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Washington High School

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Students pre-register to vote

Parkland Voter Movement, League of Women Voters, and Tri-City Health Center pre-registered over 500 WHS students to vote



Junior and senior students from econ and history classes fill out voter registration forms. PHOTO FROM FREMONT USD FACEBOOK PAGE



A stack of envelopes containing voter registration sits atop a counter waiting to be mailed. PHOTO FROM FREMONT USD FACEBOOK PAGE

By VAISHNAVI SUNKARI
Staff Reporter

A recent Washington Post analysis of voter registration data found that there was hardly any change in the share of registered voters ages 18-29. Would the voter turnout still be low if people knew they had the power to voice their opinion on the policies and laws passed in the U.S.? What about the fact that they could actually choose who they want to see as president of America? All this is possible for all U.S. citizens, but only if they vote. This year, 573 seniors and juniors at Washington pre-registered to vote and make their voices heard.

On National Voter Registration Day, September 25th, individuals from the Parkland Voter Movement, League of Women Voters, and Tri-City Health Center organized a voter event in the WHS cafeteria to encourage students to pre-register to vote for the next presidential election, taking place on November 3rd, 2020. Students received instructions to bring their ID or social security number to register during their Economy class period.

Schools within the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) like Mission San Jose High School and Irvington High School coordinated similar voting-based events. When asked what he thought about the pre-registration opportunity, AP U.S. History teacher **David Stephenson** replied, "It was a good idea, because there is a disproportionately low number of people voting."

The lack of young voters is visible during the midterm elections season. These elections will take place on November 6th, with

comprehensive consequences and implications for the current administration. Whatever happens as a result of these elections will be seen as a referendum on President Donald Trump. If the Democrats take control over Congress, changes in the current legislation would be discussed about including controversial issues such as health care, gun policies, immigration, and other wide-reaching crucial topics. If Republicans win the midterms, Trump's policies on these key issues will be passed easily because he would have support from his own political party representatives. For Democratic supporters, voting would ensure federal investigation into Trump's controversial administration.

However, many people are still not convinced to vote even when their votes would influence whether or not important issues would be addressed as well as an investigation of the current president. According to Fairvote, a national leader in electoral reform, only 40% of eligible voters vote during the midterms, 14% being between the ages of 18-29. Is turnout low because people think that the midterms aren't as important as the presidential elections?

"The midterms are very important, the House is up for grabs and even the Senate," states Stephenson. "The more people vote, the more there's a difference."

Students at Washington High School are taking initiative to invite organizations to talk to students about the importance of voting. Seniors **Iris Yen** and **Zuhair Imaduddin**, and sophomores **Olivia Hallas** and **Rebecca Melnarik** are part of the "Parkland Voter Movement," a voter registration movement

following the activism of the Parkland students for gun reform. The group also works with the League of Women Voters.

The Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) is a helpful policy implemented by the State of California that allows eligible 16- and 17-year olds to pre-register to vote. California is the second state after Oregon to implement AVR. Governor Jerry Brown also recently signed a bill that automatically pre-registers eligible California citizens when they obtain their first drivers' license.

Only 46% of young voters voted in the last presidential election, while 72% of the Silent Generation (ages 71+) voted, according to the National Public Radio (NPR). Low voter turnout has sparked the "Parkland Voter Movement" to become heavily involved in visiting schools all over the Bay Area and urging students to pre-register to vote.

Imaduddin says, "Changing the way younger Americans are represented will not change overnight. Registering to vote is a simple and perfect first step."

However, many schools outside of FUSD don't have the opportunity to pre-register in their schools.

Senior **Catherine Diep** said, "I think that being pre-registered at school was convenient. More people will vote because of it."

The deadline to register to vote online or through mail is on October 22nd. Polling places that are close to WHS include the Holy Spirit Church and Fremont Main Library. Visit https://www.acgov.org/rov_app/pollinglist to find polling places near you. If you haven't pre-registered to vote at school, you can still register online at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

New clubs make a debut at club rush

The two-day event saw many students sign up for diverse clubs

By RITA MENCHACA
Staff Reporter

Washington's annual Club Rush occurred on September 12 and 13. While returning clubs advertised themselves to potential members, several new clubs made their debut on these two days as well.

Senior **Zara Diaz** and her sister, **Abril Diaz**, founded Girls Unite for Cycling Activism after participating in the Ride Like a Girl campaign, a 13-mile bike trip exclusively for women. Diaz said, "The ride created a strong bond between all of the girls there. We wanted to recreate that with high school girls." During club meetings, the Diazes plan biking events with their members to prepare them for a longer distance ride. Girls Unite for Cycling Activism hopes to create an inviting environment where girls can not only bond with one another, but also empower each other while biking. The club currently meets every other Thursday during lunch in room F240.

While this club focuses entirely on the sport of cycling, junior **Adnesh Tondale** wished to dedicate a club to his love of planes and aviation. In fact, Tondale stated, "I can identify

any commercial and military aircraft in the air in a matter of seconds." Dubbed Skunk Works, this club is designed to educate and provide members with a hands-on experience in both building and designing a 4-foot long radio-controlled (RC) airplane. Tondale has planned out a series of events and visions for his club, including finishing a 4-foot scale version of the Boeing 777-200 and have it flying by the end of the year, initiating a group project to race model RC Extra 300 planes built by the members themselves, and entering a Gama competition to attempt to earn a cash prize for Washington. Unfortunately, Tondale has come across an obstacle: lack of funding. "This limits the amount of electronics and functions on board the 777," he said. However, he is optimistic that the club will be able to resolve this issue and raise enough money. Skunk Works meets twice a week at lunch in room 71.

A third new club, the Junior Academy of Music, was inspired by another club run by Centerville Junior High School's **Joshua Hollister** who teaches seventh-grade history. Junior and current President of the Junior Academy of Music **Milana Gorobchenko** said that she and her fellow officers were "moved by



Senior **Ryan Ruhany** promotes his new club LEAF (Local Ecology and Agriculture Fremont). PHOTO PROVIDED BY WHS ASB

the incredible experiences" at the Centerville club. She said, "It allowed us to feel free to sing, write, play an instrument, and inspire others to express themselves through music. I feel that students at WHS should have the opportunity to experience the same through our club."

Students are able to join this club regardless of whether they know how to play an instrument or sing. Gorobchenko said the intent of the Junior Academy is to provide a creative space where people can share their own experiences and passions through music with the option of collaborating with others or individually practicing. The club officers plan to have a couple of open mic nights to stay true to the Centerville Junior High tradition. The meetings currently take place on Fridays in the Husky Theatre at lunch.

Next Generation Nations (NGN) was founded by junior **Lavanya Jain** who wanted to give students the opportunity to compete for a \$7,000 scholarship, go on corporate tours, raise awareness of global issues such as eliminating poverty and corruption, and teach students what they can do to solve these problems. Jain said, "We want to encourage students to bring positive change into their societies, all while getting rewarded for their efforts. This year, we hope to have at least one team win the scholarship money." Jain and her officers also aspire to expose club members to corporate culture, having already planned a Tesla corporate tour scheduled for January as well as a Google corporate tour. NGN currently meets in room 56 either during lunch or after school.

Story continued on page 2

Student population skyrockets due to development

As construction continues throughout Fremont, student population is at an all-time high and is impacting the lives of parents and students of Washington

By BHAVYA DHULIPALLA
Staff Reporter

The population of Fremont from 2010 to 2017 has grown by over 20,000 residents, according to World Population Review, resulting in the construction of housing and living spaces in Fremont to increase rapidly. While new accommodations are beneficial for incoming residents, the surge in population is coupled with negative effects on those currently living in Fremont. It has become more difficult for parents to send their children to nearby schools. Furthermore, traffic and the cost of living that result from the overpopulation have become growing concerns among the inhabitants of Fremont.

The process of enrolling a child into an elementary school requires documents like proof of residency and a requirement of receiving vaccinations. Now in addition to those, Fremont schools must confirm whether they have space for a child regardless of the procedures the parent and child have already completed.

As a result, some children have no other option but to enroll in a less crowded school. In an interview with a parent who wished to remain anonymous, she said that ten years ago, it was much easier to have



Workers outside of Washington's E-Building continue construction on the new science wing of campus. This project demonstrates the school's effort to accommodate the influx of students enrolling at Washington.

PHOTO BY JULIAN PEREZ

her child go to the elementary school that was closest to their home without having to worry about the child not getting in. Her friends with children now must go through another process. Fremont City Council candidate for District 4, **Justin Sha**, said in some cases students are forced to go to schools outside of Fremont entirely, like in Union City.

Besides the competition to secure a seat in an elementary school, the cost of living

has also spiked. On that scale, Fremont is a 231. The average cost of a house in Fremont is twice as much as the average in California; in Fremont, it is currently \$1,082,900 while it is \$548,100 in all of California. Washington principal **Bob Moran** said, "It has become expensive in Fremont. I think that it is hard for teachers and teachers starting families to purchase around here."

Rush hour in Fremont ranges from 7 AM

to 8 AM and later in the day from 3 PM to 6 PM. **Elizabeth Madueno**, mother of junior **Johanna Madueno** at Washington, describes the struggles of traffic she faces daily. Mrs. Madueno feels driving has become irritating, especially compared to three years ago when driving took her half the time. Mowry Crossing, she said, can take up to an hour if you're stuck in traffic.

