Cook, Productions Technology Director, has been a crucial figure in running the sound equipment, but is that the extent of his occupation? A Fanfare photographer snapped a photo of Cook doing a triple backflip off the catwalk, landing without a creak! His swift acrobatic feats have allowed him to spontaneously appear in strange places across campus and in the middle of presentations when students least expect it. After approaching him with conclusive evidence, Cook admitted he was bitten by a spider that escaped from one of the Chemistry rooms. He said that running the Lykes is a great responsibility which could have only been maintained by someone with great power: he was just being our friendly neighborhood studio technician. (Article by Austin Cahn)

## SENIOR BECOMES NEWEST ESPN SPORTSCASTER

Paul Engel-Penalozza '18 fulfills his lifelong dream of joining the sports network

BY EMMA EDMUND  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Lykes has been home to a plethora of firsts. Anna Roman '18 became the first sophomore lead cast in a mainstage musical. Then, McKenna Ebert '18 became the first Berkeley student to design the set for a school production. Now comes Berkeley's greatest achievement: Paul Engel-Penalozza '18 will become the first Berkeley student to co-host one of ESPN's most popular shows, "SportsCenter."

ESPN first took notice of Engel-Penalozza's commentary when a video of his narration of the Upper Division's ping-pong tournament finals went viral. Brantley Deady '21, who videotaped the tournament, said Engel-Penalozza's commentary was like nothing he's ever heard before.

"I posted the video expecting some local buzz, but never hundreds of thousands of views," said Deady. "The way he engaged the crowd with his mind-blowing insights rivaled the commentary of John Anderson and Mike Greenberg."

Deady's video included a

new strategy Engel-Penalozza labeled "P.A.U.L.," or "People. Action. Underscore. Link." As Engel-Penalozza explained to The Fanfare, his first goal, the "P," was to engage the people with his introduction of the ping-pong opponents, Ryan Shear '18 and Alex Shear '20. By encouraging the crowd to get excited, he actively engaged them in the tournament. Then came the "A," or action, where he would let the ping-pong players compete with only minimal interjections with ping-pong puns or other relevant commentary. With "U," Engel-Penalozza would underscore the game, keeping the audience on its toes by making sure they pointed out the errors, another way to keep attention piqued. Finally with "L," he would link all of the other parts of his strategy together for the finale, to get the audience roaring on its feet for the winner.

"Although my career as a commentator has been short," said Engel-Penalozza, "I have spent hours mastering my principle strategy. In a way, I wanted to present the sports-casting world with something it has never seen before, a type of commentary that relies sole-

ly on audience engagement."

ESPN took notice of the video when it was retweeted by one of its local interns. Intrigued, the producers of "SportsCenter" called and interviewed Engel-Penalozza about his process. After a 45-second discussion, "SportsCenter" decided to hire Engel-Penalozza for the spring of 2018 forward. ESPN announced the news to the Berkeley community after they filmed senior Nicholas Petit-Frere's commitment to The Ohio State University.

"I was so happy for Paul," said Petit-Frere '18. "I watched the ESPN producer come up

on stage and speak with Athletic Director Bobby Reinhart. After a minute or two, Reinhart came and announced that Engel-Penalozza will be continuing his studies online so he can become the next co-host of 'SportsCenter.' I can't wait until he discusses my college career with the other SportsCenter anchors!"

You can catch Engel-Penalozza on SportsCenter after spring break, when he begins his multi-year contract. Tune in to ESPN to learn more about Engel-Penalozza's newest contributions.



Emma Edmund

ESPWIN: Engel-Penalozza's newest position with ESPN is a big win for Berkeley, who can now add Paul to the list of Berkeley students who have gone into sports.

# HOMELESS ENGLISH TEACHERS PLAN TO FIGHT BACK

With the upstairs Steinbrenner incomplete, the classroomless English teachers make themselves comfortable elsewhere

BY TESS FULLER  
Section Editor

The English Department is planning a strike against their unfair treatment under Berkeley's subject-based hierarchy of teachers. The only problem is that they don't have anywhere to dramatically storm out of in their protest. After the English Department was officially deemed homeless last spring, they've been forced to wander between classrooms that they can't call their own.

