

THE FANFARE



presents...

22-23 TIME CAPSULE

Photo Credit: Lily Shirmohammad '26

INSIDE TODAY: *MEANING OF THE THEME*

This year, The Fanfare documented favorite student events, trends and clubs of the 22-23 academic year. We brought our readers a time capsule of the memories and moments that made this year at Berkeley unique. From exciting theater productions to the introduction of ChatGPT, our team of writers captured

it all. The Time Capsule edition of The Fanfare is a must-read for anyone who wants to remember the highlights of the 22-23 academic year and gain a deeper appreciation for the history of our community. Join us as we journey through time and explore the rich tapestry of Berkeley's past, present and future.

HOW THE “PLASTICS” CAME TO LIFE: BTS OF “MEAN GIRLS”

By Aryana Makati, Editor-in-Chief

“On Wednesdays, we wear pink.” And on Friday nights, we go to Berkeley’s production of “Mean Girls.” And let me tell you, it was so “fetch.”

It’s not every day that you see high school students embodying the iconic roles of Regina George, Cady Heron and the Plastics, but that’s exactly what happened at Berkeley. The school’s theater department put on their own rendition of the hit movie-turned-musical, “Mean Girls,” and it had already caused quite a stir since Theater Director Chris Marshall’s ambiguous convo announcement. From rehearsals to set design, this production promised to be a showstopper since the beginning. Let’s take a closer look at the creative process and hard work that went into this high school production.

To put it bluntly, organizing a musical is rigorous. Auditions are held in the first week of November, and roles are released after Thanksgiving break. But before casting even begins, the play reading committee, consisting of a select group of students, chooses the fall and spring plays at the end of the year. Backstage manager Kavi Pandya ’23 said, “Marshall gives us a bunch of options, and then everybody’s required to rate them.” Initially, *Legally Blonde* was selected for the fall performance, but they switched to *Mean Girls* after Music Theatre International (MTI) released the rights for high schools to use the scripts. “Marshall had always joked with Ava [LeBeau ’23], Izzie [Adams ’23] and Mercy [Roberts ’23] about being the plastics,” Pandya said, “and then the rights came out, and it was perfect timing for our senior class. We wanted to be one of the first schools to do it.”

And so, the process began. From 3:30 to 6, students worked tirelessly to bring the Plastics’ world to life. For the first few weeks of rehearsal, the cast sat in the chorus room and learned their songs, harmonies and lyrics—the backbone of musical production. Feb. 1 marked the start of staging: the process of positioning props and actors in the performance space—this was primarily Marshall’s job. The cast would go through each scene with schedules, crafted by Pandya, for each day. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays were typically “choero days.” Hired from Corbett Prep, their choreographer Seth Travaglino

(Trav) taught each dance and reviewed the cast’s performance a week later to “clean up.” Having experience crafting dances on the cheer team, Sophie Adams ’24 planned the choreography for the fan-favorite song “Sexy.” “This was my first year choreographing a full number by myself,” Adams admitted. “I was really worried about my dance not living up to the Berkeley standard, and I had to ensure that it was amazing for my sister’s (Izzie Adams ’23) senior solo. But this pressure only motivated me to work even harder.”

“Mean Girls” fans know that the movie and Broadway show aren’t exactly PG. One of the cast’s obstacles was to adapt the production for a high school audience while still staying true to its original content. Pandya explained that the production team had a list of approved changes provided by MTI that they could choose from. These changes included altering lines with inappropriate language and rephrasing some sensitive scenes. For example, the line “little a** white girl booty” had to be changed to “little rich white girl booty.” In another scene, a song



STAGING THE SCENE: Director Chris Marshall and Tech Director Chris Cook talk about the set and placement of the bed. (Photo Credit: Lily Ross ’23)

about flipping someone off—“I’d Rather Be Me”—had to be creatively handled to convey the message without showing obscenity. “We let Hadley [Ciesla ’23, actress of Janis Ian] flip someone off by having Ben [Pastore ’23, actor of Damien Leigh] cover her hands throughout the song,” Pandya said.

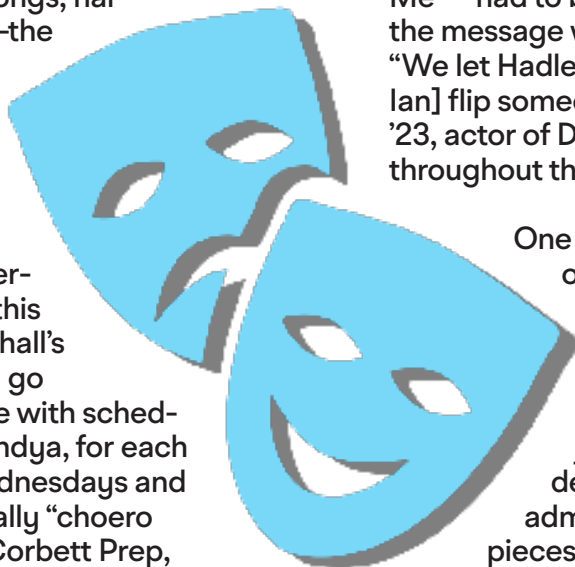
One of the most difficult parts of the play are all the moving pieces. And “Mean Girls” especially has a lot of moving pieces. From bathroom stalls and desks to Broadway projections (created by a lighting designer in New York), Marshall admitted that composing these pieces is the hardest part of the show: “Oh, there’s just so many things to juggle



INSIDE THE BOX: Isha Patel ’24 controls the lighting on an Ion Xe panel from inside the box. (Photo Credit: Isha Patel ’24)

at once!” he said. “My time working with the actors and singers is most enjoyable; it’s really all the other elements that are so difficult casting.” To make the transition scenes efficient, furniture pieces (built by Chris Cook, Performance Facilities Manager) have to live on wheeled platforms that can be pulled on and off the stage. These types of props are called “sleds,” and the period of time they are moved in is called a “tag” or “play-off.” What makes this show especially difficult, however, is the amount of set pieces. Pandya said, “There’s tons of furniture and not enough space on the side of the stage, so I have to shuffle where everything is and figure out how we’re going to get the next thing on the stage fast enough.” While Pandya takes charge of set pieces, backstage manager Isha Patel ’24 and Cook are in charge of lighting. This primarily takes place during “Tech Week” (aka “Hell Week”): the weekend and week days leading up to the show. Patel builds light cues and presses all the buttons responsible for changing the lighting every time there is a transition scene—it’s a tedious task.

