

TITLE IX

is evolving, but do these new policies reflect the reality of the **process?**

CHANGE

column



C MAGAZINE

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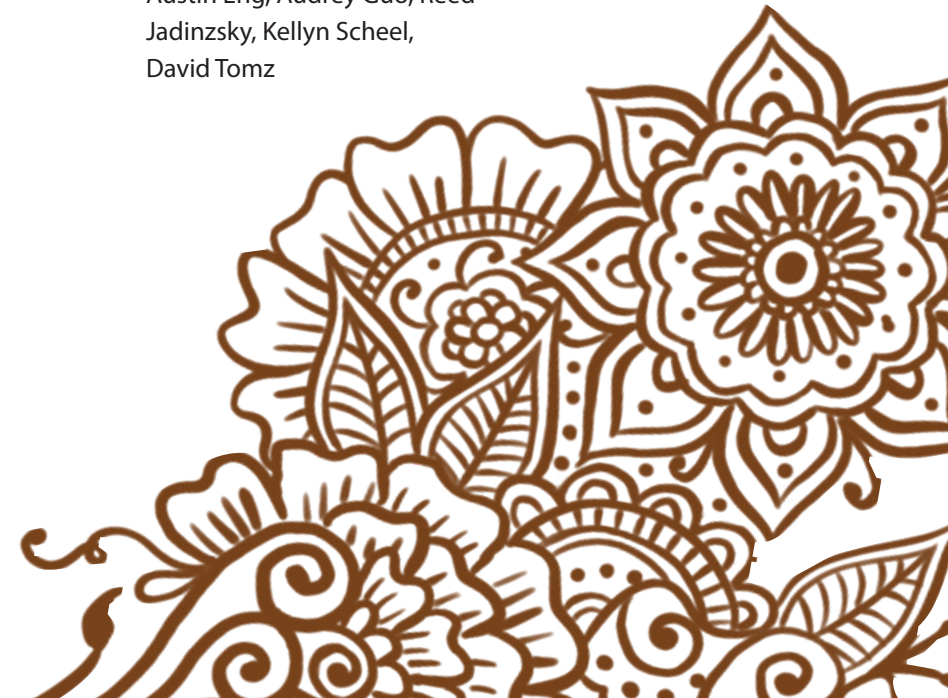
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Dear readers,

Welcome to C Magazine's first issue of 2023! We're glad to be back and kicking off this year's round of magazines. As winter turns to spring, and the nature around us begins to defrost, we hope that you get the chance to take a break and spend some time in the sun as you read through what's been happening on campus and in the greater Palo Alto community.

This issue's cover story, "IX" (pg. 17), by Evie Coulson, McKenna Rausch, Milena Rodriguez and Jasmine Tabrizi, breaks down the evolution of Title IX in light of the federal reforms made to it in 2020. With insight from Palo Alto Unified School District, Paly administration and students who have faced the Title IX process, it is clear that efforts made to better the Title IX may have had an adverse effect on reporters.

In recent years, AI has become a growing phenomenon, marking its place in fields such as art. Our featured cover story "AI: Artificial or Artistic Intelligence?" (pg. 31), written by Brooke Hudacek and Zeke Morrison, looks at the strides that AI has taken towards taking over the art world, as well as the components that could be holding it back, like a sense of originality, something that humans continue to be unmatched at creating.

For years, Palo Alto's homes have been evolving in style.

"Architectural Revolution of Palo Alto" (pg. 38), written by Scarlett Cummings and Anika Raffle, explores how the "desirable home" in Palo Alto has changed, as well as the consequences of constantly changing design ideals.

Listening to music has always been a popular way for people to unwind. In "Music Therapy" (pg. 41), writers Siena Dunn and Jake Papp dive deep into the psychological effects that listening to music can have on a person.

Recently, yearly award shows have received backlash for their predictability and lack of diversity. "Inequality in the Spotlight" (pg. 44), written by Mary Henderson and Alma Samet, exposes and explains the inequities of award shows and the film industry in general.

As you flip through the pages of C Magazine's newest issue, we hope that you find a story that sparks your interest, and continue to keep up with our future content, both in our print issues and through our web exclusives posted on cmagazine.org.

Happy Reading!

Evie Coulson, McKenna Rausch, Milena Rodriguez and Jasmine Tabrizi

Evie Coulson McKennaRausch Milena Rodriguez Jasmine Tabrizi

WEB EXCLUSIVES

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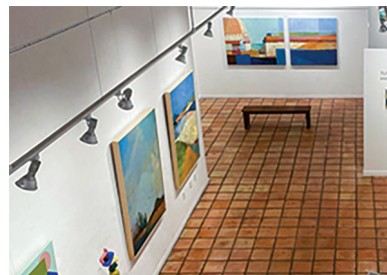
Ballin' on a Budget

By Kellyn Scheel



De Young- Ramses the Great and the Gold of the Pharaohs

By Casey Walters



On View Downtown- Joe Ferriso, Sarah Morejohn and More

By Audrey Guo



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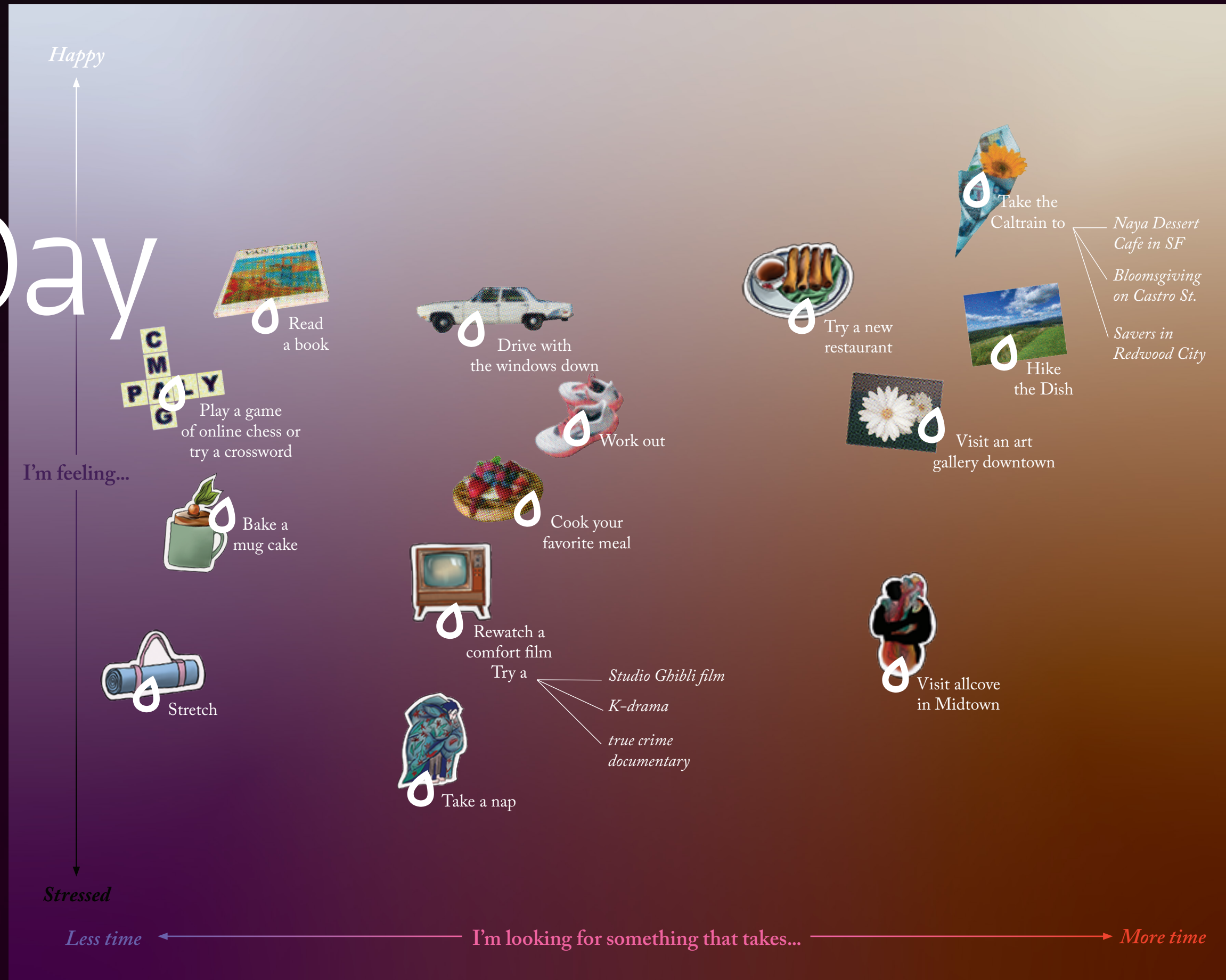
Plan a Rainy Day

Plot your mood and availability and we'll suggest an activity for your next day off

In recent years, there has been an upward trend of students taking mental health days, or "rainy days," off in order to relieve burn-out or simply to spend time with themselves. As winter draws on and AP season approaches, C Mag believes that taking a mental health day is more important now than ever. Here we've compiled a visual guide of activities by mood and time duration to help you plan your own.



Scan the QR code to take the online quiz!



Teen Arts Council!

Interested in planning events like this in our community?
DROP INTO A MEETING!

**OPEN MEETINGS
EVERY WEDNESDAY**
Earn service hours!

Palo Alto Children's Theatre Mitchell Park Community Center

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| JAN 11 | JAN 18 |
| JAN 25 | FEB 1 |
| FEB 8 | FEB 15 |
| FEB 22 | MAR 1 |
| MAR 8 | MAR 15 |
| MAR 22 | MAR 29 |
| APR 12 | APR 19 |
| APR 26 | MAY 3 |
| MAY 10 | MAY 17 |
| MAY 24 | MAY 31 |

JANUARY 28TH
OPEN MIC NIGHT

7:30pm Mitchell Park Teen Center

FEBRUARY 11TH
CRAFT NIGHT

6:00pm Mitchell Park Teen Center

MARCH 9TH
COMEDY NIGHT

7:30pm Palo Alto Children's Theatre

APRIL (TBD)
**LUMINESCENCE
FILM FESTIVAL**

5:00pm Mitchell Park El Palo Alto Room

MAY 5TH
CLOTHING SWAP

5:00pm Mitchell Park El Palo Alto Room

JUNE 2ND
**WAVEFEST ART &
MUSIC FESTIVAL**

Mitchell Park Community Center

Dates, times & locations subject to change



Upcoming Events
teenartscouncil.org



How an ancient art medium is used for self-expression among today's youth

Text and design by MARTINA MEYERFREUND and SAACHI NAGAR • Art by KELLYN SCHEEL



Piercings have existed for thousands of years. A method of both self-expression and cultural traditions, piercings have maintained popularity and are still prevalent among society today.

Piercings can be noticed on individuals in just about any setting, regardless of its formality. Unique piercings and jewelry are used by some people to express ownership of their bodies and individuality.

Hannah Seeger, a Paly junior, has 19 piercings and has acquired them as a form of self-expression.

"It's just a fun way to accessorize myself, but in a more permanent way," Seeger said.

Kim Imfeld, owner of the salon Skin Solution, offers ear piercings alongside a variety of other services such as facials.

"[Piercings] make [teenagers] feel good about themselves and [like] they accomplished something," Imfeld said.

Piercings originally stemmed from people of color and are now a staple practice among everyone. Rae Sox-Harris, a Paly junior, explains the history of piercings in subcultures.

"Alternative subcultures stem from people of color when they were trying to find a way to make communities and people were really racist, so they correspond piercings with being a bad influence,"

"I love my belly button piercing. It's so cute, and I used to be a little insecure about my stomach, so it's a distraction. I focus on the shiny jewelry rather than my stomach, and that makes me feel a lot better."

