David Dablo - NSPA Designer of the Year

When I first joined the yearbook staff my freshman year, I didn't know that three years later I would be reporting on a global pandemic from the "comfort" of my own home. I faced many challenges along with the rest of the staff, and it arguably brought us closer because of it. The lockdown caused us to think in different ways, and to push ourselves farther than we would've ever gone in our "normal" daily routine. As much as I enjoyed the ease of distance learning, I cannot deny that it required me to be a lot more creative with my coverage.

One thing the staff agreed upon was to contrast the book's design with the tone of being stuck in quarantine. The students this year needed something happy and hopeful, while expressing the best parts of the pandemic, and we used many techniques to make that happen. My design process is largely chaotic – fitting, I would say, for this unprecedented year – starting with many different ideas and eventually centering on one.

The dynamic type treatment used throughout our book contains tilted letters that have different overlapping elements and angles. This really stuck with our staff because it helped to represent the random craziness of the year. Another element that I included was diagonals, to show how "sideways" the year went, as well as illustrations which took the form of many people as if we were seeing them virtually and digitally like most of the other things during distance learning. The purpose of combining all of these elements together was to ensure that everyone felt represented in their book despite not meeting face to face for most of the year.

Being editor-in-chief of a small but mighty staff of six other students meant that I could become a lot closer to everyone, and that was extremely valuable in making sure the book was a reflection of our collective ideas and opinions. Miraculously, I would've never thought that a small and dedicated staff would add so much fun and insight on our spreads. Draft after draft after draft was run through the team to make the composition as interesting and attention-grabbing as possible. I became close with each and every member, and they did not hesitate to tweak my ideas or add more valuable substance to a spread when needed.

I learned how meaningful and impactful design can be once it starts working around the story you are trying to tell. My staff would tell me that they enjoyed what I created with the content that they gave me, and how much they loved how I could bring their vision to life as well. Instead of sticking with templates, all of the content on the spreads was placed with an idea in mind. One of the earliest spreads that were made, our profile on a new football coach, I made as a sketch which was then given to our illustrator so she could build on it. Our staff had fun ways of working together like this to make the yearbook as freely creative as possible.

For the design of this, my third yearbook, I really pushed my own boundaries and comfort zone, and experimented with "breaking rules" or trying things I'd never seen before in any other yearbooks. I'm proud of pushing myself like this, and I feel like it was a critical component in being able to represent the insanity of this year for all of us through these yearbook designs.

David Dablo - NSPA Designer of the Year

Opening (three spreads)

I chose these three opening spreads because they show how subtle design choices help to illustrate the verbal part of our yearbook theme. On the first spread, the text is all tilted at a slight angle to represent how rapid our lives changed. The second spread has a single statement blown up to show the chaos of how our lives will never be the same. The final spread relaxes the reader with text at a straight angle, showing how much we all adjusted to life at home. The openings have a combination of illustrations and actual photos to show how only some parts of our "reality" were actually in-person, and the largest word on each spread spelled out "This is real," which is our verbal theme phrase.

Black Lives Matter: Off the Grid

Designed as the end of a three-spread package, Off the Grid focuses on in-person protesting done at the height of the BLM movement. I incorporated different elements to make the more traditional spread match better to the others in the package: including the orange coloring and a row of squares tying in the social media movement of "#BlackOutTuesday." I let the photos speak for themselves in this spread and included lots of white space to keep the design clean.

Senior Sweep

The first event of the entire year was one in-person, and as our staff captured storytelling photos, I knew it could be a nice break from the illustrations throughout the book. I placed a photo of two seniors looking up at a balloon arch as the dominant and overlapped the large headline with a cutout of them. I placed two sidebars at the corners of the page and made sure to create as much white space as possible while still packing the page full of content.