"I worked in a prison, and at least the criminals had a cell to

call their own!" said Upper Division English teacher Catherine Doubler.

Doubler has been reported multiple times by administration for loitering around a single classroom, which is strictly prohibited by the Motion for the English Department (MED) regulations placed on the teachers after they were ripped from their classrooms.

The English teachers aren't the only ones who are suffering. Upper Division foreign language and history teachers complain of finding empty soup cans and Slim Jim wrappers under their

desks. Also, multiple trash can fires have been reported around the school in rooms that are especially cold. The Flex studio, in the Lykes Center for the Arts, has suffered the most from the fires because of the thermostat restrictions also laid out in the MED regulations. While English teachers are just looking to stay warm, the smoke is upsetting to many performance and Advanced Theatre Ensemble students who claim that their voices have suffered.

"The smokers' lung will force the students to write more," said Upper Division English teacher Mary-Rush Yelverton.

"It's not like we don't want English teachers in our rooms," said Upper Division history and religion teacher Jonathan Olson. "It's just that we can't stand the stress from their constant disruption. Not to mention the multiple trash can fires around campus that have absolutely been a hazard."

A few of these teachers have found refuge in the temporary Writing Center on the second floor of the Gries Center for the Arts and Sciences, such as Upper Division English teacher Danielle Marcantuono-Polstra.

Though unhappy with the constant roar of the Middle Divi-

sion Choir, the songs of Pipe and Drum Corps and the incessant clicking by the video gamers who reside in the corner by the lost and found, Marcantuono-Polstra said that it's nice to have a couch to rest on after running around all day.

Despite exhaustion, the consistent movement around campus has inspired the department to create their own track and field team. With about a year of training under their belts, the race to grade papers on time has become just as important as the race to a finish line.

"The [track] team has been a decent distraction from the misery of being roomless," said Upper Division English teacher Joseph Haley.

The hope is that all of this training, along with the sabotage of other teams with smokers' lung, will lead to an overall English Department victory: a gold medal and official English rooms that they can call their own.

The strike is planned for a day that the teachers all have a simultaneous free minute. Unfortunately with the chaos of educating, the strike may have to be postponed.



FIRES OF FURY: Catherine Doubler (left) and Patricia Lukacs protest the slow progress of English room redesigns with trash can fires.

# A CAPELLA BATTLE SENDS TWO TO THEIR DEATHS

Addison Aloian '18 and Nolan Levin '21 come to blows when Beatitones left out of NYC singing competition

BY JOHN PATRICK  
Section Editor

A heated singing competition exacerbated into an all-out brawl, Allied Security officials say.

The conflict, between the storied all-female a cappella group The Mello Divas and the notably less storied all-male Beatitones, was reportedly aggravated when the Beatitones did not receive an invitation to compete in the SingStrong New York a cappella competition (which the Divas subsequently won).

Fired up by a late-night viewing of "Pitch Perfect 2" the night of March 12 with the other members of the Beats, Nick Alexander '20 challenged the Divas to an "a cappella battle," an intense singing competition in which participants must spontaneously arrange and perform songs without the use of any instruments. A transcript of the email he sent out is included below:

Dear Mello Divas (or should I say, MEGA DORKS),

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one a cappella group to destroy another and to assume the powers of the earth, to which the Laws of Nature and Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes

which impel them to the destruction.

The history of the present Mello Divas is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these, the Beatitones. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

They have accepted an invitation to perform at the SingStrong a cappella competition, while neglecting to obtain an equivalent invitation for said Beatitones.

They have repeatedly taken performance opportunities for their own, without offering to split or share said opportunities.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the Beatitones, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good Singers of this School, solemnly publish and declare, That these Beatitones declare an A CAPELLA BATTLE.