Fremont continues to be a desirable suburb for other people to live in. BART, ACE, and VTA are just a few of the modes of transportation available to Fremont netizens. According to Niche.com, Fremont has a general rating of four out of five stars for its schools. In addition, Fremont is a community rich in diversity, ethnicity, and culture. According to DataUSA.io, "The ethnic composition of the population of Fremont, CA is composed of 127,038 Asian residents (55.7%), 50,887 white residents (22.3%), 30,316 Hispanic residents (13.3%), 9,000 residents of two or more ethnicities (3.95%), and 7,245 black residents (3.18%)."

Michele Berke, Vice-President of the Fremont Unified School District School Board, said that that the Board cannot implement any solutions; it is only under the city's control to approve new developments. However, there are plans of merging sixth grade into middle schools to resolve overcrowded elementary schools.

New clubs make a debut at Club Rush continued from page 1

By RITA MENCHACA
Staff Reporter

When her grandmother passed away from Alzheimer's, sophomore **Simran Subramaniam** realized she wanted to study neuroscience to raise awareness about brain diseases. She alongside sophomore **Niva Shrestha** co-founded the Neuroscience Club in an effort to foster an interest in neuroscience among high school students.

Subramaniam said, "We want to address a subject that many students are interested in, but don't have the opportunity to formally pursue that interest as a high schooler." The club's goals for this school year include participating in the Brain Bee neuroscience competition. The Neuroscience Club meets on Mondays every other week.

Another science-based club is the Biology Olympiad, which sophomore **Devanshi Thanki** currently presides over. After taking Honors Biology in her freshman year, Thanki recognized her fascination with biology and wanted to compete in the USA Biology Olympiad to confirm if she was willing to pursue biology as a future major.

She said, "It struck me that there must be others at WHS who appreciate biology or are looking into medical careers, and would really benefit from doing this competition because it also involves spending some laboratory time with some of the top life science professors."

Although the club's names suggest that the Olympiad is the main focus, she later discovered it was more important to pique interest in Biology among students. Thanki and her officers also plan to implement a once-a-month lab activity and invite guest speakers from the biology

industry alongside studying for the February USA Biology Olympiad. Meetings take place every other Monday after school from 3:10 to 4:30 PM in room 31.

Senior **Ryan Ruhany** created WHS LEAF club modeled after the parent organization LEAF in Fremont. He said, "I founded this club to provide a way for students to learn about ecology and agriculture in their own community." The club hosts volunteer events at the Fremont LEAF community gardens, where members can work with plants and in the process give back to their community. Ruhany hopes that students can learn how significant of a role agriculture has in people's lives by witnessing first hand how to garden. The club currently meets in E125.

This year's Club Rush demonstrated that students are proactive in forming clubs that align with their passions. This new selection of clubs benefits Washington as a whole.

Washington without borders: cultural clubs on campus

Huskies take a stand for cultural representation at Washington through their activities in heritage-based clubs across campus and the community

By VIVIANA GARCIA
Staff Reporter

Most students find they are able to participate in extracurricular activities that has to do with things they like to do or their values. Have you ever considered joining a cultural club? In these clubs you have the chance to re-establish your own identity and show your family traditions or values with others.

One of Washington's most well-known organizations is the Black Student Union or B.S.U. The club focuses on bringing Washington's African American community together while empowering students to strive for academic excellence and promote a positive image.

Senior **Stephanie Swayzer** is the President of B.S.U. She began to participate in the club because she "wanted to learn more about our black roots and culture, and I also wanted to inform others about its history and where the black community stands as of today." B.S.U has two meetings a month where they discuss many different topics like their annual multicultural week performance.

As of right now the only big events coming up are a couple fundraising ideas and multicultural week. When asked why she became the President of B.S.U, Swayzer said, "I've always wanted to be a leader. I'm excited by the fact that people look up to me as a role model at Washington. I take pride in inspiring people to do something out of the ordinary."

In addition to B.S.U's strong cultural presence, the

Club CORNER

United Latino Activists of Washington High School or U.L.A emphasizes on promoting traditional Mexican cultural through folkloric dance. The club was founded by Senior **Julian Perez**. Perez said he started the club to empower Latinos to pursue higher education through the discussion of academic resources and folklorico.

With the help of Seniors **Bertha del Toro** and **Alexis Rosa** as well as Junior **Gemma Rodriguez**, U.L.A has become a safe space for Latino creativity and involvement in academia. U.L.A's folklorico practices take place every Tuesday and Friday after school. They perform regularly throughout the year at elementary schools and community functions.

The other Hispanic-focused club on campus is M.E.Ch.A which stands for Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan. Senior **Chelsea Olivares** said that M.E.Ch.A promotes "the coming together of Latino students in order to work with and get to know each other".

Olivares also commented that "she was very grateful to be Hispanic and loves dancing to Spanish music" Her leadership in the club was a consequence of these interests. M.E.Ch.A has a couple upcoming activities such as fundraisers and a club hangout which will be further discussed in the upcoming meetings.



Top: Senior **Bertha del Toro** moves swiftly as she dances at last year's Multicultural Assembly with U.L.A
Bottom: B.S.U members dance to the beat during last year's Multicultural Assembly.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SARA MAMEESH

Are students ready for college?

Washington offers several resources intended to assist students throughout the college application process; however, many appear to neglect them

By KEERTHANA RAGHURAMAN
Staff Reporter

College Night at Ohlone is crowded with students and parents alike, their voices overlapping to create a constant buzz in the atmosphere as they gain information about their college choices.

Majorly missing in this picture is students from Washington High. A few Huskies are spotted throughout the room, but they are overtaken by fellow Fremont Unified School District students from neighboring campuses such as Mission and Irvington.

Schools lend a hand to students by providing resources to help them achieve their college dreams, but the numbers show that those at WHS don't seem to be taking advantage of them.

At Washington, seniors have access to their counselors. In addition, students can approach college counselor **Micheline Wittmer**, who answers questions and supplies information regarding the college application process.

Along with counseling, various college representatives from UCs to privates (Johns Hopkins, University of Chicago, Boston College, to name a few) visited the Washington campus to inform students about what their college offers, allowing seniors to explore different options.

One primary resource is the annual college fair offered at Ohlone College where 70+ colleges had booths. Students and parents can walk around and learn information about colleges from people who are a part of or have been through the process.

This year's college fair took place on September 25 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. with around 75 colleges (community, state, private, and public) representing and open to questions from students and parents.

However, attendance numbers indicate that these options are not utilized by a majority of students. Not many seniors take advantage of their counselor's expertise, and the same goes for college visits; compared to last year, the number of students attending these informative sessions has declined.

"This year, there were more than 60 people who signed up for the UCSD presentation, but when the time came, only about 30 showed up,"

said Mrs. Wittmer.

She said there are "a fair share" of students who visit any college they can and come ask questions, but she wishes more students took initiative.

Counselor **Don Thao** said that he meets with students "on a daily basis to talk about college whether it is about A-G, college applications, SATs, graduation, etc."

He thinks students are visiting their counselors, "but there is also a handful of those who don't feel comfortable meeting one-on-one. These are usually the students who may shy away from asking questions."

An issue some students have with the college fair are parents. College booths are packed with parents seeking information; their numbers often prevent students present at events from accessing college representatives. This leads students to believe there is no point in coming if they won't even get to ask their questions.

Senior **Sree Vidya Ganga** complained of "getting pushed and shoved around, even needing to roll up [her] sleeves and get rude with them in order to get the answers [she] wanted".

Wittmer acknowledges this point and even said herself that the college representatives have the same complaints with parents being "a little too aggressive".

She states they are working on changing the format of college night for future years. One option is dedicating an hour to students only, where they can freely explore and inquire.

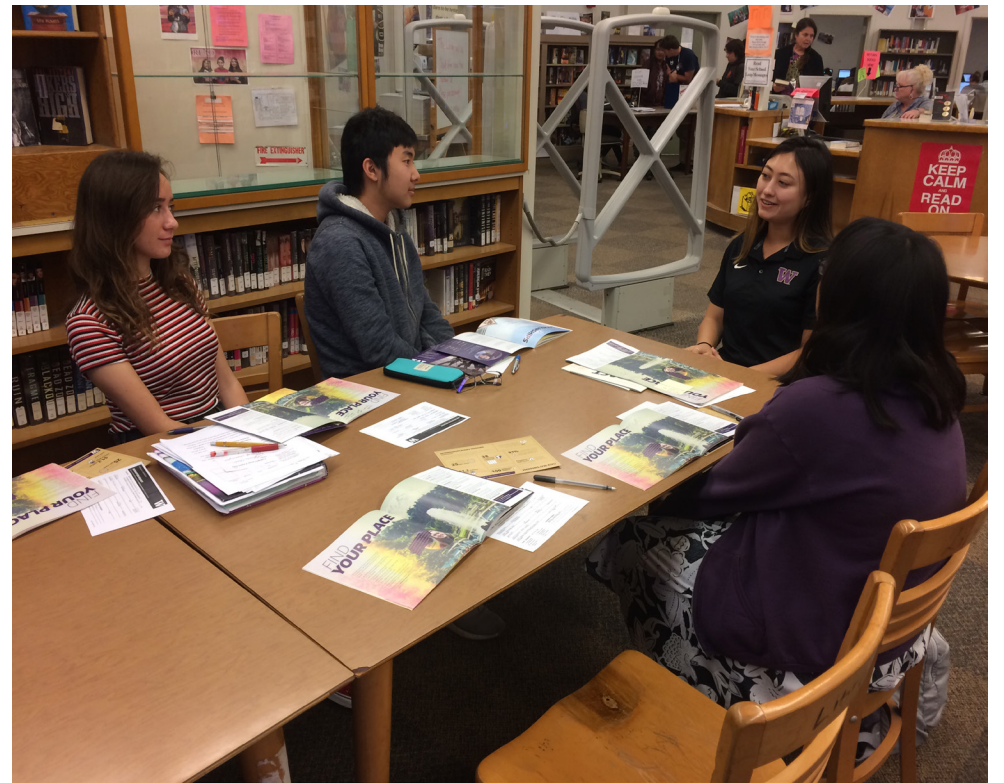
Why aren't seniors using what resources they have?