Regina George is one of the most iconic characters in early 2000s films. As LeBeau described, she is the “Queen Bee of the school.” But the Broadway show portrays her character as more complex than it appears to be. The cast was well familiar with Regina’s role based on the 2009 movie; however, LeBeau took a different approach to playing her: “I wanted to just completely detach myself from the stereotypical mean girl: a total rude person who has bad intentions,” LeBeau said, “because she really is just a teenage girl. I worked hard to find Regina’s humility and vulnerability by perceiving her more as a holistic person.” Regina’s character changes throughout the show, and LeBeau was also responsible for reflecting these changes through body language. She explained her biggest challenge was getting Regina’s char-



acter “into [her] body.” “It’s a hard physicality to perfect,” LeBeau admitted. “And it’s very, very specific. You have to have this kind of confidence and aura around you at all times. You can’t slouch. You can’t tense your shoulders. And you have to be physically open all

fun with it as well. From wearing pink each Wednesday at rehearsals to filming promo videos, the seniors savored their last few moments under the spotlight. They even made a group Tik Tok account (@bps_mean-girls) with behind the scenes footage and trendy jokes.



PERFECTING THE PLASTICS: Macy mimics the “Burn Book” in her mood board for costumes of the *Plastics*. (Photo Credit: Macy Smith)

the time, which I had to work on a lot.”

LeBeau and Macy Smith, the costume designer, were able to solve this problem by incorporating bedazzled, pink platform heeled converse—they’re very Regina George—into the costume design. This way, Lebeau was able to stand taller and “carry [herself] with a different posture than [she] would have wearing flat-footed shoes.” For each character, Smith creates “mood boards” with different outfit pieces that reflect the aesthetic of each character so she knows what type of clothes to look for on Shein and Amazon. For Smith, it was essential to build an accurate inventory for each character because the costumes played an important role in the play, especially for Regina’s character. Her style evolution helps to communicate how she feels about herself in that moment. LeBeau explains that Regina wears tighter clothes in the beginning of the play because she “likes her body and feels very attractive;” however, when she gains weight near the end, Regina is shown wearing sweatpants and looser clothes that don’t fit right. “The physical aspect of being unhappy with your body is not easy to play,” LeBeau said, “but costumes make it much easier to communicate.”

Though putting on “Mean Girls” consisted of tedious work and long hours, the cast had

To a lot of the actors and actresses, “Mean Girls” takes place outside of their lifetime. But to Marshall and other adults, the show is reminiscent of their high school and the past: “It’s been fun to recreate a time that feels kind of close to us as adults,” Marshall said. We’re all familiar with this iconic film, but he wanted to put more emphasis on “what Tina Fey did when she wrote the musical.” The first line of “A Cautionary Tale” says it all: “mean is easier than nice.” And what Marshall hopes the audience will takeaway is that “it’s so much better to be nice” than it is to be mean: “I think all of us has had that time where we feel like we want to be negative, or make complaints or mean because everybody else is doing it,” he said.

“BUT WHAT WE REALLY SHOULD DO IS BE OURSELVES. IN THE WORDS OF THE MUSICAL, ‘WE’RE ALL STARS.’ THAT’S WHAT MAKES US ALL STARS. AND IT’S A REALLY BEAUTIFUL STORY IN THAT WAY.”
- MARSHALL

(More photos on page 11)

POLITICAL DISCOURSE CLUB

WHAT Join political discourse, where you can discuss topics you are passionate about or learn more about important issues!

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WHEN Every Thursdays

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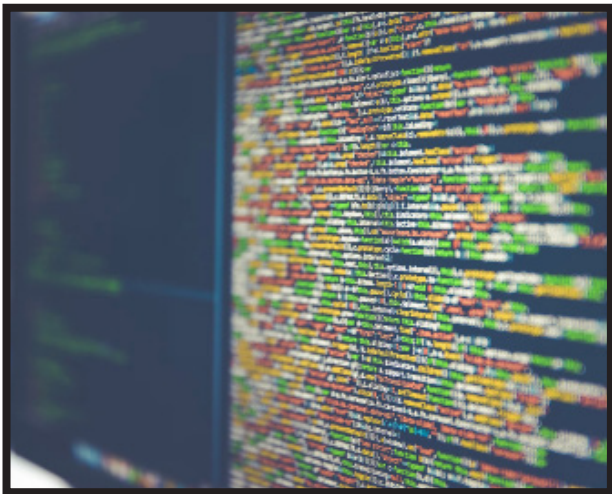


LUNCH CHAOS: Ben Pastore '23 sings “Where do you Belong?” with enthusiasm. (Photo Credit: Lily Shirmohammad '26)

BOTS AT BERKELEY: FACULTY/STUDENT OPINIONS ON CHATGPT

By Zoya Jooma, Staff Writer

Do you need more time to write your English paper? Are you nervous about the fast-approaching deadline for your history essay? Well, good thing you have ChatGPT to help solve your writing dilemmas! At least, that is where the minds of some students go when they think of the recently developed chatbot. Although it can be used for working computer code or creating online games, schools—including Berkeley—quickly discovered ChatGPT's potential to write essays and solve problems. While many teachers have started to take steps against ChatGPT because of the prospect of students cheating, others believe that it can be helpful in the classroom.



DID YOU MEAN...?: ChatGPT is essentially an advanced auto-completion system. (Photo Credit: Unsplash)

"I first heard about ChatGPT around Christmas, a couple of months ago," said Patrick Mooney, an English 9 and 10 teacher. When the company OpenAI launched ChatGPT in late November 2022 for public use, students and teachers were surprised by its capabilities. Besides having free access, the chatbot is easy to use and can follow specific directions to imitate human writing styles. For example, if you were to tell ChatGPT to write an essay on climate change in the way that a middle schooler would, it could carry out the task competently. However, the bot has some faults, including its limited access to contemporary information. As you log on, the website warns you that the current version of ChatGPT only contains data through September 2021. So—as a fact that will come as

sad news to many procrastinating writers—ChatGPT is not faultless. It is entirely capable of reporting inaccurate information, especially concerning newer topics.