Among Us

As a player of one of the most popular games of 2020, I wanted to make an entire spread dedicated to how other students interacted and played the game. I took different elements and colors from the game and matched them to the different sidebars and elements of coverage on the spread. The sidebars relied on data from different polls, and all around the spread I chose to include many pull quotes. I also made the story divided into different paragraphs with different weights to help emphasize the storytelling and make it easier on the reader.

TikTok

This spread features the increasingly popular social media app, TikTok. I started with a black background that only extended up to the margins to act as a frame for the spread and added aspects of how the app inspired different students. On the left side, I tied a diagonal bar graph to a few crowdsourced images as its own sidebar featuring the popular trends sparked from the app. I also created three more sidebars: one for a popular patterned dress, one featuring different students and the videos they created on the app and one with a poll about an emoji combination. The center focus of the spread is the dominant illustration of a student whose dance went viral, and I fit in a story to contrast with the different quote-based coverage styles around the spread.

Knealing at the sideline, senior Jason Labra collects footballs to hand to the referees during the game. Illustration by Alanna Jimenez

STARTING TO SET IN,

and you're realizing it

that this is our new reality. Masks became such a big part of our lives that some of us even had our go-to's, like the ones sophomore Lilly Karzen's grandma made for her, or the school-branded ones you could always see junior David Rittenhouse Wearing.

And don't get us started about Microsoft Teams. Whether we felt comfortable turning our cameras on during online class, like freshman Felipe Barrera-Macal, or whether we signed the petition against requiring cameras, like senior Nathan Schaffer, we saw our screen time skyrocket. Kinda crazy how much has changed, right?



Introducing incoming freshmen to campus, world languages teacher Zasha Endres, the Intervention Coordinator and Academic Involvement and Mentoring (AIM) Director, delivers a speech in the center of a group of 10 students Nov. 10. Los Angeles "Producing a newspaper can get stressful when County approved schools to bring small groups of students on campus if they followed a number of safety guidelines. Photo by David Dablo



Interviewing Executive Director David Hussey, junior Nida Yar-Khan gathers facts for her newspaper article about a protest held on Aug. 22. Yar-Khan said that interviewing is only one part of her job. we're scrambling for pictures or quotes," Yar-Khan said. "But overall it's a wonderful experience. I love being a part of the process." Photo by Rebecca Tam

Book drive, woo-ooBefore the start of the school year, junior Haley Dablo grabs a bag full of her textbooks from Plant Manager Dupree Fuller Aug. 16. Because of distance learning, students were unable to check books out from their individual teachers as they usually would, so the tech office managed the computer systems during the textbook pickups. while faculty and staff members volunteered to distribute books to students in cars on the Service Road. Photo by David Dablo



BUTUELLE USED TO IT NOW.

It's really our new normal —

Hours in front of the screen — and the fact that we were in "quarantine" for months — inspired us to get creative with our hobbies. From baking bread, like senior Valeria Asbjornsen, to 3D-printing face shields, like junior Justin Levy, we did things we literally never thought we'd ever do.

And then of course, there was the opportunity for change. We watched (and voted virtually) as our mascot went into retirement and Executive Director David Hussey worked with the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (and all of us) to create a mascot we could all get behind.

Some of the events we always looked forward to, like Senior Sweep, were adapted to be held inperson and meet CDC guidelines (read: it was a car parade), though most things happened online, like the two-night Talent Show or Relay for Life's luminaria event. But the truth is: just because it was online, doesn't mean it didn't happen.

