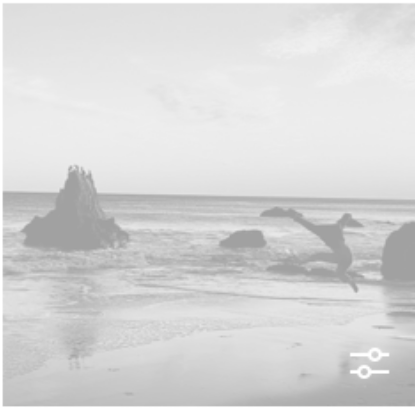


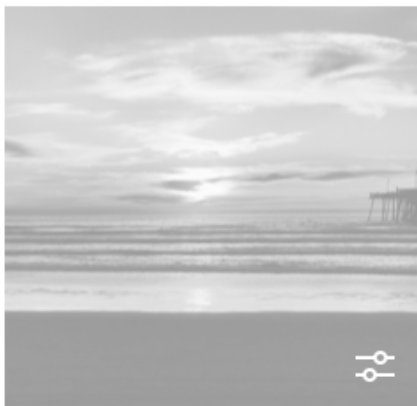
SLOHS EXPRESSIONS

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Coastin' Up California
Pages 8 & 9



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Our Earth by 2030: Junior Gianna Lucchesi's Perspective

By Reporter Ella Mendoza

The future of the environment and our world's health lies in the hands of this generation, and that includes San Luis Obispo High School students. Climate change is causing destruction all around the world, and while it is a terrible situation, it is not at all a hopeless one. We must each ask ourselves what action we can take to help make a change. *Expressions* explored this question with the help of one of SLOHS' most involved environmental leaders.

"I'm cautiously optimistic about the situation. I think we can work together to reverse our carbon output quickly to save the planet. The situation is dire, but we aren't helpless," said junior Environmental Club co-president Gianna Lucchesi.

It's easy for everyone to expect that someone else will take care of the issues; however, when we are faced with a global crisis, it takes each individual's small steps to make big changes. We have been faced with this struggle for many years now and have still not come to much of a resolution.

"If we fail to act, we can expect sea levels to rise, and find ourselves in a future where these wildfires and hurricanes and such will become commonplace," said Lucchesi.

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported that to keep the rise in global temperatures below one and a half degrees Celsius this century, emissions of carbon dioxide would have to be cut 45 percent by 2030.

Global climate change has caused devastation across the earth: glaciers are melting, Australia is being ravaged by bushfires, and plants and animals are also being harmed.

"If you can use your power as an individual in any way, whether that means voting or joining a climate action movement, then do so," advises Lucchesi.

SLOHS students have local resources available to help get involved with their city and should do their best to get as involved as possible.

"Many groups are demanding climate action. Some are local too: the Sunrise Movement and the SLO Climate Coalition are trying to make San Luis Obispo carbon neutral by 2035," said Lucchesi.

Changes don't need to come on an unrealistic large scale; they can be made in minor ways every day. We just need to be mindful of how our daily functions are affecting the world and improve in small steps.



Photo Courtesy Gianna Lucchesi

Will New 2020 Laws Affect SLOHS Students?

By Reporter Avery Noblitt

New state laws are taking affect all across California in the new year. Some include added protections to online privacy, a reclassification of independent contractors, statewide rent control, and more freedom regarding your hairstyle at work.

Governor Gavin Newsom signed almost 1,200 new laws last year, but not all of them take effect early January. Here are some newly implemented laws high school students should know:

SB 3: Increasing Minimum Wage: One of the more noteworthy changes coming to California is the minimum wage increase. In 2020, the new California minimum pay reaches \$13 per hour for large companies (26 people or more) and \$12 per hour for small businesses (25 or fewer employees). The increase is part of incremental steps to establish a base hourly pay of \$15 by 2022 for large companies and 2023 for small businesses.

"I think the increase in minimum wage is great because it benefits students like me who work part time after school. This just

adds a little more to the paycheck, which is always nice," said junior and Banana Republic employee Sasha Sheridan.

SB 328: Later school start times: High schools can start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. and no sooner than 8 a.m. for middle schoolers. School districts in California will have a three-year window (until the start of the 2022-23 school year) to implement these schedules. The law does not apply to "zero" periods, which could still be held before the new mandated start-times.

"I am not for this. It will affect the people in outside activities. People who work and have jobs will be affected in a huge way," said junior Adonis Vigil.

AB 272: Limiting/banning smartphone use in schools: School boards will have the power to ban devices with the exception of emergencies or other special situations, such as medical reasons.

"I think that this is ridiculous, students will use their phones no matter what the law says," said freshman Erin Garnsey.

Do You Count? How The 2020 Census Could Affect Us All

By Reporter Addie New-Schmidt

The 2020 census is starting in April, and concerns about undercounting and declining population growth have led many experts to predict that California will lose political power as a result.

The census is a count of the nation's population that's mandated in the constitution and carried out every ten years. Participating in the census is mandated by federal law, and the results determine the amount of Congressional representatives and electoral votes that each state has. However, an accurate count is often difficult to get because certain groups are more likely to be missed on the census.

"Historically, for a variety of reasons, some groups of people are undercounted. Research over decades has shown that people who are renters, non-English speakers, children, low-income, or those who change residences frequently are more likely to be missed in the census," said Census Bureau Media Specialist Vanessa Moreno.

In addition to these groups, African-Americans and Latinos have been consistently undercounted. This poses a particular problem for California because 72 percent of Californians fall into historically undercounted groups.

A further risk for undercounting in California has stemmed from fears of a citizenship question being on the 2020 census or census information being used to identify undocumented immigrants.