Wittmer believes students are simply prioritizing their school work or daily life over their college preparation. They skip a college visit in order to finish or stay on top of their homework.

Although Wittmer understands this dilemma, she said, "Homework is important, but so is college. Students should try to plan their work around a college visit so they're able to go and gain an understanding of how college applications work. Even going to one gives you an idea of how other colleges will be."

Additionally, there aren't enough options for advertising these college visits and the college fair.

The daily announcements notify students of



Students listen to an admissions officer from the University of Washington, one of the many institutions to have visited Washington High School in October.

PHOTO BY KEERTHANA RAGHURAMAN

when a specific college is visiting and Wittmer does her part in spreading the word through Loopmail and posting on the news section of Schoolloop.

Leadership and administration use their student reach to help with the announcements and advertising.

However, informing the entire student body is still a challenge, according to Wittmer.

She doesn't know how else to improve advertising, but hopes there are students who are willing to utilize resources they have.

College preparation is done in the classroom as well, with the first unit in senior English classes preparing students for future initiatives. Students have the opportunity to work on their personal statements during class, and can ask the teachers for help.

Though the reach of information available is limited, the fact that they are available at all is an advantage students at Washington have.

For freshmen, starting to gather information on colleges will open more doors by the time applications come around. Besides college, scholarship opportunities such as online writing competitions and local scholarship competitions are readily available.

If college isn't your plan, visiting your counselors and Mrs. Wittmer can also include talking about options besides college and potential career pathways.

"I've had kids come back and tell me that, you know what, they went to colleges that they would have never thought of had they not come to some of these presentations," Wittmer said.

Governor vetoes school starting times bill

While the bill to start school no later than 8:30 a.m. was passed in the California Senate, Governor Jerry Brown rejected the proposition from law

By GABRIELA CALVILLO
Staff Reporter

A highly debated topic among California legislators has been whether or not the starting times of school should be changed.

Less than a year ago, Senator **Anthony Portantino** proposed a bill that would act on the premise of schools beginning after 8:30 a.m. to the Senate Floor.

According to *The New York Times*, California currently "has more than three million public middle and high school students and about three in four start school before 8:30 a.m." Bill analysts report an average start time of 8:07 a.m. for middle and high schools.

But on September 20, 2018, Governor **Jerry Brown** rejected this legislation.

Based on a recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics, much of Portantino's argument was founded on the idea that "one of the most salient, and arguably, most malleable [factors on an adolescents health] is that of school start times."

Research from sources like the U.S. Department of Education, along with key studies from various schools, was accumulated by his staff and initially presented as support for this bill back in 2017.

"I don't take the bus as much as I used to, but if this bill were to have gotten passed, it would affect my friends who do."

However, it gained some traction from protesters, mainly, from the California Teachers Association. One member told *The Sacramento Bee* that the possibility of this becoming a new law is "a danger that eliminates local control."

Regardless of their objections, the bill barely passed through the Legislature and was cleared to go to Governor Brown on a vote of 23-13 on August 30, 2018.

Brown vetoed this bill, stating that school starting times should be handled in local communities rather than enforcing one time for the entire state of California.

If this bill were to have gotten through the whole process, schools around the Bay Area, including Washington, would be heavily impacted by its approval.

Districts would be required to comply with this law by 2021. While it's easy to assume this is beneficial thing for students, other factors such as student transportation need to be taken into account.

"I don't take the bus as much as I used to, but if this bill were to have gotten passed, it would affect my friends who do," said junior **Heather Whisler**. "For them, it would complicate things since the bus would still show up at the same time, but if school starts at or after 8:30 a.m. some families would con-

sider it an inconvenience."

Bus schedules may not align with people who take the bus regularly, so this potential law would negatively affect students who rely on public transportation. Some students also have their parent drop them off in the morning, so a change in schedule may result in conflict with working parents who must be present for their career by a specific time. At the same time, other concerns surrounding this bill consist of whether or not this would affect the time we get out of school or if it would hurschedules of multiple extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, and theatre practice. These issues stem from the vagueness of the bill's impact.

Some teachers strongly disagree with the bill like English teacher **Sharon Jones**.

"We've been through this before," Jones said. "Washington used to start at 7:45 a.m. but we were able to change it to 8:00 a.m. for the same reason. To me, there's no difference in how our students arrive at school. They're still tired, and so are we, so if this hypothetical bill was passed, nothing much would change."

Although there are disagreements on this topic, some students—like junior **Sophia Dehart**—support this wholeheartedly.

Dehart said, "School takes a toll on everyone at some point. Whether that be with stress, mental health, or even just sleep, it affects us students so much. This would be super helpful to us and every-

"School takes a toll on everyone at some point. Whether that be with stress, mental health, or even just sleep, it affects us students so much."

one after."

She believes that having a later starting time would provide students with not only extra sleep, but relief from student-related struggles.

At the end of the day, both students and faculty must consider the various aspects of this argument.

While the bill was vetoed, it sparked a conversation about the importance of sleep, or lack thereof, in the lives of California students. Discussions not only occurred in California, but were also covered in national newspapers such as *The New York Times* and *CBS News*. This, in turn, will have a further reaching impact in spurring future debate concerning school starting times.

Crow's nest



The magic is behind the theatre curtain

BY HANNAH MARTINEZ-CROW
Opinion Columnist

The theatre is a place where anyone can fit in. It is where we can be free to make mistakes without being punished with a failing grade. It is where hearts will be broken, dreams will come true, and one will learn the definition of hard work. I have been doing a show every year since I was five years old, and it has taught me real life skills that I use constantly. Theatre has taught me to love myself and try new things.

At school, I leave my classrooms with a wave of frustration. I am frustrated at the math problem with way too many numbers, I am frustrated at the teacher for not answering my question because "I should have been listening," and I am frustrated at myself for not understanding the lesson when the classroom was filled with murmurs of *that was so easy*. This situation has been my life every single day of high school. However, there is one place where I know I will always understand. The theatre is filled with tired, but determined, students who spend six hours a night after school, working towards perfection while also building connections and memories that will last a lifetime.

I began my theatre experience when I was five years old. My kindergarten teacher handed us a permission slip to sign up for the school play. I remember skipping to my mom and begging her to sign it so that I could be a part of this fun activity. Little did we know, this one moment would lead to so much more. I fell in love with the feeling of being onstage, so I did the play every year. It was exciting!

When I was seven, my parents took me to see the national tour of *Wicked*. I can pinpoint the exact moment where I realised that theatre was magic. There's a song called "One Short Day," where everyone was dressed in amazing green costumes, singing and dancing to applause. These adults were being praised for playing dress-up and dancing. I wanted to experience that as well. As well as participating in the theatre program here at Washington High school, I currently perform with a youth theatre company called Starstruck. I love the professionalism and the way that it feels like I am on Broadway.

Many of us in the program joined the theatre as freshman with the goal of trying to make friends and find our niche. I believe that performing arts can also help people to grow their confidence. The theatre offers a way for students to express both their imaginations and ideas. To see them come to life is remarkably rewarding. It is an incredible creative output because of how it is an extremely individual activity, as well as being collaborative. You need to be able to work on your own to develop your character and their relationships with others, but you also need to know how to come together with your fellow actors to put on a show. I believe that everyone should get involved somehow, whether it's onstage, backstage or even just taking the time to be an audience member and see the final product; there is something for everybody.

Theatre is not easy, but it is the best thing in my life. The feeling of being onstage, where absolutely anything can happen, is exhilarating. It has taught me so many skills that I carry with me every single day.

Give performing a try; I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone and audition. You will be surprised by how much confidence you will gain and the friendships you will make.

Politics: the new elephant in the room

Staff EDITORIAL

Politics belong in school. Any political decision that is made now will affect students in their futures, so it only makes sense that they are exposed to the political views of their peers and teachers. Instead of taking the risk of having students consume dangerous misinformation from sources like social media, students should be prepared so they will be able to make the right voting decisions once they turn 18.

Most teachers refrain from talking about their political opinions with students, and seem rightful in doing so. They don't want to say something that could get them in trouble or isolate any students with opposing viewpoints. The latter is especially troubling since the Bay Area is so politically homogenized, causing anyone who does not agree with mainstream liberal values to be hesitant to share their perspective. But not everyone always agrees with each other in the world, and it is better to learn how to deal with that early in life in a safe place like school.