Nick Alexander  
BPS Class of 2020

The Mello Divas allegedly accepted the challenge the following day and agreed to meet in

the Technology Commons after rehearsal. Although the contest started with decent renditions of "Bad Blood" and, of course, "All Star," it quickly devolved into a physical altercation. Alexander Feliciano '18 emitted a note so low that it registered as a 2.1 on the Richter scale, sending Divas flying. Addison Aloian '18 attempted to respond with an equally devastating high note, although she collapsed and died under the strain.

Nolan Levin '21 decided to reprise his role in "Les Misérables" by dying in the cutest yet saddest way possible. It wasn't until after the battle was over that the Beatitones realized Levin took his reprisal far too seriously.

Other combatants reportedly sustained injuries to their vocal cords, but all are recovering and in stable condition.



DEAD ON ARRIVAL: Addison Aloian '18 and Nolan Levin '21 were found dead in the Technology Commons by the Math Club seniors, who arrived at school at seven a.m. for their daily meeting.

# GREGG DISCOVERED TO BE BERRY LOVER

A.P. U.S. History students catch teacher with his hand in the berry jar

BY JOHN PATRICK  
Section Editor

A.P. United States History students Sneha Patel '19 and Ben Graham '19 were greeted by an unsettling and unexpected surprise upon their arrival at U119, recently returned tests in hand, in order to make a plea for extra points from Mr. Jeremiah C. Gregg, Chair of the History and Religious Studies Department.

"All the lights were off, the blinds were drawn. . . it was almost as if we were entering a vampire nest," Patel recalled.

"We would have turned back if Mr. Gregg hadn't made it clear that he would be free during E Block," Graham said.

The students report that there was a sizeable red stain on the door handle. Desperate for the points, however, they journeyed on into the office.

"I could tell someone had attempted to lock the door, but it was held ajar by a little red plastic basket," Patel said.

As they traversed the darkened hallway, the history students reported hearing a faint yet discernible grunting noise. They called out to their teacher, but to no avail. Graham then pointed out that the grunting grew louder as they neared Gregg's office.

The emotion behind what transpired next can only be done justice by Patel's chilling firsthand account:

"We kept on calling out, 'Mr. Gregg, Mr. Gregg,' but no one ever answered. We could only hear heavy breathing and occasional grunting. Mr. Gregg's door was closed, but we could tell that someone was definitely in there. Somehow Ben found the courage to open the door. We could only

barely make out a huddled mass sitting at the desk. The sound was clear enough that we could tell he was ravenously eating something. I flipped on the light. It was Mr. Gregg. He whirled around on his armchair. I'll never forget his teeth, stained red through and through, as he yelled, "Go!" We didn't need to be told twice. I caught a glimpse of the strawberry stems strewn across the floor as we sprinted from the office."

It is well known that Gregg had been an outspoken critic of berries since he came to the school in 2006.

"I very clearly remember him saying, 'I hate all berries. If it has the word 'berry' in it, I don't like it,'" recalls Arjun Gandhi '18, a former student. "I couldn't begin to guess why he kept this secret locked away for so long."

"My hypothesis is that it started as a white lie, then grew to the point where 'Mr. Gregg' and 'berry-hater' were practically synonymous at this school. It became an inseparable part of his persona, and, at that point, it was too late to turn back," said Tim Torkilsen, Berkeley's Global Scholars Director and resident Gregg expert.

No matter the reason, many in the Berkeley community are struggling to cope with this newfound revelation.

"I've heard a lot of people saying, 'If we can't trust that Mr. Gregg hates berries, what can we trust?'" said Gandhi.



Nina Pastore

**BERRY DELICIOUS:** A.P. U.S. History students caught their teacher, Jeremiah Gregg, eating berries in his office.

# ADMINISTRATION VIOLATES DRESS CODE

Jordan and Lindsey found "distressed" after Fanfare reveals their secret modeling life

BY ARJUN GANDHI  
Web Manager

Every Friday, Berkeley students are expected to look pristine with their modest Friday uniforms. Shouldn't our administrators do the same as the students they look to lead?

Recently, the school's administration was caught wearing what Berkeley students are taught to despise: jeans.

What could be worse here at Berkeley?