Rae Sox Harris, junior

"Piercings are a really good staple so people don't phase in and out of interest. It's not like a clothing item, and it's easy to change. So it goes with everyone's style."
Rae Sox Harris, junior

Sox-Harris said. "So that's why piercings are seen as rebellious."

For some, having piercings is influential for their self confidence, serving as a way to see past physical insecurities.

"I love my belly button piercing," Sox-Harris said. "It's so cute, and I used to be a little insecure about my stomach, so it's a distraction. I focus on the shiny jewelry rather than my stomach, and that makes me feel a lot better."

The different meanings that come with piercings are often specific to a person and make an individual statement.

"I feel like [having piercings] makes teenagers definitely feel more unique as a person," Imfeld said. "Whether that is all diamonds in a row, it definitely has a meaning to them."

Unlike clothing items, piercings are typically not subject to fashion trends, and are mostly individual to a person and their likings.

"I don't think fashion trends really affect [piercings], I just do what piercing I feel like doing or if I see someone else with one I like I'll just do it," Seeger said. "It's more based on what I see, not

really trends."

Sox-Harris agrees, going on to describe how jewelry has historically been a constant in fashion.

"I would say there are less trends when it comes to piercings," Sox-Harris said.

"Piercings are a really good staple so people don't phase in and out of interest. It's not like a clothing item, and it's easy to change. So it goes with everyone's style."

Although facial piercings remain stigmatized, in recent years non-traditional ear piercings have become a more accepted practice.

Piercings have significance in many different cultures. For example, in Hinduism, it is traditional for brides to wear a nose ring connected to a chain that is pinned to their hair to pay respect to Goddess Parvati, the goddess of marriage. For Inuit people, piercings are a rite of passage to adulthood, and in many African cultures, piercing different body parts symbolizes new stages of life.

There are many stigmas surrounding uncommon facial piercings, often stemming from the idea that people participating in the art are rebellious or lack maturity. As a result, the negative aspects of piercings are spotlighted more and the positive characteristics are often ignored.

"I have a lot of piercings," Sox-Harris said. "I definitely think it's kind of a

"I feel like [having piercings] makes teenagers definitely feel more unique as a person, whether that is all diamonds in a row or all hoops in a row, it definitely has a meaning to them."
Kim Imfeld, Skin Solution

rebellion. My mom has a lot of piercings and tattoos and so in a way it is not rebellious, but I would say that in a professional setting and in school it is less common."

People with different forms of self-expression frequently find themselves being generalized or treated differently. Actions based on unconscious biases toward those with uncommon forms of self-expression are harmful. Changing our behavior as a society to be more accepting of others' forms of self-expression is essential to create equal opportunities.

"I used to have facial piercings and I was definitely treated differently," Sox-Harris said. "It was like people saw me and automatically assumed I was a bad influence, and I don't want to be a bad influence. But it's definitely unfair."

Regardless of the stigma, piercings remain a predominant aspect of society today. Whether used as a form of self-expression or for cultural reasons, piercings will never go out of style.

"I decided to try [piercings] once for no reason, and it was fun so I did it again and again and again," Seeger said.

Making History

“First-generation” seniors tackle college applications without family guidance

I didn't know anything. I didn't know what FAFSA was and I didn't know about financial aid. I didn't know that you would meet with a counselor to go over what classes you should take.”

These are the experiences of Crystal Laguna, a College Pathways counselor at Paly's College and Career Center who works with “first-gen” students—high school seniors who are the first generation in their family to attend college. As a former first-gen student herself, Laguna understands the struggle of applying to colleges without family guidance. Now, she's committed herself to advising current first-gen students to help demystify the process and provide foundational support.

“[As] the youngest of five kids, my oldest sister was the only one who went to community college and then did an online program,” Laguna said. “So she was the one who was trying to push [me] to go to college.”

After navigating the application process solo, Laguna had to choose college classes from a catalog at community college. Thanks to the help of advisors, she was able to transfer to UCLA and later complete her Master's in Education at San Jose State University.

“[Being first-gen] is something positive... You're changing the trajectory of your family.”

Crystal Laguna, College Pathways counselor



However, she still wishes she had received more support for the college application process during high school.

“I couldn't even tell you what my school counselor looked like,” Laguna said. “There was a lot that I didn't know, but I didn't know what I didn't know.”

When Paly senior Mia Rose Tuifua began her college application process, she encountered the same problem. She learned on the fly that the college application process is complex and nuanced, with its own nomenclature, deadlines, and varied platforms and systems. Perhaps even more daunting is the task of researching and selecting the right mix of reach and target schools to apply to and in what order. Should you apply Early Decision or Early Action? What is the difference



“Sometimes I think what senior year would've been like for me if I had two parents who went to college.”

Mia Rose Tuifua, 12

and someone to help me go through this because all the support I have is at school.”

While Tuifua emphasized how much she appreciates Paly's support, she still believes that more resources could be allocated to support first-gen students going through the process.

“I think that it's great that we have meetings for first-gens so that [counselors] can tell us how to go through the college application process,” Tuifua said. “However, I think it should probably be once a week if not twice, and I think that they should be more available.”

Some students shy away from seeking resources because they want to avoid being labeled. It can be difficult to step forward and acknowledge that you would benefit from additional support.

“[Students] don't want to have that label because they think it's maybe something negative, but it's actually something positive,” Laguna said. “It's saying that you're changing the trajectory of your family.”

Tuifua also suggested setting aside a counselor just for first-gen students, as counselors currently have to share meeting time with non-first-gen students, along with alerting students about deadlines earlier on in Advisory.

“I would say, go to every single advisory,” Tuifua advises. “Go to all of the first-generation student meetings that Ms. Laguna holds, and use their resources to your advantage because Paly does have a lot of resources for you.”

between binding and restrictive Early Action? Should you reach for your dream school or go for the safer bet?

“Most Paly kids are not first-gen so everyone assumes that we know all this [college admissions information] already,” Tuifua said. “I had no idea where to apply. I didn't know what the Common App was.”

Another major barrier was the expensive application fees, especially those for the University of California and California State schools.

“I had to pay for all of my college applications with money that came straight from my paycheck, so I was limited to around three colleges,” Tuifua said.

Tuifua tries not to compare herself to non-first-gen students, but can't help but imagine how at-home support would have made the application process easier. “My parents think that I can get into Oxford easily, because they don't know the difference between colleges,” Tuifua said. “Sometimes I think what senior year would've been like for me if I had two parents who went to college, who knew how rigorous this process is,

Text and design by AUDREY GUO, ANNA MARKESKY and CASEY WALTERS
Art by AUDREY GUO • Photos by ANNA MARKESKY

SHIFTING TO THRIFTING

EXPLORING LOCAL VINTAGE STORES AND THE RISE IN SECONDHAND SHOPPING

The Bay Area is home to countless vintage thrift stores, ranging from consignment to thoughtfully curated sourcing. The rapid circulation of fashion trends has raised concerns among consumers due to the result of the negative effect on the environment. More students have turned to these local, second-hand stores rather than popular fast-fashion stores.

Most thrift stores sell clothes that were produced in the late 20th century to the early 21st century. Paly senior Maya Quinlan believes that the rise in popularity of thrift shopping is correlated to the quality and durability of the clothing.

"[Thrifting] has become more popular because the quality [of fast fashion clothes] has gone down in the last few years," Quinlan said.

Similarly, Paly junior Austin Eng believes buying clothing in the secondhand market gives the

garments a new life instead of throwing them away.

"Vintage clothing is often better quality," Eng said. "When it was made 30 or 40 years ago, it was made to last."

Amidst the climate crisis, Paly junior Kiara Tavakoli believes that shopping second-

hand is something that everyone should strive for.

"[Companies] are using cheap labor to produce these cheap quality products; it's bad for the environment, and it's bad for the workers," Tavakoli said. "We all live on this planet." Eng works at Blue Bin Vintage, a boutique that sells vintage items in downtown Palo Alto. For Eng, working at this store provides the opportunity to connect with other people who share the same love for vintage clothing.

"Because Blue Bin sources [their clothes] locally, there isn't a lot of impact on our carbon footprint," Eng said. "It's harder to buy something brand new when you could buy something of equal or more value that was made to withstand time."

According to Eng, Blue Bin Vintage aims to make vintage clothing accessible. People are able to try clothing on and buy unique clothing for a more affordable

price compared to larger retail stores.

"[Our owners] put the clothing in a store so people can look at it and feel the texture and quality," Eng said. "[Customers] can look at the color, see how it fits, try it on and avoid the scam of online websites."

Tavakoli has noticed a recent increase in vintage shopping, especially at Fillmore and 5th, where she works. Her take is that customers have realized the environmental benefits of it.

"A lot of people have become more environmentally



Text, design and photos by OLIVIA HAU and SARAH BAKHASH • Art by SARAH BAKHASH

conscious," Tavakoli said. "Secondhand shopping is a good way to keep clothing items circulating instead of having to create new ones."

Signs of wear and item defects do not limit Tavakoli. She alters the clothing to give the piece a second chance.

"A lot of the time, you can work around it," Tavakoli said. "You can crop clothes or you can get the stains [out]."

Thrift shopping doesn't only provide positive effects on the environment, but it's also great for new shoppers who want to explore fashion.

"When you go thrifting and [go to] consignment stores, your style evolves to be less basic," Tavakoli said.

Eng has also noticed the personal benefits of buying secondhand. His experience in retail has made him more aware of notions that steer people away from buying second hand.

"A common misconception about vintage clothing is that it's priced up a lot," Eng said. "In reality, you can find something very affordable, or maybe even cheaper than fast fashion websites."

What causes the overcon-

sumption of short-lived trends? Tavakoli has observed that social media has played a major role in fast-fashion and promotes many clothing brands that use influencer-driven marketing to psychologically lure consumers into buying clothing.

"If you see your favorite influencer wearing something, you're going to want to buy it," Tava-

koli said.

Quinlan believes that when vintage shopping, it is important to have a precise goal in mind.

"The best way to find good things on online secondhand shopping apps is [to] be very specific," Quinlan said.

By being specific with the items of clothing that she wants, Quinlan is able to compare prices between different websites and find unique pieces for affordable

prices.

"A lot of people feed into fast fashion because of the [low] prices, but they don't realize that you can still buy affordable things secondhand," Quinlan said.

"You're just buying more, but you're getting less use out of it because the quality is so terrible," Quinlan said. "You're buying things that aren't going to last you very long."

Eng explains that the thrifting process may take more effort than buying from major retailers. Although this may be the case, he encourages customers to clear their mind of prior misconceptions.

"My advice to people who want to get into the thrifting community would be to have an open mind," Eng said. "When you do find something, it is way more rewarding."



"A LOT OF PEOPLE FEED INTO FAST FASHION BECAUSE OF THE [LOW] PRICES, BUT THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT YOU CAN STILL BUY AFFORDABLE THINGS SECONDHAND."
MAYA QUINLAN, 12



CMAG'S FAVORITE SECONDHAND STORES



FILMORE AND 5TH

Fillmore and 5th is a consignment store that sells primarily trendy, designer clothes in Town and Country. The spacious, thoughtfully decorated store is stocked with pre-owned, good condition clothing that targets consumers who look for name-brand, current styles. "We buy the consignment items, and once those clothes sell, we give a percentage of the money to the person who sold it to us," Tavakoli said.

ECO-FASH

Eco-fash, located inside of the American Cancer Society shop in Los Altos, sells pre-loved clothes for an affordable price. While the store may initially foster a hectic environment, inside of the shop are some beautiful hidden gems.