Teachers need to forgo any worries they have and instead realize that bringing up politics prepares students for their futures, no matter how taboo it may seem at first. One of the Fremont Unified School District (FUSD) core beliefs is that "schools have a responsibility to help individuals prepare themselves for effective citizenship." This includes discussing political issues, as an effective citizen is invested their nation's politics.

Of course, everything needs to be brought up in the right context. Maybe a math class is not an appropriate place to talk about politics, but in other subjects--such as English, history, and even science--there are many interesting ways to tie in politics. Students could investigate the environmental impact of the U.S. exiting the Paris Agreement or develop their opinions on gun reform. It all boils down to relevancy and how information is presented.

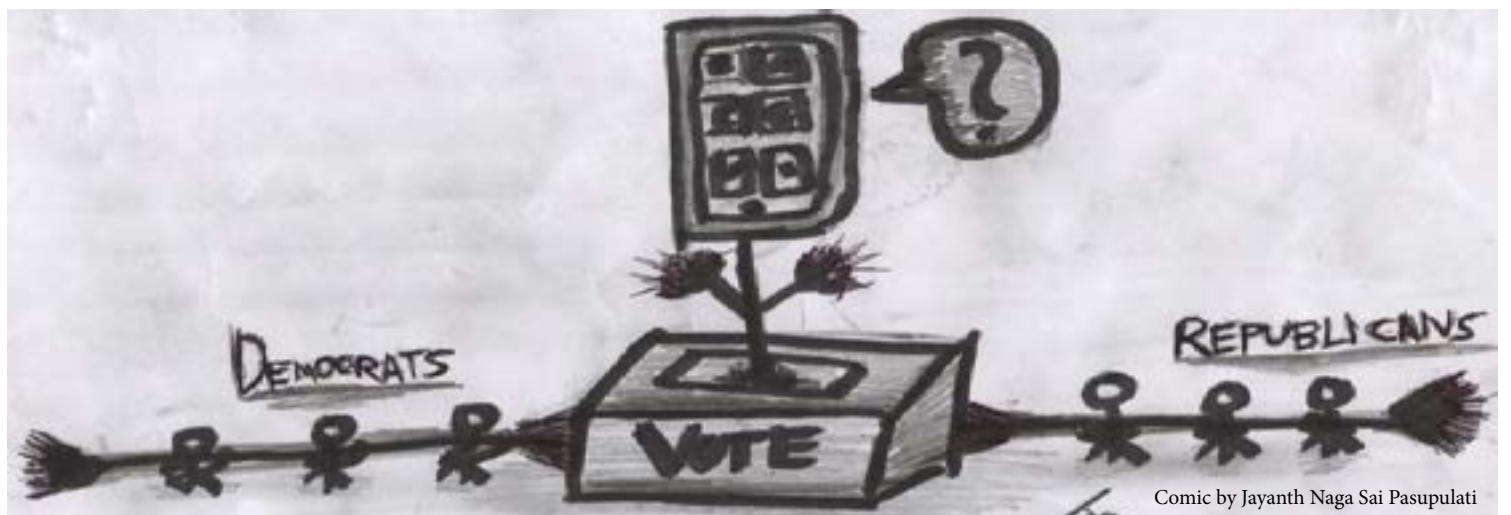
For example, even though the most people in the Bay Area belong to the Democratic Party, only sharing Democratic views would be boring and unfair to a captive audience of students. Stipulating an environment free from judgment, personal opinions can be shared to show what differing points of view exist, but they have to be followed up with facts and address any opposition for them to be useful. Students should come away being critical of any information presented to them so they can learn to form strong opinions of their own. This still follows the FUSD policy that students have "the right to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice" and "the right to form and express his/her own opinions on controversial

issues without thereby jeopardizing the student's relations with the teacher of the school."

Washington does a good job at informing its students about politics and making sure they are prepared to vote. Education in different classes demonstrates the importance of voting and teaches students how to find credible sources for any research they want to do.

But there are plenty of additional steps that Washington can take to do a great job at preparing its students to be ready for their futures in a politically charged world. They can offer a civics class to freshmen that teaches them how they can participate in politics as a high schooler and affect change in their local community, similar to a class offered at Mission San Jose High School. Teachers can be proactive in tailoring their lesson plans to parallel current events that students are interested in. Students can be encouraged to put on more events such as the gun reform walk-out last year, although in a less disruptive manner.

The approaching election on November 6 provides a great opportunity to show students how important it is for them to get educated and actually vote when they are able to. Its effects will be felt for years to come as new politicians take office and propositions come into effect. It is up to schools keep students informed so they will know how to act when they're the ones able to make decisions for this country.



Comic by Jayanth Naga Sai Pasupulati

HUSKIES IN THE HALLS

In this day and age, the internet connects us to the entire world at any given moment; current events and other news are just a tap away. We asked our fellow Huskies how they get informed about their news and why they rely on that source.



Archit Singh
Freshman

"I gather my information and news from Instagram and Twitter. I do my research online to see if it's true or not."



Praveen Kandasamy
Sophomore

"I get my news from the internet or Google. I do my research on the topic to tell whether it's true or not."



Qaboos Zafar
Junior

"I get informed about my news on CNN because I can trust them with their news coverage. Staying up to date about the news and politics is very important."



Meizel Morales
Senior

"The way that I get informed about my news is through social media, such as Instagram. I also watch the news coverage from Univision."



Alphonso Thompson
Staff

"I watch different news channels, read different news outlets, newspapers, and I also watch local news for sports and stuff."



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The Hatchet is a forum for student expression uncensored by school officials. The staff seeks to ethically produce an accurate record of the news, sports, issues, and people residing in WHS.

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The Hatchet encourages public opinion through Letters to the Editor. Address letters to "the editor," and deliver to room E221 or submit online at <https://goo.gl/forms/nV7llLoKxTEOV4m33>

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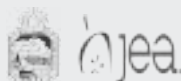
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Spirit Week

SPIRIT WEEK

455 POINTS
FRESHMEN

545 POINTS
SOPHOMORES

582 POINTS
JUNIORS

676 POINTS
SENIORS

CANNED FOOD

530 POUNDS
FRESHMEN

1163 POUNDS
SOPHOMORES

1382 POUNDS
JUNIORS

1515 POUNDS
SENIORS

GRAND Total

667 POINTS
FRESHMEN

945 POINTS
SOPHOMORES

982 POINTS
JUNIORS

1076 POINTS
SENIORS



2018



A SECOND GLANCE AT SPIRIT WEEK

By COLTER ADAMSON
Staff Reporter

For this year's Spirit Week, the Class of 2022 performed a *Lilo and Stitch*-themed skit. They were optimistic, as this was their first skit performance at Washington. According to Treasurer **Rohan Nigam** and President **Lance Aves**, the experience was long and tiring, yet ultimately redeeming.

Nigam outlined the difficulties they faced, saying, "We faced many struggles throughout preparation. One major issue was that we did not have a lot of people participating in the dances." However, the Class of 2022 was strong-willed and consistently worked towards improving their performance. Nigam said, "As we got closer to Spirit Week, we felt more confident about the skit." Despite this, the freshman class faced additional disadvantages as well, as expressed by Aves. When asked, Aves said that a major hurdle was the poor audio in the gym. As this was their first year performing, it was expected that there were to be improvements made. Lance touched upon this, saying, "Next year, I think we can improve the audio and establish a clear antagonist and protagonist for the skit." Vice President **Uday Aulakh**, also commented, saying, "However, we were not as ready as we could have been. There were a lot of learning curves and we did not know everything that we needed." Still, there is always room for improvement. Now that the Class of 2022 has a year of experience under their belt, they could be a force to be reckoned with next year.

In the spirit of Spirit Week, the Class of 2022 also received help from their upperclassmen counterparts. As newcomers, guidance is necessary for success, which was highlighted by Aves, who said, "We received a lot of help from the upperclassmen. They helped us fundraise, complete our backdrops, and orient our skit as well."

As for the fine arts portion of the skit, the backdrops and choreography also came as a difficulty for the students. Aulakh said, "It was hard to find a place to make the backdrops. It was also difficult to choreograph the dances simply, so that everyone could easily learn them." Despite the difficulties at hand, the freshmen overcame their hardships, their finished skit being overwhelmingly impressive.

When the class officers were asked, all three said that the results of Spirit Week came as a surprise to them. Each of them felt that their ranking had not been an accurate reflection of their performance throughout the week. Similar responses came from the rest of the freshman class, as well as from sophomores, juniors, and seniors alike.

While they may have ranked third, the class undeniably put on an impressive show, as shown by their enthusiastic participation throughout the week, from Sports Day to Unity Day, as well as in their rendition of *Lilo and Stitch*. It is a good sign for what is to come. Their passion and experience from this year will undoubtedly shine in next year's performance.

Freshman



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAYANTH NAGA SAI PASUPULATI



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JOE SCHNEIDER

Sophomore

By CAMERON DEAN
Staff Reporter

"I have high expectations for our class. The Class of 2021 definitely has a lot of Husky pride and I am personally looking forward to Spirit Week. My main goal is for the sophomore class to have fun and show their class and school spirit," said President **Abi Shiva**.

The sophomores began Spirit Week with high expectations. They placed second last year, surprising many with their unity and competitive spirit, setting the bar high for themselves this year. Before the performance, Shiva emphasized the need for "increased student participation in all of Spirit Week's activities to stand out." His hope was realized as loud cheers and high attendance rates, not to mention the widely popular Class of 2021 meme chants were, undoubtedly, a trademark of the sophomore class.