After ChatGPT was released, an immediate possibility that came to the minds of teachers was the potential for cheating. When asked whether he was worried about his freshmen students plagiarizing the chatbot's words, history teacher Joshua Pincus said, "I wasn't necessarily concerned, though I knew it was a possibility. I know how my students write, and I have a general understanding of how high school students write." Adding on to Pincus's words, ChatGPT's writing is not very advanced, and it can be differentiated from the writing of a high schooler. The bot is able to describe events and theories well, but it struggles with analyzing content. Another of ChatGPT's faults is its inability to convey emotion in its writing. It can draw information from sources to create a piece of writing that sounds credible and authoritative, but the words lack style. In the words of Mike Speer, the technology director at Berkeley, "Not to offend any eighth graders, but [ChatGPT] kind of writes like an eighth grader." When asked a specific question, the chatbot tends to begin its answer by restating the prompt given by the user. This makes the writing seem more juvenile, as well as less creative.

In general, Berkeley's teachers do not appear too worried about their students using ChatGPT as a cheating method. Some even view it as a viable source, if its use is cited. Rather, teachers are more concerned about the inaccurate information the bot can produce. ChatGPT is essentially an advanced autocomplete system, or to put it like Speer, "autocomplete on steroids." Both Speer and Pincus compared it to the autocomplete feature on Messages, which gives you suggestions of what words to use in your texts. To generate its responses, ChatGPT has scanned a huge amount of writing from the internet. Based on that writing, it chooses what it believes is the next best word for its sentences. This can lead to errors, or misleading information because the chatbot is not "thinking," as humans can, or checking its writing for incorrect facts. It is simply picking words based on the thousands of texts that have been fed into it. So, to students who plan on using ChatGPT, keep in mind that its words can be fiction. It can have a confident tone,

but the information it produces is a result of text generation.

To place ChatGPT in a more positive light, many Berkeley teachers believe it has the potential to benefit education further. Speer described one unique way of using ChatGPT in that teachers can test their writing prompts on it. "If ChatGPT can produce a quality response to this prompt, then why are we asking humans to answer it?" he said. Using the bot's writing as feedback, teachers can tailor their prompts to be more specific and less viable for chatbots. Besides being useful to the administration, students can use ChatGPT in a multitude of ways. As an idea generator, for instance, it can be used to help students begin their writing pieces or get their thoughts in order. Additionally, it can be used to explain difficult concepts in simpler terms. This could be helpful in science classes, for instance, where the understanding of key terms is critical. The trouble with this is, once again, the chatbot's potential for errors. If you ask ChatGPT to explain a concept that you do not understand, you have no way of knowing if the explanation is correct and reliable. Overall, ChatGPT has the potential to be a positive tool, but students should understand its limitations. As Pincus said, "It's important for students to understand this tool as both what it is and what it isn't."

Besides using ChatGPT for schoolwork, Berkeley students have used it in other ways. When asked about his use of the technology, freshman Luke Ewanowski '26 said he used it to create a song: "It's a pretty fun AI because you can use it for creative tasks, like songwriting." A member of the debate team said that she has heard of other teams using the chatbot at tournaments and thinks of it as a "neat resource." These examples prove the possibility of ChatGPT becoming an everyday tool in the lives of students and teachers. It is not something to fear but rather a new piece of technology to embrace and make use of.

“THE INVENTION OF CALCULATORS DIDN'T STOP US FROM TEACHING MATH.”
- KEVIN KUSWA

And just as calculators became another tool in the math classroom, it's probable that ChatGPT will soon become incorporated into our lives here at Berkeley.

BREAKTHROUGH AT THE BALLOTS: SENIOR PARTICIPATION IN MIDTERMS

By Grace Dorion, Staff Writer

In the 2022 midterm elections, record numbers of young people from all across the country casted their ballots in an effort to make their voices heard. Political analysts, who often lament the low turnout among young voters, were both shocked and happily surprised. In comparison to the previous midterm elections, the national youth vote increased by roughly 12 percent.

Young people, who have traditionally been the least active voting group, are starting to create a significant shift in political engagement. Many question why people ages 18 to 24 have suddenly developed high political efficacy. This can be attributed to a number of factors. For some, it may be targeted outreach efforts by political campaigns and other advocacy groups. For others, it may be increased activism and political awareness. However, the biggest factor has likely been the pandemic. During the COVID-19 lockdown, many young people across the country were more personally affected by the social and economic upheaval of the past year than ever before.

“THE FIRST TIME I WENT THEY HAD EVERY-ONE CHEER FOR ME BECAUSE I WAS A FIRST TIME VOTER. 3/4THS OF THE CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS I VOTED FOR ARE GOING INTO RUNOFFS NOW, SO IT’S COOL TO SEE YOUR VOTE ACTUALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”
- MAKAYLA DOYLE’23

Politicians from both political parties have taken notice in this surge in youth engagement. A longtime advocate for youth empowerment, Senator Elizabeth Warren, views the increase in the youth vote as a sign of progress. “Young people are the future of our country,” she said in an interview. “Their voices matter, and it’s exciting to see them taking an active role in shaping our democracy.”

Senator Mitch McConnell has also commented on the significance of the youth vote. “It’s encouraging to see more young people participating in the political process,” he said, “but we need to do more to make sure that every voice is heard, and that includes young people.”

In our own school, we’ve seen this so-called surge in the youth vote. Seniors were spotted with their “I Voted” stickers on their laptops, water bottles and shirts during midterm election season. Berkeley seniors were invited to participate in a survey that would give us an insight into their voting experience and what drove them to cast their ballot in November.

The survey began by asking a respondent how they would rate their knowledge of

current events on a scale from one to ten. Over 80% of the respondents chose a five or greater, and over 60% chose a seven or greater. If a respondent’s perceived knowledge of current events is the same as their actual knowledge of current events, it is suggested that younger people today are more informed and engaged with current events than previous generations. There are numerous things that may have contributed to this.

First, technology. It is easier than ever before for young people to access information and stay up-to-date on current events. The rise of social media and digital news sources have made accessing a wide range of news and information from around the world as easy as clicking a button.

Second, education. Over the last couple of decades, many schools and universities have begun to offer courses and programs focused on leadership development and civic

education, the study of the rights and obligations of citizens in society—both of which can help young people develop a deeper understanding of current events and their role in shaping society.