BLUE BIN VINTAGE

Blue Bin Vintage is a vintage shop located in downtown Palo Alto. The colorful greenery and well-organized clothes create a welcoming feel. The staff is welcoming and knowledgeable about vintage clothing. "Our owners will go around at events in San Jose, the East Bay or even SoCal," Eng said. "They will go to these events and source all of the clothing in large amounts and then bring it back to the store to sell."



Content warning: This article contains mentions of sexual harassment and assault, which may be triggering for some. If you're looking for someone to talk to, call 1-800-656-4673 to reach the National Sexual Assault Hotline.

Palo Alto Unified School District (PAUSD) has garnered an outside reputation as a consequence of its past Title IX scandals. After a Palo Alto High School principal's resignation over misconduct allegations in 2014, a 2015 federal investigation of the district's Title IX office due to violations of sexual harassment law, a Gunn High School student's \$150,000 settlement over the mishandling of a sexual harassment case in 2019 and an abundance of sexual assault allegations and frustrations with the district revealed through social media

in 2021, some students are wary about the district's ability to handle Title IX complaints, especially now that the policy has undergone a recent overhaul. In 2020, PAUSD's Title IX policy was changed following an overhaul of federal reforms made by Trump Administration Education Secretary Betsy DeVos with the ultimate goal of giving more power back to sexual assault survivors, according to PAUSD Title IX coordinator Robert Andrade. Each presidential administration updates the policy, changing the procedure schools must adhere to while investigating a

Title IX case. "What [the reforms] did was include more due process rights, which included providing respondents the ability to see evidence that's put against them," Andrade said. "It also created a whole host of checks and balances in the Title IX process. In essence, it made the Title IX process longer." Despite the new regulations making the case process longer, there were no added protections for the complainant. Many students who file a complaint experience extreme trauma while working on the case, and often need professional help.

THERE'S
NO ONE
TO SAY
'I KNOW
YOUR'RE
RIGHT,

I BELIEVE YOU'

-ANONYMOUS STUDENT

"I think that if someone is filing a case they should have a mental health advocate with them the entire time that's notified of everything and is that every single meeting," an anonymous Paly student who has filed a Title IX complaint said. "It can be really stressful and can bring a lot of traumatic things and sometimes things that are in the best interest of the case are not in the best interest of the victim."

For some, what was intended to provide more transparency ultimately complicated the reporting process and made the prospect of obtaining help less attainable to sexual assault survivors.

"The 2020 regulations required individuals who are filing complaints to name specific individuals who did misconduct against them," Andrade said. "And that, in some ways, may have restricted other people from filing complaints. Sometimes you might not know who the individual who harassed you is. And sometimes those interactions and those negative experiences are so short."

As the time taken to process a complaint has extended, students who file cases can feel their well-being is seen as an afterthought in the grand scheme of the case.

"I think the school didn't really realize how much support I needed," the anonymous student said. "It felt like they weren't as worried about me and my well-being compared to the outcome and progression of my case, and how it would affect the school's reputation if it were to become more public."

To increase the amount of support available to students, in 2018, Paly alumnae Alexa Aalami and Katherine Buecheler founded Responsive Inclusive Safe

Environment (RISE) Student Task Force, a club promoting consent education and campus safety.

"The purpose of [RISE] was to create a bridge between adults and students in our community," Buecheler said. "To find solutions to this relentless issue."

They had noticed that lack of education on campus, as well as disrespect towards sexual assault.

"At the time, sexual violence prevention efforts at Paly consisted of a short, 30-minute 'Bullying and Harassment' presentation on Safe & Welcoming Schools Day and was reviewed in Living Skills, which most students took as upperclassmen," Aalami said.

"Before we started RISE, there was just a lot of joking and a lack of respect for the topic," Buecheler said. "And I think that was something that really shook [me and] Alexa off, like I'm looking around and no one cares about this huge issue that has affected me and [my] friends."

Unfortunately for many survivors, their reports may never even be investigated due to a list of formalities that PAUSD is required to adhere to, beginning with making sure it fits one of the pre-existing definitions of a Title IX case.

"There are plenty of people who can file complaints as Title IX, but there are not many complaints that come out as Title IX, the reason being [that] Title IX requires specific things," Andrade said. "One, the conduct has to meet the definition of Title IX, and there are three main definitions of Title IX."

Andrade shared that these definitions include: quid pro quo (when a district employee offers a benefit to a student in exchange for a favor or sexual act), a hostile education environment (when harassment is imposed on a person based on sex, gen-

der identity or sexual orientation so severely that a student is unable to remain in their educational environment) and criminal definitions (when someone is a victim of stalking, sexual violence, sexual assault or dating violence).

Before being classified as a case, reports must also be verified to have happened either on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event or activity, although this doesn't guarantee that the conduct could be covered under district policies.

"In many instances, a lot of conduct happens off campus, and that conduct actually gets complaints dismissed out of Title IX," Andrade said. "As a Title IX coordinator, federal law requires me to dismiss that."

The final qualification that a report must hold is that the person accused of engaging in negative conduct must be a student or district employee.

"If you have a student who is alleging that they were assaulted or harassed by a student from a different district, we have no control over that, and Title IX is not covered under our district," Andrade said.

The federal reforms introduced at PAUSD are not the only recent changes implemented in the district's Title IX office. Following a 2014 United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR) complaint, an investigation was conducted on the district, which came to the conclusion complaints were not being handled properly as per the Title IX amendment.

The OCR investigation revealed a set of inadequate practices at the district's Title IX office.

"OCR came in and told the district that [PAUSD] didn't have set procedures for handling Title IX cases, 'you didn't have a

centralized intake system,' 'you didn't have a way of documenting or recording these incidents in a singular and concise place that's organized,'" Andrade said. "And your way of conducting outreach is completely flawed, meaning that you didn't get to students who are affected fast enough. You didn't provide them with the services that they need quick enough. And you didn't do a whole host of things that could have reduced the emotional burden and trauma that either the complainant or the respondent may have faced in the situation."

Assistant principal Jerry Berkson said that the experience Paly went through five years ago has helped them become more knowledgeable and prepared to handle Title IX cases.

"When you go to admin credential school, they don't cover any of this type of stuff," Berkson said. "So when everything happened last time, we weren't prepared for it."

Former PAUSD Title IX coordinator and current Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Title IX coordinator Megan Farrell observed strict adherence to OCR guidelines during her time at PAUSD.

"While I was in the position [of PAUSD Title IX coordinator], we were under a very strict resolution agreement with the Office for Civil Rights that detailed how we had to handle each matter, and we produced all of our discrimination/harassment cases for OCR to review," Farrell said. "So I am confident that we had a compliant process at that time."

Following the intervention within OCR, Andrade and PAUSD staff are focused on creating a process that is accessible and understandable for students.

"We have taken a student-driven approach at trying to address the issues within our own federal requirements and state requirements regarding Title IX to make the process even better," Andrade said. "Can [the process] improve? Absolutely. And my goal for as long as I'm here is to continue to get student input to move that forward."

Despite the difficulties many survivors face as they try to report their cases to the district, students at Paly have created resources to try to support their peers.

"Acting PAUSD Superintendent Karen Hendricks initiated the RISE Task Force of district stakeholders with the ultimate intention of it being student-led," Aalami said. "Katherine and I oversaw this transition, recruiting students and serving as liaisons between students and administration."

ALEXA
AND I
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Buecheler and Aalami started meeting with administrators to develop a consent education curriculum that incorporated student perspectives into the pre-existing material. Both Aalami and Buecheler noted the support and help they received from the district while developing the new curriculum.

“There was a lot of encouragement,” Buecheler said. “I think [the] administration did appreciate this move because a lot of the frustration in our community came from no one knowing how to take a move forward.”

Aalami agreed, that the administration at Palo Alto High School positively encouraged the start of RISE.

“Throughout, I felt incredibly supported by the original RISE Task Force members as well as former Deputy Superintendent Karen Hendricks, who we met with on a regular basis,” Aalami said.

However, just as the pair finished developing and editing their lessons, they faced a setback.

“I just remember going into the former principal’s office and him telling us that we didn’t have time to do every ses-

sion that we had planned,” Buecheler said. “And Alexa and I walked out and were like ‘Are you kidding?’”

Ultimately, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented Aalami, Buecheler and the rest of RISE from presenting their curriculum as soon as possible.

“When COVID hit we didn’t have much time to kind of fight back on that,” Buecheler said. “Everything was paused and it was difficult to know where to take the next step.”

Current RISE co-president and junior Bella Nguyen has been able to continue the club’s mission and has helped bring the content Aalami and Buecheler created to classrooms at Paly.

“We [presented] last year for the first time and it was pretty successful,” Nguyen said. “This past year, we also did an event called The Senior Panel where we had Paly alumni come back to Paly via Zoom to meet with our current senior class. They talked about their experiences in college and the environments they were surrounded with and how to manage that and stay safe in terms of sexual violence.”

These lessons, which were presented to freshman, sophomores, and juniors last year,

PERSONALLY I WOULD

NEVER

DO IT AGAIN -ANONYMOUS STUDENT

are an example of the support and resources Paly provides to help reduce sexual harassment and assault in order to create a better and safer school environment.

“We do have [more] education compared to other schools in the country, which is really sad, but I do appreciate the effort that does [get] put into it,” Buecheler said.

According to Berkson, district administrators are now better equipped to handle Title IX cases, even though the outcomes are not always favorable.

“I’d say we’re pretty darn prepared for [the] process,” Berkson said. “Whether the judgment is positive for the complainant or not is another story. That’s decided at a higher level because decisions are made based on a law.”

The very long process of reporting Ti-

tle IX cases can be traumatic for survivors, which is why some cases are never completed.

“We get complaints where people will make an initial concern but not sign up for the official complaint,” Berkson said. “The complainant has gone through something traumatic, and it’s tough for that [to] follow through.”

An anonymous Paly student who filed a complaint said that the support she received from the school was only offered once, even though she would have benefited from consistent support. She believes that having a mental health advocate brought in from outside PAUSD would help survivors through the extremely stressful and traumatic process.

“There’s no one to say ‘I know you’re

right. I believe you,’” the anonymous student said. “It feels like your word isn’t enough.”

According to Andrade, The federal and legal nature of Title IX policy doesn’t allow for an individualized approach to handling cases, which could help mitigate some of the intense emotions during the process.

“I feel like reporting a case right now is treated kind of like a ‘one size fits all’ type of thing,” the anonymous student said. “I don’t really think that’s the case. I think that the right way to handle a case varies based on the person who’s reporting it and what they want and need from the school.”

When asked if she would go through the process again, she said, “Personally, I would never do it again. Regardless of the outcome, it’s not worth it for me [because it] makes you feel really, really bad.”

One thing Paly students can do is offer their support to peers going through a traumatic time.

“The number one priority is to be supportive and be someone that kind of like lifts a weight off their shoulders, not forcing upon any kind of opinion or thing they need to do, because it’s a super overwhelming situation and it can take a lot of time to process and understand what’s best for you,” Buecheler said.

Simply listening can make a world of difference.

“Listen, validate how they feel and outline resources accordingly,” Aalami said. “Ultimately, they will decide how to proceed and you as an ally can offer your non-judgmental support.”

‘ARE YOU
KIDDING?’

-KATHERINE BUECHELER

Text and design by EVIE COULSON, MCKENNA RAUSCH, MILENA RODRIGUEZ, KELLYN SCHEEL and JASMINE TABRIZI

The Stain of Ignorance

The westernization of henna has implications that can, at times, be seen as controversial

Henna, traditionally known as Mehndi in the Indian subcontinent, has recently seen an uptake in popularity through current media. Henna has been a staple aspect of upbringing for many south Asian people. Henna paste, made from crushing henna plant leaves, was originally used in ancient India to draw intricate patterns that stain skin temporarily and was later popularized in South Asia as a style of art. Recently, henna has begun to gain more popularity for purposes other

than its founding cultural ones.