SO YOU REALLY CAN'T FORGET THAT

Reaching out of a red car, senior Jackson Lessard waves to the faculty members who participated in the parade. Lessard thought the event well adapted to guidelines. "I wish it could've been normal and I wish I could've hung out with everyone," Lessard said, "But with all the COVID-19 precautions we had to take, I felt like it was still really fun and done well







Tying it all together

Attaching a tracking chip to her shoe, junior Rebeca Mendoza prepares for her race against Granada Hills March 20. The cross-country team ran around a set course on campus. "It was only my second race, so I struggled to get in the right mindset," Mendoza said, "but I was pretty excited and felt pretty strong throughout." Photo by David Dablo

While playing against Fairfax, senior Jose Coto faces up against a defender. The varsity boys' soccer team won the scrimmage 11-2, and continued a winning streak for five more games. Photo by Ellis Preston



Pandemic necessities

Gathering around the Sanitation Station, protestors get hand sanitizer, water bottles and materials to create signs. Volunteers from Student Council came to campus to donate resources to be distributed at the protest. Photo by Miles Dugan, from the @ecr2021 Instagram



One step forward

Photo by David Dablo

Chanting in memory of George Floyd and Breonna

stand side-by-side in front of Warner Center Park June 6. Lawrence said she felt empowered while

Taylor, juniors Riley Lawrence and Ella Peisner

experiencing a protest. "It gave me faith in our

generation," Lawrence said. "We were coming

together to fight for something we believe in."



Foot traffic

Demonstrating her message of "We the youth, we got a voice too," alumna Uloni VanDusen, class of 2020, waves a "No Justice, No Peace" sign at oncoming cars at the height of the Black Lives Matter summer protests June 6. Photo by David

Parental support

With his daughter, alumna Kennedy Lindsey, class of 2022, watching from behind, parent Aaron Lindsey speaks about the recent protests. Kennedy Lindsey was the Black Student Union co-president last year. Photo by David Dablo





A sign for change

In her N95 mask, sophomore Saniyah Shabazz protests in solidarity with victims of police brutality. "Protesting is important because in America, everyone is granted the rights [to] freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly and petition," Shabazz said. "A utopian society hasn't been proven in reality but we can make our dystopian society more sustainable." Photo by Rebecca Tam

While students, faculty and community members posted on social media regarding recent Black Lives Matter, senior Chantelle Miller, Black Student Union (BSU) President, and senior Lana Kobayashi, Student Body President brought teams together to take the protests from Instagram to the real world.

WARNER CENTER PROTEST, JUNE 6

Story and Layout by Naqiya Caderbhoy and David Dablo

"After the death of George Floyd, all media, from the news to my Instagram feed, seemed to be flooded with BLM," Kobayashi said. "A lot of the movement was focused on being active on social media by reposting useful resources, petitions, and places you can donate to. I completely agree that posting is contributing to the movement by spreading awareness, but I felt like it wasn't enough. I knew I was capable of creating school wide events, so I decided to organize a school-affiliated BLM protest."

Kobayashi's first step in organizing the June 6 protest was emailing Miller along with school administration and the parent group Friends of ECR (FoECR). With administration's approval, she began to plan after seeing an upcoming protest in the community that seemed like the perfect opportunity to get involved.

"A [student council alumna] had posted [on social media] that she was gathering together with her friends at Warner Park to have a peaceful protest, so I reached out to her and asked if there was any way I could help," Kobayashi said. "She said she would like some donations of food and water and publicity, so I created flyers and flooded social media with 'ways you can help,' whether it was through donations or attending the protest."

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC guidelines recommending social distancing made attending the protest improbable for some, and Kobayashi took that in consideration.

help could not due to COVID (myself included), so I

also made a flyer of 'ways you can help from home," Kobayashi said. "This included publicizing on social media, and donating through Venmo."

Black Student Union and Student Council

organize peaceful protests for BLM

Despite the social distancing challenges, with the help of other student council members like iunior Noah Muiica. Kobavashi recruited around 20 volunteers to help out.

"Overall, the protest was a huge success in helping enrich our community along with supporting the BLM Movement," Mujica said.

ON-CAMPUS PROTEST, JUNE 12

When senior Isha Cabanillas reached out to the BSU cabinet and asked whether BSU would be holding a protest on campus, it was a lightbulb moment.

"This made us realize that there were a lot of students at our school who wanted to go to [local] protests but couldn't because of safety concerns," Miller said, "We thought having a protest on campus with the help of the school's administration would calm parents' fears and allow for students' voices to be heard."