"The Constitution requires the census to count every resident in the nation — whether they are citizens or not. We cannot publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you. By law, we cannot share your information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)," said Moreno.

Despite these restrictions, persisting concerns among residents may prevent them from filling out the census and being counted. The Supreme Court ruled that a citizenship question could not be added to the census, but immigrants, undocumented or not, still fear the possibility of the question and are at a higher risk of being undercounted. These fears are exacerbated by recent announcements that the Department of Homeland Security and Commerce Department will share administrative records with the Census



Bureau to compile citizenship data under the order of President Donald Trump.

Undercounting is a specific worry in California for this year's census because the state's population growth rate is slowing. California is on track to have the slowest growth rate in its history this year, a result of a variety of factors that includes residents leaving the state for other parts of the

country. Because the number of electoral votes and representatives are fixed, states gain or lose seats based on how their population growth ranks among other states. California's slowing growth and high population of historically undercounted groups means that a poorly conducted census could result in the state losing a congressional district. The census could also have other implications for the state.

"[The census] counts for representation, but more importantly funding [for states] is often determined through census numbers," said Government and U.S. History teacher Seamus Perry.

While the 2020 census is extremely pertinent to California's political future, its effects won't be felt immediately. Data from the census won't be sent to states for redistricting purposes until 2021, so the census won't have an impact on any 2020 elections. In the meantime, students should make sure their family fills out the census this April either online or with paper forms.

SLOHS students who are 18 can also apply for jobs with the census. Hours are flexible and pay starts at \$21 per hour in the San Luis Obispo area. Jobs include paid training and may require transportation. **To learn more and see current availability, go to 2020census.gov.**

Sources: npr.com, ppic.org, nbcnews.com, latimes.com, sfist.com

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If You Have One Pimple It's Not Called Acne

By Sports Editor Sophia Silacci

When you walk along the San Luis Obispo High School campus, the halls are filled with lovely people glowing in adolescent beauty. Although most students radiate a youthful complexion, only occasionally having to cover up a pimple or two with makeup or a hat, some poor souls suffer from the unfortunate curse of atrocious acne that not only consumes their face, but their thoughts.

The point is, for all you fine faced fellows, that it is very annoying when you complain about how awful your acne is if you can count the number of zits you have on one hand, because those of us who walk around looking like pepperoni pizzas just want to punch you in your pretty little face.

"It can be bothersome when people who don't have acne complain about their skin because they think that having a pimple every once and awhile constitutes actual acne," said junior Natalie Stevens.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology, 85 percent of people from ages 12-24 develop acne, even if it's just minor pimples.

"When I did have acne, it was something I was constantly thinking about all the time. Like when I'd be talking to someone, I'd be wondering, oh are they looking at my skin, are they seeing what I see all the time?" said junior Courtney Bloomstine, who previously suffered from constant acne and acne scars.

Bloomstine and others like her who have previously suffered severe acne but now glow like angels do not constantly tickle my angry side because they understand the pain. It wasn't until, "I figured out what my skin really needed to have in order to be super clear and not have clogged pores, [that] I was able to actually develop a skincare routine that worked really good for my skin. It completely transformed to the point where I really don't have acne," said Bloomstine.

All of us who struggle with the facial bumps are hoping to one day be able to share success stories like Bloomstine's. Until then, like Bloomstine said, we are all desperately attempting to find the right combination of skin destroying, tear-jerking spot treat-

ments and hard core drugs to stop the pepperoni from topping our whole pizza.

"I feel like a lot of the time when people see others with acne they think they're just not being hygienic, but that's not true. More often than not those with acne are doing everything in their power to get rid of it, because not only does it not look very good, but it can also be really painful," said Stevens.

Only real pizza faces understand the true pain of the red, nasty, pussy, scare-leaving monsters that attack the natural beauty of our youth. If you're not sure if you truly understand the struggle and want to know whether or not you have a right to publicly annoy people about your "acne," please check the 1-5 scale I created

based upon severity of pizza face status and rights to complain.

If you fall under, say, a two on the scale, many of us do not appreciate your complaining, but we can understand it.

"I do understand that those who haven't experienced acne aren't used to the effects it has on their appearance, so they could be more sensitive to it," said Stevens.

It can be presumed that those who feel gross in high school due to facial ouchiness

may become more confident people because they have suffered through years of self-conscious torture. So for the 15 percent of people who are blessed enough to have clear skin in high school, know that the rest of us will be beautiful in college when appearance really matters. And who knows? Maybe puberty just really hasn't hit you yet and you will develop adult acne and wish you'd had it in high school too.

"I've learned that no matter how bad my acne is I shouldn't let it stop me from being confident and doing what I want," said Stevens.

Amen to that. Plus, who doesn't love a good pepperoni pizza?

Source: <https://www.aad.org/media/stats-numbers>

- 1. If you have the occasional pimple or zit ~ we do not want to hear it, so do not complain.**
- 2. If you usually have a couple bad pimples that will not go away ~ an occasional expression of annoyance is tolerated.**
- 3. If your T-zone is absolutely always covered in volcanoes ~yeah, go ahead and complain because that really sucks.**
- 4. If you have clusters of nastiness on your cheeks and forehead and are so red all the time that people actually comment on it ~you have every right to scream.**
- 5. If for years you have not been able to rid your poor face of zits, pimples, whiteheads, and cystic acne that genuinely causes you so much pain that you would rather look like shrek than have to have your own face belong to you ~I am sincerely sorry and understand your need to cry when you apply spot treatment and scream when you look in the mirror.**

illustration courtesy of Sophia Silacci

Unpopular Opinion: There Are Only Two Genders.