After catching all of the administrators in jeans, The Fanfare wanted to know more about this terrifying secret. We spoke with Dean of Students for grades 11 and 12, Justin Houston, about the discovery.

"The Berkeley handbook explicitly bans wearing any denim anywhere on the Berkeley campus," Houston said. "The Berkeley administration would never break such a sacred rule. We hold our dress code standards to the same high ideal as we do for all students."

Though Houston denies The Fanfare's claims, we obtained video evidence from Registrar Clem Caprara and showed it to Houston. Houston declined to comment.

The story does not end there. In the latest issue of "The Berkeley

Connection," the school's alumni magazine, an advertisement with denim model Upper Division Director Ryan Jordan was featured.

After further investigation into decades of "Vogue" and "Vanity Fair," The Fanfare has learned that Jordan has secretly been a model for Levi's for years, beginning long before he joined the Berkeley community. When The Fanfare confronted Jordan about this career he hesitated at first, but eventually agreed to talk.

"I have always loved working in education, but when I became

an administrator I no longer had the chance to express myself and be creative like I did as a teacher," he said. "Additionally, working in schools has deprived me from wearing my favorite piece of clothing and being expressive with my fashion, so I made a side career out of being a denim model."

All members of the administration are being taken to the Honor Council. The story is developing and will be updated as more information becomes available.

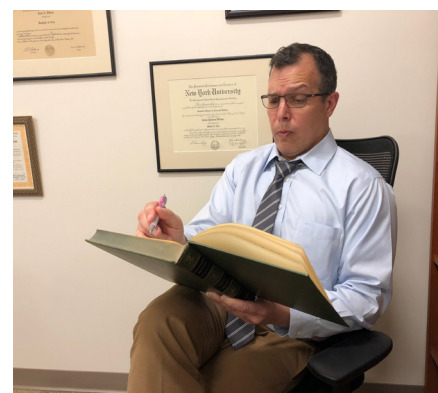


Isabella Schliack

**JEAN JACKETS ALL THE WAY:** Caroline Lindsey (left) and Ryan Jordan show off their joutfits.

# HALLWAY CHRONICLES

Carlo DiNota



Nina Pastore

**MARLOWE'S WORKS:** DiNota reads a manuscript written by Christopher Marlowe.

Director of Summer Programs Carlo DiNota will offer a new elective class next year titled "Christopher Marlowe: The Man and the Mystery." DiNota sat down with The Fanfare to discuss this new elective.

**Q: What prompted the creation of this elective?**

A: Well, as anyone who has taken one of my classes knows, Christopher Marlowe secretly authored William Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. I am finally ready to share *all* of Marlowe's secrets with the rest of the Berkeley community.

**Q: All of his secrets?**

A: Yes. For example, Christopher Marlowe not only authored Shakespeare's works, but he also authored major works by authors such as Mary Shelley and J.D. Salinger.

**Q: How do these works connect?**

A: This theory makes total sense-- from "Doctor Faustus" to "Frankenstein" to "Catcher in the Rye," Marlowe worked with eerily similar themes under different names. For example, themes of despair and Promethean ambition found in "Doctor Faustus" bear an uncanny resemblance to the characterization of Victor Frankenstein. And what about exile? There is a common theme of exile in Marlowe's oeuvre and the works attributed to Shakespeare. Doesn't Holden in "The Catcher in the Rye" feel exile too? What about Shelley's monster?

**Q: These authors lived hundreds of years apart. How could Marlowe have written all of these works?**

A: Marlowe wrote these works in a giant manuscript during his lifetime. I have even visited the archaeological site on the Isle of Wight where the manuscript was discovered. All the "great" authors, under the burden of Harold Bloom's "anxiety of influence" theory, have then visited the secret shrine that houses the manuscript, in a heavily guarded grotto in Sowley Pond, and have "borrowed" a couple of stories from the manuscript and published them under their own names. In my class, we'll examine the motivations of these fraudulent authors and more.