Henna plays an integral role in Indian festivities such as weddings and birthdays because of its symbolism.

“In different parts of the world, [henna] means different things, but it all boils down to prosperity,” Priti Argawall, a local Bay Area henna artist of 35 years, explained. “During the summer months, monsoons come, and that is when the henna plants come out.”

Traditional henna designs additionally have a rich history and cultural relevance.

“A lot of henna in India is associated with prosperity and abundance, and that’s why it’s so prominent in [Indian] culture,” Argawall said. “Young girls get together and ornate each other with fresh leaves and flowers

in henna. The designs are mostly flowers, which symbolize prosperity.”

Traditional henna designs were not always as detailed as most are today. The ancient form of body art continues to evolve, much like other art styles.

“When I first started doing henna, it was applied using a stick. Most of the designs were dots [that formed] a design,” Argawall said. “Now, [the designs] are more intricate. For example, modern [wed-

ding henna] shows a specific moment in time like when the proposal was or where the couple met.”

Since arranged marriages are the most common form of union in India, the bridal henna offers a way for future spouses to get to know one another.

“Some people hide the spouse’s name in their henna so the spouse can find their name... which requires talking and

touching,” Argawall said. “It’s a way of breaking the ice.”

In India, henna offers more than beautification; it is deeply rooted in culture and traditions. However, henna has increasingly been used solely for cosmetic purposes in the west.

During the “henna freckle trend” of 2020, the popular social media app TikTok was full of creators using henna paste on their faces to create fake freckles. Many people still use henna for this purpose, as there are an abundance of videos and tutorials on how to create henna freckles on TikTok and YouTube.

Some people, including Paly junior Sirisha Mitra, have negative views on henna’s rise to western popularity.

“I think that it’s a little bit unfortunate the way in which henna became so popular,” Mitra said. “It’s an ancient form of body art, and it’s recently gained a lot

of popularity from social media mainly [through] white creators, which I think is not how it should’ve [become popular].”

Many people who partake in the henna freckle trend are using henna that contains chemicals and preservatives, which can damage the skin and leave permanent scars.

“I think that is one of the negative things about henna becoming popular—people are using non-natural henna that they get at a beach or fair,” Argawall said. “It’s important for people to get henna [from] people who understand it.”

Some people, such as Hong Kong International School junior Anya Shah, be-

lieve that henna can be used for non-traditional cosmetic purposes in some circumstances.

“Many people have called [the henna freckle trend] cultural appropriation, so it’s inclined to bother me, but then I feel like there’s no reason for it to,” Shah said. “It’s a way to get freckles [effectively] and I think it looks really cute on people.”

The bigger issue with henna’s newfound western popularity is how south Asian people are still facing discrimination for expressing traditional designs.

“What really bothers me more is that there are so many ways where [Indians] have been made fun of for having henna because they were Indian and because it is a cultural thing,” Shah said. “But when

it’s used for a completely non-traditional or non-cultural purpose, it’s considered cool. Why was it not a beautiful thing when they were doing it for cultural reasons?”

Some western henna users have

little to no knowledge of henna’s cultural background, further leading to cultural appropriation.

“It feels as if there is not enough credit given to Indian culture for this creation,” Mitra said. “I think [when using henna] there should always be that core appreciation and respect for Indian culture.”

When used in a culturally respectful way, henna can be properly respected and attributed to Indian culture.

“I think that it starts by doing [henna] with a hint of Indian culture with it, because I think that’s actually using it for the right purpose,” Shah said. “You’ll also find that it’s quite beautiful and a really nice tradition. Then, I think that people would really be able to see how beautiful it is and learn to appreciate it that way.”

“It’s an ancient form of body art, and it’s recently gained a lot of popularity from social media mainly [through] white creators, which I think is not how it should’ve [become popular].”

- Sirisha Mitra, 11



Spotted Towhee

THE BAY'S BACKYARD

THE CALIFORNIA BAY AREA IS HOME TO A VARIETY OF UNIQUE NATIVE SPECIES



Island Pitchersage



Purple Sage



Non-flowering California Poppy

Native species are the lifeblood of any ecosystem. In the Bay Area, the native flora and fauna are particularly diverse.

"We [have] Western pond turtles in our ponds..." city of Palo Alto park ranger Alison Hlady said. "A lot of our trees are native including our live oak, black oak... I can't even name them all. We have lots of native plants: snow berries [and] Yerba Buena coyote mints. Most of our wildflowers in the spring are all native."

Together, these native species play an integral part in multiple Palo Alto ecosystems, spanning from Foothills Park to the Baylands.

"We know that [native species] all live together in the ecosystem, but it's not always clear exactly what or how many different roles each native species plays in the ecosystem," Hlady said. "We do know everything is connected. So the ecosystem is at its most healthy when all of the native species belong there. If you take anything out or lessen it, it will have consequences that ripple through the whole ecosystem."

The unintentional or intentional introduction of invasive species by humans has a significant impact on native species and ecosystems. In the past, invasive species were brought over to preserves such as Foothills Park through agriculture.

"When we started agriculture, we

would bring seeds from other places and grow them because it was a great crop, but didn't necessarily belong there," Hlady said. "Before any of the Europeans came, the Ohlone natives [grew] mostly native plants and animals. But [Europeans] liked certain things in [their] garden or certain vegetables that didn't grow here. So we brought the seeds with us and planted them."

The actions of Europeans centuries ago have had lasting effects on local ecosystems. Today, these invasive species include Bullfrogs, Asian clams, and Water Hyacinths. Invasive species continue to be incorporated into our daily lives.

"If you go to Home Depot to the plant nursery, you'll find a whole lot of not native species," AP Environmental Science teacher Nicole Loomis said.

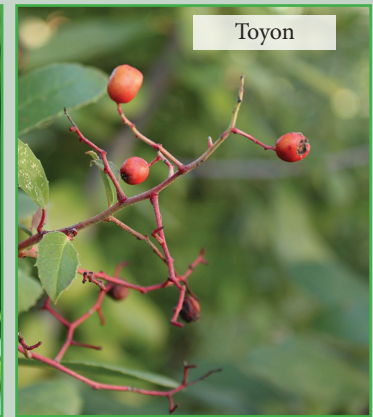
While parkgoers are not necessarily trying to harm native species, innocent actions can disrupt native habitats.

"A lot of humans don't realize, especially in nature preserves, that a nice big grassy area we don't mow with grass up to your knees is a habitat," Hlady said. "When we walk on that, we may introduce seeds from our houses or other preserves. People trample on native species, or they'll pick the flowers in the spring. A lot of human impact, I believe, [is] mostly from ignorance. They just don't understand the consequences or impact that

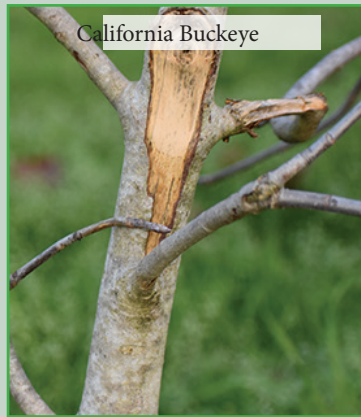
"If you go to Home Depot to the plant nursery, you'll find a whole lot of not native species."
NICOLE LOOMIS



Non-Flowering Blue Blossom



Toyon



California Buckeye

they have when they're [in the baylands]."

Given the negative impact humans have on native species, conservation can help in the face of a rapidly changing climate.

"As we move into a world where climate change is causing more weather events and climate conditions, resilience [to continue conserving species] is [going to] be really important," Loomis said.

Jade Minskoff, a senior at Paly, runs the Project Eco club as a way to assist in the conservation of native species.

"One of the ways that Project Eco makes a positive impact on the protection of our native species is our emphasis on the mantra 'reduce, reuse and recycle,'" Minskoff said. "Not only does being aware of this help the environment overall [but] it additionally helps native species. At the moment we have also partnered with a non-profit organization called Canopy, this organization works to protect tree species in

the Bay Area."

You do not have to be part of a club or organization to help native ecosystems; individual action can make just as much of a difference.

"You can choose what you plant at your own house and try to have a native garden," Loomis said. "You can be responsible about the pets that you get."

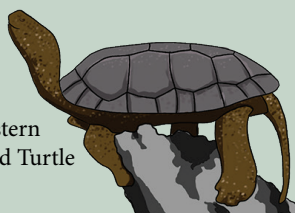
The simple act of connecting with nature is an effective way to incentivize people to care about native species.

"I think the most important thing to do [to assist in conservation efforts] is to go outside and be in nature," Hlady said. "Just to sit and relax and enjoy. No one wants to save anything that they don't have a connection with, and just the

"No one wants to save anything that they don't have a connection with, and just the act of getting outside and appreciating nature and what it brings to you will get people to understand [nature] more."

ALISON HLADY

act of getting outside and appreciating nature and what it brings to you will get people to understand [nature] more."



Western Pond Turtle



Pacific Wax Myrtle



Coast Live Oak



Chamise

RECIPES

around the world

Food offers a unique way to connect to one's culture. The generational aspects of traditional food, and the ability to recreate it for the people you love, makes it invaluable to the heart and soul of a family. This is a glimpse into what food can mean to different people.

BRAISED cabbage



Sami Lee

Paly senior Sami Lee values her family time and she does this by honoring her late grandmother through her braised red cabbage recipe.

"I never got to meet my grandma because she died before I was born, so it really makes me feel more connected to her," Lee said.

"My grandma White, she's a very sweet lady, I'm told, and she's a really good cook," Lee said. "It's nice to have a taste of something she poured a lot of love into because she kind of created the

recipe. She made it her own and so it's like her recipe."

This recipe takes multiple hours to make, but the end result is well worth the wait.

"It's a red cabbage and you broil it for 10 hours and it's super soft and you add jelly and red wine and all these good things," Lee said. "It's sweet, sour and soft, but also really good."

Lee's grandmother's Danish recipe is one that her family enjoys only on special occasions.

"My family saves it for special occasions; they have it on Christmas and New Year's and birthdays, and my mom makes it really well," Lee said.

This family recipe brings the Lee family together, and Lee believes that the connection created by food can bring any family together.

"The relationship between food and family is that when you make food with your family that reminds you of your family, it draws you closer to your family and that is just amazing," Lee said.

MANTI

Surviving the travel between multiple nations and generations, Paly sophomore Lara Dumanli's family manti recipe is a delightful dumpling filled with meat and the occasional peanut. When Dumanli's family immigrated from Turkey to Canada and later to the US they made sure to pack their family recipe.

"[My family] tried to bring all [our] Turkish recipes in two luggagees and one recipe that [we] brought is called manti," Dumanli said.

Manti is a Turkish dumpling, traditionally created with the entire family as people encase filling within the dumpling skins.

"I usually make it in Turkey and I have my aunts and neighborhood friends who come over," Dumanli said. "Sometimes we freeze it and eat it later on."

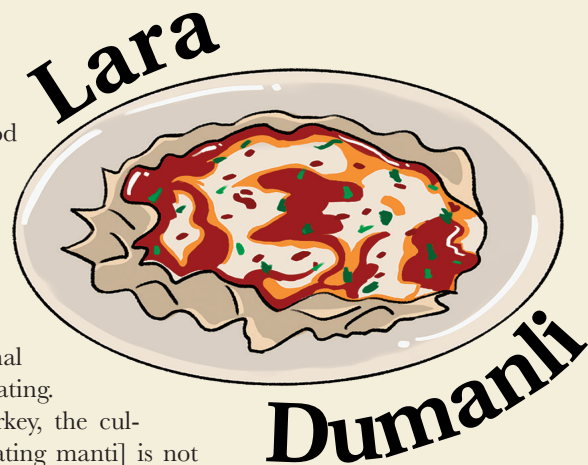
When creating manti, Dumanli's family usually hides a surprise peanut within the array of dumplings.