Third, the issues that our society faces today have shaped the opinions of newer voters. Political and social

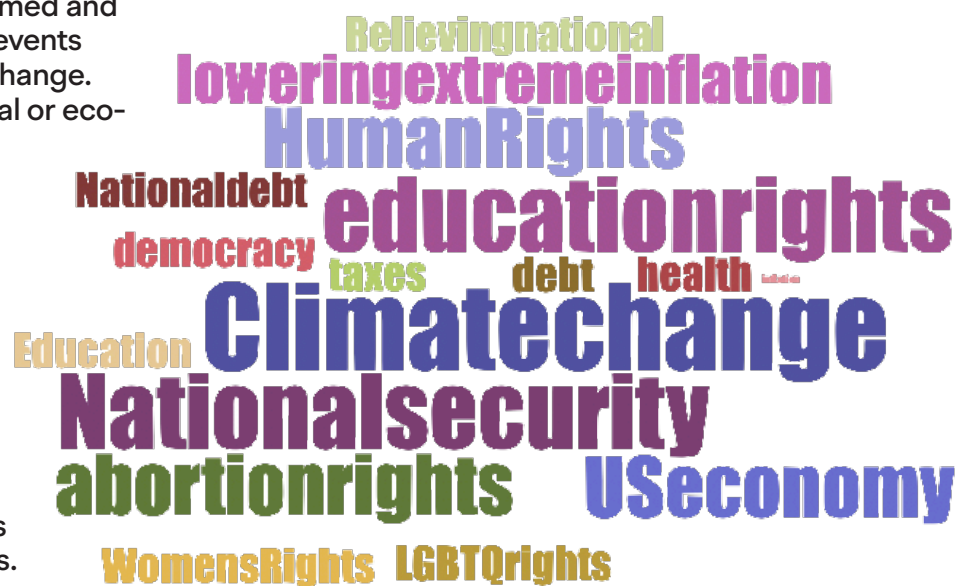
issues like climate change, racial justice and economic inequality are most noticeable for younger generations. Younger voters are more likely to experience the long-term effects and consequences of these issues than the voters of older generations. Because of this, young people have become more motivated to stay informed and engaged with current events as a way to influence change. When asked what social or economic issue was most important to them, our own Berkeley seniors stated issues like climate change, human rights, healthcare rights, inflation, debt and national security.

A recent phenomenon is the influence parents have on younger voters. There are both benefits and challenges to voting alongside one’s parents’ political preferences. On a positive note, it models the importance of political par-

ticipation and creates a shared experience of voting. Parents and other family members can help young voters feel more connected to the political process and more invested in shaping the future of their communities and their country. However, younger voters may feel pressure to vote the same way as their parents or may feel uncomfortable expressing their own opinions if they differ from those of their family members.

About two-thirds of respondents said they did not vote with their parents, while one-third did vote with their parents. When asked whether they shared the same political views as their parents, 50% of respondents said yes, while 30% said no. The remaining 20% stated that the answer was a little more complex. Some said that their parents had separate political views, while others said that they shared the same beliefs on certain topics but differed on others.

In closing, the surge in youth engagement in the political process is a promising sign for the future of our democracy. The increase in youth voter turnout during the 2022 midterm elections can be attributed to a variety of factors, including targeted outreach efforts, increased activism and political awareness, and the impact of the pandemic. Technology, education, and the pressing social and economic issues of our time have also contributed to a more informed and engaged younger generation. While the influence of parents on younger voters can have both positive and negative effects, it is clear that young people are eager to have their voices heard and make a difference in the world. As we move forward, it is important to continue encouraging and supporting youth political engagement and involvement in shaping the future of our country.



SURVEY OF IMPORTANT ISSUES: Listed above are issues students reported as significant to them. (Source: Google Form sent to Class of '23)

READY, SET, SNOW!: BERKELEY'S FIRST SNOWBALL DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

Tarun Chapalamadugu, Staff Writer

You walk onto the field. Beside you are your teammates, who are just as determined to win. On the other side of the field are the competitors who you want to decimate. As snowballs are placed onto the field, your heart races. Ready, Set, Go!

The first annual Snowball Dodgeball tournaments took place from Jan. 23 through 27. During these events, eight teams of 10 would square down against each other to see who was the best of them all. With a bracket-style tournament and snacks attendees, everyone was ready for war.



GEARED UP: The “Italian Army” was prepared for absolute decimation. (From left to right: Cabe McCraw '26, Harrison Corcell '26, Krish Sujamani '26, Sam Zhang '26, Aadi Patel '26, Gaines Zinober '26, Miller Klapman '26, Alex Margas '26, Tarun Chapalamadugu '26 and Hank Burroughs '26) (Photo Credit: Allyson Fletcher)

The Snowball Dodgeball matches worked like this. There was a battlefield on the mound divided into fourths with two buckets of snowballs at the very center of the court. One person would rush to the center line and retrieve the bucket of snowballs. Just like in dodgeball, when a player was hit they were out of the game. However, players were not allowed to catch snowballs. Snow could also be taken from the ground to form new snowballs—it was a chilling twist to the classic dodgeball formula.

“The rules we made had a lot to do with safety requirements,” JJ Jackson '24 said. “When we brought the idea to Dean Lindsey, she asked us how we would prevent certain injuries from happening.” If there were equal amounts of players on both sides when time ran out or there were no more snowballs, then a duel would occur. The team member who was responsible for retrieving the snowballs stood back to back with the other

team’s snowball retriever. Each would take ten paces and then fire. This process would continue until someone got out.

After the first match, a rule was added that on the last minute of a match the outermost quarters of the field would have to be evacuated by players or else they were out. There were also movable barriers that competitors could use to block incoming attacks. However, players were not allowed to build blockades with these barriers. Over time, barriers would be taken off of the field by Student Library Proctors (SLPs). With all rules set in place, it was time for war. The teams were as follows: Ary’s Animals, The Meerkats, Beep Boop Beep Boop ..., The Italian Army, Andy’s Mumble Marauders, Birds for the Bourgeoisie, Davis Island Charter School and—last but not least—Dodge Gods.