**Q: What can students expect during this class?**

A: Well, we'll be taking a field trip to the Fordham section of the Bronx to talk with an old Marlowe historian. She wrote a book - I'm in the acknowledgements - and I want students to gain new perspectives from other Marlowe experts. I will also be hosting a pre-exam salmon cooking class while I read articles from my blog, the "Marlowe-Shakespeare Connection." Students can expect reading accompanied by deep conversation.

Interview: Emma Edmund and Carlo DiNota.

# THE FANFARE

## PINATAS IN PERIL: PETA SUES BERKELEY FOR ANIMAL ABUSE

### Math teacher suspected of alerting animal rights group of artificial animal mistreatment

BY AUSTIN CAHN  
Assistant Web Manager

Pep rallies are an excellent way to encourage camaraderie among students and build athletic confidence, but what happens when the festivities get a bit too intense? This became a very real and pressing concern for Berkeley's administration, as the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals recently sued the school for supposed animal cruelty during the Headmaster's Challenge. PETA is currently demanding that the students responsible come forward to issue a formal apology and the school pay a fine of \$4.5 million for wanton animal abuse in the presence of minors.

"Asking for \$4.5 million seemed pretty reasonable, but requesting for Berkeley students to apologize is simply over the line," said Makayla Kent '18.

Wondering what heinous act could have warranted such a claim? PETA points to the brutalization of a green terrapin piñata and - even worse - the parading of its head around the senior deck for weeks after the rally.

Although many attempts have been made to clarify this misconception, members of the organization petitioning the school seem to be indifferent about omitting that the animal was made of cardboard.

"How would you feel if you

had candy beaten out of you by random students?" said one of the petitioners, wearing an oversized turtle costume and tossing green shells at passing cars.

More radical members of the group are currently considering changing the acronym to PETAA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Artificial Animals) as they claim artificial animals have the same right to life as any other living animal. Although the lawsuit is being mocked by students, Jolly Rogers, the club responsible for the piñata sacrifice, has been frantically trying to get the allegations to die down and the protestors off the main gate.

"We absolutely have to get the petitioners out of the road. The swarm of pigeons has joined them in their protest and have begun carrying away Lower Division students" said Cody Benjamin '18.

The whole fiasco should die down soon (as PETA's protests tend to fade out within the first few hours), and the only question perplexing students is who was the faculty member or student responsible for tipping off PETA?

The answer should be obvious for any sophomores or juniors who have taken Calculus or Algebra II courses with Ryan McLaughlin, Upper Division Mathematics

teacher, as his concerning love for reptiles seems to have no bounds.

Ball pythons slowly crawling up the desk legs, screeching frogs making a racket in the middle of testing and geckos peeping out of the ceiling tiles are all commonplace in his classes. The nurse's office has begun stocking antivenom for courageous students who get too close to his venomous snake collection, although the antivenom supply is diminishing at an alarming rate. His reptile collection and their cages supposedly takes up 70% of his house, with the other 27.5% being dedicat-

ed to calculus textbooks with a generous 2.5% to his kids' bedrooms. When asked about the recent accusations, McLaughlin just held his breath and remained completely still to blend into his surroundings.

Although the connection between McLaughlin and the PETA lawsuit has yet to be officially confirmed, many have reported seeing him hastily transporting turtle costumes across the parking lot and slapping PETA decals on random cars.



TURTLE ABUSE: PETA cites this picture as evidence of abuse within Berkeley. For more information on the presence of the skeleton, see the article below.

## COLLEGE PROCESS DRAINS THE LIFE FROM CLASS OF 2018

### Senioritis was suspected, but new evidence implicates college counseling department

BY EMMA EDMUND  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Berkeley students had to look twice to make sure they weren't dreaming. For almost a week in the Technology Commons, hunched over a calculus textbook, sat a skeleton dressed in a Berkeley hoodie. Eventually, administration removed the skeleton, and The Fanfare still awaits its identification by the coroner's office. While students ponder what caused this Berkeley student's death, members of the Class of 2018 think they know the answer: the college process.

The process, which involves non-stop Naviance updates, drowning in the Common and Coalition applications and the crippling anxiety of awaiting results, has led many students to develop zombie-like qualities. Associate Director of College Counseling, James Onwuachi, said he has noticed a considerable change in the Class of 2018.

