

ANTHRO!

A campus
of activists

pg. 18



ANTHRO

September 2022 Volume 5 Issue 1

Mission Statement

The ultimate goal of Anthro Magazine, Paly’s social activism publication, is to create a platform and forum for students to express their opinions and voices. Social activism is bringing issues into the spotlight to spread awareness and create change in society. On this platform, we will promote unity, diversity, and respect. As a publication, we aim to be inclusive but do not tolerate hate speech of the targeting of individuals. We hope to highlight issues that we see in our community, create a safe place to discuss these issues, and to make sure student voices are heard.

From the Editors

Dear Readers,

As we enter a new year, we hope to continue amplifying the voices of everyone in our community, both those on our staff and off. With a renewed focus on becoming a sustainable, enduring publication and making our mark on the Paly community, we are thrilled to announce that we are publishing more frequent and timely Anthros than ever before!

This issue, Anthro focuses on amplifying voices of the Palo Alto High School community from beyond our classroom. We include many student perspectives in “A campus of activists,” and we feature Trianne Hontiveros’ “An anti-melanin society,” in which she details her experiences with colorism as a Filipina student. We hope this trend continues beyond this issue, and have a queue of guest opinions lined up for the semester. We always welcome guest voices and are expanding our outreach to the Viking community.

We also spotlight issues surrounding the upcoming mid-term elections in “City council endorsements” by Lucianna Peralta and Madelyn Castro, “Saving California’s K-12 art” by Ash Mehta and Kat Farrell, and “How are you involved in politics” by Maxwell Zhang and Ketan Altekar-Okazaki. We hope these articles will encourage you to get involved with the democratic process and get those around you to vote this November!

We hope you enjoy this issue of Anthro Magazine, and that you have an amazing start to the school year!

— Ash Mehta and Maya Mukherjee

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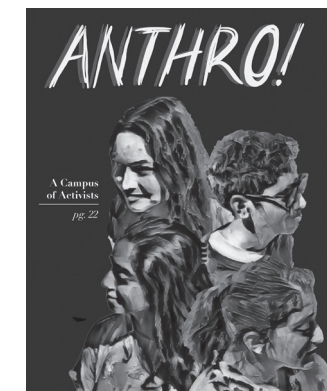
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On the cover:



Design by Annelise Balentine

Letters to the Editors

The staff welcomes letters to the editors. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length, grammar, potential libel, invasion of privacy and obscenity. Send all letters to anthromagazine.paly@gmail.com or to 50 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94301.

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Putting respect

Administrators should formally recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day

In 1992, Berkeley was the first city in the U.S. to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day, according to UC Berkeley's website. A city in the heart of the Bay Area was what led us to where we are now as a nation, with organizations like the Smithsonian, PBS, and even the United Nations acknowledging Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Over the past three decades, other cities have followed in Berkeley's footsteps. Specifically, many Bay Area schools have begun to celebrate the holiday. Homestead, Mountain View, Sequoia, Berkeley, and Lowell high schools are just a few.

And yet, when you type "Indigenous" into the search bar of Palo Alto High School's website, nothing shows up. On Oct. 10, or Indigenous Peoples' Day, we instead have a mysterious "Staff Development Day."

No Columbus Day, it's true. But no Indigenous Peoples' Day either. Instead, we get a strange middle ground.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 0.4% of Palo Alto's population is Indigenous (classified officially as "American Indian and Alaskan Native").

This may be the reason Paly has not yet acknowledged Indigenous Peoples' Day.

However, in some aspects, it's even more important for Paly to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples' Day because of this. Non-Indigenous Paly students don't have many Indigenous peers in their classrooms or community, so it's even more important that Indigenous people are highlighted in the classroom.

Paly recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day could bring with it opportunities for humanities classrooms to teach lessons on the fight for Indigenous rights that pervades into the modern day. This is similar to how we

"It [celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day] sends the right message and tone. What schools could do is that they can broaden, at least, a student's point of view of like, why has this day been renamed?"

— JACLYN EDWARDS, gender studies teacher

often have Civil Rights-focused lessons surrounding Martin Luther King Jr. day.

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day also paves the way for acknowledging other awareness days.

So why don't we celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day? And what level of celebrating the holiday is even plausible?

At the district level, board members say that we only observe state and federal holidays on the PAUSD calendar.

"I can't recall the district designating or observing additional holidays in the past, though it is possible that we have," board member Todd Collins told Anthro Magazine.

Letting staff take the day off for Indigenous Peoples' Day would have to be negotiated between staff, unions, and the board. DiBrienza said that the district would have to add another day to the calendar to make up for the professional development time that would be lost.

Another calendar day would cost around 1.2 million dollars because of the salary expenses, according to DiBrienza.

"It's something we could consider but would be discussed by the board to determine where that \$1.2 million would come from annually," DiBrienza said.

Board member Jesse Ladimirak said that she believes that student activism can help create change at the school level.

"Of course schools can acknowledge, recognize, and celebrate, and I think student advocacy around this at the site level...could be really impactful," Ladimirak said.

DiBrienza clarified how this advocacy could actually be productive.

"I think it would take conversations with the entities that usually organize such celebrations," DiBrienza said. "Mr. Gallagher is in charge of ASB and they may put something on — especially if there is a club that is interested in taking the lead. Mr. Kline would probably be

on the calendar

the starting point on trying to get a celebration going at Paly specifically."

DiBrienza said that she would like schools to focus on the topic of Indigenous people and their history more.

"I am a strong supporter of our students, at all grade levels, learning about the contributions of the people who are Indigenous to these lands we now occupy," DiBrienza said.

Yes, many schools are far behind us. Many schools still celebrate Columbus

Day. But, don't we want to be known as among the first to give importance to the struggles and rights of Indigenous people, rather than the last?

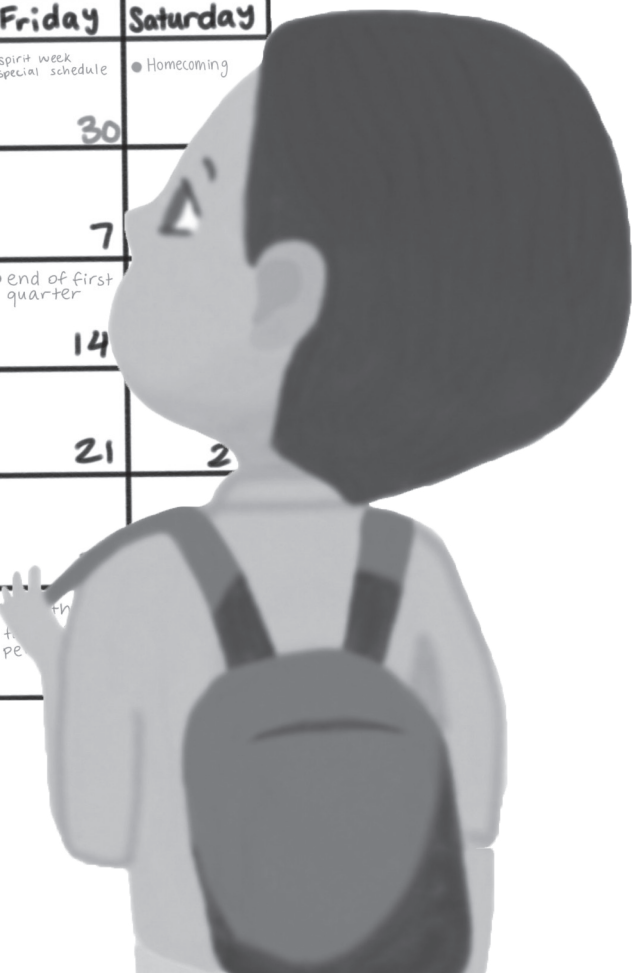
Though it is likely not feasible for PAUSD to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day on the calendar, Paly should host celebrations in honor of the day, perhaps on the following Tuesday, or the previous Friday. Paly social sciences classes should also work to center Indigenous Peoples' history on the days surrounding Indige-

nous Peoples' Day.

US History and Gender Studies teacher Jaclyn Edwards said that the social studies department has room to grow in terms of including Indigenous Peoples' issues outside of the Westward Expansion unit.

"It [celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day] sends the right message and tone," Edwards said. "They [schools] can broaden, at least, a student's point of view of like, why has this day been renamed?"

October						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					• spirit week special schedule	• Homecoming
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			• Yom Kippur			
2	3	4	5	6	7	
9	10	11	12	13	14	• end of first quarter
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	• Diwali					
23	24	25	26	27		
30	31	1	2	3		



City Council Endorsements

With election season quickly approaching, candidates for City Council are in an uproar to gather votes by Nov. 8. We at Anthro decided to give our two cents on some of the candidates and whether or not they are qualified to fill one of three open spots.