By Reporter Avery Noblitt

Genetics: a complex pattern of inherited characteristics that make each individual unique— but is it really all that complicated? Genetics control everything from eye color to hair type, but it's the twenty-third pair of chromosomes that determines gender. The presence or absence of the Y chromosome is what counts: with it, you are male, and without it, you are female.

“Biologically, there are only two genders to me: male and female. It is solely determined by what physical anatomy you are born with. It's hard to deny simple science compared to what people think,” said senior Shelby Walker.

The fact that the two sexes are physically different is obvious, but at the start of life, it is not. Five weeks into development, a human embryo has the potential to form both male and female anatomy. At six weeks, the gonad switches on the developmental pathway to become an ovary or a testis. The sex hormones excreted will dictate the development of the external genitalia.

The chromosomes and the reproductive systems one has determines gender. Females pass eggs through their reproductive systems, males pass sperm, this is a fundamental fact. Inter-sexed is a rare condition where the chromosomes error and a person ends up with one extra chromosome that sometimes can cause an issue where a baby can be born with both male and female organs. This is not technically a third gender, as it is an actual biological disorder. The gender dysphoria phenomenon is completely psychological. It is impossible for there to be a third gender or more because there are only two chromosome types a baby can have. If a child has a Y chromosome, their sex and gender is male. If they do not have a Y chromosome, they are female. Gender cannot be changed because you cannot remove the Y chromosome from every cell in the body.

Most of this new age romanticizing and obsession over what gender truly is comes from several factors: a confusion of personality and gender and cultural influences with easy to access information through the internet. One may argue that gender is in your head, not your parts, but dreams are also in your head. That doesn't make them real.

“I relate gender to age. If a person is fifty but says they feel twenty, that is fantastic but it doesn't change the fact that they have been alive for fifty years. They may look as if they are twenty and people can treat them as though they are but in reality they are still fifty,” said sophomore Kea Gildersleeve.

To some, gender is about a state of where one is comfortable or identifies. Others don't like gender specific pronouns and some people prefer classifying themselves as a nonbinary gender. Personally, I can accept anyone and how they 'identify', but when it comes down to genetics, there is male and there is female, period.

Sources: www.apa.org www.genderspectrum.org www.genome.gov www.ncbi.gov

Saying There are Only Two genders is Harmful and Outdated.

By Reporters Aaron Norris and editor Basil Llyod-Moffett

The view that there are only two genders is both scientifically wrong and morally abhorrent.

From a moral perspective, this attitude only feeds the discrimination that transgender and non-binary people face around the country (and around the world): it is much easier to deny rights to people that you won't believe exist. Almost eighty percent of transgender people report experiencing harassment or mistreatment at their work— if they have work, because they are over twice as likely to be unemployed as the rest of the population. They are half as rich as cis-gendered people, significantly more likely to be killed, and significantly more likely to end up homeless. The effects of this discrimination are especially pronounced among transgender people of color: in one survey, 49 percent of black transgender people reported that they had attempted suicide, and 41 percent reported having been homeless at some point in their lives.

And this issue is intensely personal for students are SLOHS: many identify as transgender or non-binary themselves,

“I identify as non-binary, which means I am not exclusively male or female— I don't consider myself to fit into the gender binary. Expressing yourself is so freeing and liberating, it's something everyone should be able to do,” said junior Ari Norris.

And once you move away from basic middle-school science, the view that there are only two genders becomes even more questionable. Biologists increasingly recognize that gender is found on a spectrum— and that rather than being the binary result of a single biological event, it's a complex combination of anatomical, hormonal, chromosomal, genetic, and neurotic characteristics. New research into DNA sequencing and cell biology also shows that there is greater diversity within gender than has historically been thought. As Dr. John Achermann, a sex development and endocrinology researcher at University College London, said, “There is certainly an overlap where some people can't easily define themselves within the binary structure.” Dr. Eric Vilja, the director of the Center for Gender-Based Biology at UCLA, put it even more clearly: “Biologically,” he said, “it's a spectrum” (both quoted in *Scientific American*).

Of course, issues with classification do arise when you move away from the basic middle-school science promoted by people arguing that there are only two genders. But, as Vilja notes, these issues can be solved quite simply.

“My feeling is that since there is not one biological parameter that takes over every other parameter, at the end of the day, gender identity seems to be the most reasonable parameter,” he said. Or, in the words of Dr. Claire Ainsworth, a journalist with a PhD in developmental biology, “if you want to know whether someone is male or female, it may be best just to ask.”

Does the Golden State Really Have Golden Fashion?

Article and Photo By Reporter Fiona Stevens

San Luis Obispo High School is in the center of the Golden State, California. With sunny weather and plenty of “good vibes,” there are many stereotypes about what we wear.

California fashion is, and always has been, iconic. With Los Angeles being a hot-spot for creators, California is ahead of all of the trends.

“Being next to LA, what they wear rubs off on us. We got some popular LA fashions, we got e-boy, soft boy, VSCO girl. It all kind of makes an impact on us. Especially through different apps, like Tik-Tok, and seeing how other people in California dress, it all kind of rubs off on our fashion sense,” said sophomore Ian Hammons.

Gwen Stefani, a California native, is truly a staple fashion creator. At the age of twelve, she would buy clothes from a thrift store, tear them apart, and sew her finished design together.

When she was the lead singer of the band “No Doubt,” she made most of the clothes she performed in. In 2004 Stefani released her own fashion line named L.A.M.B., and in 2005 she expanded the line by adding accessories such as mobile phone charms, cameras, and undergarments. Her passion for fashion is seen all throughout California.

Californians are also exceptional at wearing exclusive brands like Golf Wang, which reign supreme over all the inferior, normal brands. Seeing girls wear basic brands like Brandy Melville is quite commonplace, but when the clothes like that are made, they seem simple, plain, bland, and unsuperior to us. Being extravagant and extra is what we are all about.