"One day, I was chatting with one of my students, asking him about his transcript notifications at his early action schools," Onwuachi said. "The next day, he

came in with his eyes sunken into his head, and he could not stop mumbling the words 'FAFSA' and 'outside scholarships.' Just those three words, in constant repetition."

Teachers across the division have noticed the Class of 2018's slow demise. Upper Division religion teacher Christine Ortega Guarkee thought that the large number of absences from her seniors in Ethics were due to senioritis, until she got an email from Andre Armero '18 with the words "... eyes going black... too many application waivers... waive my right to read teacher recs... now I am nothing... Socrates."

Students have been advised to stay home from school to overcome the college process, and those who have been accepted Early Decision to a school of their choice have volunteered to care for their ailing classmates.

If you would like to help an ailing student of the Class of 2018, you can Venmo them at the username "seniormallskeleton," or just drop a couple of dollars into their lockers.



IT'S SPREADING: Paige Kokolakis '18 was found dead in the Technology Commons earlier this week, presumably due to the college process. She left behind a simple note, scrawled in barely-legible handwriting that reads: "Help. I accidentally wrote Wake Forest instead of Columbia for the Columbia essay. It's coming for me..."

## THE REAL LANGUAGE TEACHERS OF BERKELEY PREP

Move over, Atlanta Housewives; the real language teachers of Berkeley are coming to town

BY MARA XIONG  
Section Editor

For all those reality TV aficionados out there, be sure to check out Netflix's new show, "The Real Language Teachers of Berkeley." Starring some of our finest Spanish and French teachers, this enthralling reality show displays the details of the enticing quarrel between Upper Division world language teachers Maty Harb, Sarah Laurent and Pilar Flaskay.

Most students here in school know Harb as one of Berkeley's beloved French teachers. With a cheerful disposition, authentic accent and a 5-star review on her very own French drama (with her as the star!), it's no wonder that so many people love her.

However, Harb revealed some shocking news the other day.

"I have decided to start teaching Spanish," she declared. "From here on out, I will try to teach some Spanish classes at Berkeley, in addition to the French classes I already teach."

Harb explained the drastic change this way:

"I just became so bored with teaching French, of all languages," she said with a roll of her eyes. "After ten-plus years doing the same thing over and over, it becomes easier and easier to hate something you once loved. That happened to me – I am so sick of all the *ouïs* and *au revours*. I want to try something else. But I also recognize our school's need for

a good French teacher like me."

However, according to Laurent, another fellow French teacher, Harb's newfound distaste for the French language may not be the real reason for her desire to switch to teaching Spanish.

"She doesn't actually hate French; she just hates me," Laurent claimed when members of The Fanfare approached her for insight into Harb's resolution.

classes so that we'll all be out of jobs," she said. "Her ultimate goal is to become the head of the language department, and rule over the language classes like the evil dictator she is."

Harb had more than a few words to say about Laurent and Flaskay.

"Why would I hate anyone?" Harb said with a shake of her head. "I always knew they were jealous of me, but really, this is

Flaskay and Laurent are jealous of her singing ability, and are actively planning a smear campaign on Harb's image to ruin her reputation—and her potential singing career.

"They're just a bunch of liars," said Harb. "Always poking into my personal life, trying to find something incriminating they can use against me. And then they found out I wanted to start teaching Spanish... it became the perfect bit of blackmail."

What did other language teachers have to say about this new development?

"Honestly? I am very... bewildered, to say the least," said Upper Division world language teacher Claudia Cuervo. "I am very happy that Maty wants to try something new. Really, I am. But I was unaware there was a feud between those three."

Upper Division Spanish teacher Luz Marina Engel-Penalosa echoed Cuervo's statement with an opinion of her own.

"I had no idea they had so many conflicts," she said. "But this 'feud,' or whatever it is, is incredibly childish. Those three need to put on a more professional demeanor."