Julie Lycoth-Haims



When she was younger, Lycoth-Haims was an activist, marching against national injustices waving placards in the air. Now, an author and lawyer, Lycoth-Haims' vision can lead Palo Alto into an era of togetherness. Her clear communication and outlook give her the opportunity to speak up about the experiences of marginalized groups and impact the system.

Throughout her career, Haims has been part of several non-profit organizations and boards. By helping support their goals, she has gained the capability to solve problems with effectivity and drive.

Graduating from Stanford, Harvard Law and California College of the Arts has privileged her by receiving a higher education that she now wants to apply to a position in the Council.

Haims campaign is centered around human rights and belonging. Following the overturn of Roe vs. Wade by the Supreme Court left doubt in the minds of Americans and her campaign website that all places should provide reproductive health care. Yet, her overarching goal is that everyone — no matter the labels, should have equal opportunity. Her intersectionality as Black, biracial, bisexual and a loving mother will play a big role in her decisions on the council and lead to a more open

Ed Lauing



From the first kid in his family attending college to raising a family in Palo Alto, Lauing has proven to be a hard-worker and strong community member. Yet, in a race where every individual is impressive, he needs more to stand out. What truly makes Lauing a stunning candidate... is experience and commitment.

Lauing currently serves as chair of Palo Alto's Planning and Transportation Commission and co-chair of the Housing Element Working Group with additional past involvement and leadership. In these positions, he has pushed for active change in housing, parks and recreation, and public safety while in these roles.

As a Palo Alto resident for over 34 years, Lauing has not only participated in a variety of public office positions but also knows Palo Alto's strengths and areas of improvement. He continues to focus on housing and public safety as main issues in his campaign. He also prioritizes neighborhoods and climate change. According to his campaign site, from environmental and tree preservation through updated municipal codes to a "master plan" initiative for consulting with and maintaining neighborhoods, we can see that Lauing is not just promising but following through.

With all of his accomplishments, it is clear to see why Lauing has been endorsed by state senators

Keep Up The Good Work!

Alex Comsa



An honored real estate professional and small business owner, Alex Comsa has a foot in the door when it comes to the impact on housing and markets. He has lived in the area for over a decade and raised a family within the Palo Alto Unified School District. However, he falls short when it comes to experience.

Comsa has never held public office and has limited practice in policy and public interest. According to Merriam-Webster, City Council is defined as "the legislative body of a city" which controls the laws that will be put into place. Although he is an active member of the community, coaching kids soccer for the American Youth Soccer Organization, it is vital that someone with law-making ability has some sort of experience in acting on various topics, criticism, and reflecting the values of the community.

Some may argue that as a real estate professional, he has knowledge in the housing industry that many other candidates can not offer. Although true, it also provides a conflict of interest that is not balanced with other rounding parts of his campaign.

On his website, he lists similar priorities to other candidates but provides vague approaches compared to his competitors. For example, he writes that he will "improve the revenue budget by using dormant assets with productive projects that benefit our city," and that, "he will work with the other city council members to generate additional revenue for years to come" but doesn't specify which assets, which projects they would be used for, or other aspects that would provide depth to his record. Additionally, as of September, when clicking the endorsements tab you will be met with the words "endorsements to be announced in August."

Comsa is ambitious and entrepreneurial, terms that suit the average Palo Alto resident. He is a promising candidate in terms of background but ultimately needs more experience and activity in his campaign.

Lisa Forsell



Lisa Forsell's reputation exudes her great communication, teamwork and the willingness to be open minded and find common ground. Her extensive knowledge advising the Utilities Advisory Committee (UAC) and an active member of the PTA Executive Boards for elementary schools, give her an edge over her competitors.

On Forsell's campaign website, she said that to nourish healthy minds, sustainability and quality of life is a must. Her ideals are backed up by strong players on the Council, with endorsements from former mayors Betsy Betchtel, Greg Scharff and Larry Klein, Mayor Pat Burt, and vice board president Jennifer DiBrienza, because her plans will help guide the City into the future.

By implementing a strong connection between the council and schools, younger generations can better reach those at the top of the system and it would encourage a betterment of student education.

Having a MBA and MS in Environment and Resources at Stanford showcase Forsell's strong background in sustainability where she can bring up the issue of climate change. Her critical thinking will help lower the City's carbon footprint. She also wants to enforce action towards public transportation that has since been shut down because of COVID.

Lisa Forsell's passion to make Palo Alto more environmentally friendly and improve education

Saving K-12 art



How a “yes” on on Proposition 28 would affect California’s arts and music

The problem in California [in the 70s] was housing taxes, were going up,” Instrumental music teacher Jeff Willner told *Anthro Magazine*. “Howard Jarvis, he wrote this proposition [in 1978], and it was called Proposition 13 ... with that, funding for education was down. What went first? The arts.”

Proposition 28 is a measure on California’s 2022 midterm ballot that would attempt to bring back some of that arts funding. It would mandate 1% of local education funding to be directed towards K-12 public school arts/music programs. This money would be drawn from both state and local funds for education agencies.

Proposition 28 would also allow Paly to rely less on fundraising from parents,

according to art spectrum teacher Tracey Atkinson.

“Right now, we have to ask parents for donations to cover more paper, sketch-books, things like that,” Atkinson said. “We do like to provide our students with ... art supplies that are pleasant to use.”

Willner said that the biggest effect of Proposition 28 would not be on PAUSD, but on economically disadvantaged communities. Proposition 28 would require the state to give additional income to arts programs at schools in economically disadvantaged communities.

“We can’t operate on the funding that we get from the school,” Willner said. “We have to create our own fundraising mechanisms in booster groups ... There’s more of that inequity thing where, well, so many schools that don’t even have a teacher -- they’re not going to be able to put a booster thing together and build a program.”

Atkinson said that, in underfunded schools, arts programs are often the first to get cut.

Text by **ASH MEHTA** and **KAT FARRELL**
Photos by **DANIEL GAREPIS-HOLLAND**

“I definitely think that art, music, theater, dance, makes school more enjoyable for some kids, just an outlet for expression,” Atkinson said. “They’re missing out on the joy of making things, and that’s really unfortunate.”

Sue La Fetra, an art spectrum, and AP Art History teacher said that this could make a big difference for socioeconomically disadvantaged schools.

“It’s just a crime that we don’t already have this [proposition],” LaFetra said. “You can’t really educate art students without materials. Art is so fundamental to education.”

La Fetra said she believes that art is fundamental to humanity.

“It has been a part of us since the beginning of everything,” LaFetra said. “And so it’s really important that the kids continue to engage in art.”

Willner expressed concern about where this funding is going to come from.

“Something else is going to be like, cut funding,” he said. “Something would have to be rearranged as I read it.”

**“Art is fundamental
to humanity.”**

— SUE LA FETRA, art spectrum teacher



How are YOU involved in politics?



Although most Palo Alto High School students cannot vote, many still find ways to participate in public affairs. We asked students how they had been engaged in the democratic process.



“It starts with being informed. So I think it’s really important to read up on your local elections, state elections, as well as obviously national elections, and just general news and politics... I also think there are a lot of things that people our age can do, for example, phone banking and helping out with local campaigns, city council candidates, school board candidates... At Paly, we have the school board representatives. You can apply to be a representative on the board of your school. That really helps students get involved in local politics.”

— NADIA SOBERG, junior

“I was a part of Vote16, which is a club that we had here at Paly, and so that’s a great way to get involved. They focus on lowering the voting age for municipal elections and local elections, and hopefully, someday we’ll get larger because I think a lot of people think that teenagers... can’t make their own decisions... [However,] there’s a lot of research backing the fact that 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds are capable to make their own decisions and have their own political opinions.”

— AANIKA DOSHI, senior



“You can get involved in campaigns and learn about the democratic process even when you’re underage. [Another way is] preparing for when you are above age and you can vote and also learning about the different political processes and people involved in politics. [On top of that], maybe getting involved in your community and [learning] how the democratic process works in your community.”

— DAVID WU, freshman

“I normally go to protests, and I also support causes online. That’s mainly how I do it. ... I’ve also talked with a lot of peers. A lot of them come to these events with me. ... I did the Color Run to supporting the Trevor Project over the summer. I went to the Black Lives Matter protests all throughout 2020 that were close by, and I’ve gone to the LGBTQ+ parade in Seattle.”

— FINLEY CRAIG, senior



“You can organize events and talk about what you want to be changed in the government and society. I read the news so that I can understand what’s happening. I also ask my parents what they see in the news, their political opinions, and who they might be voting for in not only city council elections, but also presidential elections.”