The sophomores refused to back down from their competition, waving their flag with confidence and battling with the rest of the classes, freshmen and seniors alike. From their swashbuckling Pirate Day to their wild Western Day, the sophomores were not afraid to display their abundance of class spirit.

The Class of 2021's upbeat and well-choreographed reenactment of *Mulan* proved to be both humorous and enticing, keeping all the classes engaged. The skit began with a crowd-raising cheer as Mushu, played by **Mark Igbanacho**, made his debut on the stage. After being humiliated by the matchmaker and her family for not being a perfect daughter, *Mulan*, played by **Naomi Chuang**, attempted to redeem herself in the eyes of her father by fighting against the enemy, Irvington High School, with the help of Shang, played by **Jason Waseq**, as well as other Husky soldiers. However, *Shan Yu*, played by **Bryce Harrison**, stole the sword containing the spirit of Washington for Irvington. Their defeat, in addition to cheers from all four classes, served only to further motivate the troops to continue in their fight to protect Washington. Ultimately, in the final battle, the Huskies prevailed with the defeat of *Shan Yu*, allowing *Mulan* to take back the spirit sword for Washington. The skit concluded with an enthusiastic and triumphant dance to the Black Eyed Peas' "I Got a Feeling."

The sophomores undoubtedly made their mark, with their lively dance routines, witty cast, and attention-grabbing backdrops. They were awarded third for the skit and for Spirit Week, the results leading to much confusion from the class, as many sophomores stated that they felt as though they performed better than their score reflected. Despite not being awarded second this year, their performance stood out from the rest, underscoring the significant amount of hard work and passion they put in to make it a reality.

The sophomores' performance exemplified the contagious energy found in the Class of 2021, yet again reminding us that they are a force to be reckoned with.

By AREEJ ADNAN
Staff Reporter

Determined to parody the iconic adventures of *Sharkboy and Lavagirl*, the Class of 2020 set out to perform an ambitious skit in the hopes of placing first. Class officers **Aidan Cho**, **Qianyi Loo**, and **Paola Villanueva** assembled to create a skit worthy of "Planet Husky." With their hard work combined from both organizing the skit and collecting cans, the Class of 2020 managed to attain second place.

However, at times, that hard work might not be as appreciated as we expect it to be. **Erin Valdecana**, a leadership student, was especially proud of the backdrops, as "not a lot of people know much work gets put into them." Organizing a skit meriting second place is not an easy feat, though the Class of 2020 seemed to take it in stride. Junior class President **Cho** was especially grateful to have officers **Villanueva** and **Loo** "there with [him] to help guide [him] through Spirit Week." They were able to efficiently divide preparatory tasks, including making props, choreographing dances, and designing backdrops, based on the skill sets of the volunteers.

One of the largest problems they faced, however, was the lack of turn out. Typically, people from every class do not attend most skit practices, instead only attending gym night. As a result, officers have to scramble to teach the newcomers all of the dances in a just few hours. According to **Cho**, "the turn out was a little less than we would have liked." Regardless, the juniors were able to make up for the low attendance with passionate performances, proving that they were in no way deterred from their goals.

Both the audience and the actors seemed to have a great time, dancing to popular songs, such as "I Gotta Feeling" by the Black Eyed Peas and "All I Do Is Win" by DJ Khaled. **Francesca Dela Cruz**, who played *Lavagirl*, and **Khoi Nguyen**, who portrayed *Sharkboy*, showed off their acting skills against the evil Mr. Electricidad, played by **Hasib Salemi**. Eventually, the *Ice Princess*, played by **Milana Gorobchenko**, came to the rescue by "freezing" Mr. Electricidad with the *Crystal Heart*.

The class kept the theme of Husky spirit alive throughout their performance, also managing to include some friendly quips against Irvington High School, their rivals in the skit. This garnered plenty of laughs from the other classes, as well as the teachers watching.

Having seen the rewards of their efforts, the Class of 2020 especially looks forward to improving their performance as seniors. "Next year, I just hope that we can get a bigger turn out for skit in general," **Cho** said, expressing his high hopes for their final skit performance. They definitely gave their class something to look forward to during their senior year, as demonstrated by the tremendous effort they put in.

We will hopefully continue to see the Class of 2020 embody the true meaning of being a Husky. As *Lavagirl* said, "Everything that is or was, began with spirit, a dream."

Junior



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAYANTH NAGA SAI PASUPULATI

PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAYANTH NAGA SAI PASUPULATI



Senior

By VAISHNAVI SUNKARI
Staff Reporter

This year, the Class of 2019 was eager to make their mark, beginning with Spirit Week. A total of 104 seniors participated in the skit, with significant numbers attending the morning rallies dressed in army gear and as hippies, nerds, celebrities, and huskies. All their hard work and dedication eventually paid off, as they were awarded first place for their creative and enthusiastic take on Disney's *Monsters, Inc.*

Class officers, **Privi Venkat**, **Brandon Bellati**, and **Sarah Flick**, as well as other dedicated students came together to make the skit a possibility. The cast included **Mehdi Rejouan** as *Sulley*, **Eric Rodriguez** as *Mike Wazowski*, **Vivian Cao** as *Boo*, **Lilani Palmon** as *Celia*, and **Matthew Dela Cruz** as *Roz*.

"I was a little nervous at first," says **Dela Cruz**, "but, at the same time, I love acting and being in front of a crowd and I really wanted to be involved with my class in any way possible." The actors' enthusiasm kept the audience engaged with their witty lines and charismatic performances.

The dances were choreographed by **Stacy Huang**, **Angelo Del Fierro**, **Hina Chowdry**, **Mujtaba Hamdard**, and the class officers. Significant pressure was placed on the choreographers, as many students showed up to gym night, but few attended any of the other practices.

"We were faced with a big time, but Angelo and I wanted to showcase the best choreography for our last year," **Huang** said. With cross-dress taken out of the skit as well, the students had to come up with dance steps that were equally entertaining to the audience. A girls vs. boys dance battle served as a successful replacement, with the performers and audience alike finding it enjoyable.

Asah Kim and **Holly Maccan** drew and designed the backdrops for the skit beginning in August, later receiving help to paint them. However, even from the start, the group faced challenges. **Kim** noted that drawing on the backdrops was a challenge, because of the limited space available to work on them. In spite of all this, they still managed to create stunning backdrops and campus decorations. However, at the Homecoming Dance, it was announced that the seniors were disqualified from the decoration category because they began too early. **Kim** remarked, "It sucked we got disqualified, but, I don't think it's too big of a deal. We still won and the backdrops looked really cool. In the end, the points don't matter that much to me."

Overall, the hard work the seniors put into Spirit Week paid off, as they not only won first place overall, but also received a perfect score for the skit. ASB Treasurer **Sarah Le** noted that "Making posters was easy, but having people come out to skit was hard. But, overall, it was amazing." Ultimately, the senior class was able to band together as a team, ending their final year with a bang.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAYANTH NAGA SAI PASUPULATI



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAYANTH NAGA SAI PASUPULATI

Homecoming



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAYANTH NAGA SAI PASUPULATI



PHOTO PROVIDED BY JAYANTH NAGA SAI PASUPULATI

Fall play “Done To Death” will kill you with excitement

A tantalizing murder mystery about writers

BY DIEGO-ALONSO SEVILLANO
Staff Reporter

The theatre is a collaborative form of art that is used to spread purpose. It is where people unleash their creative passion to develop an outstanding act for all to hear and watch. The drama department celebrates its 120th play production this year, a very exciting event that is shown in the hard work being put into it with its eight cast ensemble. The fall play “Done to Death”, directed by Mr. Koppel, takes a turn as a dark mystery that takes place on an island where has-been writers strive to make a new epic drama. They end up living their own murder tales, being slayed one by one, needing to find out the identity of the killer before they themselves are slain.

Auditions took place from Wednesday, September 17, to Thursday, September 18. Ample work goes into these productions with months of practice, costume selection, and set-making. The actors practice almost every day for around two months, practicing to be the best they can be. Freshman Jessica Perez credits drama for giving her a confidence boost in her everyday life. “It was a really nerve-wracking experience to audition,” says Perez. “I think the scariest part was to concentrate on your lines and actually deliver it with passion; other than that, I’m really happy I got a part and can’t wait for the actual show!”

Stage management and supervision is critical to making the play. Stage manager and junior Rebecca Kim relayed her experience to previous Husky alumnus Benjamin, stating, “Previous seniors really made a difference in helping me learn my skills for managing the behind the scenes.” Relaying what is different about this play from previous plays? Kim says, “This play is a parody on murder mysteries with a lot of fourth wall-breaking and pop cultural references. It is very satirically-driven and is very different to what we have done in previous years.”

There are other reasons to be in the play other than wanting to be in the spotlight. Junior Sarah Lowe says, “I wanted to do the play because I had so much fun participating in the play last year! I also wanted to be more involved with performing arts and meet new people.” Lowe has always done theater-related activities since middle school and credits it to why she enjoys it so much. “I love the cast and how the production is going so far and can’t wait to see the end result.”