Language students may begin to wonder whether things will return to normal, especially since Harb, Flaskay and Laurent are currently not talking to each other at all. As the school year continues and the conjugations get closer, be sure to tune in to the juicy details of this quarrel!



Nina Pastore, Isabella Schiact

**GIVE ME THE DETAILS!** "The Real Language Teachers of Berkeley" is now streaming on Netflix. With one season already on the streaming site, Netflix has seen ratings jump, particularly from the Tampa Bay area.

"She hates all the Spanish teachers as well."

Flaskay, one of the many Spanish teachers at Berkeley, confirmed Laurent's accusations.

"Harb only wants to take over all the Spanish and French

taking it too far."

In case students at Berkeley were not aware, Flaskay, Laurent and Harb, in addition to being amazing teachers, are also avid aspiring singers. According to Harb's version of this "language department drama,"

## CATS BATTLE DOGS: DUEL OF THE CENTURY

The Latin Department squares off in this gripping species feud

BY KENDYL KIRTLEY  
Staff Writer

After a heated debate over these popular pets during a weekly Latin club, Jennifer Frank, an avid dog enthusiast, challenged Kathryn McDonnell, a lover of cats, to a duel inspired by Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr's from "Hamilton: An American Musical."

On a Monday after school, Frank and McDonnell marched up to each other on the Berkeley mound, armed with divergent beliefs and swords swiped from the fencing closet. Clearly miffed by the suggestion that cats are superior, Frank struggled to contain herself and, before McDonnell began the countdown, she released a full-fledged attack with enraged swipes of a blade-covered, student-friendly sword.

McDonnell, taken aback, gave the fight her all, but was brutally defeated. Ms. Frank emerged from the battlefield triumphant, affirming that her beloved canines are truly the best. However, similar to Burr's fate, she also faced devastating consequences



Isabella Schiact

**NON-STOP FIGHT:** Frank and McDonnell trained their animal armies well. Frank fed her dogs a diet of Purina and pride, while McDonnell's cats subsisted only on Fancy Feast and fury.

issued by the Honor Council on the subject of her uncivilized assault.

"The thing I regret most is beating Dr. McD," Frank said. "Not just because she was my

friend, but because now I have to serve on cafeteria duty five days a week!" As she walked away, she raised her fist in the air and yelled, "Dogs rule!"

WHAT'S YOUR AVERAGE?



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Game purchase can be charged to your bookstore account.

Isabella Schiact

# THE FANFARE

## INSIDE THE STRAIN-FARRELL FEUD! To sum it up, let's just say they're divided

BY ISABELLA SCHLACT  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

It's common knowledge that math teachers Verla Strain and Meghan Farrell are best friends... or is it? According to an insider, tensions have been brewing for years.

Strain and Farrell became buddies in 2009, bonding over their combined loves for math and school dances. In 2014, the honeymoon phase of their friendship ended. When Strain's oldest daughter, Lila Grace, needed extra math help, Farrell assumed she was first in line. "I took my daughter to David Ide instead," said Strain. "He can explain fractions in a fraction of the time. So sue me."

Rather than confronting her directly, Farrell retaliated by convincing the math department that Strain stole all of her exam problems from CalcChat. To get back at Farrell, Strain invited her to a day at Westshore Plaza, where she arranged a special showing of the math classic, "Flatland: The Movie." While this seemed like a kind gesture