— SAMARTH SETHI, sophomore

Expanding the alliance

Asian Law Alliance advocates justice for the AAPI community through legal services and more.

The Asian Law Alliance looks to the future as a continuation of their development and is looking for volunteers to help their cause.

“We’re looking for youth leaders to participate in meetings, discussions, and in listening sessions to become their own facilitators to become advocates, within their own schools, or youth groups,” Hwang said. “We are in the process of really looking for young people to volunteer with us in different capacities, to ultimately become leaders and to become really their own advocates.”

In 1977, attorneys Brad Yamauchi and Don Tamaki as well as a group of law school graduates chose to leave behind the lucrative career of working at a law firm. Instead, they founded the Asian Law Alliance with the goal of creating a more just and equitable society. Today the organization still stands, but with an even stronger mission.

“I wanted to do more than just the legal work,” Supervising Attorney Dorothy Hwang said. “I wanted to not just solve problems that had already occurred, I want to get to the root of it and prevent things from happening in the first place.”

The Asian Law Alliance is a non-profit organization that strives to provide low-income populations and Asian American Pacific Islander communities in Silicon Valley with equal access to the justice system.

“There aren’t enough of us [the Asian Law Alliance staff] to really meet the need to bridge that gap [between the AAPI community and the accessibility to legal assistance],” Hwang said. “The need and the struggles are so, so vast that we are

constantly in this uphill battle to help and support the community.”

Near February 2021, the news flooded with headlines of AAPI hate crimes occurring across the United States. According to Open Society Foundations, AAPI ethnicities became targets of verbal harassment and physical assault in schools, public areas, their own businesses, and elsewhere, escalating hate crime rates to a total of 3,800 reported hate crimes from that year.

“When we started seeing the spike with the anti-Asian sentiment ... we prepared ourselves for a lot of calls from the community about incidents of people being attacked and being afraid,” Hwang said. “We actually didn’t [receive many more calls].”

Surprisingly, Hwang and the ALA were able to identify the issue relatively quickly from the pattern they’ve noticed of unreported microaggressions that have taken place from anti-Asian hate. The people of those communities learned to accept it as their reality and simply find ways to cope.

“I think it [the lack of calls] makes sense in retrospect because there’s an education issue,” Hwang said. “People don’t always know how to recognize a hate crime incident, especially if it’s anti-Asian related because it’s become so normalized to brush it off.”

Expanding their legal services and advocacy for hate incident victims, the Asian Law Alliance now focuses on also serving as an educational resource. Educating hate incident victims to not deny that they are in fact targets encourages them to seek help and support—whether legal or mental health services.

The organization’s services now undertakes its own outreach in an effort to educate communities about the significance of pursuing justice.

“The mission today really is about serving anyone and

everyone who needs help because we really do feel that if one individual is suffering, then then we’re not where we need to be,” Hwang said.

Their services are open to people of various races and languages.

And although the organization’s initial offerings and intended audience have shifted over time, these adjustments have only enhanced the organization’s fundamental objective of establishing a more equal society.

“We really truly are about the empowerment and support for any and all underrepresented and historically excluded populations,” Hwang said.



Activism ar und the world

Volume III: Protesting for rights and freedom in snapshots of protests globally

MEXICO: The government in Mexico City plans to remove a feminist “anti-monument” — a symbol subverting traditional expectations of monuments — sparking protest. The “anti-monument” is of a woman raising her arm. Erected in 2020, the statue has since become a symbol for feminist movements around the world. Protesters say the government is trying to censor their expression. The government’s proposed replacement, a statue of a woman sculpted by a white male artist, they claim, destroys the meaning that the original statue had.

HONG KONG: Almost 50 political activists and legislators in Hong Kong face charges of “conspiracy to commit subversion” that carry sentences of up to life in prison for helping organize a public opinion poll in the run-up to the Legislative Council — Hong Kong’s legislature — elections in 2020, which included contests between pro-democracy and pro-China candidates. The National Security Law, supported by the mainland China government, is being used to justify the charges, but activists say that it is an excuse to silence peaceful protesters.



PERU: An oil firm, Perenco, is pushing to drill in Peruvian indigenous peoples’ land in Napo-Tigre, appearing to challenge the existence of any settlement in the area. Tribes like the Taromenane and Tagaeri, who live there, are mostly uncontacted and elect to stay isolated, but activists note that oil drilling and land use disagreements have negatively affected tribe safety and land. While Perenco claims their project will have minimal impact, they have a poor history of environmental protection according to the National Direction of Environmental Protection. The Peruvian government recently recognized the existence of tribes in Napo-Tigre, a step toward better protections for the rainforest and indigenous peoples’ rights in the Amazon Basin after local protest. Perenco was also forced to remunerate local people.

INDIA: There is mass outrage in India as 11 men convicted of rape and murder and given life sentences were released from jail. Further fueling the protest is the fact that a member of the panel that approved the release cited the convicts’ status as Brahmins (upper-caste Indians) as a reason for their release. They served from 2008 to 2022 for their attacks in the anti-Muslim riots of 2002. Thousands of letters have been sent to India’s Supreme Court protesting the early release.

SOUTH AFRICA: #NationalShutDown. The South African Federation of Trade Unions and the Congress of South African Trade Unions held a mass strike in major cities around South Africa to protest against rising cost of living and wage suppression. Activists say they are calling for more action and better support for the working class from the African National Congress, which has recently moved for austerity measures on economic issues in the country.

Local activism roundup

Local organizations plan protests and meetings to educate the community about activism

Climate Strike:

From noon to 1 p.m., Friday, September 23, students and activists protest outside Palo Alto’s townhall for a global climate strike. The movement will demand world leader attention to provide damage and loss compensation to communities most affected by the climate crisis.

Civic Participation:

From 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, October 25, communities will come together at the San Francisco Public Library. This event is meant to heal violence against black and indigenous women and girls to build communal power to allow all families to thrive in society.

Peace Vigil:

From 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, October 7, there is a call for ceasefire and an opposition to war and militarism. Also in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and all movements working for racial and economic justice, this vigil will be held in front of the Martin Luther King Library.

Women in Leadership:

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, September 24, the event will be filled with mindful activities, educational workshops, and platforms to discuss and share resources for equitable policy changes, and leadership development to uplift women. Located at the Student Union at San Jose University, the workshops will be hosted by the San Jose Peace & Justice Center.

“Day Without Us” Strike:

All day on Friday, September 30, the Day Without Us strike will be held by a group of black women dedicated to the liberation of all people. This event focuses on reproductive justice, nationwide Labor & Union Rights, Gender Equity, Racial Justice, Voting Rights, Housing Justice, Climate Justice and more. There will be virtual meetings and events.

Affordable Housing Information:

From noon to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 27, the SV@Home will host a virtual event with speakers to educate the community about affordable housing. This event will help audiences understand the challenges and opportunities, to empower advocates on how to engage their needs in housing situations. The events will be held free of charge.

Forgive and forget?



“I think it’s [the plan] great. I think that student loans are crazy and insane, and that college is way too expensive nowadays.”

— AVA COLEMAN, junior



“I feel Biden’s plan to forgive some student loan debt is a great start towards a more equitable system of higher education. In a country where education is often necessary to earn a living wage, the very least that can be done is make education more attainable for low income families and to help those who are in debt.”

— DANIEL GAREPIS-HOLLAND, senior



“I was really surprised, i didnt think that this type of forgiving bill would be passed but im glad it was. I think it sets an important precedent and acknowledges the kind of injustices in the system in general and I really hope that it will lead to further reforms for a system thats generally pretty unfair and pretty discriminatory.”

— ANNA VAN RIESEN, junior



“If you can go to school, get a degree, do the work that’s benefiting society, we should at least try to do something to help you out ... Why do we need to give rich people a tax break? And I understand the rationale behind it? Yeah, oh, they’ll take that money, they’ll invest in the country and blah, blah, blah. But isn’t that what you’re doing when you’re relieving student debt?”

— ERIC BLOOM, economics teacher

Safe to park



Palo Alto's decision to allow people without housing to park in church parking lot sparks conversation

Photo by **ANNELISE BALENTINE**

Text by **LUCIANNA PERALTA** and **MAYA MUKHERJEE**

sues among those parked overnight," reads a comment left under Palo Alto Online's story about the safe parking program.

Church council member Ann Campbell said in a community webinar that the church wanted to help people struggling with housing.

"People in our community who are unhoused — we really feel that we have an obligation to reach out to them to provide support and to help them get into a better situation," Campbell said. "We thought it would be a very supportive thing for our church to be doing."