The fall play has much to offer for fans of theatrical arts and can be a great experience for new spectators. The production within the theatre is outstanding and the dedication the cast members put forth is truly inspirational. The art of theatre is one of a kind and why not come and enjoy watching your fellow Huskies perform as the experience will truly be a highlight that you will always cherish in your high school career. The play opens on November 30 and runs until December 9, on Thursdays through Fridays at 7:30 p.m and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets will be available at Mr Koppel’s office in the drama room. Ask Mr. Koppel for any questions regarding the upcoming show.



Diego-Alonso Sevillano practices lines for the fall play with cast mates.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY JESSICA PEREZ

Gorobchenko shares her talent

By Sonali Whittle
Staff Reporter

Artist SPOTLIGHT

Junior Milana Gorobchenko displays her strong passion for the arts. Particularly, she loves to dance and sing. Gorobchenko says she began dancing “as soon as she could walk.” However, she started taking professional dance lessons at nine years old. In her free time, Gorobchenko even choreographs. Her love for dancing and performing goes deeper than the physical aspect of it. She says, “There is something that’s so beautiful and inexpressible about feeling the spotlight on you, all those hours of practice paying off, for that one moment to show the world what you got.” Dance gives way to a platform that allows one to express the inexpressible feelings. In other words, dance is an exuberant lifestyle.

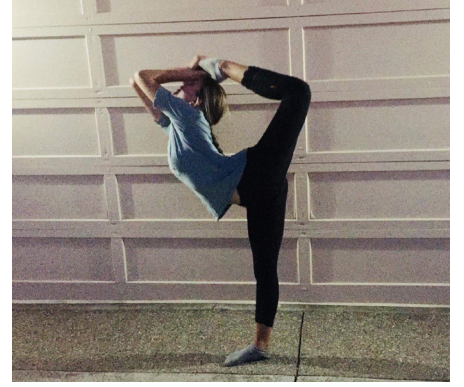
Gorobchenko has tried different forms of dance including jazz, tap, hip hop, ballet, lyrical, and bollywood. She has gained a substantial amount of experience. She has done several competitions and even danced on the Giants field! In addition, she has performed in the *Glee* musical back in Centerville Junior High, participated in several mini-performances, and showcased at open mic nights in Mr.

Hollister’s music club. She has been consistent with her efforts, performing at the talent shows in fifth, sixth, and eighth grade. Moreover, Gorobchenko played Alice in the class of 2020’s skit last year, *Alice in Wonderland*, and plans to take part as a character in this year’s Sharkboy and Lavagirl.

Gorobchenko is passionate about singing. She says that it makes her feel “more confident and comfortable in her own skin each time she is able to prove to herself that she is capable of improving and hitting those high notes.”

She deserves recognition for all that she has worked for. She is inexplicably talented and hard working which are just some of the many characteristics that put her in the spotlight. Her spirit has the potential to inspire many others and highlights the true essence of what being an artist is really about.

Both dancing and singing bring different perspectives to the table. Dancing is the physical expression of emotion and singing is vocal expression. Gorobchenko experiences the best of both worlds. Now although she excels



Gorobchenko shows off her scorpion dance position.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MILANA GOROBCHENKO

in both vocals and dance, Gorobchenko admits her heart resonates more with dance. “It can be whatever you want it to be,” she explains. Gorobchenko finds the joy and beauty in these forms of expression and brings new life and light to it. Gorobchenko is the perfect example of passion coinciding with talent. Her love and dedication to singing and dancing makes her deserving of an artist spotlight. We could all use a bit of inspiration and passion in our life to brighten our days and change our perspective of the world like Gorobchenko.

WHAT’S A STORY THAT DEFINES YOU? HUMANS OF WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

By Jayanath Naga Sai Pasupulati
Staff Reporter

It’s been a year since the #MeToo movement has started and it is still growing throughout the world, becoming more and more relevant. Most of the stories that have been exposed in this time deal with men exercising their power and authority unfairly over women. The stories that went

mainstream this year were from industries that have a major role in shaping our society. But sometimes, we get so involved with these stories that we tend to forget the subdued and subtlety of life and how people are powerful, even at the community level. Regardless of the degree of the problems, these people take a moment with patience, understand the problem, and try to stay strong with optimism and overcome their personal hurdles. Here are a few stories about women, from across various backgrounds and generations, which are personal, poignant, and powerful.

ABIGAIL CHRISTY, SOPHOMORE



“When I was small, I played by myself. I had no one around me to play with. Everything changed after my younger sister was born. She was a great company for me. I like to play with her all the time. Her bubblyness always cheers me up, makes me more outgoing and extroverted and also a very enthusiastic person.”

SUNSHINE DAULTON, FRESHMAN



“For the past 11 years, I have been going to therapy for depression and anger management. At first, I was not good. The therapy was ineffective in helping me to tackle depression. After two or three years, I began to have supportive peers to help me with my depression. I am not entirely cured of depression; I still go to therapy, and my friends are a really good support group.”

HINA NAVEED, JUNIOR



“I was born and brought up in Pakistan. I was confident when I was in Pakistan, but when I came to the United States, I started to lose confidence in myself. In Pakistan, I studied in an all-girls school, so trying to adapt to the co-ed system in America was tough. But, with time, I started to become more confident, interact with different people, and believe in myself.”

MEGAN OTTOBANI, TEACHER



“When I was a D1 Water Polo athlete in the University of Hawaii, freshman year was quite stressful. I needed to balance academics and sports. I practiced for about 40 hours a week, and there were no results. I began to question myself. But as time progressed, I started to get better at the game, and our team was winning various tournaments. From then on, there was no looking back, and whenever I faced challenges, I did not quit.”

The glimpses of these real-life stories of individuals around us are a paradigm of dealing with different situations. All these stories also show that it takes time to develop a certain activity or achieve something.

Hungry Huskies munch around the bay

Food REVIEW

By Cindy Wang
Staff Reporter

As we all know, dessert is the most important part of the meal. And if you, like me, are constantly on the search for something sweet, it is helpful to know where to get the most unique desserts around. Luckily,

Fremont is brimming with places to satisfy your sweet tooth, from classic ice cream parlors offering large, nostalgic scoops of ice cream to innovative bakeries adding unique spins on well known desserts. Whether you are

searching for ways to enjoy an afternoon, satisfy a sweet craving, or just take your mind off of an impending test, here are five exceptional dessert places that every Husky should visit.

Beard Papa's: 1133 Newpark Mall Rd, Newark, CA 94560

Milkcow: 5657 Auto Mall Pkwy, Fremont, CA 94538
Gonutz: 41093 Fremont Blvd #102, Fremont, CA 94538

Frodo Joe's: 39286 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, CA 94538

BEARD PAPA'S

Located in Newpark Mall, Beard Papa's is a Japanese chain specializing in cream puffs- a treat comprised of a light and crispy pâte à choux shell piped full of rich, velvety pastry cream. Each fist-sized puff averages from two to three dollars apiece, and come in flavors of chocolate, vanilla, green tea, and a rotating flavor of the month. What makes Beard Papa's cream puffs special is that the shells are filled to order, so you are guaranteed a delightfully crisp exterior and silky smooth center, no matter when you visit. Their vanilla cream puff is an example of pâte à choux perfection: the eggy, crispy, pillowy puff gives way to the rich and oozing vanilla pastry cream, creating perfect textural harmony.



Wrapped in an adorable parchment paper parcel, Beard Papa's cream puffs make the perfect grab-and-go treat. when out shopping with friends.

PHOTO BY CINDY WANG



Milkcow's "Milky Way" (natural milk soft serve ice cream with a vanilla like essence) topped with a macaron is pictured above.

PHOTO BY CINDY WANG

MILKCOW

Milkcow has perfected the hidden complexity of being simple: by offering only one flavor of ice cream, milk. Since they use only locally sourced organic milk in their ice cream, Milkcow is able to produce a soft serve that is richer, silkier, and more refreshing than any other. There are toppings such as popcorn, macarons, and crushed cookies available, however, I recommend trying their signature "Milky Way" (plain) or "Milky Cube" (honeycomb) before adding anything else. Dense, creamy, and not too sweet, the absence of sauces and toppings allows you to explore the truly complex flavors of high quality dairy. There's just something incredibly delightful in savoring a cup of pure, high-quality milky goodness.

GONUTZ

Featuring creative flavors such as pepperoni pizza, pretzels, and Fruit Loops, Gonutz is an ideal place to drop by if you are craving something more "gourmet" than a traditional donut. Do not be limited to only the donuts on display; they make custom donuts to order as well. Each donut is an edible mini masterpiece adorned with sprinkles, frosting, and powdered sugar. Covered in a coat of matted blue frosting and topped with googly eyes, sprinkles, and mini chocolate chip cookie, their "Cookie Monster Donut" is a cute version of the beloved character from Sesame Street. However, this beauty does pay a price; some of the donuts--the Cookie Monster included--border on being excessively sweet. While not for everyone, Gonutz deserves a spot on your bucket list if you are craving a challenge for your sweet tooth or looking for unique takes on donuts.



The "Cookie Monster Donut" is covered in sprinkles, fondant, and frosting, finally topped off with an actual mini cookie.