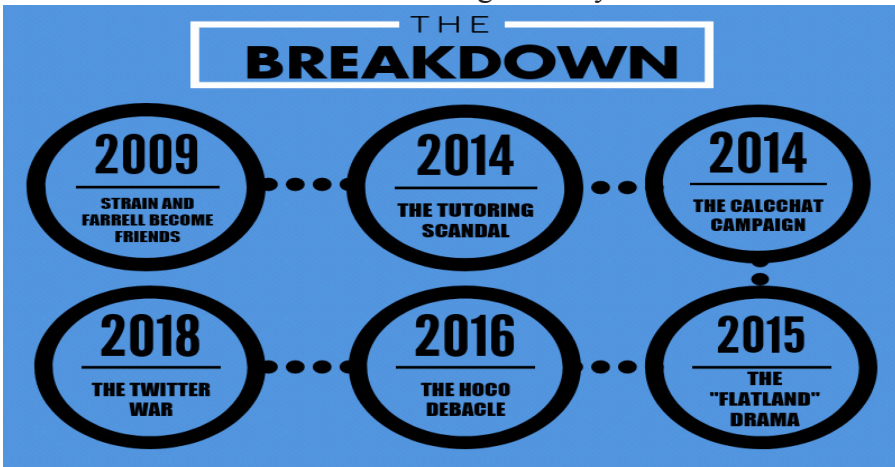
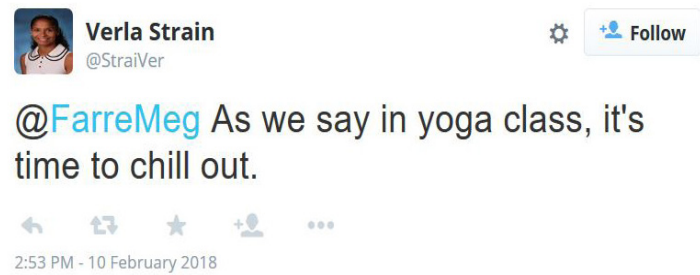
on the surface, Farrell knew better. "Verla knows that I hate that movie," Farrell said. "She's so calculating."

In 2016, Strain and Farrell filmed their short film, "The Do's and Don'ts of Homecoming." Behind the scenes, things were anything but pleasant. Farrell insisted on eating only blue M&M's, and Strain called her a "diva with a fake sine/cosine."

In 2018, Strain became friends with science teacher Carmen Raterman. In February, Strain invited Raterman to try a yoga class with goats, excluding Farrell. Farrell took to Twitter, angrily replying to Strain's goat yoga posts (see "The Twitter War"). "I have a new best friend," Strain said. "Meghan just needs to get over it. She's being totally irrational."

While it seems that Strain and Farrell have reached their limits, students are positive that the two teachers will solve their complex problems. "I hope they get to the root of things soon," said Zion Carter '19. "I need Mrs. Strain to be in a good mood when she grades my next test."

### THE TWITTER WAR



## HONORS PHYSICS ENGINEERING: MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Elon Musk has sought the help of Dr. Kline and his brilliant robotics geniuses

BY SAMIR SAEED  
Staff Writer

Last Friday, Elon Musk, founder, CEO and lead designer of SpaceX was spotted on Berkeley Campus. According to eye witness accounts, Elon Musk shared a meal of raw nuts, kale and berries with Upper Division Science teacher, Dr. R. Scott Kline in the Dean's Conference room. When asked about the topic of the secret meeting, Kline declined to give details, but said "let's just say it is out of this world."

Later in the day, Musk was also seen exiting the robotics lab after G Block Physics. Colton Ray '21, Honors Physics Engineering student and low-key genius, claimed that Musk has enrolled the help of the robotics team on his next big project, but gave no further infor-



**SNEAKING AROUND:** Elon Musk tries to slip out of the Robotics room unnoticed after meeting with Dr. Kline.

mation. It has also been rumored that several science teachers will be leaving Berkeley to pursue a new career in space travel. Musk was unavailable for comment, as he was vacationing at his private space station.

Many have speculated that after launching his SpaceX missions to Mars, Musk will turn his attention towards Jupiter—specifically, colonization of Ganymede, one of Jupiter's 69 moons. One of the projects in-

involved in colonization is drilling 100 miles into the crust of the moon to gain access to water.

It is believed this is where the Honors Physics Engineering students would come in. According to inside sources (definitely not Zoey Hildebrandt '21), they are charged with the task of overcoming the circularity, position or perpendicularity errors of robotic drilling caused by their low stiffness and anisotropic behavior. With Musk's visit to the robotics lab, many believe that their next project will be constructing a massive Satellite Surface to Core Drill that would allow Musk's team to drill into Ganymede's crust.

All this secrecy begs the question: what is Honors Physics Engineering hiding?