Program director Emily Foley said that although the program is designed to help people without housing, it can exclude people without access to mobile homes.

"But if somebody who cannot comply with those requirements is interested, we can connect them with other county services that they may qualify for," Foley said.

"Personally, I think people shouldn't be living in cars."

— GREG TANAKA, City Council member

ley said.

Tanaka said a better solution than the safe parking program would be to have more affordable housing in Palo Alto. He said family sizes have shrunk in recent decades and zoning laws and impact fees make building large properties more difficult, so the city should instead have more small housing units built to help curb the issue of homelessness.

"Personally, I think people shouldn't be living in cars," Tanaka said. "I mean, I think we should actually probably build more affordable housing

elsewhere."

Tanaka said he believes the program's intentions are good, but that it was carried out poorly due to the lot's proximity to residential housing.

"I don't think there are people who are really opposed to the program, but just the implementation," Tanaka said.

After the City of Palo Alto approved a plan to allow people to live in their mobile vehicles at a local church, nearby residents are divided about the program.

City Council member Greg Tanaka said the plan was inspired by other cities, including Mountain View, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara, which have implemented similar programs. Palo Alto's program differs in that laws about how long vehicles can park at the church are not enforced in any way, according to Tanaka.

Melody Xu, a senior at Palo Alto High School, lives near the church and said she is comfortable with the new program.

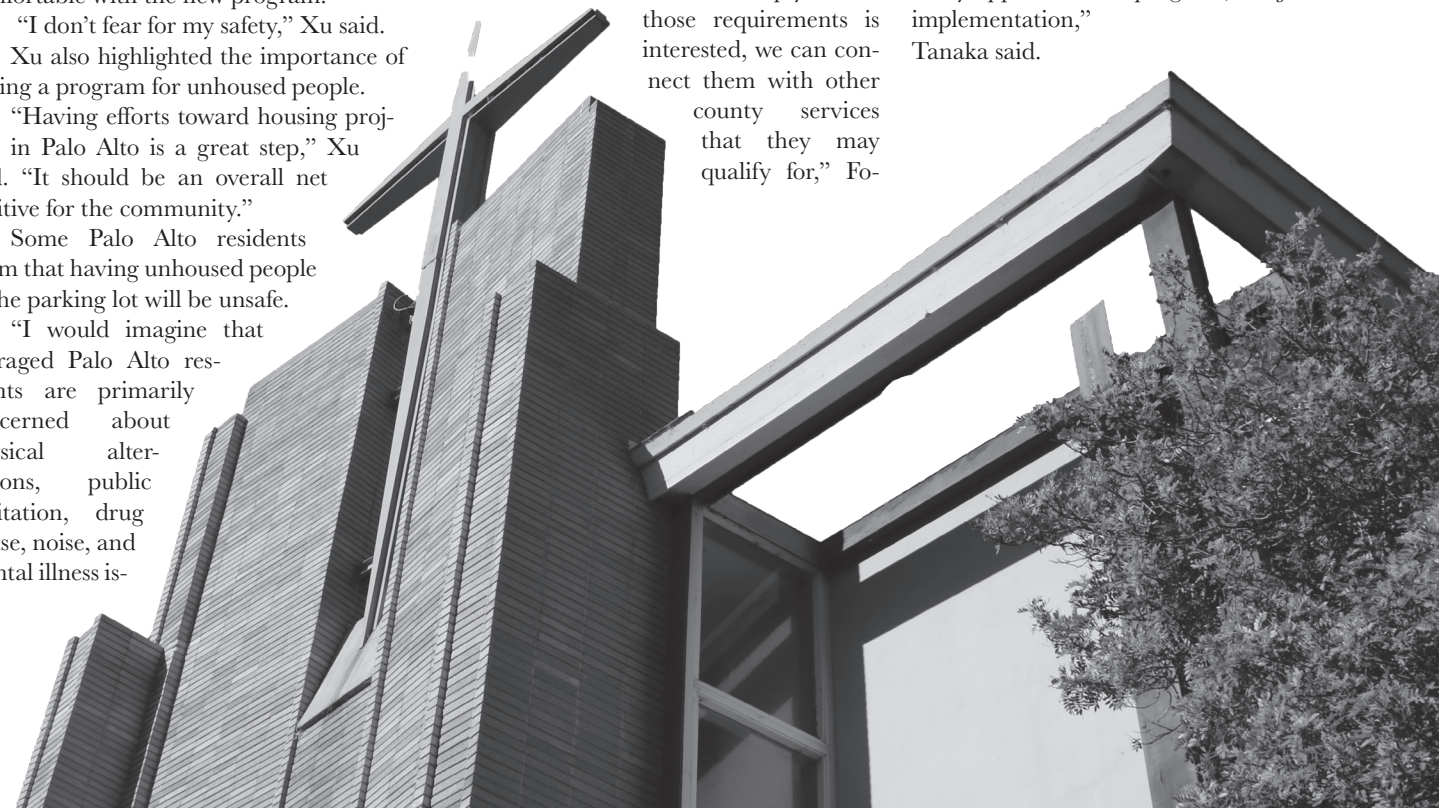
"I don't fear for my safety," Xu said.

Xu also highlighted the importance of having a program for unhoused people.

"Having efforts toward housing projects in Palo Alto is a great step," Xu said. "It should be an overall net positive for the community."

Some Palo Alto residents claim that having unhoused people in the parking lot will be unsafe.

"I would imagine that outraged Palo Alto residents are primarily concerned about physical alterations, public sanitation, drug abuse, noise, and mental illness is-



Text by **ASH MEHTA**
Art by **SASHA KAPADIA**

Conflicting cultures

How LGBTQ+ rights around the world affect American students



All my life, I've begged my parents to let me go to Shahdol, the rural town in India where my grandparents grew up. Family and culture are incredibly important to me, and I've always felt (as so many second-generation immigrants do) quite disconnected from my culture.

But, as a child, my immune system couldn't handle the rampant diseases endemic to that region. As I grew older, both physical safety and logistical concerns barred me from traveling there.

This January, I'm finally traveling to my grandparents' hometown for the very first time. After the initial excitement, though, I began to think about how my LGBTQ+ identity will affect the visit.

"Binary gender dynamics are how much of Indian society functions, so the idea of being nonbinary feels out of the question."

Heteronormative relationships permeate the culture of the part of India I'm from. Binary gender dynamics are how much of Indian society functions, so the idea of being nonbinary feels out of the question.

I can't mention my gender-queer identity for the two weeks I'm there — I would be socially shunned if I even mentioned the idea of being LGBTQ+, never mind the threat to my physical safety.

I wanted to see if anyone else shared my experiences. I set out on a search, talking to LGBTQ+ students across the country about their experiences traveling to less supportive



Dan Penalosa, Homestead High

Unless it's trying to raise awareness about queerness, I really would rather not risk my life again," Dan Penalosa, a senior at Cupertino's Homestead High School, said.

Penalosa immigrated to the United States when he was seven years old from the Philippines. He currently identifies as bisexual.

Growing up in the Philippines, Penalosa said he saw his identity oppressed, ridiculed, and threatened.

"The only time I'd seen queer characters was when they were being ... made fun of on shows," Penalosa said. "So that really didn't set a good impression for me."

Homosexuality is legal in the Philippines, but same-sex marriage is not recognized, and a 2017-2020 World Values Survey found that 40.1% of respondents from the Philippines said homosexuality was not justifiable.

Penalosa said that it was difficult seeing the LGBTQ+ community so marginalized.

"It was kind of scary at that point but hey, I'm just glad that I got through," he said.

If Penalosa goes back to the part of the Philippines where he's from, he said he'd be worried about being "red-tagged" as a political extremist and prosecuted for his identity.

"I'm afraid that I'd be labeled a political radical and then jailed for being queer," Penalosa said.

Penalosa said he has no interest in visiting the Philippines except for activism-related purposes, which is something he said he's thinking about pursuing in the future.

"J," anonymous Paly student

The only reason I feel somewhat safe [visiting Poland] is because I'm not open with my family there," J said.

J is a Palo Alto student who we are leaving anonymous for their safety. They use they/them pronouns and identify as genderqueer, and they immigrated from Poland in seventh grade.

J has begun identifying as genderqueer and biromantic since moving to California, though they are still questioning their specific labels. J said they didn't know that non-cisgender and heterosexual sexualities or gender identities existed before then.

A survey held by the European Union in 2019 found that Poland has the largest gap between the life satisfactions of LGBTQ+ people and non-LGBTQ+ people among EU countries.