On the first day, Ary’s Animals were eaten away by the Meerkats. Just after, Andy’s Mumble Marauders hammered away against the Birds for the Bourgeoisie. In the next bracket, the five person squad of Beep Boop Beep Boop ... was shot down by the Italian Army while Davis Island Charter School struck down the Dodge Gods. On day two, the Italian Army was outgunned by the Meerkats, and Davis Island Charter School laid down the law against Andy’s Mumble Marauders. On the final day, after an intense few matches, the Meerkats had outgunned and outmatched all other



READY FOR BATTLE!: Team members wind up for the first few throws of the game. (From left to right: Noah Sams '25, Blake Miller '25, Will Watson '25 and Colby Estes '25) (Photo Credit: Lily Shirmohammad '26)

teams except for one: the Teachers. “We didn’t ever root for teams or wanted certain teams to lose, although, we wish that some teams went farther than they did. I loved the amount of energy that was present and loved the routines of the teams,” Allyson Fletcher said.

Nancy Cannon, Technology Department Operations Manager, decided to become the effective teacher team leader as she was concerned about teachers quitting at the last minute. To combat these fears, she started recruiting every teacher she knew and was “pitching the idea like a used car salesman.” Besides recruiting the teachers, she also came up with ideas for how the Teachers would eventually cheat their way to victory.



GLORIOUS VICTORY: The Meerkats bask in their victory as they won the First Annual Snowball Dodgeball Tournament. (From left to right: Pablo Arcila '23, Rishi Sadanandan '23, Keon Keely '23, Skyler Fletcher '26, Julius Pfau '24, Burke Bassler '26, Natalie Kelly '23, Matthew Wedge '26, Anthony Aceveado '24 and Wilson Schafer '26) (Photo Credit: Allyson Fletcher)

“To help recruit some teachers onto the team, I promised that we would use shields so that way the teachers who didn’t want to get hit would still participate.” To make her flamethrower, Cannon attached fabric into a leaf blower, so it would look like flames coming out. The Teachers’ plan was a well kept secret, as on the final day, Jackson '24 was shocked to see what was unfolding.

“I wasn’t actually informed about what was going on until I saw it the day of the event. I kind of liked how Ms. Fletcher kept it a secret from me because she knows I would’ve immediately shut the idea down,” Jackson '24 said. When all was said and done, the Meerkats tied against the Teachers and ultimately prevailed as the first ever snowball dodgeball champions.

OBSCURE CLUBS OF BERKELEY: LEARN ABOUT THE CLUBS YOU DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED!

Taylor Rauber, Staff Writer; Gaby Hernandez, Staff Photographer

ORIGAMI CLUB

WHERE/WHEN?:

Origami club meets every Wednesday during lunch in room G115.

TYPICAL MEETING:

The club starts off by talking and catching up, then they have a spreadsheet with activities they do every week and finally they do origami in a group session.

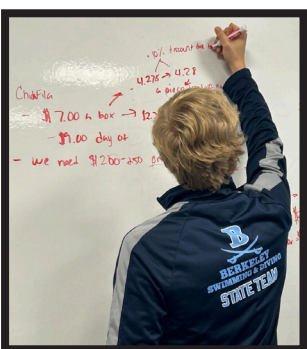
WHY GO?: "I enjoy the connections that you make,"

said Angel Cardona, '23, who runs the club meetings. "I think it's a cool bonding activity. It gives a lot of positive energy, and it's a way to cater to your mental health. School shouldn't always be about academics, and origami club presents a break from that."



FOLLOW THE LEADER: Angel Cardona '23 shows students how to fold the paper properly.

MODEL ROCKET CLUB

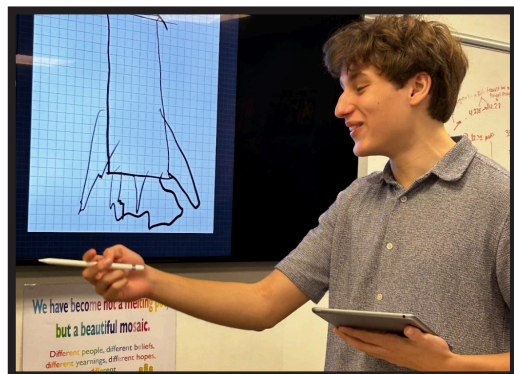


THE PRICE TO PAY: Garret Richter '24 plans out the funding necessary for their rocket models.

WHY GO?: "Being able to explore our own design opportunities and be creative with what we do. This club offers a lot of opportunity for self-expressive engineering," said Neil Risal '24. He also mentioned that many other clubs have a lot stricter time restrictions, so even though it is less of a time commitment, you are still able to pursue the same engineering opportunities you would have in the robotics club.

WHERE/WHEN?: Model Rocket Club meets every Wednesday during lunch in U135.

TYPICAL MEETING: After students walk in, they go over the plans for the day, work on designing their own rocket and go over teaching components. Currently, the club members are physically putting their rockets together and using sustainable materials such as cardboard to do so.



DISCUSSIONS & DRAWINGS: Lucas Reily '24 explains the sketch of his rocket.

COOKING CLUB

WHERE/WHEN?: Cooking Club meets every Tuesday during lunch in S215.

TYPICAL MEETING: Club members eat food, learn about how to make the food and also bond over cooking. In the past, they have made their own butter, charcuterie boards and tacos.

WHY GO?: "It is a really nice atmosphere to be around, and you get to learn what other people like to eat. Also, you can learn more about people's cultures through the food I eat," said Scarlett Ray '25. She also mentioned it's refreshing to be in an environment where everyone around you loves cooking.



TACO TUESDAY: Scarlett Ray '25 gathers the necessary ingredients to make her own taco.

FASHION club

WHERE/WHEN? Fashion Club meets every Thursday during lunch in U143.

TYPICAL MEETING:

Meetings are mostly informal as the club discusses any news in the fashion industry or anything fashion related that is on students' minds. For example, they discussed MSCHF's trending "Big Red Boot." They also do something called forecasting, in which they predict future fashion trends.

WHY GO?: "I would say my favorite part is how informal it is. A lot of Berkeley is very structured and rigid, so to have a forum where you can just talk about something you're interested in and not think about homework is a great opportunity," said Zev Huneycutt '23.



STATEMENTS IN STYLE: Zev Huneycutt '23 explains the regular activities of Fashion Club.

WORDS FROM WESTERFIELD: THE BERKELEY CHOIR EXPERIENCE

By Emma Colitz, Staff Writer

During certain blocks of the day, the loud sound of a melodious piano can be heard in the student lounge and throughout the upstairs hallways in the Gries Center. The source of the noise is, of course, the Berkeley choir room (G228). Upon entering the room, one can see a wall full of Broadway Playbills and a semi-circle of black chairs. The aforementioned piano can be seen on full display in the center of the room. On top of the music folder cabinet, there are a plethora of trophies and plaques for various choral achievements obtained by Berkeley singers over the years.