"Whoever eats the peanut is like the king," Dumanli said.

For Dumanli, the meaning of family is not exclusive to close rel-

atives. Food bonds people across households together for a communal purpose: eating.

"In Turkey, the culture [of eating manti] is not always [with] your direct family," Dumanli said. "I eat it tons of times with [my] neighbors and [my] friends. You truly eat it with the people that you love."



Lara

Dumanli

Text and design by ISAAC HILLESLAND, EUNCHAE HONG and CAITLYN ODA • Art by CHRISTY DU

TOMATO EGG

stir fry

Fragrant ginger and garlic herbs meld with freshly cut tomatoes, as an egg sizzles over the stove. The ingredients meet over a bed of warm rice. Using a recipe that originates back to China, Paly senior Bernice Zhu cooks a homemade meal.

Tomato egg stir fry, or 西红柿炒鸡蛋, is a nationally popular dish for its simple yet heart-warming taste, making it the ideal home-cooked meal for many people with Chinese roots.

"This recipe is important to me because it is efficient in cost and time, and I really love tomatoes," Zhu said. "This dish is simplistic and easy to customize with personal touches, and pairs well over breads and rice."

Some families might opt to change the ingredients to suit their personal taste or the availability in their region. Zhu's rendition of the recipe originates from her grandmother's friends back in China.

"I make this recipe every other week with my grandmother, and sometimes more often depending on the tomato yield of our garden," Zhu said.

From garden to kitchen, Zhu uses tomato egg stir fry to foster connections with her family. In a broader sense, she views the complex relationship between food and family as a facilitator for family bond-

ing, if people have the correct mindset.

"No matter the quality of the food, it's more so how you choose to use it," Zhu said. "You can sit in silence at a home cooked meal and also bond over takeout."

Whether it's cooking a physical dish or eating around the dinner table, food is a powerful method for nourishing relationships. To continue creating these relationships, Zhu believes that sharing recipes is a viable way to carry on the love.

"If you want to be mushy and sentimental, then yes, telling someone your favorite recipe is a good way to [share love]," Zhu said.



Bernice

Zhu

Yahir Lobo



Johnston

Paly senior Yahir Lobo Johnston has fond memories of his mother's aporreadillo, a Mexican dish that consists of meat, usually carne asada, beaten with eggs and a salsa made from chilis like jalapeños.

"It tastes really good," Johnston said. "It's kind of spicy, because of the salsa, and it is just nostalgic for me."

The dish originates from Guerrero, Alcapulco, the region his mother is from, and has been passed down for generations in their family.

APORREADILLO

"The only one I know who can cook it is my mom," Johnston said. "And she was taught by my grandmother."

The generational nature of these family recipes is a large part of what makes family dishes special and unique to each family and culture.

"There are certain foods that are usually only passed down from generation to generation," Johnston said. "So I guess, depending on whether you're at your friends' family, or with your own family, there are always going to be different foods with different meanings to different people."

The value these dishes have to the identity of a family's culture makes it worth passing on for generations to come.

"[It is important to carry these recipes on] to keep the memory of the people who first made it and also [for their] cultural importance," Johnston said.

FEATURED ARTIST

Text and design by KAILA CHUN and KYLIE TZENG • Art by REED JADZINSKY • Photos courtesy of ANNE THRELKELD

Anne Threlkeld

A Paly junior turned her passion for crocheting into a business

Paly junior Anne Threlkeld has always had a passion for creating. While Threlkeld is an active water polo player, rock climber and volunteer for various organizations, she also makes sure to save time for her creative interests. During winter break of 2021, Threlkeld began experimenting with crocheting. Using a ball of yarn and a crochet hook, Threlkeld has learned how to make numerous tops, hats, animals and additional clothing pieces.

“My grandma used to crochet little toys and stuff,” Threlkeld said. “I think she taught me and then from there on, I started learning through YouTube videos and the internet.”

Threlkeld originally started crocheting in elementary school but did not fully invest in the art form until last year.

“I like that you can turn a piece of string into anything you want,” Threlkeld said.

Threlkeld has always enjoyed creating items through different art forms. Crocheting has been a perfect way to explore a new medium.

“I like making things with my hands,” Threlkeld said. “And I used to go through phases where I’ve been really into origami and [things like that].”

While Threlkeld has loved crocheting as a pastime, she has faced the occasional challenge.

“For me, picking materials is annoying sometimes because you want it to be high quality but you don’t want it to be too expensive,” Threlkeld said.

Threlkeld has been able to use her skill as more than an at-home activity. She has been volunteering with an organization called Bay Area Blanket Project and crochets items for them.

“[Bay Area Blanket

Project] is run by two students at Castilleja and they collect handmade blankets, mittens, hats, scarves and quilts and give them to victims of intimate partner abuse and unhoused individuals,” Threlkeld said. “I saw them on Instagram and decided I should put my hobby to good use.”

As people began to notice Threlkeld’s talent, her hobby soon turned into a business.

“I would make a lot of things and people started asking me, ‘Oh, can you make this for me’ and, ‘Oh, I’ll pay you,’” Threlkeld said. “Then enough people [asked me to make things, so] I was like ‘I’ll just make a little business.’”

While coming up with her business name, Dino Yarn, Threlkeld wanted to choose something that was casual and happy.

“The idea of dinosaurs just always makes people happy because there’s something childish about it,” Threlkeld said. “I decided that’s how I want my brand to be.”

“I like making things with my hands. And I used to go through phases where I’ve been really into origami and [things like that].”

Threlkeld creates a wide variety of items, ranging from hats to headbands to clothes to plushies. Each item takes a different amount of time; the most time-consuming are sweaters and other clothing items.

Customers reach out to Threlkeld through Instagram, sending a picture or description of a design they like. Once the design has been agreed upon, color preferences, material preferences and measurements are shared.

With her experience, Threlkeld is able to estimate production time and give her customer a finish date. She also sends pricing before making the item to ensure customer satisfaction. Threlkeld commissions for Paly students, Palo Alto neighborhood members and even out-of-state residents.

To balance business with her busy life, filled with school and extracurriculars, Threlkeld makes sure to pace herself, crocheting both for her business and also as a relaxation technique.

“Even if it’s just for five minutes a day, like when I wake up before I go to school, I usually like knitting or crocheting just to relax,” Threlkeld said. “When I come home in between practice or just whenever I need a break, I’m basically knitting or crocheting.”

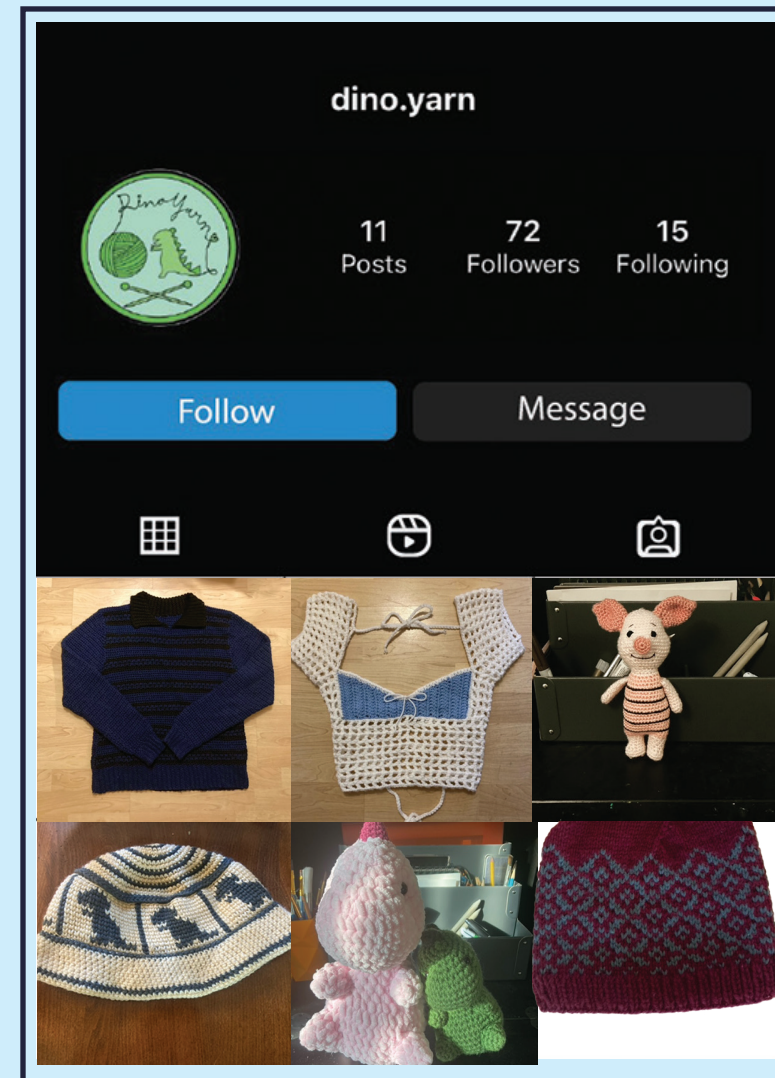
Keeping her passion in mind, Threlkeld enjoys making commissions, considering them a continuation of her hobby.

“It doesn’t feel that different from when I was just crocheting for myself,” Threlkeld said. “It’s just I don’t have a bunch of pieces in my house anymore.”

Threlkeld’s business is currently open for commissions, so be sure to reach out **@dino.yarn**, if you’re interested in buying one of her yarn creations. Threlkeld is focusing on keeping balance in her life, but may ramp up business in her free time.

“For now, I want to keep it [the business] pretty small because I don’t want to overwhelm myself with customers,” Threlkeld said. “Maybe over the summer when I have more time, I’ll try to expand a bit more.”

“The idea of dinosaurs just always makes people happy because there’s something childish about it. I decided that’s how I want my brand to be.”



teacher SPOTLIGHT:

Ms. McDaniel



Dance has been a lifelong hobby for Paly Child Development teacher Hilary McDaniel, who was on the cheer and dance team in high school and participated in dance in college. Nowadays, she takes dance classes as much as she can, and even teaches a class herself.

"It is a small but dedicated group of individuals who have been dancing for a really long time," McDaniel said. "We just do whatever [we] feel like doing, whether it's hip-hop or jazz."

Dance allows McDaniel to experience the roles of both teacher and student, enhancing her understanding of how to approach both teaching and learning.

"I think teachers should be lifelong students," McDaniel said. "We want to continue learning and growing too. With dance, it's really great that I can learn from somebody else and really just enjoy myself."

According to McDaniel, learning the

choreography of a dance routine is a process that requires memorization and focused attention on the instructor.

"It puts you in that student mindset of 'How clearly do things need to be explained?' so that when I teach my class I can address the things that I noticed as a student," McDaniel said.

For McDaniel, dance is above all a de-stressing activity that brings clarity and peace of mind to her life.

"The best thing about dancing is that it's kind of like meditation," McDaniel said. "When you're doing the routine, your brain is really focused on the choreography, and you can't worry. It's important to find those times in our day to be present, to be in the moment."

Teacher Spotlight sponsored by PALO ALTO PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

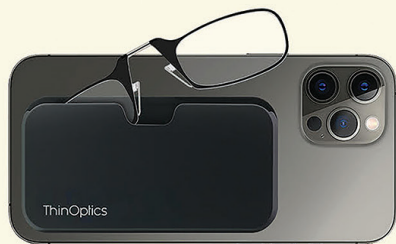


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The Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) weighed 30 tons and needed a 1,500-square-foot room to house the 40 cabinets, 6,000 switches and 18,000 vacuum tubes that made up the machine. With the help of trained mechanics, the ENIAC could solve math problems. One might compare it to a big calculator.