The survey found that only 4% of LGBTQ+ Polish students were open about their identity at school, and 58% of LGBTQ+ Polish citizens said they avoided holding hands with their same-sex partner in public for fear of being assaulted, threatened, or harassed.

J visits Poland one to two times a year. They said that, since realizing they are LGBTQ+, they feel a disconnect from their family in Poland.

"I used to be pretty close to them," J said. "But now, there's this big part of my identity that I can't really tell them about. Just like small things, when I see someone I haven't seen in a while, and they say, 'do you have a boyfriend?'"

J said that they haven't felt as connected to their Polish identity, in part because of their LGBTQ+ identity.

"Since maybe three years ago, I don't really like to consider myself Polish anymore," J said. "I'm not saying I'm American, or whatever. I'm just like, I don't feel a strong connection to my country anymore. It's just my family that's keeping me there."



Edwina, American teenager

Edwina, an American high school senior said the disconnect between their culture as a first-generation Chinese immigrant and her identity as a lesbian has been emotionally tumultuous. We left Edwina's last name and location anonymous to protect her identity and safety.

"Honestly, it broke me," Edwina said.

China does not recognize same-sex marriage, and does not have anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ citizens. China also heavily censors LGBTQ+ content in the media.

"I think that the word homosexuality in China carries a certain connotation of mental illness, which is extremely detrimental," Edwina said.

Edwina has visited China twice in her life. During her second visit, Edwina already suspected that she was LGBTQ+, but she was not open about her identity.

Edwina still frequently talks to her extended family in China, though. She said her LGBTQ+ identity has strained her relationship with them.

"The topic of family in China is just so important," Edwina said. "It's ingrained into their societal psyche. It's a pillar of their identity. So I can't really talk to them about my future without talking about children, and a husband, which I clearly don't want at all ... It's a divide that I can't cross, because to cross it would mean to renounce me."

It's a divide that I can't cross, because to cross it would mean to renounce me.

— LGBTQ+ Chinese-American teenager Edwina

Edwina said she feels like she doesn't fit into her family's identity as Chinese.

"Even symbolism, like the Dragon and the Phoenix, in Chinese culture stands for the masculine and the feminine," Edwina

said. "I can't even, like, describe Chinese Zodiacs without having to fight against the heteronormative expectation."

Edwina said she doesn't think she'd be comfortable going back to China with a same-sex partner.

"In China right now, homophobia is reaching a new level, especially because the current president, he is very traditionalist," Edwina said. "I definitely don't know if I would be comfortable going back."

Edwina said though she is working to bridge the gap between her Chinese culture and her LGBTQ+ identity by writing poems about her experiences, she is also rejecting the homophobic side of her culture.

"I hate to say it, but sometimes family is just strangers related by blood," Edwina said. "So you do what is good for your happiness and you make sure that you are living and not just surviving."



A campus of activists

Paly students tell us about what fuels their fight for justice



Photo courtesy of Katie Dorogusker

Katie Dorogusker, senior

“I’m passionate about involvement in social justice issues because of the privilege that I benefit from every day as a wealthy, white teenager living in Palo Alto. I believe that part of the journey of social justice is acknowledging this privilege and actively working to listen to underrepresented groups and the issues that they face, in order to dismantle the systems that maintain the inequities. This is why I think it’s so important to become involved as a child/teenager in order to become a well-informed adult who is capable of creating social change. I’m also passionate about being a part of social justice conversations because I know, and have experienced, how easy it is to opt out of them when you have privilege that allows you to not think about these issues on a daily basis.”



Photo courtesy of Cal Currier

Nusaybah Mohsin, freshman

TOP: “While I don’t necessarily plan protests and make big speeches, I stand firm in my belief in fundamental human rights. I care a lot about social justice mainly because there’s so much hate in this world that people use to influence society. I mean how often has the American Government made laws that say one thing but essentially are made to discriminate against a minority? I’m most passionate about anti-racism, feminism, and religious freedom, as I align with them the most, but I really support any minority. I think advocacy is important since if nobody stands up for what’s right then everyone will accept that what’s wrong is acceptable.”

Cal Currier, junior

BOTTOM: “I think that it is important for us to understand what every group of people is going through. More importantly, I want to make a difference for people, especially people that I might never see. I want to make the kind of difference that touches more people than just people in my vicinity.”



Mateo Diaz, senior

Photo courtesy of Mateo Diaz

“The household I grew up in really impacted the way I view the world. My parents are political scientists who study violence and poverty in Mexico. As a young child I would go on their research trips, and see the injustices the world faces. It was very hard to grasp as a young child, but in a way made me understand things that others didn’t. In highschool I explored my passion for social justice. I wrote research papers on violence and impunity in latin america and made a project in SJP about all the migrant deaths crossing the US- Mexico border, showing the impact the drug war has had on the region. Giving voices to the voiceless inspires me.”



▲ **Athya Paramesh, junior**

“Even if I don’t experience the injustice I still want to help other people because injustice is injustice no matter what or where it is taking place. People fought to get us to where we are, but that fight is not over yet. There are still a lot of changes to be made and being an activist allows me to make a small change to our world.”



▲ **Ila Perinkulam, senior**

“Even if I don’t experience the injustice I still want to help other people because injustice is injustice no matter what or where it is taking place. People fought to get us to where we are, but that fight is not over yet. There are still a lot of changes to be made and being an activist allows me to make a small change to our world.”

◀ **Omkar Perinkulam, freshman**

“I care about activism, because even though I’m not very affected by social injustices, these injusticed people deserve better, and they deserve to be treated better. Things like not having electricity to get light to study, and not getting equal opportunity by things that don’t really matter like being a part of the LGBTQ community. Again, even though I’m not different from other people in the way that I’m not discriminated against, those people are out there, and they deserve a world with equal opportunity.”



◀ **Olivia Lindstrom, junior**

“I am a part of Social Justice Pathway because I really care about helping people in regard to social justice issues. I love all of the projects that we do in the pathway that actually help people, and instead of just talking about these issues we are actively fighting against them.”

▼ **Morgan Greenlaw, senior**

“I am an activist because I want to make the world a better place. Advocating for plant-based eating is my biggest passion because it benefits the world by the choice of an individual. Climate change, human health, animal lives, and social justice issues are all positively impacted by plant-based eating, making it one of the most impactful decisions an individual can make to create change, and activism allows me to share this with others.”



▲ **Johannah Seah, senior**

“I care because it’s the only appropriate way to approach it - if I see someone hurting or injustice, it is only right to do something about it, whatever is in my capacity. I want a world where people are treated with compassion and dignity, and ensure our world systems reflect that.”



▲ **Trianne Hontiveros, senior**

“I am passionate about advocacy because I strongly believe in equality and the proper protection for all. Growing up in New York City, I was exposed to people from different cultures, backgrounds, walks of life, and even hardships. This exposure opened my eyes and ears into understanding what various people go through and as well as fuel me to speak out and help create change. All my life, I valued and upheld the importance of speaking up for myself and especially for others whose voices aren’t heard.”

Text by **EVELYN ZHANG** and **MAYA MUKHERJEE**.

Art by **SANDHYA KRISHNAN**

Moving into view

Palo Alto Renters' Association's mission of housing equality

Forty-six percent of Palo Alto residents rent their homes. That's 11,764 renting households. Still, for 50 years, there was no organized representative body for Palo Alto renters — but in 2020, Palo Alto Renters Association changed that.

Recently, Palo Alto has been called out for lagging behind other cities with its affordable housing, making housing an important issue in the midterm elections this November. In response, PARA, along with Silicon Valley at Home Action Fund and Palo Alto Forward, hosted a forum for city council candidates to discuss housing issues on Sept. 15.

"I hope that discussions actually mean action, because sometimes discussions don't," PARA board president Lauren Bigelow said.

PARA is an organization that focuses on building a community of renters and advocating for policies that benefit renters. According to Palo Alto historian Steve Staiger, they have long been integral to the community.

"Renters have always been a sizable portion of the Palo Alto population, pretty much from day one," Staiger said.

In addition, Bigelow said the association was formed in part to communicate with Palo Alto's elected officials, since there is a lack of representation of renters in the city government, with only one council member being a renter on a board of seven

ple.

"Because nobody was helping renters talk to each other, there wasn't any way to communicate with our electeds to let them know what the repeated experiences of renters were like," she said. "So, we wanted to build a community where renters felt safe, heard and connected."

Staiger partly attributes the lack of representation on the city council to the total number of members.

"It was 9, and it used to be 11, and every so often they'd chop two of them, so that's chopping off possible diversity," Staiger said.

The necessity of giving renters a voice in the Palo Alto community is tied to the issue of socioeconomic inequality in Palo Alto, according to Bigelow.