PHOTO BY CINDY WANG

FRODO JOE'S

Crepes are the ultimate "fancy" dessert. Comprising of a paper-thin pancake encased around a variety of fillings, they are elegant, indulgent, and of course, delicious. Located in Gateway Plaza next to Raley's, Frodo Joe's offers crepes worthy of the bistros of Paris. While you can go traditional with their plain crepe, there are other options to choose from as well. The "Pinkberry" (raspberry cheesecake crepe with chocolate caramel sauce, whipped cream, and ice cream) is certainly a feast for both the eyes and the stomach. The crepe is perfectly made-crispy on the edges yet soft and tender on the inside--and the tart freshness of the raspberries add perfect contrast to the creaminess of the cheesecake and ice cream. While most of us feel guilty after eating incredibly decadent desserts, take my word, when it comes to Frodo Joe's crepes, you'll feel more guilty if you don't.



Frodo Joe's "Pinkberry" (raspberry cheesecake crepe with chocolate caramel sauce, whipped cream, and ice cream).

PHOTO BY CINDY WANG

Fremont's hidden hacks to ease stress lines today

Navigate through the Bay Area's busiest streets to find popular locations to escape the harsh workload of school, hang out with friends, and have fun

By AREEJ ADNAN
Staff Reporter

With the beginning of school comes the one familiar friend that hasn't left us ever since we stepped into black and orange Husky gear: stress. Freshmen and sophomores fret over their schedules and grades, hoping in some way to predict if their courses are the ones colleges are looking for. Meanwhile, juniors can be seen in the halls, grasping onto Princeton Review copies for the SAT subject test of their choice. Let us definitely not forget about the poor seniors, whose conversations never stray far from the Common Application personal statement prompts or the number of universities they are applying to.

In the midst of all this tension, mental and physical health is disregarded in favor of perfecting a high school portfolio. It is possible to be both a well-rounded student and academically successful while also learning to take breaks to de-stress.

For instance, if you are looking for some high-adrenaline activity, grab a couple of your (likely-to-be-equally-stressed) friends and head over to Laser Tagging Inc. nestled in Newark. The distance is nothing if you consider the excitement you will have once in those laser vests. It is almost guaranteed that when you are being chased by colorful lasers, or tracking down your friends in this two-story arena, you definitely will not be stressing over the latest school assignment threatening to pressure you down.

If you are looking for something closer, Philz Coffee offers a new addition to the growing coffee-culture of Fremont. With its uniquely urban environment and strong Mint Mojitos, there is plenty of incentive to plop down on one of their comfortable IKEA-style chairs (not to mention Rita's Ice that is situated right next to it!), no matter if you are by yourself or with friends. If only for an hour or two, take some time to clear your mind--and simply breathe. Take a brief time to relax

your mind with the fresh smell of brewed coffee and quiet time before focusing on your to-do list. Or, if you feel like it, grab your coffee and head over to Lake Elizabeth for a calming stroll.

On the other end of the spectrum of hot coffee is a hidden gem: honey toast bricks with ice cream. This specialty, specifically served at Sno-Crave Tea House near Century Theatres in Fremont, combines both spongy and thick toasts soaked in honey with your choice of ice cream, creating a delightful mix of cold and hot sweetness. The melting ice cream combines with the soft consistency of the toast to make your tastebuds delight, and consequently, to make all thoughts of Advanced Placements, SATs, and college applications erase from your mind. Make it a requirement, however, to ban all conversation related or about school--it will only serve to cancel out the purpose of going to such a place.

If it is just the feeling of being active and awake you want when you are feeling especially worn

out and weary, power up on energy levels at LeMans Karting in Fremont, where speed takes over your senses and excitement fills your veins. Focus on the curves of the tracks as you race against your friends; instead of feeling your shoulders hunch with the familiar tight knots of stress, you will be bent forward with determination to reach the finish line. Simply, you will just not have the time or ability to strain your mind when trying not to crash into the sidelines.

Finally, an activity that can simply be done anywhere and everywhere and that is hundred percent guaranteed to capture your attention: binge-watching. Whether your poison of choice is "The Office" or "The Big Bang Theory," binge-watching is sure to make you laugh at and relate to the stomach-clenching characters of Steve Carell and Jim Parsons. Alternatively, if you are partial to movies instead of popular TV shows, *Rush Hour* or *Black Panther* (which is currently available to watch on Netflix) is certainly

the way to go. Note a word of caution, however: to binge-watch, you must have a certain level of strength and willpower--meaning if you fall into the category of retaining the ability to watch four seasons in five nights, binge-watching might not be best idea with a pile of work still remaining.

Though these activities certainly eliminate the factor of tension considerably, it is not meant to motivate you to shirk your responsibilities as a student completely. Instead, it prompts you to give special focus to your mental health for (at least) a brief period of time, especially if you stay awake for hours at end and do not take a break once in a while. It is incredibly important to keep your grades up and keep striving, but equally important is your mental state. The grades and achievements become meaningless if you are not healthy enough to truly be proud and happy for yourself because instead, you are too busy trying to stay awake for a few more hours for the next test.

Parents too distressed about football trauma

By FAIZ KHAN
Staff Reporter

It's no secret that we love football. We are spectators, players, and debaters of the game. Despite this, many parents are unwilling to allow their children to fully participate in the fun. Over the past several years, there has been a sense of turmoil surrounding head trauma; it may come to no surprise then that the primary reason for decreased youth participation in the sport has been parents' fear that their child will suffer from a form of brain injury.

"There has been a decrease in participation, due to a misconception the media creates," says WHS PE teacher and softball coach Ms. Nahale. Expressing her belief, she feels that students should be allowed to engage in football earlier in life, gaining more experience and getting them ready for high school. "The more experience an athlete absorbs as required by the sport," Nahale says, "the more benefit it will be to the athlete." In other words, practice is what is required in the sport.

The root of these concerns lies in the crisis facing the National Football League within the past three years—and it's not because some players are taking a knee for the anthem. It's more in part due, to the body of research showing that on-the-field collisions put players at risk for brain injury. The NFL has triggered a response that has trickled down to even the lowest levels of football. The result is that parents have made cautious decisions to withhold permission for their children to play. At a glance, these parents are justified in their reasoning, as dozens of former NFL players have been found to have suffered from chronic

traumatic encephalopathy or CTE, a degenerative disease caused by repetitive brain trauma, leading to improper brain function resulting in players taking their own lives. Many more people will point to the recent retirement of 25-year old San Francisco 49ers linebacker Chris Borland, who prematurely ended his promising career, citing a concern over concussions.

Looking at these situations, it may seem logical to conclude that football is a dangerous sport. This is specious reasoning, however. The majority of evidence suggests that the game is dangerous for people who have played the sport for many years at the highest levels—not for kids in youth leagues.

Let's make an important distinction. The potential for brain trauma in youth football is nowhere near the potential for brain trauma in the NFL. To even compare the two is absurd. It is a simple matter of physics. Young kids simply do not have the combination of size and speed necessary to cause serious brain injury. In fact, studies have shown a correlation between age and the rate of concussions in football.

Leagues across the state are now required to participate in the Heads Up Football Program. This mandates that coaches are educated on the dangers of head injuries as well as on preventive measures. The kids are learning to play in a much safer manner, "with new tackling techniques while also secluding certain days to only tackling." The Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention conducted a study that found a 76 percent overall reduction in injuries, including a 29 percent reduction of in-game concussions, in leagues that participate in the Heads Up program compared with non-participating leagues.

So if your child loves watching football on fall afternoons and

decides he wants to play, let him. Take it with a grain of salt that he is statistically unlikely to attain a prominent role at the high school varsity level, let alone at the collegiate or professional levels. It's safe to say that he will never face the collisions that have caused so many traumas at the NFL level. Where the NCAA found concussions to only make up 7.4% of all injuries. However, if he does make it, learning proper techniques in an age-controlled league with ball-carrier weight limits will better prepare him for what lies ahead.



Sport practice penalties are in need of reforming

By PATRICIO TORRES
Staff Reporter

These past few years, students have gotten penalized for missing practice because of their academics or family issues. These consequences have led to less playing time, game suspensions, and even team expulsion.

In today's culture, it is becoming harder and harder to get into college and make a living. Much of being successful in this is dependent on how well one succeeds in school, academics, and extracurricular activities. There are cases where students have to leave school early due to away games. This in turn causes the students to miss out on test and quizzes which can reflect on their final grade.

"I have gotten bad grades due to leaving school early for my baseball games and usually

I don't feel as focused as when I take tests that exact day," says baseball player Nicholas Lombardi. Athletes should also be able to communicate with their teachers and notify them in advance so they can try to arrange an early day to take their test.

Closer to home, student athletes could be dealing with family issues that could impact their studies by burdening them mentally and emotionally, and sometimes they need a break from school.

Usually, when a kid is going through problems at home it is easy for them to change mentally and they can start acting different. If that student is at practice and they make a mistake, the coach could scream at them

and that will trigger them to cry, or talk back to the coach since he won't know what the kid is going through. It's important for parents creating strong bonds with their children

"If you put school before sports, then everything else will become first class."

On the flip side, coaches might not view the student athlete's situations the same way. They could be looking out for the team and really want to win 1st place in the league. In order to make their team succeed, coaches make their team number one and they expect their players to always show up in time and commit to the team more than school.

Soccer Coach Nate says, "It's important for an athlete to succeed in school, but when a student commits to a team then they have to show up

whenever practice is held and us coaches want our athletes to also succeed in sports. They should have a schedule to keep track of when there are games and stuff so they can plan ahead of time."