The John von Neumann Numerical Integrator and Automatic Computer (JOHNNIAC) came next. The JOHNNIAC was slightly lighter than its predecessor, weighing in at just over two tons. It was strictly used for scientific research.

In the 1960s, the Programma 101 became the first desktop computer. Reserved for lab settings, the Programma 101 had a printer built in, which was groundbreaking for the time.

In the 60 years following the Programma 101, computers have come a long way. With the development of powerful artificial intelligence, such as AI powered art generators, computers are able to generate products more intricate than what might appear on a high school math test. The advancements of technology provide everyday people the capability to create content worthy of being displayed in the Louvre.

In fact, these AI art generators might produce something reminiscent of what is already on display in the Louvre. Because AI art is created by algorithms that categorically analyze and compile thousands of images on top of each other, nothing they

create is completely unique.

“The thing with AI is that it’s based on computers and computers are not creative,” Art Spectrum and AP Art History teacher Sue La Fetra said. “They will just follow instructions and they’re coming up with really sophisticated looking products, but it’s just copying stuff that’s already been done.”

At a technical level, this is not likely to change. Ely Greenfield, the CTO of Digital Media at Adobe, believes that at their base, AI generators are still not creative.

“What [the computers] are doing is they are learning a bunch of data points, different images that we’ve said are good images, and then it’s interpolating between them,” Greenfield said. “It’s only ever going to make things that are somehow a blend of the things that it’s seen.”

With this in mind, there is discussion of how creative AI really is—if it is creative at all. Isaac Kauvar, a Postdoctoral Fellow at Stanford University, working at the intersection of artificial intelligence, neuroscience and psychology, believes there to be two main components of creativity; diversity and judgment are imperative in separating randomness from artistry.

“There has to be this process in creativity where you meander through some

things sort of combining things in new ways,” Kauvar said. “You also have to have this other component where you’re actually judging the ideas and determining that they are good.”

While anyone can generate something random that is technically new, being able to determine originality and what makes something exciting is often where people find a distinction between machine and human artists.

“[AI is often] missing this key aspect of creativity, and that is the subjective filter and relevance to humans,” Kauvar said. “It’s got the diversity component but does it look good? Is it true creative genius? That may be too much to ask—it may even be an impossible thing to ask—because it’s not a human.”

Although computers may never be able to be completely creative, there are a few misconceptions about how AI Diffusion Models work. A Diffusion Model is a type of generative model which means that they are trained to generate images and data similar to what they have seen before. At their core, Diffusion Models work to recover data by removing noise.

In a training stage, this means adding increased amounts of Gaussian noise while AI learns to redeem the original image by reversing the noising process. This procedure continues until the model can generate an image from random noise by trying to remove it until a clear image is formed. Further, these models can be

trained to take arbitrary noise and turn them into a picture that matches a prompt.

“We use other technology to keep poking [the AI] and say, the thing you’re generating, it should match this description,” Greenfield said. “If it’s not matching, we’re going to push [the AI] in a different direction so instead of just getting some random image, we get something that really scores high on the ‘does this text describe this image’ assessment.”

With this, AI works to not only entertain the prompt it is given, but additionally, to create its own image from scratch.

“People think it’s going in finding an image that matches my description or maybe it’s finding a couple pieces of images and putting them together,” Greenfield said. “What it is really doing is what humans do. It’s learning a sense of what is a good image from looking at billions of examples and then it is hallucinating a result.”

In many ways, this method of creating art is not unlike a human’s creative process. It’s common practice for artists to take inspiration from other artists and the world around them. Van Gogh’s art was heavily inspired by Claude Monet and other French impressionist artists of the time. Salvador Dali created some of his best known works under the influence of a group titled the Paris Surrealists. But while some similarities can be drawn between AI art and art done by humans, what differs between the Van Goghs and the DALL-Es, one of the most popular art generators, is the capability to do something new and imaginative.

“The great moments in art history happened when someone did something different,” La Fetra said. “A computer’s not going to do that.”

Put simply, at its core, a computer does not know when to break out of the box.

“Any artist will tell you that a good artist is not somebody who just follows the rules but knows when to break them and that’s what makes art interesting,” Greenfield said. “And so again, the ques

“[AI is often] missing this key aspect of creativity, and that is the subjective filter and relevance to humans.”

—Isaac Kauvar

“It’s learning a sense of what is a good image from looking at billions of examples and then it is hallucinating a result.”

—Ely Greenfield

CREATIVITY

tion there is, how much can the AI help you with that?"

The limits placed on AI's originality, due to its mechanical nature, are not the only way it is disadvantaged in terms of artistic capabilities.

"We're able to extrapolate from more than just the images we've seen, right?" Greenfield said. "We extrapolate from emotion and we extrapolate from sensation, and if I asked you to draw a picture of a lonely scene, you wouldn't just draw on what you think loneliness looks like because you would draw on music you've heard and things you've smelled. Computers can't do that."

With these major differences comes the debate of what role the computer is actually playing when it comes to making art. Some argue AI is the artist, while others say it is more similar to a paintbrush—a tool utilized by a human to create art.

"It's basically just another medium for creative expression," AI art club co-president Jeremy Yuen said. "I think that creativity really comes from the person making it, not really from the computer itself."

In many ways, AI isn't too different from other creative mediums that were once considered groundbreaking technology.

"It's like when photography came out, people said 'Is this a real way to express art, or is it cheating?'" Yuen said.

Many art purists take issue with AI, because it takes a lot of technical skill out of creating good-looking art that would take an artist many years of training if they were to paint something similar. That's why

many say AI is so special, because it makes art a lot more accessible for beginners.

"AI art generation is so appealing because when you first get into it, you can make things that actually look cool," Yuen said. "If I started painting I really couldn't make much besides stick figures."

Because all of a sudden anyone can produce seemingly professional works of art with the help of AI, there is a growing concern about the future of professional artists.

"The fear is that it'll put a lot of artists out of work," Greenfield said. "Nobody will pay the people who previously invested heavily to get all these

skills and make a living creating art because you can pay a computer a 10th of a cent to create an image instantly, rather than paying a human hundreds of dollars to do it over the course of a few hours."

However, there are certainly applications that take advantage of AI to do jobs that human artists simply could not do, and therefore don't encroach on the human art industry. In 1715, Rembrandt's "The Night Watch" was cropped on all four sides before it was moved to a new hall because it would not fit otherwise.

"Professionals utilized the AI art generators to imitate the artist's style and fill in the gaps of the painting," Yuen said.

With this great accessibility, and as technology gets increasingly powerful, questions surrounding ethics arise regarding both copyright infringement and implicit bias.

Because AI generates art by analyzing pre-existing images, sometimes the output image is not very different from the reference. Therefore, some propose a mechanism that certifies whether or not enough has been changed from the original image to be considered unique.

"This idea of combining ideas is not fundamentally a problem," Kauvar said. "It's more figuring out what that means in terms of the mechanization and optimization and having sort of what's the equivalent of a patent."

Aside from originality, one concern with

the art AI produces is its diversity. Due to the mechanics and training of the technology, it is easy for it to inherit biases that are present on the internet historically, and still to this day.

"One of the questions that always comes up here is if you go into one of these generative AI technologies and you put in the prompt of doctor or lawyer, are you going to get a bunch of white men in lab coats?" Greenfield said. "[To combat this] we ask:

is it representing the reality of what people are looking for and what society represents, or is it representing historical biases that we don't think are accurate and net positive."

To this end, AI has a long way to go; it is still in its infancy and has room to grow exponentially.

"We should just keep our minds open," La Fetra said. "It's intriguing the idea of robots taking over the world and world domination." Each person has their own idea of the

capabilities of this technology—not all as extreme as it taking over the world—which puts the impact of AI art generation in the hands of those who utilize it.

"The technology is incredibly exciting and disruptive," Greenfield said. "The goal is to get it disruptive in a way that empowers content creators and artists to be able to better achieve their visions."

Text and design by
ZEKE MORRISON and
BROOKE HUDACEK

**"We extrapolate from emotion and we extrapolate from sensation...Computers can't do that."
-Ely Greenfield**

**"We should just keep our minds open. It's intriguing the idea of robots taking over the world and world domination."
-Sue La Fetra**

DISRUPT

Art by
NIGHTCAFE AI

What's Your COLOR Season?

Find which
colors are
best for you

Junior Clare Antonow

There are three principles of color theory that seasonal color analysis uses to determine which of the four seasons you fit into: value, hue and chroma. Value accounts for the depth of color in a person's features and decides whether they affiliate more with lights or darks. Hue considers the tones of the colors, such as warm or cool. Chroma evaluates whether a person's palette is muted and soft or bright and clear.

When all used together, these concepts reveal a person's color season, categorizing them into spring, summer, autumn or winter.

"Those seasonal colors definitely give you a sense of what colors would go best for you, but they're not absolute," Paly senior Felicia Lee said. "You can show and express your unique self by mixing and matching colors of your choice."



Summer

Whites, ivories, rosy browns and muted reds, deep pinks, pine greens and almost every shade of blue make up the fresh color season of summer. Summer strongly focuses on the cool features of the wearer by excluding warm colors and loud tones, bringing out the person's undertones with silver accessories.

Sophomore Abbie Karel

Spring

Spring is a color season full of salmon pinks, fiery oranges, ivories, yellows and yellow-greens, light blues and pairs best with gold jewelry. Everything about the spring season is warm, and people with this palette have bright rather than muted features.



Junior Rebecca Fakatou

Autumn

The autumn season revolves mostly around warm but muted tones, including golden yellows, reddish oranges, deep reds, army greens, rich browns and pearly whites. One of the easiest to spot, people with this season have dark, golden-toned features and sit opposite to the summer palette on the color wheel.



Senior AlliDayton

Winter

The winter palette includes icy pinks, loud purples and blues, rich greens and reds and brilliant whites and blacks. People with this color season are inclined towards outfits with contrasting colors, as well as silver jewelry and accessories. Utilizing shades that are more different than they are similar brings out the high-contrast look of those with the winter palette.

"Probably the biggest part of fashion is color," Paly junior Charlie Wang said. "Colors are personal decisions that play a role in day-to-day life in fashion."

Text and design by LILY DANIEL and SARAH SHEAFFER • Photos by LILY DANIEL

Architectural Evolution of PALO ALTO

The advancement of architecture in Palo Alto and its impact on gentrification and sustainability

Different styles of architecture can be identified by any person who walks down a street, however, what often goes unnoticed is the true meaning behind every property.

Specifically, throughout the neighborhoods of Palo Alto, the development of home design has evolved tremendously due to fluctuations in the housing market and the history of real estate and architectural industries.

Real estate developer Drew Hudacek has been involved in the Palo Alto market for many years and has recognized changes in the characteristics of homes in the Bay Area.

“As time has gone on, people have obviously changed taste, and the level of affluence has changed in Palo Alto,” Hudacek said. “People are making a lot more discretionary choices now for their tastes and

their preferences.”

Prior to the increase in wealth in Palo Alto, the style of home composed by Joseph Eichler rose quickly to popularity.

“When you go all the way back to the times when Eichlers were built, [they] were effective, mass-produced houses and were very efficient in a lot of ways, including cost,” Hudacek said.

Although the majority of Palo Alto is still occupied by Eichler homes, as more fortunate people continue to move in, homes are now built more for their style than practicality.

Sotheby’s International realtor Noelle Queen primarily works with a group of

sellors to prepare properties to go onto the market in Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Los Altos and more cities in the Bay Area.