"The median home price in Palo Alto is \$3.3 million, and that is incredibly out of reach for a lot of people," Bigelow said. "So, if you can't afford to buy a home, then what are you? You're a renter."

Socioeconomic inequality in Palo Alto has long been tied to racial inequality, according to Palo Alto History. Renting issues, therefore, disproportionately impact racial minorities, Bigelow said.

"We saw a lot of our renters who were frontline workers [during

the COVID-19 pandemic] being people of color," Bigelow said.

The issue of renting ties into the larger conversation about affordable housing in Palo Alto. Faced with evidence of Palo Alto's lacking successes compared with surrounding towns like Mountain View, the need for more affordable housing has risen to the top of political discussions.

"We have to protect folks and build more so that things become more affordable so that we can have more diversity around, because we all benefit from that," Bigelow said.

Bigelow said one of PARA's goals is to grow in numbers to gain prominence. She said they grew from 250 members in their first year to 500 now, but out of 11,764 renters in Palo Alto, they are still relatively small.

"People don't really know that we exist, and part of that reason is because we've all become so disconnected from each other and from our community," Bigelow said. "Especially when 27% of Palo Alto renters are in single family homes, it's really tough to get to know your neighbors."

According to Bigelow, PARA is encouraging people to raise awareness about the issue, garner publicity for the association, and vote in alignment with renter interests in order to gain equality.

"That's a Palo Alto that we want, right?" Bigelow said. "In-

"We have to protect folks...so that we can have more diversity around, because we all benefit from that."

— LAUREN BIGELOW, PARA board president

"Palo Alto has been called out for lagging behind other cities with its affordable housing."



Text by **MAYA MUKHERJEE** and **SANDHYA KRISHNAN**

Force of Filppu

One teacher's fight for what's right

As we walk into room 205, adorned with fairy lights and plastered with inspirational posters wall to wall, English teacher Lucy Filppu waves us in and urges us to sit in her soft chairs. She's engaged in conversation with two of her students, chatting with them about their lives, academic progress, and her brand-new club "Power Moves," but she happily welcomes us into the conversation.

When we asked, Filppu said she didn't think she does enough to be considered an activist, noting that she doesn't spend her weekends going to protests and that she doesn't think she does enough for her underprivileged students.

However, talking to those around her in the Palo Alto High School community — students and fellow staff members — a drastically different story emerged.

Filppu, who teaches several English classes at Paly, takes issue with inequity in aspects of the school and college application systems and works to help her students.

Although advisories explain a variety of possible paths after high school, lessons tend to center on four-year college planning. Filppu says other avenues need to be emphasized as well, especially to support students of lower socioeconomic status.

"Private four year colleges cost about \$320,000 over four years," Filppu said. "We need to get real and recognize that many of our students need another path."

Senior Andy Robinson, who is in Filppu's advisory, highlighted her commitment to this idea.

"She's really not interested in fueling competition between students," Robinson said. "She's really emphasized that there's lots of paths after college, and that's some-

thing she takes very, very, very seriously."

Senior Mia Rose Tuifua, also in Filppu's advisory, said Filppu is dedicated to looking out for first generation college students and gives them the support they need.

"As a first-gen student, I really feel her support," Tuifua said. "She wants to make sure all of her students regardless of race, class, get the equal opportunity to apply to college and go."

Tuifua said Filppu makes sure her students do their work and works them hard in order to help them succeed.

"She sets high expectations for us, but honestly it just pushes us to be the best that we can," Tuifua said.

Another area that Filppu specifically focuses on is the barriers that prevent students from taking AP courses, such as the high prices of the end-of-year exams.

"I wish we could defray the costs of the tests for all students, I wish more students felt safe to enroll in APs, I wish we offered 'pre-AP' courses for students such as those in AVID so they could better prepare for APs," Filppu said.

As part of her quest to make the AP system at Paly more accessible, Filppu encourages underrepresented students to enroll in her AP Seminar class, which focuses on research projects.

"We need to be more deliberate about giving underrepresented students the courage and the tools to take APs if they so choose," Filppu said.

Robinson also said Filppu expresses her passion for equality frankly to her class.

"She's never afraid to have uncomfortable conversations with her students, but in a way that's humorous but also productive," he said.

History and social justice pathway teacher Caitlin Drewes said she sees Filppu as someone who respects her students.

"I see her on campus as this really positive force who really tries to see kids as individuals, as humans, to understand them and like what are the things you need," Drewes said.

Drewes also mentioned Filppu's efforts in making sure her classroom is a just place.

"She's done a

Photo by **ANNELISE BALENTINE**

huge amount of work in the last year trying to make her teaching practice more equitable and try to support BIPOC students in all kinds of ways, but specifically her classroom," Drewes said.

This work that Filppu has done inspires other staff members on campus as well, Drewes said.

"Once you hear what she does, it's like it makes you think about your own practice and what you want to change in your own classroom," Drewes said.

Filppu said if she could change one thing for her students, it would be changing the way their personal relationships are valued.

"I believe spending hours being there for a friend is as valuable as studying for a test," Filppu said.

Filppu also mentioned how the college application system doesn't allow room for students to mention their greater familial responsibilities, and the lengths some students go to in order to maintain relationships

Through her many classes and her Advisory, Filppu strives to promote equality between students.

"Every student at Paly deserves the same amount of attention and passion," Filppu said.



The Tate Rage

Andrew Tate: A phase or reality?

How confident are you in your ability to think for yourself? Can you identify what's wrong and what is right easily?

For many, or to anyone with enough common sense, the answers to these questions may seem straightforward. However, in the deep corners of the internet a fandom that lacks all these values is growing, led by one man alone: Andrew Tate.

Andrew Tate is a social media influencer and kickboxer who's recently gained prominence for his misogynistic content. He advocates for domestic abuse and sexual assault, and has been accused of sexual assault and violence against women.

Most notably though, he has gained a reputation for saying ridiculous, often outlandish statements that create a sensational appeal for his audience.

Especially prominent are his outrageous and demeaning comments against women. Examples of this include his confusion on "how are they [women] allowed to drive" and how women are like animals in the sense that they are meant to "obey" their male superiors.

These horrible comments are only

part of what Tate's platform is based on, and rather than being targeted for them, he is glorified by his fanbase.

Before being banned, Tate had a massive following on all forms of social media with over a million followers on both Instagram and Twitter. Along with this, his notoriety is amplified by the plethora of fan accounts on these platforms that support his behavior.

Often in the form of short videos, these accounts take clips of him saying offensive and irrational things and portray them in a way that glorifies his messages, as well as Tate as a person. These videos also receive mass user interaction, gaining thousands of likes and follows.

What's worse is that even though these videos contain obvious signs of hate and are derogatory, they are still being placed onto many social media users' front pages by the algorithm.

I remember a period of time when, on TikTok, every other video on my "For You" page was a video of Tate with some absurd comment and dramatic music echoing in the background. By being exposed to so many people, the culture that Tate is creating is only growing larger.

Although Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok have banned Tate from their platform for violation of hate speech guidelines, the videos of him are still surfacing by uploads from his fan accounts, proving the strength he has in the community.

In relation, evidence from The Observer found that followers of Tate are being instructed to mass-repost videos of him on social media, choosing the most controversial clips to maximize views and engagement.

From an outside perspective, it may

seem like the whole Tate-gig is just a long-running joke and that despite him having an immense following, people still have enough common sense to at least recognize the man is a terrible person. However,

er, the truth is far murkier.

Although Tate isn't singlehandedly causing any extreme harm, he is perpetuating a culture that has been around for years: internet misogyny.

We tend to view the internet as a separate sphere compared to the real world—that things created online are not necessarily harmful due to its virtuality. However, when such a culture that is based on hateful and derogatory values is being promoted, the implications on the future generations could be dark.

Joshua Roose, a senior research fellow at Deakin University who specializes in extremism and masculinities, says there's a strong "normative anti-women attitude is society" that is replicated online.

"[These] groups argue that women need to be subjugated, need to return to the

domestic sphere, and really need to be put back in their historical place," he told ABC Australia.

Roose added that Tate thrives on the motivation of toxic masculinity.

"There's a strong push to mobilize masculinity, when they're recruiting. To say, 'you're a man, you should be doing something, you should be fighting for something. What do you believe in? There's a reason that you're not achieving what you want to achieve. Society is fundamentally skewed against you. Join us,'" Dr Roose says.

Evidently, Tate is echoing the same ideas that are commonly seen in internet misogyny echo chambers like the manosphere, which is where men's rights activists, incels, and the far right convene. It has also been connected to online harassment and has glorified violence against women and misogynistic beliefs.