“I get a lot of my clothes from thrift stores. My inspiration is from the 60s, 70s, and 90s specifically, and Y2K. A lot of bright colors and Converse, I love Converse,” said sophomore Eloise Bowler.

Easy pieces to wear are colored cardigans, (bonus points if they have a design), platform shoes, Converse, fun pants, accessories (layering them is always good but should not be overloaded), and anything that makes you happy and feel good about your outfit.

What makes California fashion different is our boldness and ability to take advantage of self-expression. Truly it is the fact that as Californians, we wear what we want.



In-N-Out Turning Californians Golden

By Reporter *Evan Clausen*

Photo Credits *Sophia Silacci*

Imagine this: you're driving up the 101 Highway and your stomach is rumbling. You yearn for something simple, something you know will be good. You pass through Arroyo Grande and there it is, standing tall in the shopping center above the highway, its red umbrellas like beacons of hope to your hungry eyes.

It's an In-N-Out burger.

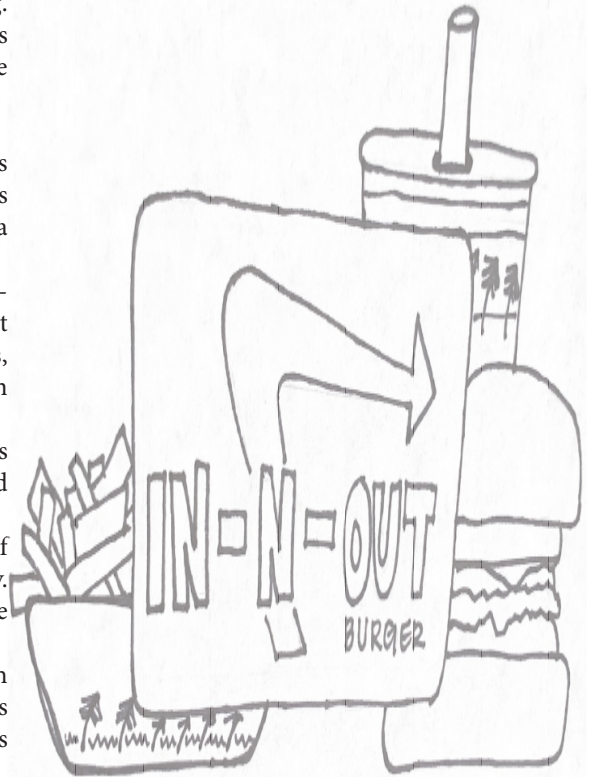
A true staple of California culture, In-N-Out Burger is a favorite among San Luis Obispo High School students and teachers alike. However, as the chain continues to expand outside the boundaries of California, many wonder whether California can still claim the burger joint as its own.

"I'm glad that people from outside of California will be able to experience In-N-Out without having to come here, but my one concern is that the restaurant will no longer be 'our burger joint.' I worry it'll be like Whataburger for Texas, they claim that as their own but nobody really cares," said ASL teacher Kristen Nusbaum.

Though the chain is currently still headquartered in Irvine, the restaurant has spread to southern parts of California and into Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Texas, and Oregon. Of the 301 current locations, only 221 are located in the Golden State.

"When I normally go to In-N-Out I first ask the cashier for their number if they're hot. I ask for the lettuce wraps because gains. I'm trying to eat healthy. Then after I get two animal style fries and a large drink. Can't forget about the chocolate milkshake," said sophomore Oscar Castillo.

While In-N-Out may not have the largest menu, students at SLOHS are okay with it because they all have their own orders. It is a convenient place to eat because it is a fast drive-thru with good food that's cheap and easy. The fast food restaurant is very recognized all around California and is symbolic to the Golden State.



"No Yeah, Californians Totally Talk Weird"

By Editor *Kathryn ZagRodny*

There are many amazing attributes about this wonderful state that San Luis Obispo High School students get to call home. From the towering sequoias to the beautiful beaches, living in California is truly a privilege. However, the best thing about getting to grow up in the Golden State is, by far, the ability to develop a genuine Californian accent.

"Californians use words-like filler words-like 'like,' and they just talk in a different way, like they talk slower and they talk more like-I don't know," said sophomore Natalia Grondin.

It is no surprise that many people associate the Californian accent with saying "like" a lot. But in reality, most Americans, especially teenagers, overuse the word "like," and pretty much all humans use filler words of some sort. So is there anything special about the way Californians talk, or

is it all just in our heads?

"I feel like-like-a lot of other like states can have similar accents to California, but it doesn't have anything to do with like the region-I don't know. Some people can associate like a surfer accent with the state, but that's like a stereotype-I don't know," said junior Grant Kromhout.

California, being the third largest state geographically and the biggest in terms of population, is obviously quite diverse. Not every resident lives by the ocean, and not everybody on the coast is a surfer. Many native Californians, however, have an inability to recognize their own accent and speech patterns because they are completely immersed in the sound.

"I don't know, like my sister went to college in Wisconsin and everybody like knows that she's from California. [The Californian accent] is just more like relaxed I

guess-I don't know," said junior Emory Campbell.

The California accent is definitely more relaxed due to the laid back lifestyle of the state. Californians are like poorly folded burritos, and the way words leave our mouths is like the guacamole falling out of the bottom. The accent is also notably deeper due to people pronouncing vowel sounds in the back of their throats, as if they were swallowing the entire Pacific Ocean in one gulp. Another characteristic of the accent is that people tend to exhale mid word, making it sound like they're just constantly laughing. An example of this would sound something like "bruh-ah" or "noh wayh."