BSU received permission from Executive Director David Hussey to move forward with the event and then reached out to other clubs like Students Demand Action to see if they'd be interested in helping out with the June 12 protest.

"We had a great turnout," Miller said. "We started the protest with an 8-minute tribute to George Floyd and then we marched around the campus. When we got back to the front of the school we had adults like Mr. Fluker sharing their thoughts with students and stations where people could sign petitions and register to vote."

Miller said BSU valued the experience. "Our club was just really glad that the school was willing to stand behind us and hear our voices," she said. "We were able to show the importance of "I was aware that there many people who wanted to the movement to us with the support of our whole community behind us."



Health teacher Fluke Fluker speaks to a crowd of protestors in front of the school, "I'm sick and tired." Fluker said, "We're here in unison, to say enough is enough." Photo by David Dablo

PROTEST SIGNS AREN'T THE ONLY WAY TO



speaks in front of campus.

Photo by David Dablo



031 BLM: In-person Protests

de CARated



The event was fun, and I really wanted to make the most out of the day. I put different shades of streamers and it helped tie it all together.'

- SENIOR MAKAYLA MCKNIGHT





Bienvenidos graduados

Reaching neon signs out on the side of the service road, Spanish teachers Lupe Miller and Jacqueline Mata wave to cars full of seniors, "The atmosphere was festive." Miller said, "and the seniors and their families seemed to be having a great time while they drove through." Photo by Rebecca Tam

Party in the USA

With their hands up, seniors Clare Rudoy, Corinne Eilat, Briana Ibarra, Ella Denniston and Victoria Acevedo show their pride as their incoming graduating class. Denniston said it was important to go to senior events after not seeing anyone due to the pandemic. "I was so glad to go with all of my friends," Denniston said. "Seeing more during the event was so fun." Photo by Rebecca Tam



ANNUAL SENIOR SWEEP GETS A REAL MAKEOVER

Cars filed through the student parking lot in a pandemic-safe Senior Sweep Aug. 6, many full of seniors who had not been to campus since March.

"Driving through the event was so much fun because we saw lots of friends who were also dressed in senior gear," senior Ella Denniston said. "We were singing and having a good time." Unlike the previous year's Senior Sweep, which featured seniors running through the halls toward a big party, this version was a car parade.

"I wish it could've been normal, and I wish I could've hung out with everyone," senior Georgio Ruffato said. "But with all the precautions we had to take, I felt like it was really fun and done well.

Senior members of Student Council, Jeremiah Nepomuceno, Clare Ramos, Hodaya Knafo and Hanna Saeidzadeh, worked together to create an event that would follow CDC guidelines.

"We knew that our senior year was imagined it to," Nepomuceno said. "To me of our school."

celebrate our seniority and boost the morale of the class, we held this car parade."

Teachers came to show their support and excitement for the seniors,

cheering from the side of the road. "I want them to know that I am very proud of them," Spanish teacher Jacqueline Mata said, "and that all their effort during their high school years are worth being recognized,"

Spanish teacher Lupe Miller said she went to celebrate her students that she had for all three years of Spanish, or, in the case of senior Karla Jaguari, three years of Spanish and one year of TA.

"I felt it was important to show my support," Miller said. "It's terrible that they wouldn't get to celebrate their accomplishments in a 'normal' way."

At the end of the parade, the seniors were given goodie bags filled with face masks, lanyards, cups, and more.