What's alarming is that Tate has realized he can get away with whatever he wants to say, and to keep himself from losing his 15 minutes of fame, he continues recycling and spreading hateful rhetoric and ideas.

"Although Tate isn't singlehandedly causing any extreme harm, he is perpetuating a culture that has been around for years."

The backing gained from his audience has given him a platform that gives him more power to say such offensive things and creates a negative cultural influence on the internet. It's a vicious cycle.

The only method for preventing men like Tate from reappearing is to fight the problem at the root: stopping the culture before it gets too toxic and out of control.

By supporting his values, even as a joke, society is further promoting extremely discriminatory ideas to such vast, user-filled platforms.

Elevating his platform is only contributing to a hateful cycle on the Internet that will prove detrimental for our society if continued. The Internet is not supposed to be a place full of hate, rather one of enjoyment, creativity, and entertainment.

We need to educate the next generation of adults that the things this man says is truly a form of hatred, and in no world should it be accepted or tolerated.

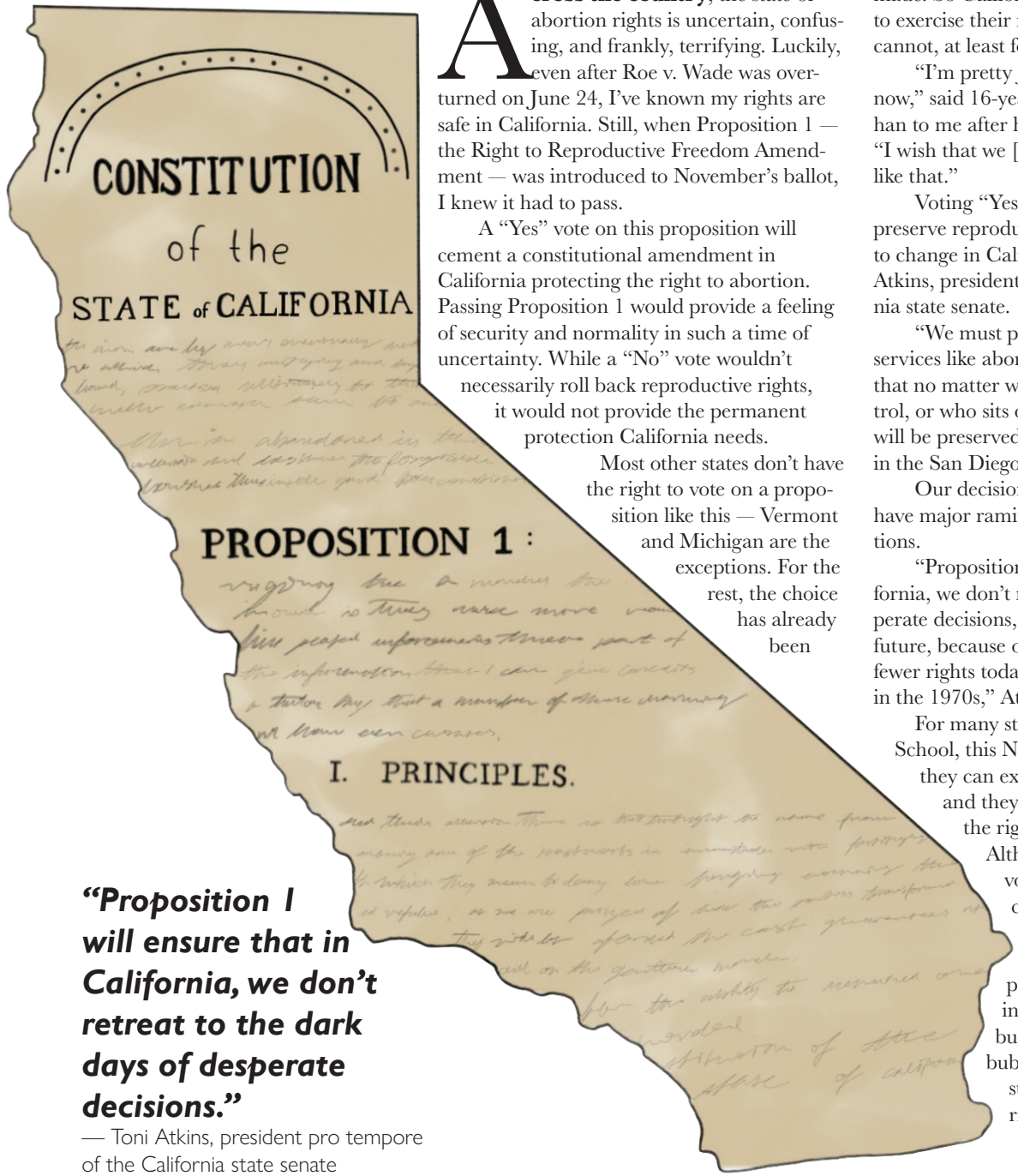


Text by **MAYA MUKHERJEE**

Graphic by **LAUREN WONG**

Cement our rights

Amid confusion and fear, let's put abortion in the constitution



Across the country, the state of abortion rights is uncertain, confusing, and frankly, terrifying. Luckily, even after *Roe v. Wade* was overturned on June 24, I've known my rights are safe in California. Still, when Proposition 1 — the Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment — was introduced to November's ballot, I knew it had to pass.

A "Yes" vote on this proposition will cement a constitutional amendment in California protecting the right to abortion. Passing Proposition 1 would provide a feeling of security and normality in such a time of uncertainty. While a "No" vote wouldn't necessarily roll back reproductive rights, it would not provide the permanent protection California needs.

Most other states don't have the right to vote on a proposition like this — Vermont and Michigan are the exceptions. For the rest, the choice has already been

made. So Californians have the obligation to exercise their right to vote in ways others cannot, at least for now.

"I'm pretty jealous of you guys right now," said 16-year-old Texan Malvika Pradhan to me after hearing about Proposition 1. "I wish that we [Texans] could do something like that."

Voting "Yes" on this amendment will also preserve reproductive rights if something were to change in California, according to Toni Atkins, president pro tempore of the California state senate.

"We must protect the right to essential services like abortion and contraceptives so that no matter what political party is in control, or who sits on the courts, abortion access will be preserved in California," Atkins wrote in the San Diego Tribune.

Our decisions this November will also have major ramifications for future generations.

"Proposition 1 will ensure that in California, we don't retreat to the dark days of desperate decisions, but instead prepare for the future, because our children shouldn't have fewer rights today than their grandparents did in the 1970s," Atkins wrote.

For many students at Palo Alto High School, this November will be the first time they can exercise their right to vote, and they have the chance to defend the rights of future generations.

Although I'm not quite able to vote, I urge my friends and classmates who are to use their voices for this proposition.

The ballot's nuanced propositions may seem daunting, especially to young voters, but all it takes is a fill-in of a bubble to vote. Proposition 1 is straightforward and will be right at the top.

"Proposition 1 will ensure that in California, we don't retreat to the dark days of desperate decisions."

— Toni Atkins, president pro tempore of the California state senate

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Text by **LUCIANNA PERALTA** and **MINIRVA VILLEGAS**

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Stability moves out

East Palo Alto locals face the consequences of scarce low-income housing

As the years went by I saw houses come down only to be built back up newer and modern looking,” said Martha Estrada, a Junior at Palo Alto High School. “I saw new faces. I saw more people of different races moving in — a lot wealthier too, because of the houses they were moving into.”

When Estrada was 9 years old, she realized her anger for the system that allowed this. Not only was her family forced to move frequently from room to room — from the lack of funds to afford a whole house. Not only having to live with multiple families at once and dealing with the chaos and stress. Not only experiencing eviction from a household and watching as someone rented it out for a larger sum of money after its renovation.

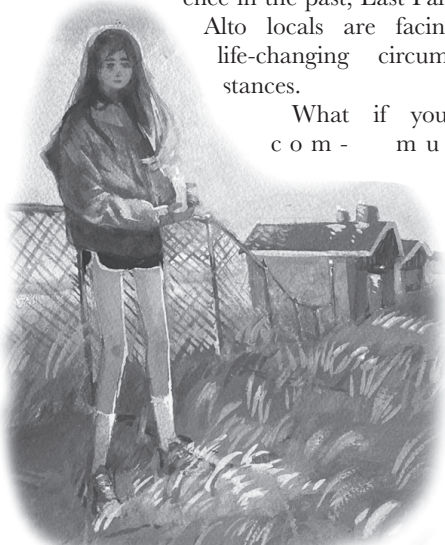
“It made me jealous because all these wealthy people moving into their nice houses made me realize...how badly I wanted to live in a nice house,” Estrada said.