Like the state, the Californian accent is golden and obviously superior to all other accents and has worked its way into all our lives.

Committed Athletes: Using Sports to Further Education

By Reporter Carson Leedom

As of January 29, these seven San Luis Obispo High School athletes have committed to colleges across the country to continue their education and athletics.

Kayla Craft

School: Southern Utah

Sport: Volleyball

Major: PreMed

Reasoning: I loved the coaches and players. It's also in a small town which I will enjoy.

Angie Crozier

School: Cal Poly

Sport: Soccer

Major: Communications

Reasoning: I wanted to stay close to home. Also it has a great academic program so I'll get a good education from it.

Emilio Corona

School: University of Washington

Sport: Baseball

Major: Business

Reasoning: It was one of the best academic schools I got an offer from.

Moises Hernandez

School: Cal Poly

Sport: Soccer

Major: Business management

Reasoning: I like SLO and I want to stay here, and they have a good soccer program and major I want to study.

Kellan Berry

School: Southern Methodist University

Sport: Soccer

Major: Business

Reasoning: I really enjoy their coaches and get along with the players.

Anne Overland

School: UC Irvine

Sport: Track and Field

Major: Public Health

Reasoning: The reason why I committed to UCI because it is a great opportunity for me, and I also love track so being able to continue doing it into college would be an awesome opportunity for me."

Nathan Butterfield

School: Redlands University

Sport: Tennis

Major: Business

Reasoning: I have always wanted to play tennis in Southern California. They have a good team and coaching staff.



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The Ins and Outs of the CIF Transfer Rule By Reporter Carson Leedom

Many San Luis Obispo High School students have questions about the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) transfer rule, which often prevents athletes from participating in sports. The official rule states: "A student who participates in an athletic contest or attends a school shall be considered enrolled in that school and shall be classified as a transfer student if the student subsequently enrolls at another school." But what does that really mean?

How it affects transferring students:

When a student athlete transfers to another school, they usually are going to have to sit out a designated amount of time (usually about 40 percent of the regular season.) Although these are the rules, the athlete has the choice to appeal the waiting time, and that's where the rule gets complicated.

Ways athletes have previously gotten around the waiting time:

1. Transferring into a private school and claiming the need to have more religion in their lives.
2. Claiming they received harsh or unfair treatment from their previous coach, teammates, or administration.
3. Transferring from a private school to a public school and claiming that they couldn't afford to attend private school anymore.

How it affects foreign exchange students:

In California, the rule is that foreign exchange students are not allowed to play in a high school varsity sport unless they have a specific visa that is accepted by the state. Therefore, students without the visa can only play on junior varsity.

The Baby Monroe Tiger is Born By Reporter Kayla Craft



This past December, a new member was added to the San Luis Obispo High School family. Health Science Teacher and Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach Dan Monroe and his wife Sharon Day-Monroe were excited to announce the birth of their baby boy, Jayden Alexander Monroe. Expressions wanted to take a better look at the new addition of the Day-Monroe family.

Expressions: When was baby Jayden born?

Monroe: December 1st, 2019 at 6:35 pm. And according to "Urban Dictionary," December 1st is "a day to celebrate all the hotties being born. People born on this day are fun, outgoing, sexy and party rockers! If you know someone on this day you should be considered lucky." So since I know him, I feel lucky!

Expressions: When do you expect him to start dribbling a basketball?

Monroe: By the time he can walk. I bought him a basketball for Christmas, put it in his crib, and I make him sleep with it every night!

Expressions: How tall do you think Jayden will be when he's older?

Monroe: He is currently in the 101st percentile. His pediatrician said, "It basically means he's bigger than any kid his age!" I think he's going to be a beast. He's going to give Christian Jones a run for his money!

Expressions: Will he become an NBA star like his dad or an Olympic athlete like his mom?

Monroe: Whatever makes him happy. On second thought, an NBA star. They make way more money, so then I can retire early!



Meet the Cast of "RENT"*By Reporter Evan Clausen*

After much hard work from San Luis Obispo High School students in the week of auditions, the Drama Club unveiled the cast list for this year's spring musical, "RENT." "RENT" is a rock musical written in the 90s about a group of young artists struggling with AIDS and paying their rent. It is loosely based off of Giacomo Puccini's *La Boheme*, written in 1895.

The show will feature freshman Lindsay Smith as Mark Cohen, the Jewish-American filmmaker and narrator of the show, in her debut SLOHS performance. Junior Evan Clausen will play Roger Davis, Mark's music-making roommate, and senior Jahan Ramezani will play their ex-roommate and current landlord, Benny Coffin, in his first on-stage appearance. Junior Maggie Zuniga will take on the wild-child Maureen Johnson.

"I'm excited because the story is a story that so badly needs to be told and I'm excited to play an integral part in it. As a teenager, it's so hard to have confidence and the character I've been cast as is so outwardly confident and authentic that it will be a challenge, but also it will be good for my own self-confidence," said Zuniga.

Adding to the crew of leads are sophomores Emilia Gambucci, who will play dancer Mimi Marquez, and Zoe Bartholomew, who will step in as Joanne Jefferson, the headstrong love interest of Maureen. Junior Isaac Garcia will be anarchist Tom Collins and junior Ian Mckay will play the generous drag queen Angel Dumott Schunard.

"I play Angel, a drag queen and street performer who struggles with being HIV positive. It's certainly an odd character, but Angel is an enduring fan favorite from the musical's inception, so I'm really interested to learn more about him and bring him to life on stage," said Mckay.

The cast was eager to jump into rehearsals, which started on January 21, and are now deep into the process of preparing the show. As "RENT" is entirely sung-through, with little bare dialogue, they have been hard at work learning a plethora of songs about young artists growing up in New York in 1990. Some students are tackling solo songs, while others help make up the show's talented ensemble.