However, most members of the Berkeley choirs would agree that the choir room doesn't hold much value without its usual occupant: Helen Westerfield, the Berkeley choir director. "We're not just a choir class, but rather a family thanks to Westerfield," said Isabella Loparco '26. Westerfield's warm and sunny outlook on music has drawn in plenty of new students each year to participate in choir. She stated that the most rewarding part of her job is watching students grow and become more confident as singers. In her own words, there is something "magical" that happens when people come together and sing.

Westerfield has a reputation for being welcoming to everyone and for always promoting an encouraging singing environment. In fact, she has been known to summon prospective students who are touring Berkeley into the choir room and have her students perform a piece for them and their families. She offered wise words of advice to anyone who is hesitant to put themselves out there by joining choir: "You can put experienced voices together with

the voices of brand new singers and blend a really good sound!" She emphasized the importance of teamwork within the realm of choral music, stating that everyone's individual voice does its part to contribute to the final result.

From two annual concerts to frequent performances in convo, the choirs of Berkeley certainly have a packed schedule. "I just love the Tampa Tree Lighting," said Westerfield, when asked what her favorite event that the choirs participate in is. At the Tree Lighting, Berkeley singers have the opportunity to sing in front of a crowd, gathered in downtown Tampa to see the city's massive Christmas tree be lit and to ring in the holiday season.

Although the large combined Berkeley choral group often performs together at events, there are actually three distinct choral groups to which Westerfield contributes: Cantabella, Berkeley Singers and Mello Divas. Cantabella is a small

group comprised of freshman girls, which provides them the unique opportunity to form a strong bond through music during their first year of Upper Division. Berkeley Singers is a coed group open to anyone in grades nine through 12, and Westerfield cites the supportive, familial atmosphere from people across all walks of student life as something that makes Singers particularly special. The Mello Divas are an audition-only acapella group, who

can easily be recognized by their signature black outfits with bright red shoes and red lipstick. "It's extraordinary to be able to have acapella music within the school day and to be able to focus on something so specific," said Westerfield.

In addition to the Tree Lighting, the spring choir concert featuring singers from sixth through twelfth grade is one of Westerfield's favorite events of the year. She particularly appreciates the large age gap between the singers because she loves to watch the students both inspire and learn from each other. "It's just an extraordinary experience to have a sixth-grader standing next to a senior and singing the same song," she said.

The 2023 spring choir concert will be held on May 10th at 6:30 PM in the Lykes Center. The theme for this year is "Home," and Westerfield encourages students and faculty to come out and watch a night of entertaining performances.



HOLIDAY SPIRIT: Members of the Mello Divas pose at the Tampa Tree Lighting. (Photo Credit: Helen Westerfield)

Congratulations

Oliver & Chase

2023 CHESS TOURNAMENT WINNERS



Upper Division POLL RESULTS

BEST ALBUM OF 2022

1. Her Loss
2. Midnights
3. Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers

BEST FAST FOOD NEAR BERK

1. Chick-Fil-A
2. Fresh Kitchen
3. Culvers

BEST BREAK SALE TREAT

1. Chicken Minis
2. Dippin Dots
3. Xtreme Juice

BEST STUDY HALL AREA

1. Library
2. Gries
3. The Café

ONE (WO)MAN SHOW: CAYLEIGH REID

By Conor Reid, Staff Writer

Last year, Cayleigh Reid '24 wanted to try out wrestling. As a black-belt in Tae-Kwon Doe, the highest rank one can attain, she already had much experience in combat sports. When asked why she joined wrestling Reid said, "I was convinced to join by a friend. She got hurt and quit the sport, but I stayed." Reid joined the Berkeley girls wrestling team the first year that it was a sanctioned FHSAA sport. The sport of wrestling has attracted girls for years, but this was the first year that they had their own dedicated member. Wrestling is known for being one of the most challenging sports, both mentally and physically. When asked why she persevered, Reid credited her teammates, saying, "Without the team I would have quit for sure, but they made me feel welcomed and like a family."

From being 3-17 in her first year of wrestling, to achieving within two wins of competing in the state competition, she has experienced a fair share of ups and downs during the season. Next year, Reid hopes to build upon her recent successes and obtain the rank of top eight in the state, becoming the first female wrestler in Berkeley wrestling history to reach this accomplishment.



SMILE OF CHAMPS: Cayleigh Reid '24 pictured holding her 3rd place medal from Districts at Boca Ciega High School. (Photo Credit: Cayleigh Reid '24)

E U I D W J C Y Q G L C S J R
 S S S H O A O A W H R T K M G
 I N V U J H M D Z I K G J H O
 R O F F C A M P U S L U N C H
 N X U U P D E I Y G V X S M M
 U B W U Q B N K Q C X C T D I
 S E D A S L C S T X X V Q G S
 R Y S I G L E R H D Y Y I R H
 O H T O A T M O E Q T B A X P
 I L Q M V A E I J I L W K Q J
 N S Q T B R N N B G R C M X M
 E G B X R M T E Z E P C H J Y
 S Y M D W Q G S T J K F M D C
 T E T A E R U A L A C C A B M
 B E I D R X W Q J R Z L Y J N

Senior (SCAV) ENGER
 By Lilly Ross, Staff Photographer

Baccalaureate
Commencement

Off campus lunch
Senior skip day

Senior sunrise
Water wars

FANFARE'S TOP 22 OF 2022: THINGS THAT STOOD OUT TO US!

By Lily Shirmohammad & Yasmin Virani, Staff Writers

1. ALBUM: MIDNIGHTS

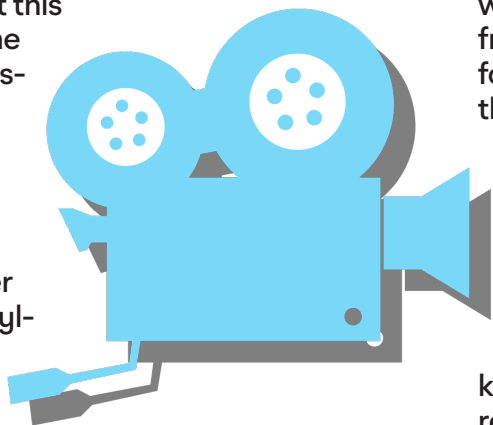
One of the most iconic events of the year was Taylor Swift's journey of *Midnights*. *Midnights* is the tenth studio album by American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift. Over the month of October, Swift produced an album with a trail of creative hints leading up to the release date and many music video drops. This album was voted the number-one hit of 2022.