Enduring these hardships show the disadvantage low-income families face.

Gentrification is the process of displacing a neighborhood population, while negatively impacting the overall culture. Not only does this hurt the way things are run, but it strips away the city’s long-formed identity.

Undergoing this influence in the past, East Palo Alto locals are facing life-changing circumstances.

What if your community



nity shifted so drastically you don’t feel welcome anymore? What would happen if your community’s inner workings are so challenged by newcomers that its distinctiveness has been totally revoked? Would it make you question your ability to continue living there?

“[Gentrification] pushes people out, and it excludes other people by virtue of their economic situation,” said Ruben Abrica, mayor of East Palo Alto and founder of the EPA Council responsible for carrying out and developing the city’s policy.

According to Tech at Meta, 58,000 new employees of Meta have moved to the Bay Area since 2021. As the demand for workers rises, what’s stopping EPA from becoming fully gentrified?

The answer: Bay Areas low-income housing.

“It’s driven by the fact that there is not enough affordable housing,” Abrica said.

A great alternative is East Palo Alto — a safe haven for low-income households who want more opportunities for themselves and their families.

Estrada said: “I used to go around EPA and see old beat up houses, but it still felt like home because that’s what I was used to and seeing the people who looked like me gave me a very welcoming feeling every time I walked around the city.”

As many developers gear up for the chance to restore old houses and sell them for more than allowed by county renters laws to younger generations, it undoubtedly establishes the vicious cycle of gentrification.

Companies maintaining low numbers of outside hires should employ locals fit for the job to ensure not only more diversity into their ranks, but also help stabilize the cost of living in the notoriously pricey Silicon Valley.

“[Gentrification] excludes other people by virtue of their economic situation.”

— Ruben Abrica, Mayor of East Palo Alto

“I didn’t know what gentrification meant until I was affected by it,” a Paly student said. “Learning that it not only displaces hard-working people, it’s become systemic oppression—oppression of class, of race and possibly jobs.”

But it’s not just about the employees as the problem stems from landowners.

“About 40% of EPA locals do not own their property,” Abrica said.

The Just Cause Eviction Law prohibits landlords from evicting tenants without leases or at the end of a tenants lease term. Unfortunately, this does nothing to stabilize rent, as stated by Good Life Management.

“It’s sort of cruel. If we’re forced to go somewhere else, we’re forced out of the community in which we grew up in,” said Estrada.

The pressures to move gets worse and worse as gentrification becomes yet another stressor and renters start to cave in. Slowly, residents are being pushed out of a place they once believed to be their permanent home for booming tech companies to swiftly take control.

Gentrification will surely lead to a variety of changes to the current living style of EPA. Some changes could be all the better, but others might not.

It would be devastating to see the community picked apart and have residents move farther away.

“When this is happening, many families have been hurt and more will continue to hurt,” Abrica said.

As a community, we need to do something about this so no other family gets evicted or turned down for their economic status. By donating to Shelter Force, a movement that empowers low-income communities and voting for firmer renters laws, we can ensure residents have a greater opportunity for housing affordability and neighborhood stabilization.

Text by **TRIANNE ISABELLE HONTIVEROS**

Art by **ABBY CROMWELL**

An anti-melanin society

Addressing the enduring issue of colorism

Stay out of the sun.” They tell me. And no, it wasn’t about getting a sunburn or getting skin cancer. It was so that I wouldn’t get “darker” than I already was.

Growing up in the Philippines, I was taught that a girl can only be between two things: Either she is blessed with being fair skinned, “mestiza”, or she is damned with being darker skinned, “morena”. It was never verbally said, but it didn’t need it to be. From gossiping aunties raving about the new skin lightening lotion, to telenovelas casting beautiful light-skinned protagonists and whilst belittling the dark-skinned antagonists, to even the excessive amount of sunscreen slathered on my skin during summertime, it was evident that being “mestiza” is the way to go.

Colorism is the discrimination and bias against those of darker skin tone. This not only happens cross culturally but it is even more prevalent amongst the same ethnic and racial groups.

The Spanish Encomienda and Casta System, reinforced the idea of racism and colorism where natives were at the bottom then “mixed race” such as the Mestizos (born of Spanish and Native American Indian) were in the middle and the Peninsulares, Spaniards born in Spain, remained on the top of the social hierarchy and rule over them. This system

resulted in the competition amongst natives where those with white, Spaniard blood and share somewhat phenotypical traits such as lighter skin color are favored.

This perspective continues to carry on towards Filipino beauty standards.

Recalling my childhood, I will never forget how this standard has impacted me: I once tried to sneak in a bar of papaya soap that I had seen in TV commercials, claiming to lighten my skin, in our monthly grocery, only to be caught by my grandmother refusing to buy it for me saying that its only for adults. I was six at that time.

I had moved to the U.S since. Living more than a decade in New York City and recently yet again moved to Palo Alto last summer, I thought I had fully escaped colorism.

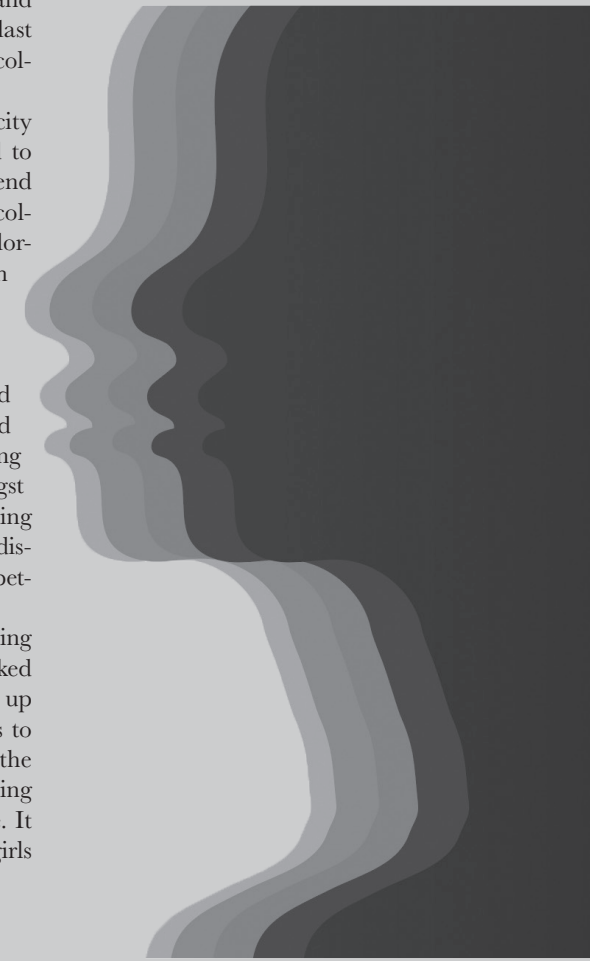
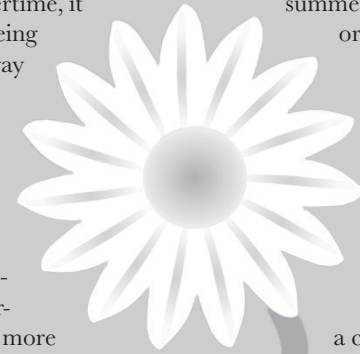
Living in the most diverse city in the world, I was privileged to be exposed to such a rich blend of cultures, characters, and colors. I didn’t believe that colorism would be any problem here in the U.S because of the diversity. I was wrong. In America, I learned that there is a clash between the “lightskins” and the “darkskins” of the Black, and the Latinx community. Name calling and bullying were prevalent amongst school children as I watched growing up. And even now, social media dishearteningly continues to perpetuate such clash.

Additionally, the tanning culture in America shocked me. As a girl growing up with society wanting us to be as white as possible, the thought of others wanting to be darker baffled me. It was mostly the white girls

especially on social media flaunting their tan: fake or not, they received endless compliments and praises.

Why is darker skin special on them but not on me? Why not on people of color? Society shames our melanin but praises those who pay for it. Why is that?

Colorism has been an issue for many years and in many cultures. It affects younger generations and even more if we still continue to condone such biases. One’s self worth should not be based on how much melanin they have, or lack thereof.



SKY'S THE LIMIT

Paly beginning journalism students share their ideas for a new publication

Reviews!

- Music
- Movies
- TV

comics!

Music magazine

Comedy magazine
(satire, comics, etc.)

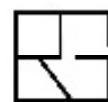
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We are looking to hire several students who are experienced in taking and editing videos. We have a party coming up where there will be face painting, balloon making and food. We would like to capture the happy moments of the party attendees.

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