"RENT" is such a fun musical, so I'm so excited to jump in and get started," said Mckay.

Be sure to catch "RENT" when it opens on April 23.

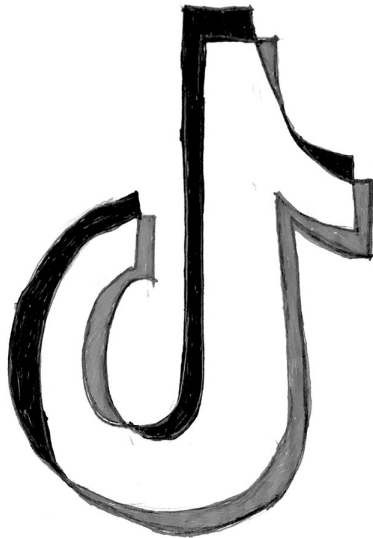
Basil's Half Page *By Columnist Basil Lloyd-Moffet*

I have never seen such fear as on the day when I asked a junior casually, in an everyday manner, how they were liking "Moby Dick;" they stared at me, transfixed, and said in a dramatic voice full of loathing and fear: "Never before was I aware that a child of God could stray so far to the dark side as to replace any and every period with a semicolon in an effort to extend a single sentence to twenty times its natural length;" and they said this like Melville was coming after their family personally; they said this in such a way that all the birds in the nearby area burst violently into flight, and the grass below our feet withered, and the sky turned a cloudy grey and great clouds rolled in; and I knew, deep in my heart, that if this individual hated the book "Moby Dick" that much, then that hate would inevitably, and unfortunately, and inappropriately, stretch to all whales; and I also knew, at the same time, that this was a great injustice, that should be avoided at all costs; at that with my limited power, and with the limited reach of this small column in this small magazine, I had to do something; for if one student, provoked by so-called "Melvillian madness," does turn their back on the noble and 'inscrutable' whale, then so could the whole of the eleventh grade class, and indeed the world at large; and whales, being wondrous and mysterious creatures with tremendous resilience and an admirable attitude towards life (here I am referring to, of course, the fact that they were sea animals, and then they evolved into land animals, and then back into sea animals, a fabulous example of toying with evolution that I imagine as a massive raised middle finger (or flipper) to nature) are deserving of our support; what's more, they need positive cooperation between us and them, between human and animal, in the spirit of George W. Bush's immortal words "I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully;" so here I bring you the details of a tale of a whale, which is in a way a tale of a whale's tail; a tale that began with a tail almost 200 years ago, which washed up on the beach of a small Australian whaling town, attached to the large corpse of a large whale (perhaps not a "snow-hill in the air" but at least a solid hunk of flesh); a drunk man spotted this hunk of flesh and, despite suffering from crippling rheumatoid arthritis, was moved in an almost spiritual way to climb inside the whale; and climb into the whale he did, plunging into the guts in what can only be described as Melville's greatest fantasy; and his friends, after a brief rescue attempt, left him to brew in the blubber; and what happened deep in those red, gory pits we have no idea— only that when the proverbial Jonah emerged, over two hours later, he was sober and his arthritis was miraculously cured, which, if we're being honest, was great for him and for the town's economy, for after that arthritis sufferers would come from all over the land down under to sit for a while in a whale; and then I say a while, I mean between thirty and forty hours, because that's allegedly how long it took to cure severe arthritis; and occasionally the patients, sitting in the whale with just their heads sticking out, would faint because of the heat and the smell and have to be removed before the treatment was complete, and all of this is just to say that clearly whales have something to offer us, even if you really hate reading "Moby Dick;" although if you've read this far, you might have the resilience required to tear through "Moby Dick," because I imagine plunging through all these ill-used clauses was a bit like tumbling through the insides of a whale: confusing, dark, and questionable from a medical standpoint.

TikTok's Takover of SLOHS

By Reporters Jayda Monreal and Jayde Malzone

Illustration Courtesy of Jayde Malzone



TikTok

to two hours a day on TikTok. Not gonna lie I'm pretty addicted and it gets me into a lot of trouble," said senior Kaley Derosé.

Derosé, along with hundreds of other SLOHS students, openly admit to being addicted to this life-consuming app. Even these authors had to tear themselves away from TikTok to finish this article.

There seem to be several things about the app that make it so addicting to students.

"I'm on TikTok for a couple hours a day, from checking it between class and at home. I think the aspect of having each video under a

minute makes it easy to watch several without realizing how long you've been on the app. Also, the sort of 'inside jokes' that people make on the app regarding popular creators or current events creates a sort of community between the users," said junior Delaney Jones, who happens to have many viral videos, one with over four hundred eighty thousand views.

When social media giant Musical.ly was revamped as TikTok in early August 2018, the lives of San Luis Obispo High School students were changed forever. TikTok is a social media platform on which its users can create 15 to sixty second videos consisting of lip syncing, dancing, and other crazy shenanigans. The platform has grown in popularity at an uncontrollable rate, and with new content every second TikTok has become SLOHS's new addiction.

"I spend probably an hour

going "viral" seems to have become easier on this platform due to the whopping five hundred million users, and it seems SLOHS has a few "TikTok famous" celebrities walking in our midst.

"I created one that went kinda viral, and all I did was dress up as Charli," said junior Savannah Oberg. Charli D'amelio, a 15 year old Tik-Toker from Connecticut, has been described as one of the most popular creators on the app.

"I have two really famous videos and they were taken at school, so my teachers weren't very happy when they heard about it. But overall it's really fun and just a really good feeling to know that people enjoy my videos. And I don't plan on stopping making TikToks anytime soon," said Derosé.