2. FASHION: Y2K FLAIRS/LOW WAISTED

The iconic 2000s fashion trend made a comeback into the 2022 cycle. 2020 was the year of high-waisted pants, which helped promote many body image campaigns. When the trend of low-waisted pants came back, many began to question if strict body standards would come back. This low-jean style can be found in flares, cargo and parachute pants.

3. SHOW: WEDNESDAY

After dipping in and out of the #1 spot on Netflix for five weeks after release, it is fair to say that "Wednesday" is the most popular show of 2022. This captivating Netflix original was a spin-off of the 1964 American sitcom "The Addams Family." Many movies followed, but this was by far the most successful remake. Fans loved the show for Jenna Ortega's take on the character as unique, stylish and a misfit.



4. MOVIE: TOP GUN MAVERICK

Raking up almost 1.5 billion dollars at the box office, "Top Gun: Maverick" is officially the highest-grossing 2022 release. After 36 years of waiting, fans were thrilled when it was announced a sequel would be made. The movie features Tom Cruise flying in real planes for an authentic viewing experience. As such, viewers were more than pleased with the final product.

5. BOOK: IT ENDS WITH US

TikTok's "Booktok" started blowing up during the pandemic when everyone was stuck at home and had a significant influence on many individuals. From this platform, author

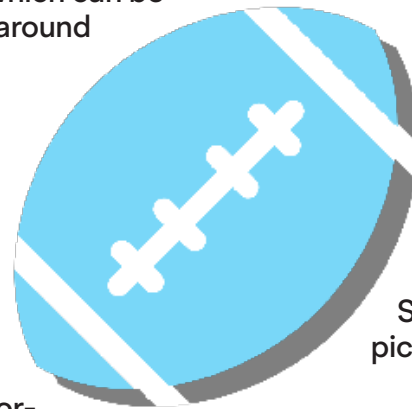
Colleen Hoover was put into the spotlight, and her book "It Ends With Us" was voted the number one book of 2022. It is now being made into a movie starring Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni.

6. SHOES: PANDA DUNK LOWS

From Airforce 1's to Micheal Jordan's Jordans, Nike's dominance can be seen throughout the 2022 fashion industry. One of the most popular shoes of the year was the "Panda Dunk Lows," which can be seen throughout schools around the country.

7. SONG: AS IT WAS

Harry Styles won the number one song of 2022 with "As It Was." His newly released album "Harry's House" was filled with creative lyrics that represent Harry's colorful personality and style.



8. MOVEMENT: EQUAL PAY

The U.S. Women's Soccer League has been fighting for equal pay to the Men's Soccer League for six years. In February 2022, their wish was finally granted. After finalizing the agreement, the players on the women's team will receive 24 million dollars and a pledge from the soccer federation to equalize pay for the teams. The sports community is thrilled to see a step towards equal pay for all women.

9. APP: TIK TOK

Originating from the banned app named Musical.ly, Tiktok was launched in 2016 and became popular in 2019. It is known for its short, easy-to-watch videos. It reached 318 million downloads in 2020, with its numbers continuously growing.

10. TELEVISED EVENT: QUEEN ELIZABETH'S DEATH

The world was devastated to say goodbye to Queen Elizabeth in September 2022. She was 96 years old. She held the record for the longest reign (70 years and 214 days). The funeral was televised and was the most-watched broadcast of all time. The queen always did know how to leave her mark on the world.

11. MARCH MADNESS: KANSAS VICTORY

Kansas Jayhawks basketball player David McCormack carried his team to victory in the last round of March Madness against the University of North Carolina in 2022. They won 72-69, a relatively close game. It was no surprise they would win, as Kansas was ranked #1 and UNC #8.

12. SUPER BOWL: RAMS BEAT BENGALS

Although most were rooting for the Bengals, we ultimately knew the Rams were going to win. They won 23-20, keeping viewers on their toes the whole time. It was a great game, especially for Joe Burrow, though he did not win. He was the first-ever quarterback to reach the Super Bowl as a number one overall pick in the first two years.

13. COLLEGE FOOTBALL: GEORGIA BEATS ALABAMA

Georgia Bulldogs fans, ranked #3 at the time, were thrilled when they beat Alabama Crimson Tide, #1, in the College Football Championship. They were the underdogs, but their team spirit and quarterback Stetson Bennett helped them win. The final score was 33-18.

14. WORLD CUP: ARGENTINA WINS

Fans were devastated to hear that Argentina beat France in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The final score was 4-2, securing Lionel Messi's first World Cup. It was especially remarkable as they were the underdog in this intense game, but still managed to win by two whole points.

15. MAKEUP: RARE BEAUTY BLUSH

Selena Gomez's powerful talent-filled life has gone from acting on *Wizards of Waverly Place* at the age of 15 to creating her own makeup line at Sephora called "Rare Beauty" in her adulthood. One of the most popular items from her line is the Soft Pinch Liquid Blush which has shown its stunning pigments throughout the influencer industry.

16. TIK TOK SOUND: "IT'S CORN!"

Recess Therapy's "The CEO of Corn" YouTube video instantly blew up, now at 11 million views. The video was of a little boy being interviewed about his love of corn. The boy Tariq was adored for his passion for such a simple vegetable. He became especially popular after his interview was turned into a

song by the Gregory Brothers. They named it "It's Corn." The sound was used over 800,000 times on TikTok, getting it stuck in everyone's heads. Tariq became so popular that he even appeared in the "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade" with the Green Giant canned food brand!

17. FOOD TREND: BOARD NIGHT

The traditional dish of Charcuterie boards has been a fun and creative trend in 2022. The boards vary anywhere from delicious butter boards filled with herbs and soft bread to a themed candy board organized by color. This trend has a creative twist on hangouts and has created many delicious and memorable nights around the world.

18. NAIL TREND: BIEBER NAILS

The many influencer trends that have cycled in and out have shaped many of the fashion trends of 2022 and Hailey Bieber's donut glazed nails had a chokehold on many teenage girls. These pretty pink nails have been seen by many people, and they can be named one of the most popular trends of 2022.