Queen jump-started her real estate career eleven years ago and has only sold in the Bay Area, providing her with a firsthand look at the tremendous progression of interior designs and home trends throughout the 21st century.

“The most significant design trend in the last seven years was the ‘modern farmhouse,’” Queen said. “Gray and white were the dominant wall colors of the last decade. White marble or light-colored quartz became the most popular countertop materials.”

However, this trend has dissipated post-

“People have discovered it’s more fun to live in the more modern Eichler or more modern simple houses.”

Gene Lebel

“As time has gone on, people have obviously changed taste, and the level of affluence has changed in Palo Alto.”

Drew Hudacek

“People like to be able to look out and feel like they’re more a part of the outside.”

Gene Lebel

COVID, and the market has become focused on newer houses composed of more traditional elements and furniture.

Averting from classic white modern tones, homes in the Bay Area have shifted to more neutral colors and eclectic styles.

“The modern farmhouse trend is definitely coming to an end,” Queen said. “Post-pandemic, we are seeing more earth tones and pops of color. More traditional furniture and finishes are making a comeback.”

As the Bay Area reconnects with nature, it continues to incorporate big windows into new homes.

“Now there are so many people having so much glass because people like to be able to look out and feel like they’re more a part of the outside,” retired architect Gene Lebel said.

Alongside older home features returning to the market, modern houses made of windows are evolving into the next trend, due to their functionality and sustainable elements.

“People have discovered it’s more fun to live in the more modern Eichler or more modern simple houses,” Lebel said.

Recently, people have been renovating their homes more than in the past, because if they are paying the high cost of living, they want exactly what they are looking for.

“It has to do with the price that people pay for housing or the cost of housing or the price of housing in Palo Alto and because housing is so expensive here, oftentimes people who are buying houses or thinking about building houses, they have the discretionary choice to really pay for what they want,” Hudacek said.

However, this leads to the issue of sustainability and the effects on the environment of tearing down and rebuilding homes for affluent Palo Alto residents. Enormous amounts of energy must be used in order to complete the construction of these new buildings, which also tend to be larger than they originally were.

“There are two ways to look at it from the standpoint of sustainability,” Hudacek said. “A lot of the houses being built today are much, much larger than they absolutely need to be, and that is not necessarily the most sustainable choice.”

Nevertheless, with newer upgrades such as insulation and appliances, these homes tend to have a greater amount of green elements once the home is in livable condition.

“It could be much more efficient, as far as how much energy it uses to either keep space [warm] or cool down space,” Hudacek said.

Not only is sustainability an issue when it comes to the evolution of newer homes, but the construction of these homes also poses a much larger threat to many residents living in the Bay Area. While there are many benefits to new homes, the implications of tearing down and creating more affluent buildings destabilize the economy for many.

Some people redesign or rebuild their homes for cosmetic reasons. However, building more expensive and modernized homes displaces current inhabitants in the area, which, in turn, causes the prices of homes to increase, as well as rent.

On the bright side, many organizations are unraveling this problem by reducing the displacement of vulnerable populations by revitalizing low-income neighborhoods.

An organization called the United Neighbors in Defense Against Displacement (UNIDAD), is composed of residents in California working together to promote healthy and equitable neighborhoods through planning. Maria Gutierrez works to combat financial pressure on lower income communities inside UNIDAD.

“Gentrification and displacement are





“When a neighborhood is seen as more desirable oftentimes because of amenities (close to transit, close to the city, jobs) it makes it attractive for other maybe higher-income people to move into a neighborhood and therefore because they can afford to pay higher rents, rents rise and therefore community members who have been living there for many years are now displaced because they cannot afford the rent.”

As the price for more modern homes increases, the community’s history and culture are diminished through the influx of more affluent residences and businesses which surround poorer areas. UNIDAD is frequently working to help lower-income individuals stay in their home communities.

“We have an active campaign to ensure that tenants who are displaced have a right to return to the new apartments at comparable rents and that they have priority in

being able to stay living in their community,” Gutierrez said.

The loss of affordable housing is accelerating the process of gentrification and has evolved into a much larger problem due to the high prices encompassing the Bay Area.

“I am a believer that growth is for places like Palo Alto, and nothing stays the same forever.”

Drew Hudacek

“We have seen blocks of a neighborhood be completely flipped, as in, not very many community members continue to live there,” Gutierrez said.

“We continue to advocate for ‘Development without displacement.’”

Furthermore, Hudacek’s career happens to fall on the side that more housing, especially dense housing, and more supply are what’s needed. With many people being displaced, it is necessary that more housing is widely available at a more affordable cost.

“One thing that I am very passionate about is equity and inclusion and affordability and kind of the housing crisis,” Hudacek said. “One of the most hotly debated subjects is ‘How can Palo Alto or California

solve the housing crisis?’, or ‘Can it solve the housing crisis?’”

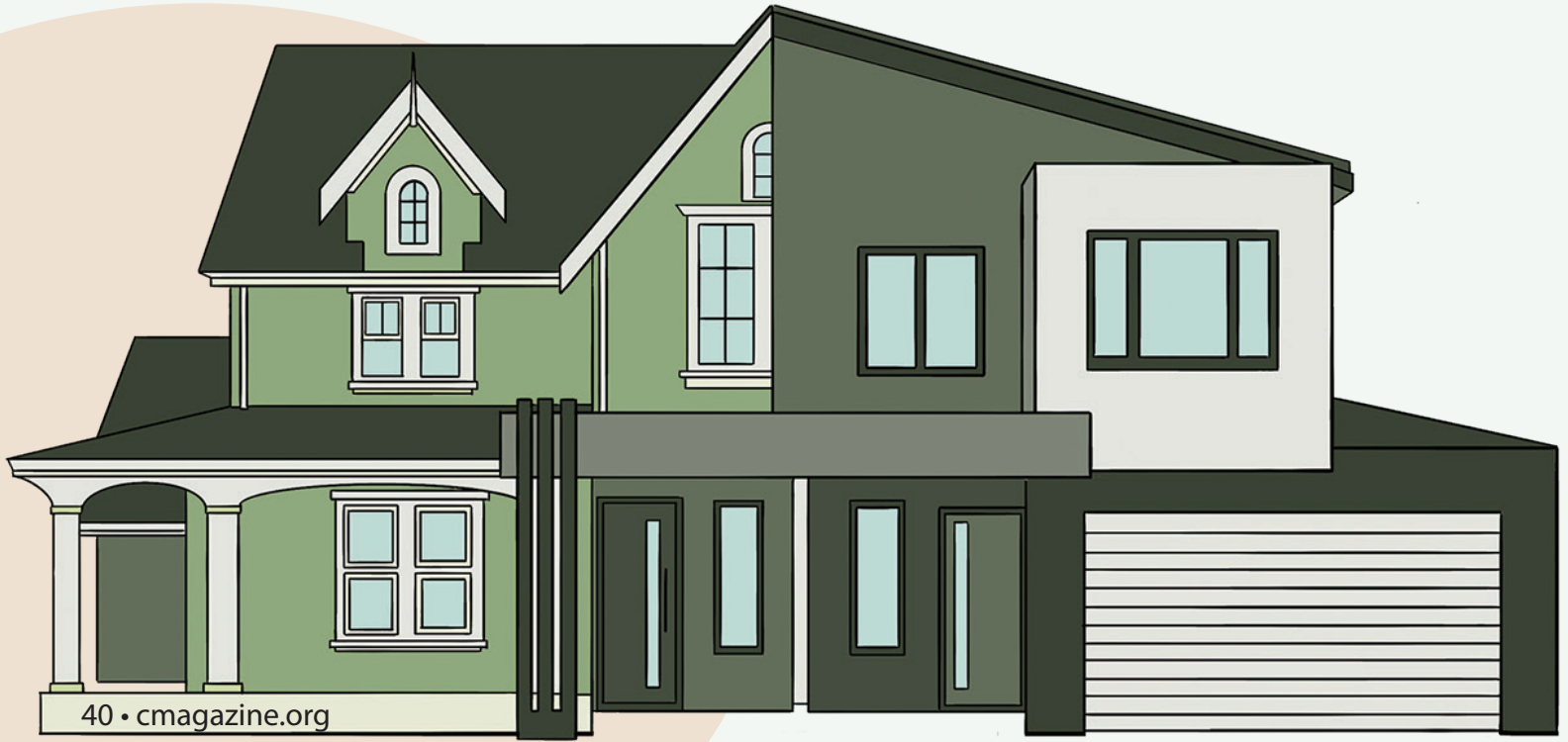
The housing crisis that Hudacek is referring to is how to make enough housing for the millions of people in California alone, and how to make sure those homes are set at a variety of prices for people who are looking to buy houses.


Overall, Palo Alto’s changes in the housing market stemmed from many different factors, and it will continue to evolve.

“I am a believer that growth is for places like Palo Alto, and nothing stays the same forever,” Hudacek said. “But I think the things that can change are often feared by many people.”

Life is constantly changing, lives will continue to be affected, and finding a way to understand and maintain these progressions is the key.

“I think the change is good,” Hudacek said. “It’s necessary and we should embrace it, think about how to do it right, and supply more housing.”





Whether it's used as background noise to focus while studying or as a way to calm your nerves, whether you prefer head-banging rock or windows down country, music has a vast and immense impact on everyone it touches. Scientists have been turning this concept into a substantial, controlled method known as music therapy which has been an up-and-coming form of addressing the physical, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals.

Listening to music has always been a way for people to freely feel emotions. Paly senior Anirudh Bharadwaj makes songs with the pure intention of making people happy.

"Music is definitely a good practice to calm yourself down," Bharadwaj said. "Especially during college app season, I've found myself making music more to reduce stress, similar to many others who can de-stress by just listening to music."

Alec Johnson, an intern at The Music Therapy Center of California, has been playing instruments since he learned the piano at eight years old, also as a therapeutic way to express himself.

"I remember seeing the serene look on people's faces when I played music," Johnson said. "That feeling when the music captures you is something I can only describe as tran-

scendental."

Being an artist or producer amplifies the remedial value of music and many musicians today use their pieces as a form of expression.

"Music definitely puts me in a zone," Bharadwaj said. "It's hard to get me away from it once I start, and it's also hard to disturb me when I'm producing. What's going on in my mind is hard to describe, but I'm usually at my happiest when I'm in the studio."

The overall positive reaction to music has been discovered to have a logical cognitive effect on the brain. Johnson and his team focus on exploring and experimenting with the neurological workings of the brain when hearing sounds.

"One can think of the brain as composed of a plethora of mini super-computers, each having a designated function," Johnson said.

While our visual systems engage relatively local and lateral brain areas, music processing requires global engage-

ment. "It coordinates and synchronizes virtually every part of the brain: your visual, tactile, auditory executive functions, your memory of your emotion, all these different things," Johnson said. "When someone is engaged in music and you look at [their] brain scans, you'll find the entire brain is more active."

Although a relatively new and underdeveloped field, this alternative therapy has shown much progress, and scientists are constantly improving and discovering methods.

"In order to assess a situation and to design a program for someone, we use the Transformational Design Model (TDM) that looks at their diagnosis and then cre-

ates a non-musical exercise for whatever you're targeting," Johnson said. "Then you transform that non-musical activity into a musical activity and eventually fade out the music."

Music therapy uses our sense of hearing as a vessel to help rehabilitate and develop

functions in need of targeting.

"Any clinical intervention can be transformed into a musical activity, such as physical therapy or behavioral therapy," Johnson said. "Music is a really good tool because it's intrinsically motivating and it facilitates social interaction."

Through its short span of development, many have already seen its effect.

"I have personally seen a positive impact through music on my music production platform The WAVE, a platform bringing emerging market artists to the world stage

"What's going on in my mind is hard to describe, but I'm usually at my happiest when I'm in the studio."