Although the easy access to fame can seem appealing, like anything, it has its negatives.

"Having a viral TikTok really changed my perspective on how open the internet really is. Just to think that people who I don't know are looking at my video and recognizing me is kinda weird. I've had a few people mention random rumors they've heard about me based on my TikToks... and it feels kind of invasive," said Jones.

Becoming TikTok famous has become a new goal for some students but for others it just happens on accident. Even though TikTok can appear to be an unhealthy distraction, it's hard to argue that it isn't incredibly entertaining.

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Who is Cop Alexander ?



By Reporter Fiona Stevens

He is seen all around the San Luis Obispo High School campus, doing his job, roaming around, and parking in the turn lane at lunch. He is known for busting kids for vaping and drugs. Everyone knows what he does, but who is he really? Who is Officer Alexander?

“He looks like a really nice and chill guy. I’ve talked to him once or twice and I feel like he is trustworthy, but I don’t really know what he does. I know he busts people for vaping and is possibly like a security guard. Not sure though. I would honestly want to get to know him better,” said sophomore Katie Montes.

Your wish is our command. Expressions set out to find out more about Officer Alexander.

“I’m married. I’ve been married for 23 years. I have two kids, my son Sage is 22, he lives in Los Angeles, and works for a business consulting firm. Then I have a nine-year-old, Porter, he is in fourth grade. Also, I love to golf. I’ve been golfing since ‘96. I played basketball and ran track in high school and then I was a high jumper at UC Santa Barbara,” said Alexander.

Officer Alexander has been our school’s resource officer since last April. Though he is an officer at our school, he works with the San Luis Obispo Police department.

“I work for the police department and this is one of our special assignments. It’s a four year assignment. I started in April, I

love it a lot. Before, I was on patrol and just answering calls for service, interacting with the public, and traffic enforcement,” said Alexander.

From a student’s perspective, he busts people for vaping and keeps our school safe from outsiders.

“I would say from the administration perspective I’m here to consult and guide. Administration regarding discipline and establishing a relationship with students, giving them an exposure to law enforcement outside of the negative stereotypical they have from movies, video games, and media. It’s interactive, you guys get exposure to a real police officer and it’s a little bit more than just getting pulled over for a traffic violation. Basically, it’s kind of more of a liaison. Students and the district and staff have access to law enforcement,” said Alexander.

Every day during lunch he parks on the turn coming into the school. Why does he do this?

“It’s prevention. People coming down off of Johnson are coming down at a high rate of speed so I sit there and put my flashers on so hopefully it’s like a warning for people to put their flashers on and also I get out and I walk the parking lot to make sure you guys aren’t vaping or being mischievous,” said Alexander.

If you see Officer Alexander around say hi, next time.

The Paper Cut Epidemic

By Reporter Jayda Monreal

Everyday at San Luis Obispo High School, students are at risk of getting a dangerous paper cut. The pain and torture that a paper cut holds is indescribable, and if you haven’t gotten one, you could be next. Students at SLOHS are at high risk of paper cuts due to the large amount of paper we use.

Some students were willing to share their personal experiences with Expressions and the great pain they endured.

“When I was a young child, I got a paper cut on the webbed part of my hand and that was torture,” said sophomore Rozy Jones.

Getting a paper cut can potentially make it so students are unable to participate in certain activities, whether that be typing on a computer or even holding a book.

“Personally the experiences I’ve had getting paper cuts have stunted me from ever wanting to read a book or carry a notebook again,” said junior Vivian Swenson-Ruiz.

Paper cuts are underrated in terms of their pain, especially by staff.

“One time I got a paper cut and it felt like my finger was going to fall off, then the ladies at the nurses office just gave me a bag of ice and sent me back to class! What’s the deal with that?” said freshman Lindsay Smith.

Some paper cuts are worse than others.

“I once got a paper cut in my eye in eighth grade. I’m not even joking,” said junior Kaylie Hall.

Paper cuts have a much bigger impact on everyday life than

most people think, and there is currently a movement that supports the idea that students and teachers should be sent home if they get a paper cut.

“When I get a paper cut, on my hand specifically, my day is ruined. Writing down words feels as if I’m Harry Potter writing with my own blood. Not to mention that I can’t do anything about a paper cut because a bandaid does nothing so my hand has to burn for the rest of the day. I one hundred percent agree that students and teachers should be sent home immediately when burdened with a paper cut,” said Jones.

The chance of having a paper cut at school is incredibly high, and paper cuts should be treated like what they are-- the worst pain anyone could ever feel.

“Paper cuts are much more dangerous than we have thought before. Everyday someone gets a paper cut and is scarred for life, both physically and mentally.” said Ruiz.

When sent home because of a paper cut, students shouldn’t have to do any of the work they missed. How could anyone expect for a student to even hold a pencil with a paper cut on their hand?

“Paper cuts serve as a distraction to students as they go about their day, and they are no longer able to properly focus on their work. I definitely support that students and teachers should be sent home,” said Hall.

We hope that the thin pages of this magazine don’t give you a paper cut.



ARIES

Simon Predicts Horoscopes

By Reporter Addie New-Schmidt



GEMINI

The San Luis Obispo High School planetarium may be moving in the near future, but students need to look no further than English teacher and astrology expert Ivan Simon to satisfy their fascination with the stars.

Astrology, the oft-ridiculed and maligned stepbrother of astronomy is a fascination of literary genius Simon.

“My interest in astrology is due to my being a Taurus with a Scorpio Moon and Venus and Mercury in Gemini!” said Simon. “While I don’t claim astrology is a science, I have found, over the years, that students have been intrigued and amused by my ability to comment on their personalities based on my understanding of the stars,” he continued.