19. BIGGEST COMBACK: Y2K

The decade's trends have cycled through and brought their music and fashion along with them. 2022 was accepted in the Y2K era into the culture and can be seen throughout popular teen stores, and parents are reliving their teenage years.

20. DESIGNER BRAND: GUCCI

Designer brands are shaping our runway shows. Gucci was named the number one designer brand of 2022, as their clothes and bags can be seen throughout our society.

21. ONLINE GAME: WORDLE

Five-letter word, six tries. Any guesses? Yes, we are talking about Wordle, the famous game of 2022. It was released in October 2021 but reached its peak in the Spring of 2022. Everyone and their mother was staying up until midnight for the daily puzzle. It is addicting, difficult and entertaining for those times when you have nothing left to do.

22. MOST GOOGLED SONG: "WE DON'T TALK ABOUT BRUNO"

People obsessed over Disney's animated film "Encanto" when it was released in late November of 2021. It had such an impact that its reign carried over into 2022, with one of its songs becoming the most searched in Google. "We Don't Talk About Bruno" became so popular it was even played on the radio thanks to its catchy tune!

Picture your hero. What do you see?

NOT ALL HEROS WEAR CAPES: HERO'S DAY AT BERK

Laya Kumar and Annie Graff, Staff Writers

Maybe Superman flying through the sky, or maybe you see your favorite celebrity. The term hero is used differently from person to person, so in honor of hero's week, the Fanfare sat down with various students and faculty members to learn more about how our community perceives heroes.

"My dad is my hero," said Lily Shirmohammad '26. "He saves lives every day and he is always there for me when I need him." Some of Amir Shirmohammad's traits that she admires are his compassion and generosity. Along with these, his work ethic and his leadership skills have inspired and influenced Shirmohammad in her daily life.

To get a different perspective, physical education coach Richie Warren believes his heroes are those he interacts with on a daily basis.




Photo Credit: Buccaneer Yearbook 2022

"My students and players inspire me to be a better person, to live a life for others and more importantly to be a servant leader," said Warren. He believes the word "hero" is tricky because it can be misleading. "We should all live our best life, and maybe look to people as guidance, but not aspire to be someone else."

"My hero is my mom," said Will Lindsey '26. "She has helped a lot of students through Berkeley Academy and has devoted so much of her time to helping those in need." Lindsey tells us that his mom inspires him to keep a positive outlook on things, as well as to give back to his community by through service.



These interviews and the conversations we had with other Berkeley students and teachers told us a little more about heroes in our community. The word "hero" isn't just used to describe people with superpowers or super strength. To each person, meaning of a hero in their lives is both unique and different.



GUESS THE FACULTY

THIS FACULTY MEMBER...

IS OFTEN TUNED IN TO NBC ON SUNDAY NIGHTS
 THEIR FAVORITE BOY BAND IS DURAN DURAN
 IF THEY AREN'T AT SCHOOL, IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE OF SOMETHING FISHY
 THEIR FAVORITE CAR WAS NAMED THE MOST EMBARRASSING CAR IN A 2014 SURVEY
 HORSES, CATTLE AND EVEN ROOSTERS... THEIR CLASSROOM/OFFICE IS LIKE A FARM
 THEIR FAVORITE CANDY IS PEPPERMINT
 "CAUSE I CAN'T LOVE YOU MORE THAN" TAMPA, FLORIDA

THIS FACULTY MEMBER...

SHARES A TALENT WITH LIZZO
 THEIR FAVORITE ANIMAL IS AN OTTER
 THEIR LEAST FAVORITE WORD IS ONE OF THE TOP 10 MOST HATED WORDS IN THE ENGLISH DICTIONARY
 THEIR FAVORITE CANDY IS GUMMY BEARS
 THEIR COLLEGE'S MASCOT CAN BE A TYPE OF DOG OR A KNIGHT
 THEIR FAVORITE FLOWER SYMBOLIZES GROWTH AND NEW BEGINNINGS
 KIWIS ARE COMMON WHERE THEY ARE FROM
 SOME MAY SAY THEY LOOK LIKE THEY ARE FROM IRELAND

ANSWERS: BETH MARIANI (FIRST), HARRIET LIVESAY (SECOND)

MEAN GIRLS

ON WEDNESDAYS
WE WEAR

PINK



Mercy Roberts '23 and
Annie Sardouk '23



Helen Westerfield w/ Michael Ross '25, Ryan
Pope '25 and Roy McCraw '24

Chris Marshall & Annie Sardouk '23



Chris Marshall & Kavi Pandya '23



Hadley Ciesla '23



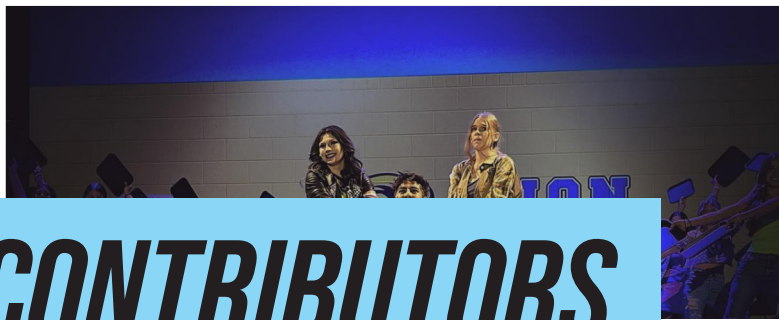
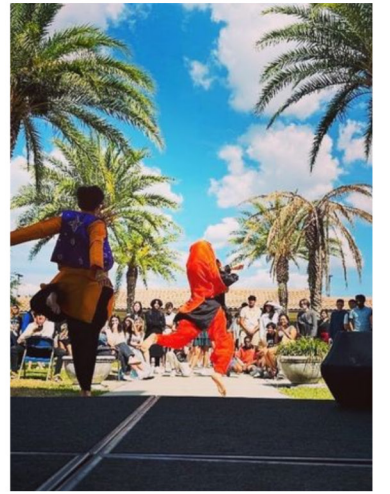
Ben Pastore '23



Annie Sardouk '23 and Andrew Crouch '23



By Lily Ross, Gabby Hernandez, Kostas Saravanos; Staff Photographers



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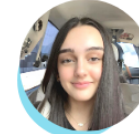
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