"I use my senior cup almost every day," senior Jessica Katz said. "It is nice not going to start off the way any of us to have something at home to remind

Let's take a selfie

Facing a smartphone, senior Ashley Cayne and theater teacher Jonathan Harveson take a photo together. The last time the two saw each other was the last day of the spring play. "Play Production is one big family," Cayne said. "We were able to be there for one another." Photo by Rebecca Tam



Hand it over

With a swag bag for each senior in the car, Executive Director David Hussey greets students at Senior Sweep. Hussey attended the event as a volunteer to help handing out bags, but also to welcome the seniors to their final year of high school. "It was important for me to be there," Hussey said. "They had as much support from faculty as we could give." Photo by David

Pulling his smile out with his pinky fingers, senior Joshua Amador leans outside his car. "I saw a couple of my friends at the event," Amador said. "Once they recognized me, I grinned at them to kind of celebrate that this was our year." Photo by David Dablo



045

68 Among Us players name their least favorite task

49%

DOWNLOAD/UPLOAD It's just two clicks, right, but when you're waiting for it to finish it just makes you nervous." - junior Fredy Herrarte

FIX WIRING It's not really hard, it's just one of those tasks you have to do over and over." - junior Hana Yu

SWIPE CARD It can be very too fast or too slow"

18%

CLEARING ASTEROIDS You're kind of vulnerable, just annoying. I either did it standing there. And if there's no visual tasks, you can't tell if someone - senior Randi Ramirez is faking it." - junior Ashley Sotnik

sophomore Dan Lehavi

9%

PARTITION IN THE PROPERTY OF T

SLIKEAMURDERMYSTER

junior Jorge Rangel

LO Rtheory Two colors stand out as most suspicious



of 98 nstagram votes: Red got 47, cyan Jot 38 and other ors totaled to 13

senior Gwendolyn Goldenberg

SPACESTATION MURDER-LIVETIETY CAME

Join code: THISRL

Let's play one game. Can you guess who the imposters are among us?

The players begin in Cafeteria and all make their way together to the suspicious. card swipe.

Everyone gets their task completed in less than four swipes, and everyone leaves except for sophomore Dan Lehavi and senior Gwendolyn Goldenberg.

After Goldenberg completes her wires, the lights go down, and she sees her report button light up.

"Body reported" pops up on screen.

Where'd they die?

And wait... who was with them last? Actually... Where was everyone else?

a large round table to discuss who the murderer could be.

freshman Paul Ecklund

had been sticking with Senior Tijana Karovic for quite some time, and the others think that was

"White seems good but is always sus," Lehavi immediately interjects.

Offended, Rangel fires back that he simply "[likes to] make some friends and have fun."

Jumping in, freshman Paul Ecklund states that senior Amber Karimee is safe because they had been together the whole time doing downloads and watching vents.

Suddenly, Karimee turns an accusatory eye towards Goldenberg.

Defensively, Goldenberg desperately pleads, "I [can't] be an imposter

CAINS IN THORILD OF ULARITY

Plavers huddle around because I'm really bad at was not the imposter. being sneaky, low-key."

enough for the lobby, and Junior Jorge Rangel fills the air as Goldenberg acrewmate. is voted out. Her body floats across the black space void as the team starting to become a little ejects her from the ship.

> White letters show that Goldenberg was not the imposter, sending evervone into a panic.

> > But who accused her? Was it Karimee?

Of course, this is not

Pressing the emergency

button once again, Ecklund accuses Rangel of being the imposter:

"He could have moved around in the vents, sabotaged the map, and Crewmates see "Defeat"

immediately vote White along with the rest of the Now you know who the lobby. Horrified, Rangel is imposters were. ejected into space as the letters reveal that White

Wait, so it has to be

Karovic and Lehavi?

"ILIKE

KEEPING

AT LEAST

PERSONI

ONE OTHER

CAN TRUST

WITH ME."

senior Amber **Carimee**

There are only six people left now, though, which means that a double-kill is all the imposters need

Tensions rise, as three of the crewmates hit the "Use" button and watch the countdown go off. But the imposters use their sabotage to turn on the reactor, so all the crewmates have to run there, giving the imposters more time for the cooldown to run off.

Double kill.

killed pink!" Ecklund says. as Red and Orange are lit up on screen, Karovic and Both Karovic and Lehavi Lehavi victorious.