Although there is a priority for athletes to be responsible and there is a pressure for sports teams to succeed, coaches should realize the motivation that some athletes have to maintain their GPA in school. If one of their players is struggling in their academics, they should take the situation into account and take a well-rounded approach to the matter at hand.

Not all of this can be planned but it can be avoided. Coaches need to understand that school should be chosen before sports.

I believe that students should let their coaches know how they feel. According to athlete Eric Medina, "If you put school before sports, then everything else will become first-class."

Increasing need to introduce sports at a young age

By CAMERON DEAN
Staff Reporter

With the recent increase of technology and social media usage, kids go outside less and less. The addiction to our phones or the new video game that came out seems to have clouded the importance of working the body and mind. There are ample opportunities to go out and be active. You can always join the local sports leagues like National Junior Basketball or Pop Warner and even participate in camps. Even at Washington, there are so many opportunities to play sports and have fun doing them. This includes lacrosse, soccer, basketball, baseball, golf, and the list goes on. Because many sports don't even have to have tryouts, not as many kids show up to play. Accessibility is not a problem — it's just about taking the time to be active.

Arguably, many kids are lacking in sufficient amounts of exercise which encourages them to lead an unbalanced lifestyle. Participating in sports teams between the ages of 6-10 would improve this imbalance in kids by setting regularly scheduled intervals of training for them. Studies show that beyond health benefits, kids who play in their adolescence greatly enhance their skills and knowledge of various sports.

According to AthleticBusiness.com, "88% of kids reported experiencing an improvement in physical health and 73% say it enhanced their mental health as well."

Being active in athletics during childhood has provided considerable signs of improved cognitive skills. This includes seeing higher test scores, improved focus, and overall better performance in school. Not only that, sports also promote team-building and cooperation that are crucial skills when interacting with your peers.

"I've been playing sports since I was three or four," says WHS PE teacher William Edwards. Playing sports at an early age allowed him to have more knowledge and sharper instincts when it came to different sports, especially on the baseball diamond, football field, and basketball court. The way he sees it, sports not only teach a person how to deal with success and failure, but also educate one on how to interact with other people, helping build real world skills and how to attain success or have a work ethic. From the two people I talked with both of them had substantially positive things to say about being an athlete. Not only saying that it was beneficial, but it was something that should be more apart of our lives.

Sophomore Lexi Romero-Williams also started playing sports at a young age when she



played soccer in 2nd grade. In the 4th grade, she began playing basketball. Since then she has been actively participating in the Washington High School basketball team and outside league the Amateur Athletics Union. She had great things to say about her athletics career, saying, "It made me connected to school and allowed me to make more friends." When asked if she believes playing sports at an early age gave her an advantage, Romero-Williams shared that she felt her skills

were more refined as a result of playing earlier and that it allowed her to learn how to manage her time.

As a result of distractions like technology, kids are missing out on important lessons and skills. Getting an early start in athletics is instrumental to ensuring healthy development and success in your scholastic career. It keeps your mind sharp and the body strong. Get off the screens, and go!

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Mehdi Mehr is driven by his passion for football

Athlete OF THE MONTH

By JOVAN BENIN
Staff Reporter

Mehdi Mehr, captain of the football team is a motivated and passionate player. Being a senior this year he started off being competitive.

The team has played five games without a win this season, but coming a bit short against Kennedy with a score of 27-21 was one of Mehr's best games despite the loss, with a handful of great tackles and a field goal block. Mehr has not only shown his strength at these games but is also a supportive leader for his football team at all times.

Mehr's career in football started off at the young age of nine. During his elementary school years he used play football with his friends just for fun. Since then his interest for football grew as he kept watching football games on television and also playing for youth clubs and U.S. National Teams; his love for football grew stronger as he grew up.

Mehr grew up watching the New England Patriots and his favorite player on the team was Vince Wilfork, who played nose tackle.

Vince Wilfork is a former NFL player who played for the Texans 2004-2014 and the Texans in 2015-2016 in total 13 seasons in the NFL and drafted in 2004 21st overall pick, and retired in 2016.

Wilfork had an amazing career in the

NFL and has earned so many awards for his hard work such as 2x Super Bowl winner, played in five pro bowl games, All first team All-pro, 3x second team all-pro.

These achievements show that he is a hard working player. Mehr's dream is to be in the NFL.

He also is trying for a football scholarship so he doesn't need to depend on his parents for paying for college. Mehr wants to attend college to see what the football experience is like at higher and more intense level to see if he wants to continue his football career later on.

Mehr not only wants to improve his game but he also wants to help other kids by working with them to help them improve their skills for football. Mehr is willing to help the youth teams he has played for and also all the past teams he played for as a sign of giving back to people who helped him out throughout the years.

Mehr still continues his football career and plans to continue football and hopefully make it to the NFL, but until then he continues to train and get better day by day as a player and as a person.

Mehr works hard in school as much as he does on the field, as he puts in 100% in both of these events. Mehr is undecided on where to go for college. He has gotten many offers from colleges but remains unsure of what to do in the future.

Whatever Mehdi Mehr does in the future, he has people to support his every step throughout his life and career.

Mehdi wants to play like Mehdi and be a future role model for younger kids getting introduced to the game of football.



Senior Mehdi Mehr shows his positivity as he poses for a picture with his helmet after his game.

PHOTO BY RYAN GASKINS

FOOTBALL

WHS 6 VS LIVERMORE 37
WHS 10 VS HAWYARD 14
WHS VS KENNEDY 27

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

WHS (L) VS JLHS (W)

GIRLS WATER POLO

WHS 7 VS FOOTHILL 3
WHS 9 VS AMADOR VALLEY 13
WHS 8 VS LAS LOMAS 14

Husky Scoreboard

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

WHS 0 VS MT.EDEN 3
WHS 3 VS JLHS 1
WHS 1 VS M3

GIRLS TENNIS

WHS 1 VS AHS 6
WHS 0 VS JLHS 7

BOYS WATER POLO

WHS 10 VS LIVERMORE 8
WHS 18 VS AMADOR VALLEY 16
WHS 8 VS LAS LOMAS 17

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

WHS (L) VS JLHS (W)

GYMNASTICS

WHS (W) VS MSJ (L)
WHS (L) VS IHS (W)
WHS (W) VS JLHS (L)

Huskies lose to Irvington in homecoming game 7-13



Senior Kwame Frenchwood walks through a tunnel of cheerleaders to get his certificate.
PHOTO BY JAYNATH PASUPULATI



Husky Mahdi Amiri sets up to hike the ball to his quarterback.
PHOTO BY JOE SCHNEIDER



Senior quarterback Frankie Lawrence runs the ball into the end zone for an equalizing touchdown during third quarter.
PHOTO BY JOE SCHNEIDER

Homecoming dance | Senior sunrise



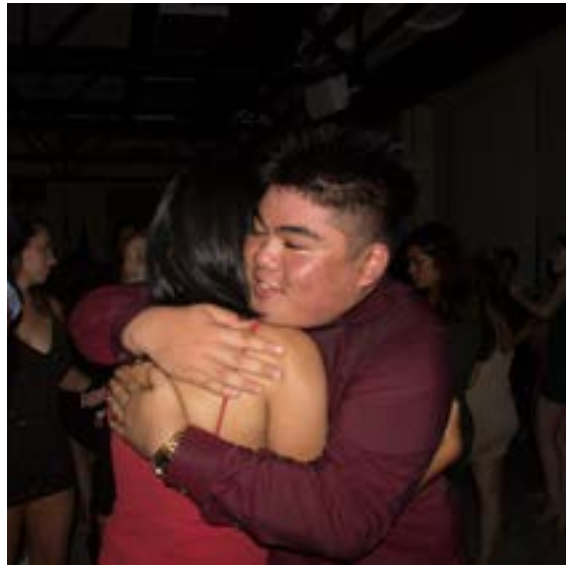
Junior Sharanjeet Singh dances to Beware of the Boys by Punjabi MC featuring Jay Z as classmates cheer him on. PHOTO BY JOSEPH SCHNEIDER



Seniors fill up their plates with grapes, oranges, donuts, and cereal. PHOTO BY JOSEPH SCHNEIDER



Activities Director Michael Soltau announces the results of spirit week to an anxious crowd of students. PHOTO BY JAYANTH PASUPULATI



Senior class president Privi Venkat and senior Matthew Dela Cruz embrace after winning spirit week. PHOTO BY JOSEPH SCHNEIDER



Senior Sourish Guntipally enjoys a bagel as he waits for the sunrise. PHOTO BY JOSEPH SCHNEIDER

Senior picnic



Seniors wait in line to get a tube for the tornado ride at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor. They will ride in groups of four. PHOTO BY KEERTHANA RAGHURAMAN



Seniors Nathan Narciso and Bryan Chisaki play a game of cornhole. PHOTO BY JOSEPH SCHNEIDER

BRAVO! Broadway

The concert will be held at the symphony's new home – the James Logan Center for the Performing Arts in Union City. The theater offers excellent acoustics, outstanding sightlines, easy access, and plenty of available parking. The center is going to let you hear the Fremont Symphony like you've never heard it before!

Tickets range from \$37.50 to \$77.50 and are available by calling (510) 371-4859 or via the website, www.fremontsymphony.org. Or opt for season tickets and

BRAVO Broadway!
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3 p.m.

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