-Anirudh Bharadwaj, 12

"Music is so influential and ubiquitous in human behavior throughout history, regardless of culture."

-Alec Johnson, The Music Center of California Intern

therapy must be altered and modified depending on the person, changing the methodology. In autism, for example, the disability is a spectrum and there are a variety of ways that the disorder can manifest. Thus, a variety of distinct methods are used to help treat autism.

"Music naturally facilitates social interaction," Johnson said. "When you play with someone else, it requires you to listen to them, and essentially you're synchronizing your brain and body with the other person. I had someone [who was mute] who was unable to carry a conversation, to engage socially with someone and I saw a huge transformation in their ability to engage through music."

Music therapy is also often combined with other forms of self-help to amplify their effects.

"It's a great supplement to physical therapy because, in the transformational design model, you can take whatever protocol they're

using in physical therapy, and transform that into a musical activity in order to leverage the effects that music can have," Johnson said.

A crucial part of music therapy is the requirement for adjustability and must also account for personal taste and memories. It is a highly subjective field and demands a fair amount of training to be sufficient.

"You might make the assumption that

soft music is very relaxing, and heavy metal music is very stimulating," Johnson said. "However, for some people, it might be the complete opposite. There are associations or memories attached to that music which is why individualization is really important."

Music can be immensely therapeutic for many but music therapy, as a studied program, is often overlooked and misunderstood in the medical field when in reality, it has proven to be extremely beneficial in the treatment community.

"Music is so influential and ubiquitous in human behavior throughout history, regardless of culture," Johnson said. "Music is not an arbitrary activity which is why it is so tragic that it is being underappreciated in basic education systems."

Text and design by SIENA DUNN and JAKE PAPP • Art by KELLYN SCHEEL and SIENA DUNN



Inequality in the Spotlight

A closer look into the prejudice behind Hollywood's biggest award ceremonies

A warm, beaming stage light creates a spotlight as millions of people anticipate the winner of the award show category. The content of an award show varies, from "Album of the Year" award at the Grammys to "Best Picture" at the Oscars, but award recipients have historically come from one racial background and sex, leaving people of color and women massively under-represented.

"It has come up a lot in national media where award shows are a huge apparent thing and then we see the list of nominees,"

Alanna Williamson, the Composition and Literature of Visual Media teacher said. "There's not a lot of representation and oftentimes the winners are white."

According to the magazine Insider, the past decade of Oscar award shows nominees were 89% white and 71.1% male.

"I think the issue really starts with the roles," Williamson said. "Part of the reason that we're seeing a lack of representation

in the people who are nominated is because there's a lack of opportunities for roles. So if the roles aren't there, of course they're not going to get nominated."

The lack of roles creates a domino effect of underrepresentation, but there

"There's a lot of subjectivity to [the nominations]. So if you have intrinsic bias within that subjectivity already, that can definitely create a problem."

- Alanna Williamson, Composition and Literature of Visual Media Teacher

are other roadblocks in the way, especially considering the increased efforts to create more diverse films in recent years. This progress is demonstrated in UCLA's "Hollywood Diversity Report 2022" which showed that in 2021, 31% of the top 252 films of the year had a cast that was built of people of minorities making up 50% or more of the cast.

"In past years there have been more roles and opportunities [for minorities],

but those roles aren't the ones getting nominated, so there must be some kind of intrinsic bias happening," Williamson said. "There's a lot of subjectivity to [the nominations]. So if you have intrinsic bias within that subjectivity already, that can definitely create a problem."

The vice president of Paly's Film Club, senior Dora Pang, points out that this is not only an issue that impacts those in front of the camera but affects those watching from home.

"It's a problem because when young people watch who's been represented on screen and who's winning these awards, it can hurt one's confidence and identity if they do not see someone that looks like them represented," Pang said.

Of the 2023 nominations for Best Actor at the Academy Awards, every single nominee is white. As the problem of misrepresentation continues, an increasing number of people are speaking up against it.

"I know that multiple artists in the

past decided to boycott the Grammys including Frank Ocean and Zayn Malik," Paly junior Rori Escudero said.

Singer and songwriter Frank Ocean won two Grammys in the 2013 awards, but in 2017 decided not to submit any of his new music for consideration to win the award.

"I think the infrastructure of the awarding system and the nomination system and screening system is dated," Ocean said while speaking with The New York Times.

Boycotting award shows by not attending or watching the awards live is a method that stars and students alike can participate in.

"Boycotting [shows] is a great way to have an impact because [companies] aren't going to change unless money is attached," Williamson said.

Regarding the Oscars, the 2023 nominations have shown progress in diversity, evident by the nomination of "Everything Everywhere All at Once" for 11 Academy awards, including Best Picture. The A24 film stars Asian-American actors and underlying themes demonstrating immigrant experiences, with East Asian representation in both its cast and those working behind-the-scenes.

"There's a lot of really good representation this year," Williamson said. "So maybe this year isn't the year to boycott. We want to show support for those people, not necessarily the institution. And I think just being mindful of separating the two is a good conversation to have."

Williamson also points out that we must check our own intrinsic bias in order to find the root of the societal problem.

"If I asked you to name 10 actors or actresses people can probably get there over time," Williamson said. "[But what if I asked you to] name 10 Asian actors or actresses. Name 10 Black actors. Name 10 Muslim actors... I think something that we can all personally do is to check that bias and make sure that we're learning people's names."

Industry-wide change must be met with this self-discovery.

"Whiteness is presented as the norm," Williamson said. "We should get to a point where there's so much representation that it isn't novel anymore."

"It's a problem because when young people watch who's been represented on screen and who's winning these awards, it can hurt one's confidence and identity if they do not see someone that looks like them represented."

- Dora Pang, 12

Over the past decade, Insider.com found that 89% of Oscar Nominees are White



Up Close and PERSONAL

The Guild Theatre makes the joy of live music easily accessible to the Peninsula

Text and design by ESTHER CHUNG and JULIE HUANG • Art by ESTHER CHUNG
• Photos courtesy of CHRIS CUMMINGS and MEREDITH GLASSON

On the first night of the year, Menlo Park's Guild Theatre was alive with the sounds of Social Distortion, allowing fans of the punk band a chance to celebrate New Year's Day with a live concert. Originally a movie theater famous in the area for showing lesser-known films and hosting screenings of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* monthly, the Guild has served Menlo Park and the surrounding Bay Area community as a live music venue since it reopened in February 2022 after COVID-19.

As a volunteer at the Guild, Rich Pearson has witnessed firsthand how it makes live music easily available to the local community.

"If you had told me 10 years ago that there was going to be a music venue in Menlo Park that was bringing in Social Distortion, Macy Gray and others, I would've laughed at you," Pearson said. "The fact that they're able to get some of these bands to come here [makes it] fun to see such an ambitious project come to life."

Very little

expense has been spared in the Guild's rebranding as a live music and entertainment venue.

"[The Guild] has everything that you need in a music venue to make it perfect, including the sound system which is all Meyer sound gear," said Guild volunteer Chris Cummings. "They put over 30 million dollars into making this into a music

"It's just such a different experience being able to share [music] on an intimate basis, and the Guild fits that niche perfectly."

Chris Cummings, Guild Volunteer

venue of the highest quality; all the acoustic elements that they built make it sound great."

Though its purpose has changed since its original opening in 1926 as a movie theater, the Guild's new designation as a live music venue allows its legacy to continue as an easily accessible source of entertainment for people living in the Bay Area.

"It was really exciting for me to have The Guild be transformed," Cummings said. "This was a place where I would go during my high school years to see movies."

The onset of COVID was another factor in the Guild's reopening, bringing excitement to the community after a long time of not being able to travel outdoors.

"Once I heard that they were making it into a music venue, I was following it because it happened during

COVID, and COVID wasn't great for live music or any live entertainment," Pearson said. "The first, probably 10 shows, every artist got on the stage and was just so excited to be back in front of live audiences."

Though the Guild is able to bring more well-known bands such as Social Distortion to the Bay Area, it also hosts a diverse set of genres and artists, providing a place for lesser-known bands and musicians to show off their craft.

"The big [bands] would go to Shoreline or play at a big venue in San Francisco, but that is a hard path for hard-working bands that are up-and-comers," Cummings said. "The Guild offers them a place to come and perform. Another

thing they host are tribute bands, [who] will form and play all [the] songs [of] big bands that have made a huge name for themselves."

The Guild's small venue size creates a uniquely personal atmosphere for show-goers.

"Music is all about sharing the experience with other people," Cummings said. "Think about the difference between going to a show at the Shoreline where there are mobs and mobs of people, and the Guild; [because the Guild] is so small and intimate, you can really share the vibe of the music with the people next to you."

Paly English teacher David Cohen's experience at the Guild reflects Cummings' sentiments.

"It's large enough to feel like you're at an event," Cohen said. "I [went] to some places where the stage is barely a stage, and the crowd is kind of small, and then it's a different experience. The Guild is big

enough to feel like it's a concert and small enough that you don't feel lost."

The effort that has been put into establishing the Guild as a music venue worthy of its patrons and its artists is visible as soon as you walk in.

"Nothing is as intimate as this, being in a new place where everything is so new and there has been so much attention to detail," Pearson said. "People walk in for the first time and they're just like looking around going 'whoa'. Fans of the band that are coming in, they're going 'whoa' because they can get so close seeing their favorite band play. It's really fun to watch."

Paly junior Meredith Glasson feels that her experience with the Guild has been valuable and memorable, especially compared to larger venues.

"At the Guild, you can be really close to the artist which is a really cool experience," Glasson said. "When I went, Bob Weir made an appearance to play which was really special because I would never have

thought I would see Bob Weir in real life. It was actually really crazy that we were that close to him. These are things that I could never experience going to Shoreline or larger stadiums."

The Guild's physical proximity to the Bay Area community makes it an invaluable source of live music, and a venue for concert-goers to be proud of.

"We need it desperately here on the Peninsula because we don't have a whole lot of music venues," Cummings said.

With the rapid expansion of social media through apps like Tik-Tok, some people feel that music has become more manufactured.

"In a world consumed by the media, it is very important that there are places like the Guild that fosters creativity and keeps people in touch with the originality of music," Cummings said.

The Guild hopes to bring diverse music back to younger generations through its shows; there is no minimum age for admission, but the Guild's website states that "patrons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian."

"They [younger patrons] usually come [with] a family. You'll see some people in their 20s who are going, maybe coming after work or something," Pearson said. "I hadn't seen any Paly students just showing up [on their own]."

Although it is critical to bridge the gap between younger generations and the roots of

music, the process is not easy. The majority of younger people are not used to seeing second tier bands, and this unfamiliarity may drive them away from indulging in new things.

"I think [younger people] are still experimenting," Pearson said. "[My children] had a couple of bands that, when I've asked my kids, they've said, 'Oh, I've heard of that person.' Typically I think [the Guild] is going to have to get different programming or different musicians to come to bring in the younger audience right now."

Being able to appeal to a younger audience is a challenge. However, the sense of unfamiliarity quickly dissipates when seeing performances firsthand.

"Experiencing shows on live streams is totally different from when you are [physically] with a group of people who share the same intensity of the music," Cummings said. "I can see it when we have high schoolers come into the Guild, their eyes light up."

Music has the power to connect people through emotion, and the Guild brings that experience to the Bay Area.

"There's just a joy in live performances," Pearson said. "Even if I don't like the music, it's fun seeing people who enjoy their craft so much that even if a lot of them aren't making a ton of money yet, they're just doing what they love. To have the ability to change people's mood with what they do, that is a really cool thing."





ARTISTIC INTELLEGEENCE

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