Did vou vote correctly?

Layout by David Dablo and Alanna Jimenez, illustrations by Alanna Jimenez

The new map includes more intricate details than the other maps. I'm really excited to play on it. Hopefully it won't be too confusing with the added tasks and features." iunior Nida Yar-Khan

senior Tijana Karovic

"Airship" sparking new excitement

A fourth map is announced named

in the cockpit region Us map. The map vas announced after the game won Best Multiplayer at the

I think the game needed developing it." - sophomore Sierra

a change to keep it alive, and that is exactly what they did. This will quite of the "Airship" Among literally add a whole new element to playing, and I'm so glad they started



The app where we could spend hours endlessly scrolling becomes a larger part of our REAL lives

l love how "old" clothes are coming back from the '80s and '90s. I've been wearing a lot of knitted sweaters and cardigans, which are my favorite." - SENIOR KAYLIE ANNE CALDERON



think it's influenced lot of people's style ecause I've seen so nany more people vearing like 'alt' styles." - FRESHMAN ARRAH RUSSELL

o<mark>ple w</mark>ho wear like a ton

of accessories, and a ton of

DIY clothes, and it's super

inspiring." - FRESHMAN

OLIVER UNHOLZ

Chains: 23

Pleated skirts: 19

Bucket hats: 30

Roller skates: 14 WHAT TREND IS THE MOST POPULAR?

Baggy T-shirts: 64

A strawberry-patterned dress goes viral on TikTok

I think everyone should wear one. I feel like if everyone just wore a strawberry dress, the world would be a better place."

It's kind of tacky and unflattering."

I love it, and would love to own it, but it is too expensive for me. But I don't think the price should be lowered as it is handmade by an artist with expensive materials and fabrics."

The black one is better than the pink one, but I wouldn't buy it. I think it looks like a kid would wear it and I don't like stuff like that.





I'm alive, but I'm dead

Junior Faith Nguyen lays down in her multicolored room to portray exhaustion as a student.

Junior Anthony Montez sings to a trumpet tune about stress from tests

Harry style board

Junior Iliana Kikalo showcases her collage of Harry Styles pictures, inspirational quotes and illustrations.

Senior's dance goes viral on TikTok

When senior Mahak Hamid first made a dance cover to Gotti's "Rake It Up," little did she know she was recognized in public. that over 5.2 million TikTok users would remake

"I really liked the song and I wanted to make a said, "and she recognized me even with my dance," Hamid said. "I danced around in my room mask and glasses on." until I had something I liked, and I posted it."

Less than a month after releasing her cover, other TikTok influencers such as Charli

D'Amelio and Emma Chamberlain did their own versions of the dance.

"I wasn't expecting it to get that much attention," Hamid said. "But it was really awesome to see so many big influencers and creators do my

to go viral was of her dance painting Squidward

from the "SpongeBob SquarePants" cartoon on her phone case

"I made videos as a joke," Hamid said, "but two watching them on of my first videos gained popularity, so I just went with it and kept posting videos for fun." Since gaining a following on social media,

Hamid had multiple experiences where

"One time I asked a girl working at Walmart where I could find Takis," Hamid

Hamid said she made sure not to engage with negative comments.

"My comment section is pretty positive most of the time," Hamid said. "[But sometimes] TikTok can be a very negative space, so I try to keep positive. I don't interact with hate and I try to avoid reading hateful comments and that helps a lot.' Collaborations became a large part of Hamid's lifestyle.

"[I got] tons [of new opportunities]," Hamid said. "I have gotten the chance to work with Converse, Netflix, and some other really cool companies and brands.' Hamid hoped to also work with Sage Rosen and Charlize Glass, known on Hamid's first video TikTok, but primarily in competitive

> "[Glass] was on World of Dance, and it was awesome," Hamid said. "I grew up YouTube. It would be awesome to get to dance with them. ."