For the first time ever, Simon is offering Expressions an exclusive look at his horoscopes for the upcoming year. If you don’t

know your zodiac sign, simply accept that you’re uncultured and pick the horoscope that best applies to you (hint: they all do). Here they are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Libra- Make a decision! | Aries- wait your turn! |
| Scorpio- Don’t backstab friends! | Taurus- Curb your appetite! |
| Sagittarius- Get off stage! | Gemini-Kill your cell-phone! |
| Capricorn- Get a life! | Cancer-quit your crying! |
| Aquarius- Quit acting weird! | Leo- stop bossing others! |
| Virgo- Stop alphabetizing everything! | Pisces- Vaping isn’t cool! |

Illustration courtesy: Jayda Monreal

Student Rooms: Why is That Cup of Jello there?

By Reporter Ally Farris

At San Luis Obispo High School, the rooms of many students are filled with crazy things no one would ever expect. *Expressions* interviewed a handful of people to see what crazy, wild, and weird things SLOHS students in their rooms. *Expressions*: What are some weird things in your room?

Junior Rory Svetich: A mini Terry Crews cardboard cutout that I wish was full size and about 200 fuzzy worms on strings.

Junior Addison Hubley: I have a cup of Jello and I also have a 6’2 cardboard cutout of Bob Ross.

Sophomore Kaya Maire: I have a whole wall of comic books and stars all over my ceiling.

Expressions: Why do you have those items in your room?

Svetich: I have the Terry Crews cutout in my room because it’s just good decoration and I have 200 fuzzy worms because I’m working on making a beaded curtain out of the worms.

Hubley: The Jello just sits there, I’m not planning on eating it currently, I just want to watch it and see what happens to it over time. The Bob Ross cutout is across my room so when I wake up every morning I get to see him and say good morning.

Maire: I have the comic book wall because I love comic books

and it’s just nice to look at and its good decoration. I also have the stars on my ceiling because they are really cool to look at when I’m going to bed.

Expressions: Should other people have these items in their rooms?

Svetich: It depends on their interests, but if they like Terry Crews and fuzzy worms then they should for sure have these things in their rooms.

Hubley: I feel that people should definitely have the Bob Ross cutout, but the Jello may be growing mold so I would not recommend that.


Maire: If they are interested in comics, a comic wall is really cool to express that, and stars are cool to look at before going to bed, so I do recommend.

Expressions: What weird things would you want in your room if you could choose?

Svetich: I would probably have a full sized Danny Devito cardboard cutout.

Hubley: I really wish my floor was like a bouncy house floor so I could just bounce around and do tricks.

Maire: I want to have a trampoline so I can jump into bed.




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Dr. Love's Diagnosis

By Reporter Jayde Malzone

As Valentine's Day approaches, many San Luis Obispo High School students are wondering, "Why am I still single?" Well, don't fret, because *Expressions* is here to answer all of your questions about love, just in time for Valentine's Day.

Anonymous 1: What is love?

Dr. Love: Well, Anonymous 1, that is a very in-depth question. Love is the feeling in your stomach you get when someone has really good hair. Love is indescribable, it comes in all shapes and sizes: Love is love.

Anonymous 2: Is it okay to like feet?

Dr. Love: Although I am more of a closed toed gal, love has no shame (or shoe). Birks or Balenciagas, it doesn't matter. You can love whatever you want.

Freshman Shiv Panchal: When is it okay to have your first kiss?

Dr. Love: Instinct is key, when it is time, it is time. As long as it is the right one, you will succeed, Shiv. Don't be too aggressive and keep it short and sweet. Buy her some flowers and chocolate afterwards and she's all yours, buddy.

Anonymous 3: Where is the best place to take your crush to dinner, for the first date?

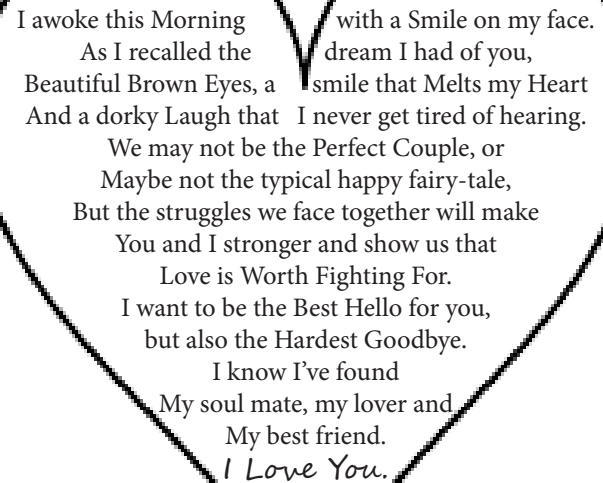
Dr. Love: If you are ballin' on a budget, but still want to impress your partner, there are many options. I recommend classy places such as Burger King, McDonalds, or even Panera. This is a good way to see if your crush is in it for the money or not.

Anonymous 4: Is there a reason why I don't have a boyfriend?

Dr. Love: Yes.

"My Love For Them" A Love Poem

By Poet Anthony Arroyo II



I awoke this Morning with a Smile on my face.
As I recalled the dream I had of you,
Beautiful Brown Eyes, a smile that Melts my Heart
And a dorky Laugh that I never get tired of hearing.
We may not be the Perfect Couple, or
Maybe not the typical happy fairy-tale,
But the struggles we face together will make
You and I stronger and show us that
Love is Worth Fighting For.
I want to be the Best Hello for you,
but also the Hardest Goodbye.
I know I've found
My soul mate, my lover and
My best friend.
I Love You.

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Thur: Torta Thursday w/16oz Soda \$8.99

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